



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMME
(Founded 1888)**

STATEMENT TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

21st September 2018

"THE RIGHT TO PEACE – THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT 70"

(UN theme for 2018)

This year, the International community is celebrating 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which declaration specifies that " the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world".

70 years after such a Declaration which brought hope to the world, how can we, individually, promote the ideals of peace? It should be remembered that women helped make the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Universal", by shaping the narrative of the Declaration through their influence on the language used. Women stood up for this declaration, which was intended to become the international "Magna Carta", empowering us all.

It should also be remembered that in 1948, ICW proudly supported the UN adoption of the UDHR, and, since then, keeping in mind that women's rights are human rights, ICW has constantly urged governments and international organizations to accelerate their steps to protect the human rights of all women. Such steps include the achievement of gender equality in all spheres. However, unfortunately, we are still facing the results of ongoing wars, conflicts and displacement in several parts of the world – to the detriment of peace.

Again, it should be emphasized that everything in the matter starts with education. The Declaration article 26 proclaims that everyone has the right to education, regardless of sex, and states that fundamental education for women and girls is not a privilege but is a right that must be distributed equally. This article has been a principle for our ICW advocacy campaigns and initiatives.

Guided accordingly by the belief that every person in every place deserves the chance to live in peace, ICW calls upon its members to strengthen their efforts in working with governments, civil society, and the media, so as to prevent and reduce violent conflicts, and to be committed overall to the aim of essential equal and inalienable human rights. These rights are today more important than ever, since nearly a quarter of the globe's population still lives in fragile states, in which the social contract between society and government is frayed, and where individuals and communities continue to suffer deprivations and abuses, particularly women.

The ICW calls on all governments to ensure that all peoples enjoy THE RIGHT TO PEACE.