

A WAR NEVER REALLY ENDS an interfaith response

We are global citizens
Followers of many spiritual traditions
Compelled to speak, for ourselves and for others.
Convinced that war brings neither freedom nor peace.
Called to speak the truth as our faiths demand.
May we be filled with the strength to seek peace.

War will not end when the guns are silent.
Violence can never lead to peace.
The government does not faithfully represent
Our desires or those of the people of the world
And so it becomes our obligation to speak and to act
We will bear the responsibility
We will claim our democratic power
We will willingly accept what is required.
We will stand against the forces of death.
We will stand for life.
May we be filled with the courage to seek peace.

Duty calls upon us to prohibit violence
Directed at our brothers and sisters
To limit the monstrous domination of war
To repair the ruin, whenever, wherever we can:
The direct horrors inflicted on the people
The damage to homes, lands, heritage, institutions
The disruption of their eating, traveling, breathing, living
May we be filled with the compassion to seek peace.

We grieve for the harm to our own country
The degradation suffered here in common
The contagion of fear and distrust
The restriction of our freedoms
The quashing of our dialogue and dissent

*Taken from http://www.forusa.org/media/for_statement_032403.html

Draws upon statement released in 2003 by an Interfaith group of peace and justice organizations. Has been recontextualized.

We grieve the terrible wounding of those sent off to fight
Children captured by the demons of war
Who will suffer illness of body and spirit
Whose families too absorb the blows of violence
We grieve the rupture of families where a member is killed
Parents, spouses, infants overcome with grief
Losing a source of sustenance and survival
May we be filled with the endurance to seek peace.

War will not fulfill those government promises.
For it is based on lies, and lies have been told.
Here we stand on truth, and stand together.
United as one humanity, here we are.
We grasp the horror of war in all its fullness.
And embrace it with our joined compassion.
May we be filled with the vision of peace.

Recognizing our weakness
We call on the Spirit of Mercy to guide us now.
Nothing is stronger. The spirit will prevail.

Amen.

3/21/03 signed on by:

- Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
- Buddhist Peace Fellowship
- Church of God Peace Fellowship
- Disciples of Christ Peace Fellowship
- Episcopal Peace Fellowship
- Jewish Peace Fellowship
- Lutheran Peace Fellowship
- Methodist Peace Fellowship
- Muslim Peace Fellowship
- Pax Christi USA
- Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- Unitarian-Universalist Peace Fellowship
- The Witness magazine (Episcopal Church Publishing Co.)