

**Greeting to the 70th Anniversary of Church and Peace (C+P)  
by Hildegard Goss-Mayr**

Dear friends,

gathered to celebrate the 70th anniversary of C+P. 70 years of witness of the peace-building nonviolence of Jesus in theology and practice! Despite many obstacles, C+P has made a significant contribution to expanding the narrow trace of nonviolence that runs through the history of Christianity so that today it is generally recognised as the guiding principle of the Gospel of Jesus. This is true even when there is often a lack of implementation.

We gratefully commemorate the countless women and men who through the decades have engaged in severe conflicts with this liberating force - some to the point of giving their lives. They created the conditions for reconciliation steps. Our thanks go today to these witnesses, both well-known and unnamed.

Their testimony encourages us to look forward to the present tasks of peacebuilding. Certainly C+P will continue to have the task of taking a stance on armaments, arms trade and the various forms of violence and oppression by means of precise statements and protests. But new tasks arise. In view of the current situation in Europe, one challenge is particularly close to my heart as a European: the dialogue with Islam in order to discover and teach common elements of faith that create peace, and to implement them in a concrete way both in personal and social life.

It is necessary to make a contribution to the overcoming of incited hatred and xenophobia through persistent and courageous commitment and thus to pave the way for a constructive and peaceful coexistence of the different cultures and religious convictions in the democratic context of our countries. May we achieve this through C+P.

In deep solidarity

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