

Standing Together in Spirit and with Actions: *Religions for Peace*Statement about the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

13 MARCH 2020

Religions for Peace has been closely following the development of Coronavirus (COVID-19), which the World Health Organization (WHO) has described as a "controllable pandemic." Containment of the virus is of the upmost priority, and we urge everyone to follow WHO guidelines for protecting themselves and others.

In the past weeks, the human family has been confronted by a great challenge, which, like so many of our current global challenges, has no regard for regional and national borders, and does not discriminate based on religion, ethnicity, race, gender or politics. In this time of great caution and need, we also rely on the teachings within all religious and spiritual traditions that call on us to unite in solidarity with those who suffer, and to stand against all forms of hatred and discrimination arising from fear, intolerance and lack of understanding.

As a global movement of religions working together for peace, many stand courageously at the frontlines of this challenge, selflessly offering care and support to the most vulnerable among us. The family of *Religions for Peace*, are with all in spirit, grateful for, and humbled by, the service to the human family.

With steadfast commitment and partnership across divides, we can and will overcome this together.

Religions for Peace is actively compiling resources, actions of faith communities, and stories from within and beyond of movement in one.