

**DEAR PRESIDENT VON DER LEYEN,
DEAR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
DEAR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF EU MEMBER STATES,**

In 1957, inspired by centuries of philosophers and civil rights activists from around the world, Dr. Martin Luther King told the world that non-violence is the most powerful weapon we have.

Dr. King did not live in a fairy-tale world – and he recognized the need for intelligent use of force to confront the worst evils in the world. Nevertheless, he emphatically maintained that violence creates more problems than it solves, and that even in the face of peril, resisting violence is not a method of cowardice, but paradoxically the strongest form of resistance. *Non-violence is the method of the strong, not the weak. Non-violence seeks to defeat injustice, not people,* he declared.

In the past two months, the world has witnessed some of the most horrific violence against innocent civilians since the start of the decade. Over 18,000 Palestinians have been killed, of which more than 7,000 children, in retaliation to Hamas' attacks on 7 October, which claimed the lives of over 1,200 Israelis. The humanitarian situation in Gaza has been exacerbated by Israeli airstrikes on multiple hospitals, refugee camps, and religious establishments, as well as the on-going deprivation of electricity, food, supplies, and medical resources.

In this pivotal moment of crisis, it is not enough to simply defend international humanitarian law, we must recall why it exists. This architecture is the legacy of our tragic mistakes during World War II – our unanimous declaration that we would never let the horrors of the Holocaust, or the collective punishment of Dresden and Hiroshima, find another chapter in our history books. In these critical moments – we will decide whether that chapter is written or not.

The lessons of our greatest leaders and our worst mistakes are written clearly on the wall – it is now a question of whether we choose to read them. Therefore we, the undersigned organisations, are calling on the EU to boldly and unequivocally support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, to allow for peaceful resolution that can only be achieved through mutual respect for international law, diplomacy, and restraint.

There is no military solution to this conflict, and a full ceasefire is the only way to avoid creating fertile ground for violent extremism on all sides. We stand united in the fight for peace, and we urge the EU to recognize that the courageous path of non-violence is the most powerful weapon we have to achieve it.

Signed: [\[Add your organisation's signature here\]](#) + [\[Social Media toolkit to share\]](#)

The Brussels International Center, under the leadership of Ambassador Otte, former EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, is spearheading a campaign calling for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza.

We invite interested organisations & MEPs to [add their voice by co-signing the letter](#).

For more information contact info@bic-rhr.com or visit bic-rhr.com.

