



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Peace Statement

In 2014, it is poignant that we commemorate the start of the first World War in 1914, with all its suffering and horrors. Yet, a century on, we still have so many current conflict zones around the globe, which are no less horrific.

The **International Day of Peace** on **Sunday, 21 September** is a good opportunity to remind ourselves, our friends, our families and our politicians, that it is **men** in pursuit of power who start wars, but that it is women and children who mainly suffer because of wars; and until local **women** are around the peace table, to help negotiate a lasting peace and reconstruction process, wars will continue.

In 2000 the **UN Security Council** passed **Resolution 1325** which spelled out the specific risks faced by women in conflict areas, and set out to tackle this huge challenge. Much has been achieved since then, but much more remains to be done. The International Council of Women (ICW-CIF) continues to strive for peace, through its affiliated National Councils, and fully endorses UN SCR1325.

Let's use this International Day of Peace to join in any event which reflects on the peace challenge. ***"I urge every peace-loving person to engage with their friends and neighbours, their community organizations and governments. Together, let us demand the right of peoples to peace."***

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

(This year's International Day of Peace theme recognizes the 30th United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace.)

<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/index.shtml>

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