

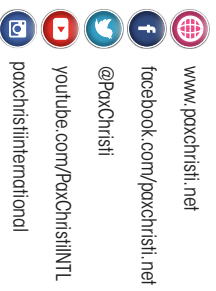


**ANNUAL** 2019  
**REPORT**



Pax Christi International is a Catholic peace movement with 120 member organizations worldwide that promotes peace, respect of human rights, justice & reconciliation throughout the world.

Grounded in the belief that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken, Pax Christi International addresses the root causes & destructive consequences of violent conflict and war.



Sign up to receive our newsletter, action alerts, and other email updates at [www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net).

Editor: Erin Green  
Layout and Design: Olivier Willems

**PEACE**  
IS  
**POSSIBLE**

“Promoting peace, respect for human rights,  
justice and reconciliation throughout the world.”



# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

**Sr Teresa Wamũyũ Wachira** was elected co-president of Pax Christi International in 2019. She is a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), commonly known as the Loreto Sisters. Wamũyũ is currently a Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader in Peace and Conflict Studies at St. Paul's University in Nairobi. She is coordinator of the Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Eastern Africa Province and a member of the Board for Abundant Life Centre, started with the aim to train and advocate against Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya.

**Bishop Marc Stenger** is the bishop of Troyes in France. He was elected co-president of Pax Christi International in 2019. He is part of the EUREGIO group of European Bishops (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany) and vice president of the "l'observatoire Pharos" on pluralism of cultures and religion. During his 17 year mandate as president of Pax Christi France, one of the founding sections of Pax Christi International, he has been a prominent defender of justice, peace and nonviolence in France as well as abroad. Along with his deep interest in ecology and environment, he is actively involved in an international working group of the



Church on nuclear disarmament and strongly advocates for Christians in Iraq and the establishment of lasting peace in Colombia.



The year 2019 has been an important year in leadership transition of Pax Christi International. We warmly welcomed Bishop Marc Stenger (France) and SrTeresia Wamũyũ Wachira (Kenya) as new co-presidents and elected new board members from South Sudan, Palestine, Belgium, DR Congo, Peru and the United States. They joined current board members from the Philippines, Russia, Netherlands and Germany. The movement affirmed its vision of a co-presidency composed of a bishop and a lay woman, working together as equals, setting the stage for relationships of respect and equality among hierarchy, priests, men and women religious, and laity throughout our movement.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to their predecessors, Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling, two remarkable peace advocates whose commitment is rooted in deep spirituality, following the nonviolent Jesus. Throughout their leadership, both have embodied and put in practice the peace and reconciliation work that is close to the heart of Pax Christi. They solidified our vision and mission, nurturing the uniqueness of this global network that links grassroots work with high level diplomacy.

With deep compassion and determination, with thorough analysis and great depth, they closely walked with us on sometimes bumpy roads. But they were always looking ahead to identify windows of opportunity and—above all—bringing hope! Their visionary leadership, their unequivocal, daring work to bring together the best minds and most creative, experienced peace-workers in the world to promote a global shift in Catholic teaching on nonviolence. This has solidified Pax Christi's leadership in matters of justice, peace, and reconciliation. I am very pleased that Marie and Bishop Dowling will continue to work with us in this successful effort to move active nonviolence to the center of the Catholic Church's teaching on war and violence.

Greet Vanaerschof

# 1. ADVOCACY

Throughout 2019, Pax Christi International strengthened its advocacy strategy with the help of working groups made up of members, partners, and representatives around the globe. They shared social and policy developments, and collaborated on best practices and joint action relating to the peace movement's four advocacy priorities:

- **Nonviolence, a Style of Politics for Peace**
- **Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty**
- **Just Peace in Israel and Palestine**
- **Extractives in Latin America**



On the occasion of the election of a new European Parliament in May, Pax Christi International and several of its European members issued a manifesto calling for a European project based on solidarity and peace. Factsheets were sent to new parliamentarians regarding the four advocacy priorities promoting the work of members and partners as well as advocacy messages.

We further strengthened our role in supporting the Pax Christi network through the publishing of an advocacy guide in English, Spanish, and French. The guide contains examples of successful advocacy actions by members and partners, tools on how to strategise for advocacy work, and tips and tricks for advocacy statements, social media actions and lobby meetings.

**We are a member of the following coalitions and networks:**

- European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLIO), Brussels
- European Network for Central Africa (EurAc), Brussels
- EU-LAC NGO Working Group, Brussels
- Conference of NGOs of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- Forum of Catholic inspired NGOs, Strasbourg and New York
- NGO Security Council Working Group, New York
- NGO Syria Working Group, New York
- NGO Mining Working Group, New York and Washington DC
- NGO Working Group on Israel and Palestine, New York
- Committee of Religious NGOs, New York
- Alliance for Peacebuilding, Washington DC
- Faith Forum on Middle East Policy, Washington DC
- Prevention and Protection Working Group, Washington DC
- International Peace Bureau (IPB), Geneva
- PIEF Core Group World Council of Churches (WCC), Geneva
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva
- OIDHACO, The International Office for Human Rights Action on Colombia
- Latin American Churches and Mining network



## Pax Christi International Representatives

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>UNITED NATIONS New York</b> | <b>UNESCO Paris</b>          |
| Mary Yelenick                  | Christain Le Roy             |
| Elizabeth Begley               | Gaëlle Pasquier              |
| Abigail Abysaïh-Metzger        | <b>UNITED NATIONS Geneva</b> |
| Doug Hostetter                 | Jonathan Frerichs            |
| Petero Sabune                  | <b>Council of Europe</b>     |
| Marie Dennis                   | Alfonso Zarci                |
| <b>UNITED NATIONS Vienna</b>   |                              |
| Elisabeth Jungmeier            |                              |
| Franz Schneckentleitner        |                              |
| Helga Tiffinger                |                              |



# NONVIOLENCE, A STYLE OF POLITICS FOR PEACE

Pax Christi International promotes nonviolent policy options over military ones as an essential part of sustaining peace and security at the global level. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, total world military expenditure rose to \$1.822 billion USD in 2018, an increase of 2.6 per cent from the year before. Too often policymakers overlook nonviolent approaches to sustaining peace and security that have repeatedly been proven to be effective in reducing violence and conflict in contexts around the world. Choosing nonviolent strategies as the first option in response to violent or potentially violent societal challenges would align with policy commitments made by states and at intergovernmental levels. Instead of spending huge amounts on military and defence, states could use their budgets for the billions needed annually to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which they have committed to implement by 2030



## Highlights

- Created advocacy working group with members, partners, and representatives to encourage support for nonviolent policy options for sustainable peace in the international community.
- Cosigned statements with civil society organisations calling for more investment in sustainable development in response to increasing European Union budgets for military and defence expenditure.
- Held meeting with Holy See Mission at the United Nations in New York asking them to promote nonviolent approaches through their international policy work.

# NUCLEAR WEAPONS BAN TREATY

Just nine countries have a total of 15,000 nuclear weapons. The blast, heat and radiation of a single nuclear bomb over a large city could kill and injure millions of people and even a nuclear war between two states with only small arsenals, like India and Pakistan, could disrupt the global climate and put billions of lives at risk from famine.

The United Nations General Assembly's 2017 adoption of a legally binding treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons stigmatises and delegitimises nuclear weapons and will hopefully help to lower the number of nuclear weapons and lead to their total elimination.

Pax Christi International advocated for the negotiation and adoption of a nuclear weapons ban treaty. We supported human-centred provisions and are now working for widespread ratification and implementation.



## Highlights

- Participated in a February meeting organised by Pax Christi Flanders and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons with Belgian federal parliamentarians to discuss the importance of the nuclear weapons ban treaty.
- Organised May side-event at the United Nations in New York "Why and how outside movements in the US are encouraging fulfilment of the NPT" in cooperation with US members and partners.
- Delivered letters to Vatican officials, national bishops' conferences, and released a statement with several members on the occasion of Pope Francis's visit to Japan asking for support for the nuclear weapons ban treaty.



# TOWARDS JUST PEACE FOR ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

A just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical for peace in our world today. Over 71 years of violence and 52 years of military occupation has resulted in the widespread violations of human rights of children, women, and men. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is cause for alarm.

Every day there are breaches of international law related to the occupation occurring in both small ways and on a large scale. In Gaza, twelve years of a devastating land, air, and sea blockade has brought 2 million people to the brink of inhumane existence.

Pax Christi International calls for the international community to pronounce itself on the occupation in the Palestinian territories and international law violations, to support human rights defenders as well as to help start a renewed Israeli-Palestinian peace process.



## Highlights

- Participated in the annual "Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church" in the Holy Land in January and sharing of the outcome declaration with members.
- Published a statement in cooperation with several members, "Humanity and Equality in God's Creation", for the World Week for Peace for Israel and Palestine in September.
- Helped organise and promote the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People activity in November at the United Nations in New York as part of the Non-governmental Organisations Working Group on Israel and Palestine.

## EXTRACTIVES IN LATIN AMERICA

Many Latin American communities have been heavily affected by the activities of companies exploiting natural resources, including oil, gas, gold, silver, iron, copper and tin, as well as by other large-scale development projects. Worryingly, the situation in the region has further deteriorated in recent years as extractive activities by transnational companies have increased substantially, especially by American, Canadian, and European companies.

These activities are expected to grow even more due to Latin American governmental support, through economic incentives and legal changes, while alternatives exist.

Pax Christi International advocates for the place of extractivism on human rights, trade, and development agendas throughout the international community. We call for the promotion and respecting of community rights in the face of these challenges.



### Highlights

- Published statement in July supporting the Synod on the Amazon, with members from Latin America, Canada, United States, and Europe, which was shared during the Synod civil society activities organised in collaboration with Colombian and Guatemalan members in Rome.
- Participated in the General Assembly of the Latin American Churches and Mining Network in August in Argentina where the central topic was extractivism and how it affects communities.
- Organised a lab debate and stand with other faith-based organisations and the Peruvian Pax Christi member during the European Development Days bringing the situation of Indigenous peoples and their rights to the attention of European Union policy makers.



## 2. PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

Pax Christi International recognised the European Lawyers in Lesbos (ELL) as the recipient of the 2019 Pax Christi International Peace Award. They are one of the few providers of legal assistance on the Greek island of Lesbos (also known as Lesvos, a focal point of mass immigration into Europe). ELL was founded in June 2016 by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe and the German Bar Association. These organisations represent the bars and law societies of 32 member countries and 13 further associate and observer countries across Europe, and through them more than one million European lawyers.

Since their founding, a small permanent staff and more than 100 volunteer asylum lawyers from 17 countries have provided free legal assistance to more than 9000 people, most of whom are from Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan. ELL is the largest provider of legal assistance to asylum seekers on Lesbos. They are also the primary provider of legal assistance to unaccompanied minors who have been incorrectly registered as adults and asylum seekers in detention. In addition to other services, ELL also helps reunite families by assisting with family reunification applications under the Dublin Regulation.

In awarding the Peace Award, Pax Christi International reflected on the painful reality in Europe today, with political parties that demonise migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. This is contrary to the vision of a Europe that respects human dignity and fundamental rights.

Pax Christi International remarked that ELL represents “such relevant and critically important peace and justice activism. The tremendous need for legal support for refugees is evident . . . ELL is not only fighting for the rights of the asylum seekers but empowering them to speak for themselves. It is amazing and humbling to see the number of lives they have touched in 2.5 years.”

*Established in 1988, the Pax Christi International Peace Award is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund and honours individuals and organisations actively making a stand for peace, justice, and nonviolence in different parts of the world.*



<https://paxchristi.net/programmes/peace-prize/>

# 3 - THE CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE INITIATIVE

In a few short years, the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI) has significantly advanced the understanding of nonviolence and just peace in the Catholic Church and beyond. As a project of Pax Christi International, the CNI was founded in April 2016 following the “Nonviolence and Just Peace” conference in Rome. The overall goal of the CNI is that the Catholic Church, rooted in faith, will lead the world away from perpetual violence and war.

Pax Christi International was honored to co-sponsor a two-day workshop at the Vatican in April. “Path of nonviolence: Towards a culture of peace” sought to deepen and strengthen the Catholic Church’s understanding of and commitment to nonviolence.

“Our conversations on nonviolence and peace filled our hearts and minds with a consideration of the dignity of each person—young people, women and men, people who are impoverished, citizens and leaders,” noted Msgr Bruno Marie Dufé, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Workshop participants hailed from 21 countries from all regions of the world. They included bishops, archbishops, peace practitioners, theologians, social scientists, educators and those in pastoral ministry. Dicastery prefect Cardinal Peter Turkson (Ghana) was among attendees, as was Cardinal Joseph Tobin (USA).

Leading up to the workshop, the CNI presented the participants and the Vatican with findings from five roundtables convened in 2017-2018. These findings offer a deep exploration of the history and potential of nonviolence in the Church and society at large. Pax Christi International will publish this material for broader audiences in 2020.







Throughout 2019, the CNI continued dialogue with collegial organisations including the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, International Federation of Catholic Universities, Caritas International, Catholic Relief Services, Jesuit Refugee Service, United States Institute of Peace, and Alliance for Peacebuilding among many others. We also entered conversation with bishops, archbishops, and cardinals from the United States to Fiji—and countless places in between!



### Other highlights

- CNI steering committee and other supporters organised and participated in events such as DePaul University's Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology (CWCIIT) World Catholicism Week in May, the "Just Peacemaking Through Nonviolence" conference at Seton Hall University at the end of September, and a major congress sponsored by Pax Christi Germany, held in October, which focused on active nonviolence.
- Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence, edited by CNI executive committee member Marie Dennis, published by Orbis Books, won the Catholic Social Teaching award from the Catholic Press Association.
- The CNI was featured at a United Nations side-event on the occasion of International Day of Peace.
- CNI leaders and supporters were published as experts in the Journal of Moral Theology, Catholic Moral Theology, Desinformónomos, Independent Catholic News, The Tablet, National Catholic Reporter, Catholic News Service, Sojourners, Huffington Post, and many other media outlets.
- Pax Christi Pilipinas has worked towards including a module on Recommitting to Gospel Nonviolence in a training manual to be published by the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) on Justice and Peace Education

# 4. AFRICA

In 2019, Pax Christi International continued to expand its programme 'Empowering new generations on active nonviolence and entrepreneurship' in DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. The purpose is to educate young people about building a culture of peace and active nonviolence. The programme also assists them assist in creating small businesses. Training took place in Bujumbura and Kinshasa in close cooperation with our members in the region.

The direct beneficiaries of our programme are young people. Better understanding the roots of violence and the power of nonviolence, along with the opportunity to become economically independent, lessens the attraction of militias and gangs that lure young people with the promise of money, food, and clothes. Young people who are trained in active nonviolence and imbued with positive values, will become agents of change in their own communities. This will significantly contribute to the restoration of a culture of peace, reconciliation, and tolerance in their region. In addition to these positive effects, entrepreneurship as a core component of the programme offers young people a pathway to economic sustenance, allowing them to choose and adopt peaceful ways to live.

We have witnessed a profound personal transformation among these young people, which in turn, has affected their families, fellow students, friends, and neighbours.





**The Pax Christi network in Africa continues to grow! In 2019 we welcomed five new members :**

- Le Réseau d'organisation des droits humains et d'éducation civique d'inspiration chrétienne, RHODECIC (The Christian-inspired Human Rights and Civic Education Organising Network), Kinshasa, DR Congo
- Synergie des femmes pour la Paix et la Réconciliation des Peuples des Grands Lacs d'Afrique, SFPR. (Women's Synergy for Peace and Reconciliation of the Peoples of the Great Lakes of Africa) Bukavu, DR Congo
- Union pour la Promotion, la Défense des Droits Humains et de l'Environnement dans la région des Grands Lacs, UPDDHE (Union for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights and the Environment in the Great Lakes Region). Goma, DR Congo.
- Salt and Light, Togo
- Horn of Africa Grassroots Peace-Forum, HAP-FORUM, Kenya.

This brings the total number of active member organisations in Africa to 40, about half of which are located in the Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Burundi, and DR Congo).



**Programme highlights Great Lakes**

- A total of 73 trainers in nonviolence and entrepreneurship are at work, training in schools and in youth movements in parishes.
- More than 3800 young people were trained in Active Nonviolence and peacebuilding.
- At least 400 young people now earn regular income and manage their own business or income generating activity, including operating motorcycle taxis, shops, bakery and butcher shops, pig breeding, and the sale of flour.
- Articles about trainings carried out in parishes and schools were published with photos in newspapers and social media.
- Testimonials from youth, parish priests, local leaders and school principals on positive behavioural changes were collected and show the widespread impact in communities.

# 5. LATIN AMERICA

*"In 'Blessing of God,' a place in Tacuba, El Salvador, 940 families mobilised for 96 days, walking 18 kilometers to defend water source systems. A new bill aims to give water to the sugarcane agribusiness industry. 'How unfair the law is sometimes,' says one Tacuba villager, 'But we keep our courage in taking care of our land!'"*

Pax Christi International's programme called "Violence and Hope" is now on its third phase from 2019 to 2022. Its strategic goal is "Contributing to a vibrant society, which defends the territory and promotes public policy alternatives to extractivism, from active citizenship practices, nonviolence, to democratic organisation."

The programme gives continuity to the process of accompaniment to communities whose rights are affected by extractivism (e.g., mining, hydroelectric projects, agribusiness).

This happens by:

- strengthening community capacity to nonviolently transform conflict caused by extractivism;
- designing and implementing advocacy plans at the local, national, and global levels;
- strengthening grassroots community networks and civil society organisations in Latin America, to South-

South and South-North action in defence of land, and defend culture and rights in an informed, coordinated, and supportive approach.



In Tolima, Colombia, SOS Environmental develops a training process on the environment and caring for the land for nearly 400 Indigenous people. Environmental education has a great impact on the community, providing tools for the common good and empowers new actors who stand against the exploitation of oil and other business in this area. The training reinforced the "Winged" process—community working together for all—as well as the empowerment of participants. New actions were taken to defend the territory, and develop awareness campaigns, environmental talks, mobilizations, seedlings, reforestation processes, stewardship of water, and more.





The International Board welcomed two new affiliated members to reinforce the regional Pax Christi network in Latin America: SIPAZ in Mexico and PIC Confregu-Religious Superiors Conference in Guatemala.

#### Highlights

- Seventh year of accompaniment to communities threatened by the extractive industry
- Thirty-four Indigenous, mestizo and afro-descendant communities directly participate, accompanied by Pax Christi International partners in seven countries: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, Chile and Paraguay
- Community organisation and promotion of networks and alliances strengthened to maximise the impact of citizen advocacy actions for the defense of community territories.
- Capacity building based on experiential and participatory pedagogical methods. These are illuminated by a spirituality for peace and nonviolence and reinforced by learning for citizen action.
- A process developed based on local cultural identity and practices, social and political context analysis and dynamics of relationships

## 6. HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR NETWORK IN EUROPE

### Pax Christi Scotland

In 2019 we warmly welcomed Pax Christi Scotland, who joined our international network of Pax Christi sections. They will bring to our movement a Scottish approach that educates, and organises opportunities for the living out of Gospel Nonviolence. They accomplish this through a focus on family, school, parish and national campaigns which creates space for personal and social transformation to occur. The section will also maintain a clear focus on changing national and international policy in relation to war, the arms trade and the military-industrial complex with special attention to nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

### Voices of Moderation

In close partnership with the Foundation Communicantes, Klub Intelgencji Katolickiej, and Wlcz, Pax Christi International organised a workshop "Voices of moderation: Recognising Catholic Social Teaching as a way to engage in civil society dialogue in Central and Eastern Europe." The workshop took place in October and examined the potential of faith-based civil society to successfully engage in civil society dialogue.

Participants came from the Visegrád countries, the Balkans, as well as from Russia, Lithuania, and Ukraine. A follow up is foreseen in the coming years, each time with a focus on a different region.



# 7. FINANCIAL RESULTS



## BALANCE SHEET 2019

	€ EUROS	\$ US DOLLARS
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Material fixed assets	5 483.67	6 161.43
Financial fixed assets	1 775.00	1 994.38
<b>SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES</b>	800 470.84	899 405.44
<b>LIQUID ASSETS</b>	178 505.93	200 568.46
<b>ACCURALS AND DEFERRALS</b>	54 953.23	61 745.20
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>€ 1 041 188.67</b>	<b>\$ 1 169 874.91</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Reserves	32 402.21	36 406.98
Surplus/deficit	62 127.32	69 805.98
Result year	4 947.69	5 559.20
<b>PROVISIONS</b>	258 321.30	290 248.65
<b>DEBTS</b>		
Long term	35 000.00	39 325.84
Short term	156 798.95	176 178.60
<b>ACCURALS AND DEFERRALS</b>	491 591.20	552 349.66
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>€ 1 041 188.67</b>	<b>\$ 1 169 874.91</b>

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2019

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Administration & Organisation	369 377.87	415 031.31
Housing & Utility	44 147.45	49 603.88
Publications , Printing & Campaign	54 978.45	61 773.54
Advocacy & Representation	86 057.08	96 693.35
Networking with Member Organisations & Partners & Youth	307 705.99	345 737.07
Financial & Investment Costs	8 109.15	9 111.40
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>€ 870 375.99</b>	<b>\$ 977 950.55</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Fees	213 126.32	239 467.78
Grants	334 523.10	375 868.65
Donations	316 791.36	355 945.35
Recuperations	10 882.90	12 227.98
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>€ 875 323.68</b>	<b>\$ 983 509.75</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RESULT YEAR</b>	<b>€ 4 947.69</b>	<b>\$ 5 559.20</b>



# 2019 FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

## GRANTS

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 Jubitz Family Foundation  
 KOOK Alkmaar  
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**MEMBERSHIP FEES**  
 See link paexchrisi.net/  
 member-organisations

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