

Bread and Peace Declaration

On the occasion of the International Day for Peace and Nonviolence called by United Nations, September 21:

1. As followers of Jesus, son of God, who we recognize as sovereign God, we affirm our biblical and historical conviction to the way of peace as active nonviolence and love for neighbor, especially for the weak, the marginalized, the poor and the enemy.
2. We will not take part in armed proposals in the quest for peace. We consider that the efforts to force all of the population to take sides in the armed conflict, on the side of the State or on the side of illegal armed groups, is a false alternative because both sides use the same logic of weapons and violence.
3. We are opposed to participating in armed groups or paying for others to do so. We are opposed to the militarization of the economy and we advocate for the right to conscientious objection to all armed service.
4. We believe that peace is an issue that belongs to everyone and so we will continue to seek peace with justice for and with everyone, carrying out constructive conversations and actions with any group that is willing to consider negotiated and nonviolent solutions to the country's problems, with reconciliation as the horizon.
5. We encourage the government, armed groups and the media to set aside attitudes of war and to enter into conversations and actions for peace, making substantial and fundamental concessions for the building of a new country, with full guarantees for human dignity with social and legal justice, including housing, employment, land, security, education, health and democratic freedom.
6. We call the international community, and especially the citizens of the United States, to halt their contributions through finances, weapons or advisory support for the war in Colombia, and to contribute to the well-being of the world by supporting and approving participation in the International Criminal Court.
7. We invite the movements for peace and nonviolence in Colombia to set aside their divisions and to take on a more active role for peace in our country.

September 21, 2002

Colombian Mennonite Church, Mennonite Brethren Churches of Colombia, Brethren in Christ Church of Colombia