Logo of Member Organisation

**MODEL ADVOCACY LETTER FOR THE USE OF CARITAS ORGANISATIONS**

*Place, date*…2016

To H.E. the Minister/To H.E. the Prime Minister/To H.E. the President

**Subject: Peace in Syria**

Dear Minister/Your Excellency,

The war in Syria has entered its sixth year. It has created unprecedented suffering for the population. Caritas Internationalis member organisations witness daily atrocities and unspeakable human rights violations. The civilian population is held hostage by violence and political stalemate.

Peace seems an insurmountable challenge. Yet, inspired by our faith and our values, we believe that peace is possible in Syria.

The Caritas Internationalis confederation is committed to provide assistance and relief, encourage and facilitate solidarity, use its infrastructure and resources to welcome refugees and make peace possible in Syria.

We ask you to do all that is in your power to end this humanitarian crisis. We ask you to ensure that commitment and action on the peace process is maintained. A real ceasefire and a peace agreement would be a sign of hope for the whole Middle East.

This will happen if there are inclusive negotiations, in which all parties have a voice and where Syrian civil society and the wider population are involved. A peace agreement must reflect the existing will for a peaceful coexistence among religious and ethnic communities, that compose the Syrian society. The preservation of this diversity is a key element for a sustainable peace.

We call upon you to make sure your policies are not contributing to fuelling the war .

Pope Francis has called on all of us to build paths to peace: “Everyone is aware that this war weighs in an increasingly unbearable way on the shoulder of the poor. We need to find a solution, which is never a violent one, because violence only creates new wounds.”

Your Excellency, we would like to meet you to be able to bring the sufferings and the hopes of our Syrian colleagues and discuss our respective involvements in helping this war to come to an end.

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)