- WATER IS LIFE! -

Appeal of Religions for Peace Europe on the occasion of World Water Day 2012

On the occasion of UN World Water Day 2012 celebrated 22nd of March, we particularly draw the attention to water as a fundamental requirement for food production.

Water is essential in the practices and beliefs of our religions, specifically for two main reasons:

- Water cleanses the body and keeps it healthy - Water washes symbolically away impurities and pollutants.
- Water is a fundamental building block of life - Without water there is no life.

The European Council of Religious Leaders, bringing together senior religious leaders from Europe’s historical religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam together with Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and Zoroastrians, is seized by the importance of water for our human flourishing. As members of the Council we realize that water challenges human existence in different ways. In many parts of the world there is a shortage of water, causing drought and famine; and sometimes there is too much water that causes floods, landslides and destruction of crops. Lack of clean water for drinking use is an increasing health problem in many parts of the world.

Water is essential for life! Water should be a Fundamental Right and Public Good for all! Economic ability should not limit access to sufficient quality water!

We call upon authorities to secure comprehensive water management policies that provide for water the essential functions of life, including the production of food. We call on policies contributing to fairness, harmony and peace, rather than dreadful conflict over water resources.

We, as members of ECRL, call upon followers of our respective faith traditions to gain knowledge of the importance that water plays in the production of the food we put on our tables. We call upon faith groups, specifically youth and children groups within our faith communities, to engage in reflection and action that promote knowledge and responsible actions to secure Quality Water For All!

Dr. Adalberta Mazzini Bernardini,
Representative of Religions for Peace, supports the initiative to FAO.