



## For Immediate Release

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# As UN Session Opens, Global Peacebuilders Call on Governments to Re-Commit to Peace

85 organizations release statement for International Day of Peace

**NEW YORK, NY (September 19, 2018)** Dozens of international and domestic peacebuilding organizations have joined together to [release a statement](#) in advance of the International Day of Peace, which falls on September 21. The statement, which also comes ahead of the opening of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, calls on governments and the international community to: fully embrace the commitments to peace in the 2030 Agenda; reaffirm a commitment to human rights; foster social resilience by strengthening inclusion and addressing inequality; recommit to multilateralism as a safeguard for the most vulnerable; and protect and support civil society in fostering sustainable peace.

"In many cases, governments are pursuing security using militarized approaches, either in the absence of, or in isolation from, policies that decrease exclusion and inequality – core drivers of conflict," said Andrew Tomlinson, director of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). "If we are to have a hope of eliminating extreme poverty, fostering peaceful and prosperous societies, and addressing the root causes of conflict, then governments need to urgently re-align their priorities."

The Quaker United Nations Office – an organization that represents Quaker concerns for global peace and justice to the international community – played a key role in drafting and circulating the statement. The signatories include organizations dedicated to peace from throughout the world, including faith-based groups, international development agencies, policy organizations, and others.

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*Since 1947, QUNO has worked with diplomats, UN officials, and civil society to support a UN that prioritizes peace and prevents war. QUNO uses Quaker House and its convening power to facilitate off-the-record meetings and bring perspectives from outside the UN system in order to promote peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict at a policy level in New York. QUNO also works closely with the American Friends Service Committee and other Quaker Service Agencies in country, and with Friends' policy offices in Geneva, Washington, and Brussels. For more see <http://www.quno.org>*