# Women in Favor of Peace

To Mothers and all others, regardless of your political or religious background: Help us, do not make war children, but peace children. Call on all warring parties to start a dialogue! Support our call, be for peace.

#### Sick of violence

This call comes from mothers and women who see every day the heartbreaking images of mutilated, killed, orphaned, sick, starving and refugee children in war zones. The suffering of these children, of soldiers and all their families can't be comprehended. We can no longer stand by and just watch.

#### **Mothers**

The last thing a mother wants is for her child to go to the battlefield to be killed or to be ordered to kill someone else. Moreover the human suffering of wars has an influence for generations. We know that... If we are not careful, we will become increasingly accustomed to escalating conflicts, where attacks are followed by an endless chain reaction of revenge and retaliation. Remember Gandhi who warned: "An eye for an eye and the whole world goes blind!

### The road to peace and de-escalation

Research shows that wars do stop through de-escalation and diplomatic pressure. De-escalation is possible through internal pressure from the population in one's own country and through international pressure.

Our commitment to peace is extra urgent now, because major powers are threatening to start using nuclear weapons.



Vraag deze gratis poster aan via https://vredessite.nl/nieuws/peace\_2196.html You can say that weapons are needed for defense in the event of an attack by an aggressor. But the escalation must stop immediately. Without intervention, this will continue to the worst level: 'together into the abyss'.

And then we haven't even mentioned the consequences of wars on the destruction of animals, nature reserves, loss of biodiversity and the gigantic emission of  $CO_2$  by using weapons and military systems. 'Make those figures public!'

Because this is also a reason to end a war.

This appeal is therefore to all citizens who do recognize themselves in this cry from the heart and do realize that wars only stop through public (inter)national moral pressure. Join us in giving a powerful counter-voice.

#### Four action points

There is another, hopeful path, namely that of the 'logic of peace'. We find starting points for this in the United Nations Convention of 1945. We demand compliance with this Convention by acting on those four points:

1. Call on your own political party and (government) leaders to urge all warring parties to comply with Article 33 of the UN Convention. Or join our petition (see below). The UN Convention states that parties who endanger peace and security in a dispute must seek a solution through negotiations, fact-finding, arbitration, a judicial decision and all other peaceful means. After the Second World War, this article was created on the principle: **"never again"**.

2. Support this call on women to be also invited at the political

negotiating table! It was unanimously adopted in 2000 in accordance with UN Resolution 1325. The participation of women from both sides proved to be the key to de-escalation and peace in the wars in Liberia, Ireland and Colombia,

#### 3. Read and sign the 'Mothers Call'

https://www.womenwagepeace.org.il/en/mothers-call/ This call is from the Israeli grassroots peace movement ' Women Wage Peace' and from the Palestinian 'Women of the Sun'. The core of the 'Mothers Call' is that these women say: "Stop the blame game". Don't be pro-Israel, don't be pro-Palestine, but be pro-Peace."

4. Also support this call for peace symbolically by having a white flag from today at your window, your office, on your bike or car or wearing it on your clothes. Or put the Peace Now poster in your window. https://vredessite.nl/nieuws/peace\_2196.html. Keep doing this until there is peace. It has been done before in world history: Give peace a chance!

#### **Peace bonus**

And let the UN award a 'peace bonus' to all countries that promote a ceasefire, start a dialogue and start acting in favor of peace.

## Once again, Mothers, Citizens, support this call, be for peace Women for Peace the Hague, October 2024.

Do you agree with this call?

Send an email to <u>zonenmaangenoeg@gmail.com</u> stating I do agree to the Mothers Call. We will put you on a petition list and lobby leaders and the UN for action points 1. and 2. Sign the Mothers Call yourself at point 3.

Inge Marit-Wielinga-Pols

Hanneke Gelderblom-Lankhout