



ICYE

A CALL FOR peace & diplomacy

As a peace organisation, ICYE believes that violence is never an answer. We will therefore not remain silent in the face of the violent escalation unfolding before us - an escalation that continues a troubling pattern we have witnessed throughout the past years.

Especially in response to the Second World War, countries have created the United Nations and other global institutions along with an international legal framework to ensure peace, prevent conflicts and protect human rights. The global security architecture has contributed to hold states accountable and to prevent and resolve disputes not by violence but dialogue and diplomacy. This system has never been perfect and has often reflected global inequalities and power imbalances, but it remains essential because it provides peaceful ways to address conflicts and rebuild trust. Today, however, these institutions are under growing strain.

We are deeply concerned that war is once again being presented as a solution, and as a tool used by states to impose their national interests on others and to settle disputes by force. We firmly reject this logic.

Some conflicts persist because one actor refuses a meaningful path to peace—as seen in Russia's war in Ukraine. At the same time, a multi front war in the Middle East (West Asia) involving the USA and Israel attacking Iran, the genocide in Gaza, the civil war in Sudan and many more wars happening currently around the world, illustrate how quickly humanity and international law erode.

Mechanisms of destabilization and subjugation imposed on countries through trade or energy blockades and illegal military interventions — such as this year's military interventions in Venezuela and Iran — are clear violations of International Law and acts intended to impose conditions by force. While the international community has failed the people of both Venezuela and Iran for a long time – our system of international institutions has mechanisms in place to respond to human rights abuses. Intervention is possible. But bombing or invading a country unilaterally does not bring peace. It multiplies the suffering of those that are already deprived of their basic human rights. Those who pay the biggest price are almost never those that are in power.



For ICYE, peace is more than the absence of war. It is the presence of dignity, justice, and cooperation. It requires protecting human rights, civic space, and civil society. To reach lasting peace, deeper causes of conflict such as inequality, political exclusion, and environmental stress need to be addressed. As peace organisations, we contribute to a strong civil society, support marginalised communities, and promote nonviolent solutions at local, national and international level.

Our message as ICYE is simple: war must not be normalised. Sustainable peace cannot be imposed through force, it must be built through dialogue, justice, and cooperation. Lasting security grows where civil society is free, connected, and strong. Where governments are held accountable and abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

As a peace organisation, ICYE denounces all human rights violations and urgently calls for governments, the United Nations and the European Union to:

1. Promote concrete and verifiable steps towards arms control and disarmament, including stopping the massive investment in weapon companies and nuclear programmes globally.
2. Respect nation's sovereignty and people's self-determination and refrain from unilateral intervention through violence or other coercive measures.
3. Prioritise diplomatic dialogue and conflict prevention mechanisms.
4. Safeguard humanitarian access and ensure that responses to crises prioritise civilian protection.
5. Give diplomatic and humanitarian support to oppressed populations before an armed conflict arises.
6. Strengthen the role of civil society in peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes.
7. Ensure, through the United Nations, the implementation and effective enforcement of international law.

