



## Message from Pax Christi International

### Annual manifestation in commemoration of the victims of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Vienna, 6 August 2012

Each year, Pax Christi International members around the world remember the horror and mourn the lives lost in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August, 1945. As you gather in Vienna, we join you in spirit to plead for an end to the nuclear madness that has threatened the survival of people and our planet for so many decades.

Pax Christi International is in favour of a ban on nuclear weapons. We encourage raising awareness of the unacceptable harm they are causing and of the urgent need for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons.<sup>1</sup> We are inviting people to get involved in order to sign a petition and call their governments to initiate and support negotiations for a treaty at the earliest possible date.

In addition to that, Pax Christi International fully supports the UN Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)<sup>2</sup> created to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. Towards a global zero now! The Group will be deliberating at the United Nations in Geneva for two weeks in August 2013.

We are also supporting the **Time to Go!** Campaign taking place in several European countries. For thirty years, USA tactical nuclear weapons have been stationed in countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Turkey. These weapons are useless, expensive and dangerous. Most of these governments committed themselves to collaborate towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The different Pax Christi sections, together with a broad range of peace organisations, started a campaign for the removal of these tactical nuclear weapons. The campaign will reach an important momentum at a big manifestation on 20 October 2013 in different capital cities.<sup>3</sup>

In many countries around the world Pax Christi Member Organizations are also marking 6 and 9 August. With you, the Hiroshima Group Vienna and the Viennese Peace Movement, we recommit ourselves to the long and crucial work for nuclear abolition. "We must remember" writes Paul Ricoeur, "because remembering is a moral duty. We owe a debt to the victims. And the finest way of paying our debt is to tell and retell what happened to them."<sup>4</sup>

Brussels, August 2013

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.nonukes.nl/en/get-involved>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unog.ch/oewg-ndn>

<sup>3</sup> See [www.timetogo.be](http://www.timetogo.be)

<sup>4</sup> P. Ricoeur, «The Memory of Suffering,» Figuring the Sacred: Religion, Narrative and Imagination (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995), page 290.