

# Religions for Peace

## SUPPLICATIONS FOR THE WORLD'S CHILDREN<sup>1</sup>

The child has the breath and spirit of life. The child, present here and now, is the past embodied and the future becoming. The child wants to survive, to be protected, to develop. The child needs peace, with justice and freedom.

### SAVE OUR CHILDREN

Tortured by hunger and thirst  
*Save our Children*  
Ravaged from preventable disease  
*Save our Children*  
Mutilated by cruel customs and practices  
*Save our Children*  
Savaged by the brutalities of war  
*Save our Children*  
Victimized by Violence  
*Save our Children*  
Broken by exploitative child labor  
*Save our Children*  
Traumatized by sexual abuse  
*Save our Children*  
Damaged by drug abuse  
*Save our Children*  
Poisoned by environmental pollution  
*Save our Children*

### PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Stunted with suffering  
*Protect our Children*  
Rejected without name  
*Protect our Children*  
Denied belonging  
*Protect our Children*  
Withered without hope  
*Protect our Children*  
Thwarted by limitations due to race, religion, age, sex, class, or caste  
*Protect our Children*  
Refused honor and integrity  
*Protect our Children*

Deprived of beauty, joy, laughter  
*Protect our Children*  
Uprooted because of war, famine, or disaster  
*Protect our Children*  
Burdened by the debts of preceding generations  
*Protect our Children*  
Aged before they could be young  
*Protect our Children*  
Denied freedom, justice and peace  
*Protect our Children*

## CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Nurtured by love, upheld by guidance, uplifted by understanding  
*Care for our Children*  
Provided with food, clean water, shelter, clothing, and health needs  
*Care for our Children*  
Enriched by a safe and clean environment  
*Care for our Children*  
Empowered by education, challenged by opportunity, and strengthened by the fullness of rights  
*Care for our Children*  
Encouraged to participate in the politics and economies that shape our future  
*Care for our Children*  
Ensured health and health care  
*Care for our Children*  
Enhanced by taking their place in a global family enriched by differences  
*Care for our Children*  
Developed with freedom, justice and peace  
*Care for our Children*

The child is life and miracle, beauty and mystery, fulfillment and promise. Let us save the child, protect the child, care for the child.

**RELIGIONS FOR PEACE**—the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition—advances common action among the world’s religious communities for peace. *Religions for Peace* works to transform violent conflict, advance human development, promote just and harmonious societies, and protect the earth. The global *Religions for Peace* network comprises a World Council of senior religious leaders from all regions of the world; five regional inter-religious bodies and more than seventy national ones; and the Global Women of Faith Network and Global Youth Network.

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<sup>i</sup> *Religions for Peace* is firmly committed to respecting religious difference, including all matters related to religious practices. Each community is recognized as being responsible for its own religious practices. In inter-religious contexts, *Religions for Peace* does not encourage shared prayer or meditation, but welcomes appropriate moments when believers of diverse traditions may wish to pray or mediate “in each other’s presence.” These “supplications”—expressed in public language—are humbly offered to religious believers to be used in accord with their own traditions and mindful of respect for religious differences.