

UPF International Statement on the Escalation Between Israel and Iran

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June 14, 2025



New York, United States - The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) expresses deep concern over the recent escalation of hostilities between the State of Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We urgently call for restraint, the protection of civilians, and a renewed commitment to constructive engagement. This unfolding crisis underscores the critical need for leadership that prioritizes dialogue, de-escalation, and humanitarian principles.

This confrontation not only endangers innocent lives but also exacerbates existing regional tensions. We urge all parties to respect international humanitarian law and to refrain from actions that could lead to further escalation.

UPF recalls the work of its Middle East Peace Initiative, which has long brought together leaders from diverse backgrounds to promote dialogue and cooperation across the region. We also recognize the significance of international frameworks such as the Abraham Accords and the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, both of which have opened valuable channels for understanding and exchange. These initiatives prove that engagement - while challenging - is possible, necessary, and beneficial.

We encourage religious and community leaders in Israel, Iran, and neighboring nations to actively support peacebuilding efforts and facilitate humanitarian cooperation. The Jewish and Persian peoples, each with rich spiritual and cultural heritages, share traditions that uphold peace, compassion, and reverence for life. Lasting peace must be rooted in education that fosters empathy, mutual understanding, and respect.

We also call upon diaspora communities to play a constructive role through advocacy, outreach, and bridge-building efforts that promote dialogue and de-escalation.

Furthermore, we urge the United Nations and regional actors to take practical steps that build trust and reduce the risk of conflict. Sustainable peace requires ongoing communication, transparency, and a sincere commitment to diplomacy.

In anticipation of the International Day of Peace on September 21, UPF invites all governments to consider temporary ceasefires, confidence-building measures, or joint humanitarian initiatives. This moment of crisis should serve as a catalyst for reflection, restraint, and preventive diplomacy.

The Universal Peace Federation stands ready to support all efforts aimed at dialogue, reconciliation, and regional cooperation.

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