



State of Peace and Justice in the European Union

As EU Staff for Peace, we believe it is essential to **speak out and take action** in our personal capacity on the ongoing genocide in Gaza. **Upholding international law** - in line with the Treaties - is our duty. Yet, every day the latter is being eroded by Israel's military actions in Gaza on the one hand, and our complicit inaction on the other.

To this day, the EU remains Israel's largest trading partner, despite the latter's continued **breach of international norms and disregard for human life**. Consequently, arms still flow from Member States, to be used mostly against unarmed civilians, and **the EU-Israel Association Agreement has not been suspended**, despite its provisions being blatantly and continuously breached.

This exposes a dangerous double standard. Just as the EU has taken measures in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, it must uphold the same principles in any war context where human life is in danger. A failure to do so jeopardises not only **the credibility of the Union as an international player**, but also, and foremost, its spirit and the values on which it is founded.

The genocide in Gaza (called as such by European Commissioner Ribera in line with the United Nations, all the major international organization for human rights, Holocaust survivors, Israeli civil society organizations, the international association of genocide scholars and many others) will test whether Europe can live up to its values, or allows them to be hollow words. This is why, as EU Staff for Peace, **we wanted to share our hopes and concerns in a call to restore the spirit of peace and justice that gave birth to the European Union**, and to make it real again in our times.

Dear EU leaders, dear citizens of Europe, dear friends of peace around the world,

We speak today not as leaders, but as citizens; not as politicians, but as **servants of a dream that is greater than any office, any government, any nation**. We speak as Staff members working for the European public function, who believe that **the European Union can and must be a place where human conscience can speak in these times of darkness**.

Today, we raise our voice as EU Staff members committed to peace values - not in fear, but in faith; not in despair, but in hope. We speak of Europe — not as it is, but as it can and must be: **a lighthouse for humanity in times of storm**, a continent where wounds are healed, where scars are turned into lessons, and where suffering is never forgotten but transformed into solidarity.

As Jean Monnet once reminded us, ***"People only accept change when they are faced with necessity, and only recognize necessity when a crisis is upon them."*** Europe was born out of the ashes of war. When the ruins of our cities still smoked and our people still mourned, Europeans dared to imagine the unthinkable: that former enemies could sit around the same table, build bridges where barbed wire once stood, and write treaties not of conquest but of cooperation.

This "political miracle", achieved in the aftermath of WWII, is our inheritance. We bear responsibility to uphold it today, guided by our historical consciousness and our aspirations for the future.

We acknowledge the wounds of our time and accept the responsibilities they place upon us — the wars on our borders, the rise of hatred and extremism, the suffering of displaced children, the cynicism of those who would reduce human rights to bargaining chips.

Yet, just as our parents and grandparents believed in a Europe of peace when peace seemed impossible, we must act to keep that dream alive.

We dare to affirm — against all odds — that another world is possible. A world where **the rule of law triumphs over the law of the strongest**. A world where **human rights are universal, not subject to double standards**. A world where **the United Nations and multilateral institutions are strengthened, not weakened**.

We refuse to accept the dogma that weapons are the sole foundation for peace—a notion repeatedly proven wrong throughout our continent's history, and one that has already cost countless lives. Instead, let us reclaim the truth enshrined in the European Treaties: that **peace is born of justice, that solidarity is the foundation of security**, that human dignity is the only true wealth of nations.

We must face the truth: war has returned to our continent. Authoritarian regimes test our unity. **Civilians suffer under bombs produced in European states, migrants are drowning at the borders of Europe, international law is disregarded by governments** denying the moral and legal authority of the International Criminal Court and of UN bodies such as the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly. A failure to respond swiftly and decisively to direct assaults to the international order will merely hasten the erosion of the rule of law.

In the face of this dim prospect, we shall not forget the words of Robert Schuman, one of our founding fathers: *“World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.”* The dangers are many, but silence is not an option and our creative efforts, courage, and unity can prevail.

Peace is the indispensable cornerstone for achieving sustained economic welfare, as it creates the stable environment necessary for investment, innovation, and fair opportunity; only through peaceful cooperation can we ensure equality, social cohesion, and lasting progress that benefits all members of society.

Any state that chooses war, that invades its neighbour, that tramples international law as an instrument of power, has chosen unilaterally to cut its moral and historical relationship with the European Union, even if this state is allowed to do business and wars in the political and economic sphere. European citizens will never normalize aggression in their minds and souls. We will never reward violations of sovereignty. Europe's message is simple: there is no place in our family of nations for those who deny the dignity of others.

For these reasons, as citizens and servants of the European Union, we felt compelled to speak out and share this **State of Peace and Justice in the European Union**. In difficult times, the voice of lay people must be raised to support leaders, to remind institutions of their founding mission, and to find new paths of human development beyond the boundaries of power and interest.

Let the Nobel Peace Prize trophy, awarded to the European Union in 2012, continue to shine within and outside the Union.

Let Europe rise again — not as a fortress, but as a beacon. Let it rise as the living proof that humanity is capable of peace, justice, and dignity.

This is our call, this is our pledge, and this is our hope: Long live Europe, long live peace, long live the universal dignity of humankind.

EU Staff for peace
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