



## ***Church and Peace*** **International Office**

***Church and Peace* is an ecumenical Peace Church network  
made up of communities, training centres,  
peace organisations and peace-service agencies in Europe.**

Schöffengrund, Germany, 27 October 2015

### **Press Release**

#### **Church and Peace calls for comprehensive global climate justice and climate protection treaty to be agreed in Paris**

“We have to protect the climate so that people can share the use of the Earth’s (dwindling) resources, because increasing shortages of resources are a growing cause of armed conflict and people fleeing from their homes,” according to Antje Heider-Rottwilm, who was speaking as chairperson at this year’s Annual General Meeting of Church and Peace, the European ecumenical network of peace churches and related organisations. At the meeting it was agreed unanimously to support a statement issued by faith and spiritual leaders in the run-up to the climate change conference in Paris. In their statement they call on all the government delegations who will come together in Paris from 30 November to 11 December to agree a binding climate treaty including mutual commitments to reducing emissions and protecting the climate.

The statement says that reverence for creation must be expressed in concrete practical steps. Such steps must be sufficient to meet our responsibility towards future generations as well as towards the most vulnerable states which urgently need effective support to help them mitigate climate change and protect their population. The agreements to be made in Paris must therefore be binding, ambitious, and equitable.

Speaking about the current crisis, Antje Heider-Rottwilm pointed out that from 2006 to 2011 in Syria and throughout the Middle East there was the longest drought and the greatest loss of harvests since the first civilisations and that this caused reserves of groundwater to shrink by about 50%. Evidence shows that there is a direct link between climate change, global injustice, and the flow of refugees. “On the one hand there is the loss of the resources which people depend on for their livelihood, and on the other hand people face terror and violence (sometimes the weapons used have been supplied by us), so that people have no other way out, except to flee to somewhere where they might hope to be safe and find food and shelter.”

The statement by the religious leaders can be found [here](#).

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**Church and Peace** is a European ecumenical peace church network made up of communities, training centres, peace organizations and peace service agencies. Their common conviction is that the peace witness and nonviolence of the Gospel are essential characteristics of the Church and lead to nonviolent service for peace and reconciliation. Church and Peace works together with national and international networks: Action Committee Service for Peace (AGDF, Germany), Conference of European Churches (CEC), World Council of Churches, Network of Christian Peace Organizations (NCPO, UK), International Network for a Culture of Nonviolence and Peace.