



HEALTHY, HAPPY, HOLY ORGANIZATION
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

**Asociación Española para el
Desarrollo
y la Aplicación del Derecho
Internacional
de los Derechos Humanos
(AEDIDH)**

Expert Consultation to Develop a Consensual Proposal for a UN

***“UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO
PEACE”***

52º SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

New York

Report

Rapporteurs¹

Title: Gender Approach to the Human Right to Peace

Date: 29 February 2008

Time :17,00-18,30

Place: United Nations Church Center, Boss Room (8th Floor), New York

Sponsored by 3HO Foundation. Co-sponsored by Temple of Understanding and the Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law. With the support of the Regional Government of Catalonia and Basque Country and the Spanish Federation of Human Rights Non Governmental Organisations

Deva Kaur Khalsa and David Fernandez-Puyana¹

Order of the Day

1- Welcome by the Moderator, Ms Denise Scotto, UN Representative of the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers and the International Federation of Women Lawyers

2- Statements:

- Ms Carmen Moreno, Director of United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
- Mr Ekkehard Strauss, New York Office of the OHCHR
- Mr David Fernandez-Puyana, UN Representative of the Spanish Association for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law

3- Discussion and Proposals:

- Ms Jane E. Durgom-Powers, President & Founder IFFAMPAC
- Mr Robert Pollard, Co-Chair Sub-Committee on Research, Communications & Website of the Planning Committee, 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference and Chair of the Information & Communications Sub-Committee, NGO Committee on Education

4- Conclusions:

- Ms Madeline Labriola, UN Representative, Pax Christi International
- Ms Shulamith Koenig, President of the People's Movement for Human Rights Learning
- Ms Conchita Poncini, UN Representative of the International Federation of University Women
- Ms Monica Willard, UN Representative of the United Religions Initiative and Co-Chair of the NGO Committee (New York) on the International Day of Peace
- Ms Deva Kaur Khalsa, UN Representative of 3HO Foundation

1- Welcome:

- **Ms Denise Scotto, Moderator and UN Representative of the International Federation of Women Lawyers and International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, Gender and legal analysis of the Luarca Draft Declaration on the Human Right to Peace:**

1) Preamble, paragraph 3

insert-- the Rome Statute of the ICC in addition to the Palermo Protocol to the Convention on International Organized Crime.

*as you may know, these are critical in discussion of issues relating to rape as a war crime and other sexual violence during armed conflict as well as the trafficking of women and girls particularly for sexual exploitation

2) Preamble, paragraph 21

Change mankind to humankind. This is a little change of one word but it is a huge shift

3) Part I, article 3 (b)

in discussing employment not only protection of social services, on equal terms for persons having the same occupation or providing the same service---making it clear to ensure equal remuneration for same work/job

4) article 6 (2)

insert--oppose torture, rape as a war crime and other crimes of sexual violence

5) article 8 (4)

insert--her
the language should be consistently gender neutral it started that way in subp3 above with he/she, his/her and should continue throughout the entire document

6) article 9

insert--her

7) article 10 (1) (2)

insert--her

(4) space between well as

8) article 14(2)

insert--settlement of disputes and to post conflict peace building

9) article 15(c)

insert--social and cultural activities

10) section B, article 16 (6)

You may want to explicitly state a greater inclusively of the UN Security Council to increase the number of permanent members

2- Statements:

- **Statement by Ms Carmen Moreno, Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)**

“The Luarca Draft Declaration on the Human Right to Peace recognizes:

...that the effectiveness of the right to peace will not be achieved without the realisation of equal rights for men and women and the respect for their difference...;” (17)

“...the particular suffering of women in armed conflicts and underlying the importance of their full participation in peacebuilding processes, as recognised by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1325 (2000);” (18)

In addition, the Declaration states that:

“...the specific contribution of women to the peaceful settlement of disputes shall be promoted” (Article 14 (2))

And that “there shall be a balanced gender representation [within the Working Group on the Human Right to Peace]” (Article 17 (3c))

“Women, men, girls and boys experience and take action differently in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and reconstruction. Women and girls in particular have become strategic targets in armed conflict, to the extent that “their bodies have become the battlefields.”² They endure everything from beatings, rape and forced prostitution to the extreme hardships that come with having to flee their homes or suddenly becoming the sole economic provider for an extended family. Women and men shoulder the burdens of armed conflict in different ways, however, rather than portraying all women as helpless victims of war and violence, it is essential to take into account the active roles that they play as combatants, peacebuilders, politicians and activists.

² Sanam B. Naraghi-Anderlini, *Women, Peace and Security: A Policy Audit* (London: International Alert, 2001) 12

Rather than acknowledging the key role that many women play in processes of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, women continue to be excluded from positions of decision-making in the sphere of peace and security. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is the first of its kind to address women and gender issues in the context of peace and security. It calls for the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, along with gender mainstreaming. Giving specific recommendations to the Secretary-General, UN Member States and conflict parties, it focuses on the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping and reconstruction. Though adopted in 2000, implementation efforts thus far have been scattered and with varying results.

Only recently have there been efforts to create plans to effectively implement Resolution 1325 at the national level. Countries such as Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom and Sweden have all launched national action plans on Resolution 1325, and others countries such as Austria, Finland and Switzerland are in the process of developing their own plans. In addition, certain UN bodies and other regional organizations have created action plans which incorporate Resolution 1325. A UN System-Wide Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security was drafted in 2005 and revised for the 2008-2009 period in order to further the implementation of this groundbreaking resolution.

Due to a variety of factors, including first and foremost a lack of resources, Resolution 1325 plans of action have yet to be developed in “post-conflict” contexts. Though strong women’s organizations have advocated for the full implementation of Resolution 1325 in many developing and transitional countries, the lack of funds and political will have delayed the process of forming national task forces and developing plans of action. Considering the exacerbated situation of insecurity that many women face in conflict and post-conflict societies, incorporating gender issues and the equal participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes will inevitably be a major concern in the process of building stable and sustainable peace.

From grassroots women’s organizations to European Union representatives, the call for developing and implementing national plans of action on women, peace and security issues can now be heard from many different directions.

The specific benefits of creating such a plan include increased:

Comprehensiveness Through the process of discussing Resolution 1325 in its entirety, as well as other women, peace and security mandates, a comprehensive approach to implementation can be developed. Taking the time to assess current implementation of these mandates, identifying gaps and good practices, choosing strategic priorities and then selecting specific initiatives is essential in a context where high pressure and immediate demands often cause initiatives to be rushed and ad-hoc.

Coordination Bringing together all the actors working on women, peace and security issues and creating an inter-departmental or inter-ministerial plan ensures coordination, prevents duplication and increases the effective use of scarce resources.

Awareness-raising The process of drafting a plan, if well designed, is also a process of awareness-raising and capacity-building. It opens up space to discuss, exchange information and hold seminars/trainings on women, peace and security issues in order to strengthen understanding of and commitment to gender equality.

Ownership A participatory process that emphasises increased understanding of women, peace and security issues and the importance of implementing Resolution 1325 will boost the sense of ownership and responsibility when it comes time to implement the plan of action.

Accountability With increased awareness and a sense of ownership comes institutional and personal accountability for implementing the plan of action. As the plan of action lists the specific actors responsible for implementing each initiative and provides a clear timeframe, the actors can be held publicly accountable for its implementation. At a broader level, the act of creating an action plan brings an official stamp of approval and holds the organisation/country accountable for the implementation Resolution 1325 and other women, peace and security mandates.

Monitoring and evaluation A plan of action facilitates the monitoring and evaluation process by providing benchmarks and indicators as well as measures such as annual reporting on implementation, taskforces in charge of monitoring, and focal points for implementation. Effective monitoring of implementation also enables successful initiatives to be duplicated and unsuccessful initiatives to be analysed and eliminated or improved.

Until now, the countries that have acted upon these incentives and taken the step to create national action plans on women, peace and security issues have almost exclusively been North American and Western European. UN-INSTRAW seeks to redress this discrepancy by working with developing countries, in particular fragile states and countries in post-conflict or transition situations, to establish consensus on women, peace and security issues and establish sustainable mechanisms to support the full implementation of Resolution 1325.

UN-INSTRAW has established projects in Burundi and Liberia, which, though they are in their early stages, aim to assess the implementation of Resolution 1325, raise awareness of women, peace and security issues among key stakeholders, and establish mechanisms for the formulation of women, peace and security action plans.

In Somalia, and in particular with women of the Somali diaspora living in Italy, the Institute aims to highlight the contribution of Somali Diaspora women's organizations to conflict-resolution and peace-building processes and enhance cooperation between Diaspora women, and women in Somalia. This project is being implemented in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Somali women's organizations in Italy and Somalia.

An inclusive and sustainable peace must not only recognize women's contribution to conflict-resolution and peace-building processes, it must also involve women and women's organizations in decision-making, advocacy, capacity-building and other processes that aim support the human right to peace. UN-INSTRAW offers you its support in this endeavor".

- **Statement by Mr Ekkehard Strauss, Human Rights Officer at the New York United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR)**

“Thank you very much for inviting the OHCHR to participate in your consultation today.

First, I should assure you that the High Commissioner is very interested in the initiative on the Human Right to Peace and we are following the process of discussion. The linkages between international peace and security, human rights and development are very much at the center of OHCHR’s mandate.

Many more qualified and experienced people than me have contributed to the discussion already in many different fora and most of what I could possibly say will have been discussed and considered already. However, I hope my remarks could offer at least a fresh look from a mere outsider that might stimulate your discussion today.

Let me start by saying that I think that this initiative is important for its process as well as its content:

The consultations of civil society organizations leading to the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace and the continuation of discussions on the international level, like the one we have today that will culminate in the presentation of a Universal Declaration at the World Conference of NGOs in 2009 should be an example and encouragement for the possibility of global cooperation among citizens and organizations. Should the Human Rights Council take on the initiative as planned, this could be an important precedent during the mandate-setting phase of this body for future cooperation between the Council, its members and civil society.

As a lawyer I have a certain natural reservation towards the ‘third generation rights’, like the right to development and the right to human security. Systematically, the right to peace would fall into this category. This reservation is based on legal as much as political considerations.

Let me start with some legal considerations: (1) As a ‘third generation’ right, the right to peace might share some of the shortcomings of the other ‘enabling’ rights with regard to the monitoring of their implementation by States. It is also difficult to measure whether these rights actually contribute positively to the acceptance and implementation of the first and second generation rights they are designed to encompass. (2) In international law, all rights are on the same level; there is no hierarchy of laws as in national law, where the constitution prevails over conflicting provisions in other bodies of law. So, the right to peace would have the same status as, e.g. the right to access to court or the freedom of opinion and belief. This seems to be difficult to bring into line with peace as the ultimate purpose of the UN as a whole.

Politically, we have to realize that the environment for international human rights work is not very favourable in the context of counter terrorism, reconfigurations of states and power, religious and ethnic conflict. In this context, any initiative that unites States behind common causes and with reference to human rights is welcome. At the same time, we have to be conscious of the possibility that States use the common cause to avoid political pressure for their human rights record which could undermine the implementation of the core human rights treaties. Furthermore, only implementation makes the difference for the individual person in the different countries. Often we forget over the successful discussion and completion of new human rights instruments the painful and difficult work that will be required for their implementation and prefer to turn to a new legislative project rather than completing our work.

Finally, let me share some general observations on the text of the Declaration deriving from previous experience with legislative procedures in the UN: The Declaration is very ambitious regarding content of the right to peace. While it is always advisable to start with a maximalistic approach in order to have some negotiation material, I would be interested in what could be identified as the core elements, the 'red lines' that must not be crossed in future negotiations. In this regard, articles 6-10 and 14 should be reconsidered.

Let me conclude by clarifying again that these thoughts should be understood as an encouragement to continue your important work and I wish you a successful completion at the HRC

- **Statement by Mr David Fernandez Puyana, Representative of the Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law**

“The right to peace has its foundation in the 1945 Charter of the UN, whose main purpose and aim is the maintenance of international peace and security. Since then, 105 States have incorporated this right into their national constitutions. Besides, several international instruments adopted by the UN General Assembly recognize the peoples' right to peace, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Although international law and politics acknowledge the prevailing interrelationship between human rights and peace, the recognition of *the right to peace* as an autonomous *human right* has not yet been achieved by the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, as the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity -Mr. Mohammed Rudi Rizki- indicates, the right to peace should be qualified as a right of solidarity

This *enabling* right could be found in the *UNESCO Colloquium on the new human rights: the rights of solidarity* (Mexico City 12-15 August 1980). Besides, the *Report of the Seminar on the Relations that exist between Human Rights, Peace and Development* concluded that the latter concepts are interrelated and interdependent and that the fostering of one promotes the enhancement of the others. Thus, taking into account this important background, many NGO and human rights experts currently consider that the right to peace should be finally codified in connection with the rights of solidarity (such as the right to development or the right to healthy and sustainable environment).

Once the right to peace is established as a new human right, it would provide a solid basis to the culture of peace. Its recognition would also give fresh impetus to the

struggle against violence and attitudes based on force, imposition and gender discrimination. Finally, it will match with an ethical notion designed to proclaim the universal principles developed under international human rights law. We also request Member States of the United Nations to take meaningful steps to recognize *peace as a human right*, because this “enabling” human right would effectively reconcile both sets of rights, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

Nevertheless, the concept of peace should be understood not only as a moral aspiration of humankind, but also as a condition *sine qua non* for the realisation of the right to development, as well as the effective enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Thus, peace would be both the precondition and the final purpose of international human rights law, since peace cannot be enjoyed effectively and in a sustainable manner without the realization of all human rights.

Some human rights commentators argue that the solidarity rights in general and the rights to peace and development in particular are still at the stage of being an aspiration rather than positive, justiciable rights, owing to the fact that they may not be implemented within a given timeframe. Besides, the same experts highlight that by recognizing new categories of human rights, States divert attention from today’s human rights problems to tomorrow’s solutions.

Taking into account that human right to peace is a cornerstone of the further elaboration of the human security framework and that this concept is inseparable from conditions of peace, it could safely be concluded that the broader meaning of peace deals with the generic causes of conflict. “Real peace is much more than stability, order or absence of war: peace is transformative, about individual and societal progress and fulfilment; and peace within and between societies is as much about justice as any thing else”. Thus, an integrated approach to human security would be related to the deepest causes of war, such as economic despair, social injustice and political oppression”.

3- Discussion and Proposals:

- **Statement by Ms Jane E. Durgom-Powers, President & Founder IFFAMPAC**

“Thank you very much for that kind introduction. On behalf of IFFAMPAC, I wish to thank the Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law for the opportunity to address the participants of the 52nd Session of the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women.

IFFAMPAC endorses the Draft Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace. In particular, we recognize the significance of Article 15, which addresses the “Requirements of Peace and Truthful Information”.

Why is the search for truth regarding the fate of missing family members during armed conflict important to sustain peace?

Families are devastated from wars. They are separated and confused. They are in pain, shocked with events that tore them apart- numb to events surrounding them now. People are scattered; children are scavenging through garbage looking for food, or worse- looking for the physical remains of their family members.

As the surviving family members walk the streets trying to piece their lives together, they walk by their neighbors who once they called friends, but whom during the war beat them or raped them or tortured them. As victims, they see little justice for their losses.

Most often, the family member that is missing from the war was the head of the family, who provided the economic support to sustain the family. Over night, women now find themselves as the chief economic provider, without the educational or economic opportunities to provide adequately for their surviving family members. What does my organization do to help these families?

IFFAMPAC is a non-governmental organization consisting of family associations of missing persons from armed conflicts. We are the only NGO at the United Nations comprised completely of the victims of the war. We are the families of the missing.

IFFAMPAC unites family associations worldwide, and we work in cooperation with other NGOs, and governmental agencies to address the social, economic, and legal problems that surviving family members face post-conflict.

Our mission is to heal, to educate, and to lead. We act in solidarity as one voice representing all surviving family members from armed conflicts globally. We are the voice of the families in the United Nations, and their voice is being heard.

The question of lasting peace cannot be separated from the question of human dignity and human rights. The human spirit cannot be at peace unless there is truth, justice, love and freedom.

No one disappears alone. The answers are out there. Someone has to take people, feed them, hide them, offer medical aid, or worse- kill and bury them. In the end, justice for the missing and their families is not about political, economic or governmental structures – it's about people.

To the surviving family members, unless they have the truth about the fate of their missing relatives, they cannot move forward as productive members of society. They need to understand the crisis that they have just survived. They need to have some sense of justice for their losses. They want history to tell the truth. They want to tell their stories. They need to feel that their losses are not meaningless. Something good must come out of this destruction and carnage. All those feelings are very human. They must have closure to heal their families, and begin their lives again.

Governments have little to no incentive to provide the answers of the fate of missing persons. That is because it could prove embarrassing as to the incident that caused the tragedy, or how the captive was treated upon and during incarceration. The rules of war are often not followed. As a result, humanitarian concerns are ignored, and "the

missing" are lost forever bringing forth multiple tragedies to their families and civilized society.

But, times are changing.

Governments have now learned that economic stability and long term regional peace can only be achieved by providing information to the families seeking the truth. Reaching a peace agreement is one thing; keeping the peace is quite something else.

A family cannot be restored to stability piecemeal. You cannot provide medical assistance to treat children for post traumatic stress disorder and not treat the rest of the family. The child cannot heal alone without parental guidance. The entire family must be treated as a whole for effective family growth.

The challenge for all NGOs is to stop thinking and conducting of our work on a micro piecemeal scale; but to focus our efforts and direct programs to fit a macro scale that more realistically mirrors community development post-conflict. What do I mean?

International laws to date have offered windows. We have laws on children's rights, women's rights, laws covering migration, etc. We as NGOs have implemented those laws by conducting our work within the framework established by each law. But, as one of my colleagues precisely stated, "we need a door" to effective human rights work.

I believe IFFAMPAC offers the door. By focusing on the family as a unit, and organizing community services around that unit, we truly can achieve sustainable community development post conflict. We all need to work together more effectively and pool resources together to a much greater end.

IFFAMPAC is grateful to any and all NGOs for services provided to civilians post conflict, but unless we pull together to present effective social, economic and legal programs, there will be no justice to the families who are the victims of wars.

Without healthy families, you cannot have healthy communities. Without healthy communities, you do not have healthy governments. Without healthy governments- you do not have lasting peace. History has shown us time and time again, healthy governments do not go to war.

Ladies and gentlemen, it all starts with the families. The pain is theirs. The healing must begin there. As a president of a country said to me recently, "The issue of the missing affects all of us. No citizen is untouched, even if they do not personally have a missing relative. The country cannot go forward when so much remains unanswered." He is correct.

On behalf of the families of the missing, thank you for this opportunity to be heard"

- **Mr Robert Pollard, Co-Chair Sub-Committee on Research, Communications & Website of the Planning Committee, 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference and Chair of the Information & Communications Sub-Committee, NGO Committee on Education**

- a) Remove of the numbering of the preambular paragraphs, in keeping with the normal style of GA resolutions,
- b) Expand the operative section of the draft resolution, with numbered items - such as are frequently included in GA declarations, along the lines of:
1. Proclaims this Declaration
 2. Recommends that the governmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned should initiate appropriate action towards the implementation of the present Declaration;
 3. States that a full implementation of the principles enshrined in the present Declaration calls for concerted action on the part of Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in particular the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other interested international and national organizations, both governmental and non-governmental;
 4. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration and to submit periodic reports thereon to the General Assembly, the first such report to be submitted not later than at its sixty-fifth session.
 5. Includes an agenda item "Declaration on the Human Right to Peace" in the 64th Session of the General Assembly;
- c) Identify the *Final Provisions* section as Article 19 of the Declaration
- d) Also, perhaps it might be appropriate to add a preambular clause referring to the 60th Anniversary of the UDHR, combined with a campaign to organize for passage of the Declaration in the first part of the 63rd Session of the GA

4- Conclusions:

- **Statement by Ms Madeline Labriola, UN Representative, Pax Christi International**

“I am honoured to take part in this expert consultation on the draft Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace. Thank you for inviting PCI to help develop this proposal and to be part of the partnership of the international civil society working to support this initiative.

Pax Christi International is a global Catholic peace movement and network that works to help establish Peace, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation in areas of the world that are torn by conflict. It is grounded in the belief that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken. Today, the movement has more than 100 Member Organisations active in more than 50 countries and five continents worldwide. Founded in 1945 it now has over 100,000 members.

PC is proud to be part of the world NGO community and in solidarity with people everywhere who have dedicated themselves to the protection and promotion of human

rights. Even though we are a part of a larger family of organizations who work on this issue, we hope to bring the unique, Christian, ecumenical and inter-religious spiritual values and ethics of our members into our actions, advocacy and awareness raising campaigns.

PC works on all aspects of peacemaking. On the international level it does its work through Commissions, Working Groups and Regional Consultations. Members from all over the world meet, interact, share ideas and work to find common solutions and ways to be a proactive voice for change.

In some parts of the world our groups have developed programs of peace education, alternatives to violence, conflict resolution and mediation. Some of our partners have established schools and safe spaces where people find opportunities to learn and grow in a supportive environment

In SriLanka, for instance, a Catholic priest runs a shelter for victims of torture at the Human Rights and Media Resource Centre; one of PC's many affiliates. Presently 25 boys live at the Centre, seeking protection from the police who have inflicted cruel and brutal treatment on them. His efforts allow these young people to live in safety while seeking justice.

In Cameroon lives Jean-Baptiste Talla who is in charge of 89 schools where there is a Code of Ethics that emphasizes peace building, conflict management and building relationships. Children and adults learn skills that will help them change their world.

In the US Pax Christi USA has been outspoken about the Iraq War, the unjust immigration policies of the current administration and the disregard for the Geneva Convention against torture.

Every group whether large or small, working with 25 people or 25,000 people, has the vision of PCI rooted in its action. This is a vision of reconciliation based on Christ's gospel of peace.

PCI realizes that human right to peace is not just the absence of war. It includes tolerance, economic justice, freedom from fear and freedom from want. It takes into consideration the role that all people play, especially women and youth. It continually fosters a culture of nonviolence.

In order to make this dream come true we will need to develop a strategy that will use a variety of methods to reach civil society. The thousands of grassroots movements all over the world coupled with the vastness of modern communication technology will be important tools in making the human right to peace a reality.

Please be assured that our member organizations will continue to promote democratic institutions through educational campaigns that give power to the people. With over 60 years of experience in organizing civil society in their villages and communities, providing education and encouragement Pax Christi International has become a leader in human rights advocacy.

From the Pax Christi experience the most relevant aspect of the human right to peace to be respected by the international community is the importance of human security. Human security can only be achieved through economic justice where there is equal access to services such as education, housing and health.

As this global campaign for a Declaration on the Human Right to Peace continues to move forward to official codification by Member States it is important that civil society take an active role in the process. Thank you for this opportunity to be part of this challenging and important effort to make the human right to peace a reality for our brothers and sisters throughout the world”

- **Statement by Ms Shulamith Koenig, President of the People's Movement for Human Rights Learning**

“We need to speak of symptoms and causes when we speak of women, peace and human rights.

Allow me to share a metaphor with you: I walk in the street and there is a stone on the pavement which I do not see. I fall down and all those around me run to pick me up...-- and if I am hurt they will even take me to the emergency room...--However, no one bothers to remove the stone. If we do not remove the stone we will have no peace.

Thus, it should be understood that when we work on symptoms we create solidarity and when we work on causes we develop social change. We need to remove the obstacles which are on our way using diligently the holistic human rights framework.

Missing in our work is critical thinking and systemic analysis which the holistic human rights framework provides us in abundance and which many of us know only incrementally... Yes .we need to work to stop violence and alleviate poverty.-- but we MUST learn to look at the causes behind them to bring change and thus: peace. .

Many speak of human rights violations that must be overcome to realize peace.. --allow me to say that we must speak of human rights realization that can be achieved by transforming the Patriarchal Order- which is a major cause for human rights violations-- transform it to a human rights system through human rights learning by all women, men , youth and child to have genuine and lasting peace.

When speaking of Patriarchy I do not point fingers specifically at men but at all of us, as we all participate in this vertical system where many choose to exchange equality for survival.

Human rights provides us the guidelines to move from the vertical struggle for power to the horizontal where choices and freedom is there for all, guided by the principles of equality and non discrimination moving power to human rights.

Human rights are the banks of the river in which life can flow freely. -in which each one of us. is just one small drop, gives the stream its power and direction. Then there is peace. Peace is a result and cannot be sustained without a framework: the fully comprehensive human rights norms and standards that provide us with moral and political guidelines protected by internationally recognized laws. (Law and Justice)

Many believe that democracy itself is the basis for peace. Indeed it can be so only if it is a delivery system of human rights which is the promise and realization of peace.

Peace indeed is a human right but it must be understood in the year of the 60th anniversary of the UDHR that this is indeed a Declaration of Peace. We do not need new declarations. The vision and very practical mission of the UDHR speaks of economic and social justice for all in equality and non discrimination, which is the definition of peace.

It is the realization of human rights which will bring peace. It is the ability of people to belong in dignity in community with others that means peace. (and of course the elimination of nuclear power and arms races which stand on the way of human rights which is indeed patriarchal, tragic and shameless in the grabbing of power and violating basic human rights.)

And more: it is the understanding that women are full human beings that must participate as equals in the decisions that determine their lives and the life of the community they live in that will bring us real peace.

Let us all bring the teaching of human rights to every corner of the world and then we will build an infrastructure for sustained peace.

In my vocabulary Peace and the realization of economic, social, political, civil and cultural human rights are synonymous words when you see it through the eyes of humanity's hopes and expectations for well being and peace.”

- **Statement by Ms Conchita Poncini, UN Representative of the International Federation of University Women**

The human right to peace is an enabling right that should be analysed from the gender perspective. It is the responsibility of all United Nations agencies, the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council to work for the realization of this right. It is, of course, the responsibility of the UN Security Council to ensure international security and to take appropriate measures to prevent armed conflict, but the human right to peace is a human right that encompasses many aspects, which are duly reflected in the Luarca Declaration.

- **Statement by Ms Monica Willard, UN Representative of the United Religions Initiative and Co-Chair of the NGO Committee (New York) on the International Day of Peace**

“My short comments have to do with using the International Day of Peace as a shared opportunity for people throughout the world to focus on building the human right to peace. The International Day of Peace is observed annually on September 21. This Panel is being held on an auspicious date, Feb 29, leap year. Let us use this special date to leap forward with people from all over the world to observe the International Day of Peace!

- **Ms Deva Kaur Khalsa concludes the Meeting on behalf of 3HO Foundation, NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations:**

“On behalf of 3HO Foundation, the Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law and the Temple of Understanding, I would like to thank our panellists and our participants for sharing their collective wisdom and expertise. I would especially like to thank our Moderator, Denise Scotto, of the International Federation of Women Lawyers and International Federation of Women in Legal Careers , who has acquitted her formidable task with professionalism and grace.

The Draft Declaration on the Human Right to Peace is a “journey in faith and inspiration. We have incredible power within our grasp when we find the courage to look deep within ourselves for change. One by one, we can recognise our sisters and brothers – especially ourselves. Our hearts hold the love and compassion we need to attain our goal of peace, where we may all live in harmony and equality, manifesting the true community of the earth”.(Michael Callopy, author of Architects of Peace)

I am honoured to close this Meeting with One Minute of Silence in memory of our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters and sons, victims of “the scourge of war”, and here I borrow with poetic licence from that great document the Charter of the United Nations, “which *continues to bring* untold sorrow to mankind” and to whom the Luarca Draft Declaration on the Human Right to Peace is dedicated”.

One Minute of Silence.

May Peace Prevail On Earth

3HO Foundation, Healthy, Happy, Holy Organisation, founded in 1969 by Yogi Bhajan, a non-denominational and educational organization. 3HO Foundation focuses on reform for and promotion of the status of women, human rights, health care, including de-addiction, care of the environment and the promotion of peace. Yogi Bhajan established a mission to uplift humanity through the technologies of Kundalini Yoga, Meditation, Humanology (teachings specific to women, men and children) and conscious living. He believed it is the birthright of all peoples to be healthy, happy and live in peace.

“Join us from every land, every tradition, every point of view, join us as we make pace; peace with each other, peace with the land and peace with ourselves”, Yogi Bhajan.

