

Foundation Statement
of the Faith-Based Caucus for an International Criminal Court

Members of the international community are working to establish an International Criminal Court. The Court, when established, will investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit serious violations of human rights including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The Coalition for an International Criminal Court is a network of NGOs and legal experts whose main purpose is to advocate for the creation of an effective and just International Criminal Court. This network of over 300 participating NGOs and other organizations, works to develop strategies on substantive political and legal issues relating to the proposed statute for the Court.

The Faith-Based Caucus for an International Criminal Court is a coalition of religious and interfaith NGOs that examine the moral, ethical and religious considerations surrounding the Court. Religious organizations have a special role to play in raising awareness at the grassroots level and helping to shape the ICC. The Caucus promotes the ICC by disseminating information about the Court to respective religious and ecumenical communities.

To inform others about some of the moral, ethical and religious considerations involved in the International Criminal Court, the Caucus holds frequent group meetings and plans events which will bring these issues to the attention of a wider audience. The issues that the group raises and decides upon will impact the decisions that are made at the June 1998 plenipotentiary treaty conference for the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The following issues are among those that have been and will be discussed by the working group in their frequent meetings as well as in their open events and dialogues:

- moral and theological imperatives and the ethical dimensions of the ICC
- moral, political and ethical dimensions of impunity
- reconciliation and long term peace building
- individual and collective healing in society
- restorative justice
- relationship between confession, repentance, compensation and forgiveness
- issues of rehabilitation

List of Participating Organizations:

CCIA / World Council of Churches
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
World Conference on Religion and Peace
Quaker UN Office
Unitarian Universalists UN Office
Lutheran Office for World Community
Presbyterian UN Office

International Association for Religious Freedom
Mennonite Central Committee
Franciscans International
Bahai International Community
B'nai B'rith International