

To : Heads of Governments and Foreign Ministers
In care of: Permanent Representatives of the Permanent Missions in NY

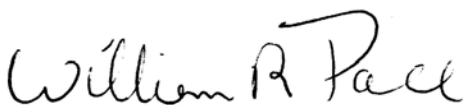
Your Excellency,

We are writing to encourage you and your governments to support the Responsibility to Protect through words and actions in the upcoming 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly. The Responsibility to Protect principle and norm was one of the most important achievements of the 2005 World Summit. As you know, the Responsibility to Protect commitment emerged from the recognition by world leaders and governments that the failures of states and the international community to prevent genocides and other massive crimes against humanity must not be allowed to continue. It was not surprising that crucial leadership in the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect came from the global south, especially from government leaders from Africa and South America, and from Europe, whose countries had experienced catastrophic suffering from the commission of these crimes.

The Responsibility to Protect and other new tools for peace adopted at the summit take years of follow-through work and commitment to become operational. During the next year important consideration of the Responsibility to Protect and the fundamental principle it encompasses will occur in the 63rd General Assembly, in the Security Council and in other major UN peace, security and human rights forums.

As civil society organizations, we are committed to supporting the Responsibility to Protect and are exploring ways to organize ourselves to better assist you and your government, and the United Nations, in this important peace initiative.

Sincerely,



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This letter was endorsed by the following organizations:

Act for peace – National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), Australia
African Federation Association (AFA) WFM Uganda, Uganda
Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (Altsean-Burma), Thailand
Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Canada.
Church of Sweden, Sweden
Coalition for the International Criminal Court, South Africa
Conflict Prevention Programme at the North-South Institute (NSI), Canada
DanChurch Aid, Denmark
Forum pour le Renforcement de la Société civile au Burundi (FORSC), Burundi
Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA), Ghana
Gay & Lesbian Network, South Africa
Gender DynamiX, South Africa
Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict, United States
Global Centre on the Responsibility to Protect, United States
Human Rights Focus, Uganda
Human Rights Network (HURINET), Uganda
Human Rights Watch, United States
Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Indonesia
Initiatives for International Dialogue, Philippines
Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Burundi
International Crisis Group, United States
International Refugee Rights Initiative, Uganda
Khartoum Center for Human Rights & Environmental Development, Sudan
Mano River Women’s Peace Network (MARWOPNET), Sierra Leone
Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, Canada
Norwegian Church Aid, Norway
Oxfam International, United States
Praxis Association, Indonesia
Refugees International, United States
South African National NGO Organization (SANGOCO), South Africa
The Southern Africa Litigation Centre, South Africa
West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Ghana.
Western Sahara Solidarity Forum, South Africa
Women and Law in Southern Africa, Lesotho
World Federalist Movement - Canada