

A Statement of Conscience and Faith to Our Community and Our Nation

God is a God of peace. As people of faith we know that violence as a response to violence cannot bring peace. Our faith experience rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ has led us to other actions that will truly foster world peace. These include cross-cultural endeavors in education, economic development, agriculture, engineering, medicine and social justice.

We are respectful of the great sacrifices made by young Americans and their families affiliated with the armed forces of our country. We also recognize that our military presence in Iraq is inflammatory, fueling the violent aspirations of al Qaeda, as well as increasing Iraqi resentment toward Americans serving in our military units.

We implore our nation's leaders to withdraw our fighting forces from Iraq, and channel all possible humanitarian resources into the tremendous needs of the Iraqi refugees and the Iraqi social and civil structures that may accept our help. To these ends our individual names below signify the following commitments:

- To confess the institutional and social disruption our country has caused the Iraqi people as a result of waging war in Iraq.
- To share our time and material resources, working together with international community and non-governmental organizations, to alleviate the great suffering of the people of Iraq, both inside and outside the country.
- To enter into healing dialogue with those who have been called our enemies.
- To advocate for the physical, emotional, and spiritual resources that our military veterans and their families will need.
- To educate ourselves, to teach others, and to utilize peaceful approaches for resolving conflict in our communities, our nation and the world.

This statement is sponsored by Mennonite Peacemakers. The undersigned have contributed in order that this statement could be published. For further information on Mennonite Peacemakers visit our website at <http://mennos.peacemaking.us>, or email mennos@peacemaking.us, or call 559-618-0218.