

## **Faith and Ethics Caucus**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Members of the international community have established the International Criminal Court. The Court 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 (CICC) is an international network of NGOs and legal experts whose main purpose is to advocate for an effective and just ICC. This network of over 1000 participating NGOs and other organizations, works to develop strategies on substantive political and legal issues relating to the Court's organization and activities. The American NGO Coalition for the ICC (AMICC) is the United States network within the CICC. With over 30 US-based NGO members, AMICC has been convened to promote US cooperation with the ICC and the soonest possible US ratification of the Rome Statute.

The Faith and Ethics Caucus for the 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, ecumenical, and ethical communities.

To inform others about some of the moral, ethical and religious considerations involved in the ICC, the Caucus holds frequent group meetings and plans events that will bring these issues to the attention of a wider audience. The issues that the group raises and decides upon will impact the role the court will play and the way it is perceived around the world. The following issues are among those that have been and will be discussed by the working group in their 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

[Read the Caucus's 1997 Foundation Statement, including a list of the original endorsing organizations.](#)

### **OBJECTIVES**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view a powerpoint presentation about the Caucus and its objectives.**

1. Promote education and awareness of the mission, membership and objectives of the Faith and Ethics Caucus to faith and ethics-based constituencies, elected officials, media and the general public.
  - Increase and diversify membership of the Caucus.
  - Establish faith and ethics-based caucuses in The Hague and Washington, DC.
  - Publish [advocacy ad](#).
  - Continue to develop caucus web site.
2. Promote education and awareness of the ICC and Rome Statute within respective religious, ethics and faith-based communities.
  - Encourage each caucus member to develop an education and advocacy strategy to implement within their own community.
  - Continue to develop ICC materials for distribution within faith and ethics-based communities, including:
    - Encourage adoption of [statements and resolutions in support of the ICC](#).
    - Create curricula to educate constituencies about ICC.
    - Distribute [ICC brochures](#) for other faith and ethics constituencies, including Bahá'í, Buddhist, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim communities.
    - Create and distribute [Sabbath observances](#).
  - Promote the [Victims Trust Fund Campaign](#).
  - Promote local congregational participation in [AMICC local alliances](#).
  - Link caucus web site to denominational web sites.

3. Promote NGO partnerships with ICC to further the reconciliation, rehabilitation and healing of victims, perpetrators and society.
  - Promote the establishment of the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation in The Hague.
  - Help NGOs present religious persecution cases to the Court.
  - Develop seminars in New York and/or The Hague on religious liberty & persecution issues for ICC judges, prosecutors and staff.
  - Develop working relationship with ICC Victims and Witnesses Unit.
  - Promote proposed April 2004 UN Fundraiser for Victims Trust Fund by Victims Rights Working Group.
4. Research and disseminate information about religious liberty and persecution issues as it relates to the Rome Statute. Explore the relationship between confession, repentance, compensation and forgiveness, including the moral imperatives of retributive and restorative justice.
  - Summer internship program filled by Natasha Bruss, undergraduate at Columbia U., and Alexandru Balas, undergraduate at University of Bucharest, George Soros Foundation.
  - Organize [proposed Fall 2003 conference/seminar](#) on the Rome Statute and religious liberty/persecution issues at Columbia U Law School / Human Rights Center.
  - Post on caucus web site relevant theological articles that examine the moral imperatives of the Court.
  - Contact theological seminaries and relevant academic departments.

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

We welcome the participation of all faith and ethics-based organizations. For information about attending meetings or joining the caucus, please contact [Jeffery Huffines](#).

### **CURRENT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

[The American Humanist Association](#)

[Baha'is of the United States](#)

[Church World Service](#)

[Conference of Major Superiors of Men](#)

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

[Fellowship of Reconciliation](#)

[Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of the American Jewish Committee](#)

[The Loretto Community](#)

[Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns](#)

[National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA](#)

[National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union](#)

[Presbyterian Church, USA](#)

[Religious of the Sacred Heart](#)

[Soka Gakkai International](#)

[Temple of Understanding](#)

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

[General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church](#)

[World Council of Churches](#)

### **FAITH and ETHICS-BASED ICC COMMITMENTS/STATEMENTS**

[A](#)[B](#)[C](#)[D](#)[E](#)[F](#)[G](#)[H](#)[I](#)[J](#)[K](#)[L](#)[M](#)[N](#)[O](#)[P](#)[Q](#)[R](#)[S](#)[T](#)[U](#)[V](#)[W](#)[X](#)[Y](#)[Z](#)

[\*\*American Ethical Union\*\*, Resolution of the National Service Conference in Support of US Ratification \(2002\)](#)

[\*\*American Humanist Association\*\*, Flyer expressing support for ICC \(February 2003\)](#)

[\*\*American Jewish Committee\*\*, Letter to Congressmen Gilman and Gejdenson \(July 21, 2000\) regarding the American Servicemember's Protection Act](#)

[\*\*Bahá'i International Community\*\*, Statement from "Turning Point for All Nations" \(1995\)](#)

[\*\*Bahá'is of the United States\*\*, Excerpt from letter to Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Samuel Berger \(October 21, 1999\)](#)

[\*\*B'nai B'rith International\*\* BBI Press Release \(April 2, 2002\) and Faith-Based Caucus for an ICC Foundation Statement \(1997\)](#)

[\*\*Individuals from Catholic institutions and religious congregations\*\*, Sign on letter, " A Catholic Community Responds to the to the War Living with Faith and Hope \(December 17, 2001\), calling for US support for ICC](#)

[\*\*The Church of the Brethren\*\* , Annual Conference ICC Statement in "Nonviolence and Humanitarian Intervention" \(1996\)](#)

[\*\*Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism\*\*, Resolution on US Support for the International Criminal Court \(Spring 2002\)](#)

[\*\*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship\*\*, Letter sent to President Clinton from Representatives of Faith-Based Groups and Organizations \(December 20, 2000\)](#)

[\*\*Episcopal Peace Fellowship\*\*, Letter sent to President Clinton from Representatives of Faith-Based Groups and Organizations \(December 20, 2000\)](#)

[\*\*Evangelical Lutheran Church of America\*\*, Policy Statement, For Peace in God's World 1995 \(Adopted 1996\)](#)

[\*\*Faith-Based Organizations\*\* Information Packet, including sample resolutions, statements, and letters \(1998\)](#)

[\*\*Fellowship of Reconciliation\*\* Resolution in support of the ICC \(February 18, 2001\)](#)

[\*\*His Holiness Pope John Paul II\*\* excerpt from message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, "Peace on Earth to Those Whom God Loves!" \(January 1, 2000\)](#)

[\*\*Holy See\*\* Press Release, "Contribution of the Holy See to to the Trust Fund for the Establishment of the International Criminal Court \(July 1, 2002\)](#)

[\*\*International Association for Religious Freedom\*\*, Faith-Based Caucus for an ICC Foundation Statement \(1997\)](#)

[\*\*Jewish Council For Public Affairs\*\* Statement by Chair Steven Schwarz \(July 29, 1998\)](#)

[\*\*Leadership Conference of Women Religious\*\* National Assembly Resolution for Peace \(2002\)](#)

[\*\*Lutheran Office for Government Affairs and Office for the World Community \(ELCA\)\*\*, Letter to President for National Security Affairs Samuel Berger \(October 8, 1999\)](#)

[\*\*Maryknoll Missioners\*\*, Letter to President Clinton](#)

[\*\*Mennonite Central Committee\*\*, Faith-Based Caucus for an ICC Foundation Statement \(1997\)](#)

[\*\*National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A\*\* Resolution on the ICC, NCCCUSA General Assembly \(November 10-12, 1999\)](#)

**Presbyterian Church U.S.A** [Resolution](#) and [rationale](#) on the ICC (H), 211th General Assembly (June 1999)

**Quaker UN Office** [QUNO briefing paper \(March 2002\)](#) and [Faith-Based Caucus for an ICC Foundation Statement \(1997\)](#)

**Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism** Press releases [praising US signing of ICC Statute \(January 2, 2001\)](#) and [expressing dismay at US Unsigning of Rome Statute \(May 13, 2002\)](#), [Action alert](#), "Take action on Yom Hashoa — Support the International Criminal Court and help ensure that Genocide never goes unpunished" (April 2003)

**Unitarian Universalist Association**, [Support the International Criminal Court Action of Immediate Witness \(2002\)](#)

**United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society** [Resolution \(May 2000\)](#)

**Vatican Delegation to the Diplomatic Conference on the ICC** [Intervention of Archbishop Martino, Head of the Vatican Delegation to the Diplomatic Conference on the ICC, Rome \(June 16, 1998\)](#)

**Women of Reform Judaism**, [Statement by Executive Committee \(2002\)](#)

**World Conference on Religion and Peace**, [Statement by Executive Committee \(October 24, 2001\)](#)

**World Council of Churches/Commission of Churches on International Affairs (CCIA)**, [Faith-Based Caucus for an ICC Foundation Statement \(1997\)](#)

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

The Faith Based Caucus' current initiatives include:

- Outreach to faith-based communities and organizations
- Creation of [Sabbath observances](#);
- Continuation/expansion of [faith and ethics-based brochure series](#);
- Development of [advocacy ad](#);
- Support for World Federalist Association [Victims Trust Fund Campaign](#); and
- Organizing [discussions on religious persecution and the ICC](#).

## Congregational Observances

[ICC Information and Action Guide](#) (inc. brief history, quotes, lectionary comments, suggested hymns, sermon illustration, and litany) developed by the Presbyterian Church, USA that can be modified as needed.

## Brochure/Factsheet Series

Download and distribute a brochure:

*Print out both pages and make a double-sided copy.*

### [Faith and Ethics Caucus Factsheet](#)

*Print out both pages, make a double-sided copy, and fold in threes with the "Essential Concepts" section folded inward so that it faces "Rome Statute of the ICC." You can print either regular or color copies.*

### [Christian Concepts and the ICC](#)

## Ad Campaign

July 1, 2003 was the [1st Anniversary of the entry into force](#) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) treaty. To celebrate this historic occasion, the Faith and Ethics Caucus developed an [ad that appeared on the July 1 editorial page of the Christian Science Monitor](#). In addition, members will be using it in their organizational publications and it will be modified as needed for future publication.

## Panel Discussion on Religious Persecution

On **September 11 from 1:00-3:00pm**, the Faith and Ethics Causus presented a panel discussion on "**Religious Persecution and the ICC.**" Speakers included Dr. Payam Akhavan, Senior Fellow, Yale University, First Legal Advisor to the Prosecutor's Office of the ICTY and Dr. Donald W. Shriver, Jr., President Emeritus, Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Church Center for the United Nations, 11th Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza at 44th & 1st Avenue. [Click here](#) to download a flyer.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## CAUCUS E-MAIL LISTSERV

To subscribe, send a blank message to: [icc-faithcaucus-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:icc-faithcaucus-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

The purpose of this list is to advance the work of the Caucus in the following ways:

1. To broadcast the events, goals and strategies of the Faith and Ethics Caucus, and to share news of the implementation of those goals and strategies in countries and regions around the world.
2. To encourage the exchange of goals and strategies already being pursued by faith and ethics-based NGOs, both individually and collectively, as well as nationally and globally, as it relates to the ICC.
3. To share educational and advocacy statements and publications from faith and ethics-based NGOs as it relates to the ICC. Faith and ethics-based statements and publications may also be archived in the CICC web site.
4. To encourage the exchange of ideas for the development of educational pieces and articles that reflect the theological and sociological perspectives of various faith and ethics-based communities as it relates to the ICC.
5. To exchange information about the potential impact of the ICC upon domestic legislation of participating member states as it relates to faith and ethics-based issues.
6. To distribute news, documents, and other information related to the ICC and to issues of interest to the faith and ethics community.

While membership to this list is open, the moderators will enforce the following guidelines and reserve the right to moderate and otherwise regulate the list:

1. Items already on ICC-Info will not be cross-posted to this list. Moreover, news articles and other information only tangentially related to either the ICC or to faith and ethics-based communities will not be posted. Such correspondents will be invited to post their information to more appropriate lists. General news articles can go to Shantha Rau, Information Services Coordinator, at [cicc4@iccnw.org](mailto:cicc4@iccnw.org).
2. Accusations, allegations and attacks against particular faith and ethics-based communities, governments or groups will not be posted.
3. Basic questions about the ICC and Rome Statute will be referred to Shantha Rau, Information Services Coordinator, at [cicc4@iccnw.org](mailto:cicc4@iccnw.org).
4. Mr. Joydeep Sengupta ([cicc6@iccnw.org](mailto:cicc6@iccnw.org)), Outreach and Communications Associate at the CICC is the CICC's liaison with the Faith and Ethics Caucus, and will assist in communicating information about the Faith and Ethics Caucus to the general CICC membership.