



## Questions about PAX

**As of January 29, 2014 IKV Pax Christi will be known under a new name: PAX. We believe this name will strengthen our work for peace in conflict-affected areas and will attract many more people who believe peace truly is an option.**

Needless to say change gives rise to questions, a few of which we answer below. Please contact us on [info@paxforpeace.nl](mailto:info@paxforpeace.nl) if your question is not here.

### **Why has IKV Pax Christi changed its name?**

The word PAX is short, clear and authoritative, and expresses the essence of the organisation: peace, based on the core values of human dignity and solidarity. PAX is a Dutch organisation with an international scope. The name can be understood by a broad international public. It is closely linked to the IKV Pax Christi tradition, which means people who have helped bring us where we are today can easily identify with it. PAX is also a clear invitation to all to work with us towards peace. We hope that even more people of all ages who share our values of solidarity and human dignity will identify with the new name and join us in our work.

### **IKV is no longer part of the name. Does this mean an end to church involvement and the commitment to Christian church unity?**

No. The respective ecumenical and Roman Catholic parent organisations IKV and Pax Christi will continue to exist. The IKV board and the Pax Christi members' council will retain their influence on the PAX working organisation. Our mandate from the churches will continue. It is a fact that churches were behind the foundation of PAX, yet PAX has always been at the very heart of society. Church unity is essential when it comes to building bridges between faiths and between churches and society as a whole, and when it comes to supporting a worldwide ecclesiastical peace movement, including the World Council of Churches.

### **Christi is no longer part of the name. Does this mean that faith is being sidelined?**

PAX is and will continue to be an organisation with Christian roots and a mandate from the churches. Our core values of human dignity and solidarity are inextricably linked with Christian belief, but these values can also be found in many other belief systems. We believe that every individual is entitled to a decent and peaceful existence. We also believe that everyone has an opportunity to make a contribution towards this. This is why PAX will continue to work together with all who believe in peace and who want to make their own contribution to it, irrespective of their religion or ideological convictions.

### **Is the change of name a step towards a secular NGO?**

The new name changes nothing in our existing tradition, identity or core values. PAX is a clear invitation to all who share our values to join the fight for peace. This was the case in the past, and will continue to be so in the future.

### **What exactly is the meaning of the pay-off Peace. Who's in?**

We mean that peace is far from easy. It is something elusive and at times seemingly impossible. Violence beyond our control often makes us despondent. Peace simply does not happen of its own accord: it takes courage and bravery - the courage to go against the flow, to speak out, and to carry on. It takes courage of our partners in conflict-affected areas such as South Sudan, Syria and the DRC, who strive relentlessly for peace in their country. It takes courage of politicians to make choices that promote human dignity. It takes courage of the many people who work for peace in their own communities and in their own way, for example by establishing an Embassy for World Peace, or by signing petitions. We believe that everyone who believes in peace actually can do something for peace. This could be by simply sending an e-mail, or supporting peace activists in conflict areas. PAX brings people together who have the courage to work towards peace. We work closely in solidarity with people in conflict areas, ask questions of politicians, and join forces with committed individuals. We believe peace is inevitable if we are all in the fight together.

### **Is my contract with IKV PaxChristi still valid?**

Yes. All commitments and agreements set out in the contract are still valid. Only the name of the organisation has changed, not the contractual provisions.