

## Statement of the Co-Presidency of Justice & Peace Europe

### **Justice and Peace for Venezuela and its people**

Dijon/Copenhagen, 6 January 2026

The Co-Presidency of Justice & Peace Europe wishes to express its profound solidarity with the people of Venezuela, who for many years have endured hardship, instability and suffering, and who are now facing yet another painful trial. We also wish to convey our fraternal closeness to Justice & Peace Commissions throughout the region, who have been accompanying the people in need with dedication and care.

We join [Pope Leo XIV](#) in his deep concern over the developments in Venezuela and in his appeal that “*the good of the beloved Venezuelan people must prevail over every other consideration*”. We recall the importance of upholding international law, including the core principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as respect for the human and civil rights of all persons.

Together with the [Episcopal Conference of Venezuela](#), we ask that God may grant “*all Venezuelans serenity, wisdom, and strength*”, so that all forms of violence may be overcome and paths of justice and peace be pursued.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we unite ourselves in prayer with the Presidency of the Council of Episcopal Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean ([CELAM](#)) that the ‘star of Bethlehem’ may “*illuminate the night and open new ways, even when everything seems uncertain*”, so that all may work together for a hopeful and peaceful future, allowing all Venezuelans to live in dignity and harmony in their own country.

+Antoine Hérouard  
(Co-President)

Maria Hammershoy  
(Co-President)