



Call for Ceasefire

PeaceWomen Across the Globe International Board on the Coronavirus Pandemic

9 April 2020

Institute Ceasefires and End All Armed Conflicts Now

Peoples of the world are facing the Coronavirus pandemic, and many are fighting to save the lives of their families, communities, and their own. Simultaneously, countless people are facing the scourge of war, armed conflict, militarization, and military values rooted in the competition for resources and the destruction of all life forms.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG), therefore, appeals to all governments, parliaments, political bodies, armies, and armed forces to STOP IMMEDIATELY every form of warfare and armed conflict. We implore all warring parties to implement ceasefires and immediately engage in meaningful processes that will result in genuine peace. These processes must centrally involve women as outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 1325. We further urge governments and all relevant institutions and parties to conflicts to begin de-mining in places affected by landmines and to engage in the more fundamental process of demilitarization and de-nuclearization.

We endorse and support the following call from the UN Secretary António Guterres¹ as a necessary first step: “Our world faces a common enemy: COVID-19. The virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly. Meanwhile, armed conflict rages on around the world. The most vulnerable — women and children, people with disabilities, the marginalized and the displaced — pay the highest price. They are also at the highest risk of suffering devastating losses from COVID-19. Let’s not forget that in war-ravaged countries, health systems have collapsed. Health professionals, already few in number, have often been targeted. Refugees and others displaced by violent conflict are doubly vulnerable. The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war... “silence the guns; stop the artillery; end the airstrikes... to help create corridors for life-saving aid. To open precious windows for diplomacy. To bring hope to places among the most vulnerable to COVID-19.... That is why today, I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world.” António Guterres UN Secretary General.

Kamla Bhasin and Ruth-Gaby Vermot, Co-Presidents, PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Members of the International Board: Sandy Fong, Kin Chi Lau, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz, Alejandra Miller Restrepo, Cecile Mukarubuga, Margo Okazawa-Rey, Marina Pikulina, Susanne Schneeberger

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059972>