



European Inter-Parliamentarian Joint Statement

# Faced with the bombing of civilians, our governments must rise to the challenge

We, parliamentarians from 4 European countries, **welcome the organisation** of the European Inter-Parliamentarian Conference<sup>1</sup> on May 27, 2021 and **share our concern** about the serious suffering caused by the bombing of cities and other populated areas. For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, 90% of the victims of explosive weapons in populated areas are civilians. **With this statement, we call for urgent international action to strengthen the protection of civilians from bombing in cities.**

We are deeply concerned about the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians each year, the severity of physical injuries, trauma, and the damage and destruction of cities and their cultural heritage. We cannot accept the extent of the destruction of vital infrastructure and its impact on the provision of essential services on which civilians depend for survival. When used in populated areas, explosive weapons with wide area effects have consequences for decades. Long after conflicts have ended, civilians pay a high price for forced displacement and contamination by explosive remnants of war. The economic and social life of entire regions is threatened in the long term.

We, parliamentarians from European countries, do not forget that our continent has also experienced war and the unspeakable suffering linked to bombing. **In view of the seriousness of the daily situation experienced by civilians in the face of explosive weapons used in cities, we support the [parliamentary appeal of the International Network of Explosive Weapons \(INEW\)](#) and ask our governments today to:**

- Recognise that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas causes severe harm to individuals and communities and furthers suffering by damaging vital infrastructure;
- Endorse the UN Secretary-General's and the International Committee of the Red Cross's recommendation that States should avoid the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas;
- Support the development of an international political declaration to strengthen the protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and to strengthen assistance to victims of such practices.

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<sup>1</sup> *The European Inter-Parliamentarian Conference on the future political declaration to protect civilians from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) organized online on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

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