



# JUSTICIA Y PAZ

## COMISIÓN GENERAL DE ESPAÑA

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### On the worrying political and social situation in Catalonia

#### Note from the General Commission of Justice and Peace of Spain

On the worrying political and social situation in Catalonia, the General Commission of Justice and Peace, with the desire to propose some words that favor peace and understanding, states:

1. We find ourselves facing a serious, deep and complex political conflict, lived with strong passion and growing tension. In democracy, all political positions, regardless of their degree of success or error, are legitimate as long as they are formulated in a peaceful way and with respect for the dignity of all people and peoples and human rights.
2. As this is a political conflict, we are convinced that it cannot be solved unilaterally by the imposition of any of the parts, but only by means of stable and meaningful agreements within all democratic institutions legally involved, on the basis of dialogue, democracy and sincere openness to the truth present in each position.
3. We therefore wish to appeal to all parts and groups involved and, in particular, to the leaders of political parties and institutions in Catalonia and in Spain. And we urge that, with the greatest urgency, a multilateral, deep, serene and sincere dialogue be initiated, without conditions or exclusions, which would leave aside any personal or partisan interest, in order to achieve a just, democratic, solidary and lasting political solution to this conflict to promote the common good, the respect and fraternity between people and peoples. All discussion forums opened in a climate of dialogue and mutual respect can contribute to its solution. The General Commission of Justice and Peace of Spain undertakes to do as much as possible to favor the dialogue.
4. Coexistence and peace only are increased when we try to live with others seeking the common good. St. Augustine wrote: "Men say times are bad, times are hard: live well and times will be good. We are the times: as we are, the times are" (St. Augustine, Sermon 8, 8).

Madrid, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Justice and Peace - General Commission of Spain, is a member of the Conference of Justice and Peace Commissions of Europe (with consultative status with the Council of Europe); the Laity Forum; the Federation of Associations for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights - Spain (with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Committee of the United Nations); the Coordinator of Non-Governmental Development Organizations - Spain.

