

## STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

### Advancing Health, Reinforcing Peace

Cities and urban areas have been epicenters of the current COVID-19 crisis. Cities will also be the pioneers of innovation and adaptation to our new realities. While our immediate priority is protecting the public from the negative health impacts of coronavirus, we remain simultaneously steadfast in our commitment to protecting our residents from the destructive effects of violence in our communities.

As mayors, city leaders, and civil society we are on the forefront of saving lives, providing relief, and managing uncertainty in our communities as the pandemic spreads across the globe. For us, saving lives means relying on facts, science and public health expertise. Providing relief depends upon solidarity among our residents, our governing institutions and hard-working people who run our essential services.

Managing uncertainty behoves all of us in leadership positions that, going forward, we redouble our political commitment to building a safer, more just, and equitable future.

Already, we are witnessing knock-on effects from the pandemic. Economic downturn, shifting patterns of violence - including startling increases in violence within the home - increased risk of insecurity, and strains on social services and law enforcement capacities all pose a significant challenge to fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive communities.

In response, we stand in solidarity with one another on the forefront of response to COVID-19. Inspired by the United Nations Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire and appeal for peace in homes, we:

- ❖ Urge an immediate cessation of all forms of violence in our cities;
- ❖ Commit to maintaining investments in violence prevention even as we address the immediate imperatives of providing COVID-19 health services;
- ❖ Reaffirm our commitment to one another through sharing lessons learned from responses to violence reduction during the pandemic;
- ❖ Highlight the urgent need for swift adaptation of and increased investment in evidence-informed violence reduction efforts across all sectors of society;
- ❖ Recognize that, like the virus, violence imposes unequal burdens on population groups - particularly women, children, and the disenfranchised - whose safety we commit to supporting especially in these most trying times.

Our vision moving forward is one of solidarity. The coronavirus pandemic is a tremendous challenge. Overcoming it will require tremendous resilience. We will address the challenge together, understanding that only through supporting one another will we be able to emerge healthier, more peaceful, and more equal. We welcome others to join our call and stand in solidarity with all who heed a similar vision.

#### Mayors and city leaders:

Cali, Colombia  
Chaguanas, Trinidad & Tobago  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Dayton, Ohio, USA  
Durban, South Africa  
Edmonton, Canada  
Escobedo, Mexico  
Guadalajara, Mexico  
Hargeisa, Somalia  
Kumanovo, North Macedonia  
Nairobi Municipality, Kenya  
Oakland, California, USA  
Palmira, Colombia  
Tripoli, Lebanon

#### Partners:

American Friends Service Committee  
California Violence Prevention Network  
Conciliation Resources  
Creative Associates  
Dayton Peace Museum  
Generations for Peace  
Global Parliament of Mayors  
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict  
International Alert  
Life & Peace Institute  
Partners Global  
Peace Direct  
Peace Initiative Network  
Red Dot Foundation Global  
Search for Common Ground  
Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition  
Stanley Center for Peace and Security  
Strong Cities  
UN Habitat  
UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
University of Dayton