

Civil Society Consultation on the Human Right to Peace

Thursday 22 March 2012 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**Church Center for the United Nations
Room 10 H, 777 United Nations Plaza
New York**

The Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP), the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL), the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace (IOHRP), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Institute for Global Leadership will co-organize the **Civil Society Consultation on the Human Right to Peace** at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York on Thursday 22 March 2012.

This will be the fourth in the series of consultations/panel discussions held in the United States on this significantly important issue, with previous ones being held at the UN, in New York and in Washington DC in 2010 and 2011. It also builds on the synergy of the civil society generated activities since the launching of the first US-based “Coalition to Support the Human Right to Peace” in March 2011 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

As our world faces today increasing abuse, violence, conflict and war, the time is ripe for the much-awaited recognition of the Human Right to Peace. While some of the governments are still dragging their feet in supporting this initiative, civil society has been the vanguard of this cause becoming more and more vocal in asking the United Nations to recognise this all-important right to peace.

In June this year the UN Human Rights Council is expected to receive at its 20th session a draft “Declaration on the Right to Peace”. The Council’s Advisory Committee consisting of 18 international experts has been working on this document since last year. The global civil society alliance is requesting the Council to establish an open-ended working group to continue the codification process of the Human Right to Peace. The objective is to get this working group prepare an inter-governmentally agreed Declaration which the Council could recommend to the UN General Assembly for adoption as the ***Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace***.

The **Consultation on the Human Right to Peace** in New York would provide a timely opportunity to highlight the need for increasing engagement of civil society in focussing attention to the need for the recognition of the Human Right to Peace by the international community as well as to evaluate the progress being made in that direction and to decide on the course of advocacy and action required of them.

[LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WOULD BE SERVED]

	PROGRAM
1:15 – 2:00 pm	<p>--Welcome remarks by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Former President of the UN Security Council</p> <p>Speakers (10 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: "The human right to peace before the Human Rights Council". - Prof. Carlos Villán Durán, President of the SSIHRL: "Comments to the (second) draft Declaration on the Right to Peace as submitted by the Advisory Committee". - Ms. Cora Weiss, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace (*): "Role of civil society organizations in the promotion and protection of the human right to peace" - Dr. Virginia Swain, Executive Director of the Center for Global Community and World Law "The US Coalition on the human right to peace as good practice in the promotion of peace and human rights" - Mr Daniel Pieper, Policy consultant of the World Council of Churches before the United Nations in New York. "The freedom of religion and belief as a core element of the right to peace"
2:00 – 2:55 pm	-- Discussion and Conclusions.
2:55 – 3:00 pm	Closure of the Consultation by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

Coordinator:
Mr. David Fernández Puyana
 Representative of the IOHRP and the SSIHR in Geneva