



HỘI ĐỒNG GIÁM MỤC VIỆT NAM  
ỦY BAN CÔNG LÝ VÀ HÒA BÌNH  
Số 72/12 Trần Quốc Toàn, P.8, Q.3, Tp.HCM  
ĐT: (028) 382-4102  
Email: [vanphongubclhb@gmail.com](mailto:vanphongubclhb@gmail.com)

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF VIETNAM -COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

## Open Letter

To: - Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishop of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam  
- Religious congregations & Secular institutes of Consecrated Life (men and women)

Dear Your Eminences, Your Excellencies; Reverends, Religious Brothers and Sisters.

Deeply concerned about ongoing acts of intolerance and violence against individuals because of religious or belief-related causes, including those from religious communities and people belonging to religious minorities throughout the world; given the increasing number and intensity of cases that are often criminal in nature and may have international perspectives, on May 28, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly announced its decision to proclaim August 22 as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

The General Assembly invite Member States, their State organizations, civil society organizations and religious communities to simultaneously organize memorial activities around the world.

In the spirit of solidarity and faith-based duty, the Committee for Justice and Peace under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Vietnam suggests that the dioceses and religious and secular institutes of Consecrated Life simultaneously hold Masses or Eucharistic Adoration sessions on August 22, 2019, to pray for religious freedom, for victims of violence and religious persecution, especially in Vietnam, because although there is no large-scale violent repression, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Vietnam has commented on the Law on Beliefs and Religion: freedom of belief or religion is not really considered a human right but only a favor that one must ask for it to be granted.

You are also encouraged to organize visits to show support for the families of victims, if any, within your service areas.

On the occasion of this Assumption of Mary, may the Virgin intercede for our prayers for the world and Vietnam to have freedom of religion; for the safety and peace of the victims of religious intolerance and their families, and everlasting happiness for the deceased victims.

Respectfully,

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2019  
By order of the Chair of the Committee for Justice and Peace  
Secretary of the Committee for Justice and Peace

Rev. Joseph Mary Lê Quốc Thăng