



What does One Minute For Peace mean?

Emilio Inzaurraga

in 2014 National President CA Argentina and coordinator of IFCA secretariat, in 2024 UMPP working group coordinator and responsible FIAC America

It is a sign that invites us to commit ourselves and pray for peace.

It arose to accompany Pope Francis in his meeting with the President of Israel Shimon Peres and the President of the Palestinian State Mahamoud Abbas, together with Patriarch Bartholomew I, in the Vatican, 10 years ago, in 2014, to invoke together peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Since then, we have continued with the initiative, which is having a greater impact, year after year, as a massive, simple proposal, everywhere, for all religious traditions, for all people of good will.

It is about 'stopping the walk', stopping the daily activity, alone or with the family, or in community, in the street, in the workplace, in the means of transport, with friends, in places of study or recreation, wherever everyone is. We propose a prayer for peace, a brief reflection and a recommitment to this precious gift, which is also everyone's task.

We willingly point out that each one of us can be an instrument of peace. It is true that one minute is very little time, but it can be the beginning of opting for dialogue and fraternity, of committing ourselves to justice and solidarity, of turning our hearts, often made of stone, into hearts of flesh, merciful.

Pope Francis, with his courageous signs, his words and his witness, shows us the way and all of humanity values him as a leader of peace.

His insistence on dialogue and the culture of encounter, his signs of visiting places of conflict, his tireless work with leaders of distant or warring countries, his condemnation of violence and terrorism, his ecumenical and interreligious work, are concrete steps towards a peaceful world.

He has highlighted this 'third world war in pieces' which has terrible consequences for human dignity: deaths, wounded, sick, millions of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, families and lives shattered.

Faced with the war in the Gaza Strip between Israelis and Palestinians, in Ukraine, faced with the large-scale armed conflicts in Burkina Faso, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Myanmar, Nigeria, Syria and so many other violent situations in the world, we unite to cry out together: We want Peace! Peace is an urgency, a right and a need for everyone.

UNHCR's latest report shows alarming numbers in each of the three main categories of displacement - refugees, asylum seekers, and people forced to flee within their own countries. There are estimated to be over 110 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, meaning that one person in 77 in the world has been forced to flee their home, their place, as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, war, human rights violations or events that seriously disturb public order.

We are willing to accompany them with our prayers, to tell them: 'You are not alone', you are our brothers and sisters! No one can be discarded, we all deserve to live in dignity!

This minute of prayer commits us, it predisposes us to consolidate peace, it unites us in this common cause, it urges us not to give in to violence and to work for justice and fraternity in this fragmented and divided world and to stand in solidarity with the victims who are in imperative need of a real and long-lasting peace.

One minute for peace is an opportunity to put aside indifference, to resume a leading role, to have the courage to build peace.

Peace concerns us all.

It is too precious for us to neglect it.

Let us work and pray ONE MINUTE FOR PEACE every day, especially this Saturday 8 June at 1pm.