



EUROPEAN CENTRE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DU CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES

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ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT FAITHS AND CULTURES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The European Centre of the International Council of Women meeting in Northern Cyprus at the invitation of the National Council of Turkish Women is appalled at the sufferings of innocent women and children caught up in the conflicts affecting the region.

We believe these abhorrent events to be caused by the struggle of different religions to gain ascendancy over these territories and to impose their fanatical interpretation of religion on helpless populations. The result is misery for all who are caught up in these events and an exodus of many thousands of people fleeing the area and risking their lives by crossing the Mediterranean to reach a place of safety.

Most of the dead and injured in these wars are women and children. We vehemently protest at this slaughter and believe that the only way to achieve peace now and for the future is to replace religious intolerance with secular societies.

Many such societies already exist elsewhere in the world and are examples of harmonious existence between peoples of all faiths.

We call upon the international community to do all in its power to achieve this end by advocating secularism throughout the world and upon the United Nations to commence this process by summoning a conference of all interested parties in a neutral country to promote the establishment of secular societies with all possible speed.

COSIMA SCHENK
PRESIDENT
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VICE- PRESIDENT
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