

Pray For Dialogue Not Violence

This is Disarmament Week. The observance was started in 1978 by the U.N. to commemorate the founding of the U.N. October 24, 1945; and remind the world of the importance of disarming – reducing the number of weapons in the world – as a way to promote peace. The U.N. was created to facilitate dialogue instead of violence between nations. *“Throughout history, countries have pursued disarmament to build a safer, more secure world and to protect people from harm. Since the foundation of the United Nations, disarmament and arms control have played a critical role in preventing and ending crises and armed conflict. Heightened tensions and dangers are better resolved through serious political dialogue and negotiation—not by more arms.”* (U.N. website [Disarmament Week | United Nations](#))



Pray for nations and their leaders. Too many times people and nations cannot see beyond violence as a solution to problems, or are willing to use violence or the threat of it to gain power when they put power before people. Pray and work to help the world put violence behind us and learn the ways of peace.

- **Iran** – where peaceful protests against the extreme Islamic government with its powerful military, intelligence agency, & ‘morality police’, have erupted after a young woman died in morality police custody. The protests have led to a harsh & violent government crackdown on all dissent. Protests are frequently led by women seeking basic human rights. Iran is a theocracy – a country run by extreme religious leaders who put their theological views above people & coerce adherence to their views with force.
- **Sudan** – where people are dealing with economic collapse & wide spread hunger following a military takeover of the government a year ago.
- **Uganda** – still experiencing an Ebola outbreak
- **Venezuela** – where people are continuing to recover from hurricane Julia while also dealing with violence & crippling poverty due to corruption. Nearly 7 million people (more than 1 fifth of the country’s population) have fled the country.
- **The People of Somalia** – facing famine. 1 child every minute is admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition. Violence tied to the al Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab, & drought, have displaced thousands of people. The U.N. predicts by December, 40% of the country’s 16 million people may be starving.
- **Puerto Rico & Dominican Republic** – still recovering from hurricane Fiona.
- **Florida & other areas impacted by hurricane Ian** – The recovery is just beginning. Pray for those affected by the storm. Many are at risk of being victimized again by opportunists who take advantage of storm victims.
- **Nigeria** – continue praying for those facing Boko Haram violence & flooding from an unusually heavy rainy season.
- **The People of Haiti** –dealing with a cholera outbreak, gang violence, & major political unrest.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – 36,428 people have died in gun violence this year (up 1,680 from last week), including 1,374 children (up 29 from last week). 32,462 people have been injured (up 705 from last week) including 3,682 children (up 76 from last week). There have been 561 mass shootings in 2022 (up 15 from last week).
- **Ukraine where the war continues** – evidence of atrocities against civilians is being discovered daily. Protests in Russia against the war continue, & the Russian leader has put all areas currently under his control in Ukraine & Russia, under some degree of martial law.
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic.**

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