



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Planning
and Operations

lutheranworld.org



Islamic Relief
Worldwide

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
11 May 2020**

Statement: Faith based organizations call for immediate ceasefire to protect people from COVID-19

11 May 2020
GENEVA, Switzerland

The Lutheran World Federation and Islamic Relief Worldwide call on all parties to lay down arms, institute an immediate ceasefire, and to ensure humanitarian access in order to protect people from COVID-19. Continued violent and armed conflict severely constrains the efforts of local, national, and international organizations to protect refugees, displaced people, women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups from the spread of the virus.

We pledge our support to the call for a global ceasefire from the Secretary General of the United Nations, issued on March 23¹ and welcome similar calls from others.

As faith-based organizations engaged in life-saving humanitarian assistance, development work, and community empowering advocacy, we do not believe that war and violence can ever be the solution to the challenges we face. We seek justice, peace and reconciliation for all, and especially during this time when the world is experiencing an unprecedented pandemic.

Calls to Action

1. We call for immediate cessation of hostilities in the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Myanmar, Cameroon, Colombia and the many other countries that face armed conflict.
2. We call on the international community to redouble their efforts towards a complete ceasefire to enable safe and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance during these times.
3. We call on people of all faiths and of goodwill worldwide to advocate for peace and justice, and in solidarity, support the most vulnerable who are facing significant threats to their lives and livelihoods from COVID-19.

Inspired by our faith values and motivated by our humanitarian calling, we stand ready to support efforts for a global ceasefire in order to stop the pandemic, while preserving lives, dignity, and justice for the most vulnerable.

¹ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2020-03-23/secretary-general-appeal-for-global-ceasefire>

The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.

###

Visit our website: www.lutheranworld.org. Follow the LWF on www.facebook.com/lutheranworld and www.twitter.com/lutheranworld.

Media Contacts:

Rev. Arni Svanur Danielsson
The Lutheran World Federation
Tel. +41 78 929 9686
Email Arni.Danielsson@lutheranworld.org

Simona French,
Head of Media, Islamic Relief Worldwide
+44 7760221890
Email Simona.French@irworldwide.org