

# **JUST PEACE COMPANION**

*“Guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:79)*

**SECOND EDITION**



**World Council  
of Churches**  
Publications

JUST PEACE COMPANION  
Second Edition

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## *Preface*

The documentation presented here is meant to be used alongside the *Ecumenical Call to Just Peace*. The drafters hope that this further documentation will aid individuals and groups in studying and reflecting on the *Ecumenical Call* itself, and for that reason the *Call* itself is reproduced immediately after this Preface.

The documentation largely follows the structure of the *Call* and intends to provide necessary background information as well as basic biblical, theological and ethical considerations to support and unfold its basic message.

The documentation has been compiled by the same drafting group that prepared the text of the *Call*. No individual authors are indicated for the different parts of the documentation, since most of these are the result of collective work. Much of the original research and theological reflection were undertaken by the first drafting group that prepared the Initial Statement towards an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace, which was circulated widely in 2009. The theological rationale developed in the Initial Statement had in principle been received positively among member churches and ecumenical partner groups.

It was subsequently decided that the declaration should be a relatively concise text, a *Call*, and that the analysis and argument behind it should be developed more fully in a “companion document.” The initial statement then became the basis for the preparation of this documentation. Where necessary, the material from the initial statement has been revised or rewritten in the light of critical comments received, but the essential thrust of the argument has been retained, honouring both the

excellent work done by the first drafting group as well as the many comments which had urged that the statement be retained.

The *Ecumenical Call* and this *Just Peace Companion* were originally published as resources to mark the official end of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence and to provide a strong impulse for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation, which took place in Kingston, Jamaica, in May 2011 under the theme "Glory to God and Peace on Earth." For this second edition, some historical context of the process has been added to the first chapter, and a new third chapter addresses deeper underlying theological and critical concerns raised by the Decade, the *Call*, and the whole notion of Just Peace today.

The final chapter of the documentation focuses on "Just Peace Practices." It is built around first-hand knowledge available and accessible to the drafting group. Information provided by churches in response to the initial statement has been used, along with examples raised during the Convocation in Jamaica. It is hoped that this companion will be of service to individuals, congregations and member churches intent on undergirding and extending their work toward Just Peace.

Along with myself, drafting group members included Rev. Dr Jione Havea (Methodist Church, Australia), Prof. Dr Scott Holland (Church of the Brethren, USA), Ms. Susan Jacob (Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, India), Ms. Iselin Jørgensen (Church of Norway), Prof. Dr. Assad Elias Kattan (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Germany), Canon Joyce Nima (Anglican, Uganda), Dr Anne Kasafi Perkins (Roman Catholic Church, Jamaica), Rev. Peter Stucky (Mennonite Church, Colombia), and Mrs. Alba Arrieta (Presbyterian Church, Colombia).

*On behalf of the drafting group,  
Rev. Dr. Konrad Raiser*