



*NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations  
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**Together for Life, Dignity and Human Rights**

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Dear sisters and brothers of VIVAT Member Congregations in DR Congo,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of VIVAT International, all Contact Persons of VIVAT Member Congregations and VIVAT Offices in New York and Geneva, I am writing to express VIVAT International's solidarity and support to you and the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo during this anxious period in the political life of your country.

On 4 February, during his Angelus talk, His Holiness, Pope Francis invited the whole Catholic Church and all people in the world to join his initiative, to fast and pray for peace, particularly in DR Congo and South Sudan on 23 February. According to the Pope, "We can certainly pray, but not only: each one can concretely say "no" to violence on his or her own behalf. Because the victories obtained through violence are false victories, whereas working for peace is good for everyone."

We are truly grateful to you our sisters and brothers in VIVAT for advancing the values and missions of VIVAT International in DR Congo. We admire your courageous actions to realize peace and justice using non-violent means which Jesus himself did and which brought the victory of resurrection.

We wish to join your effort through prayer and fasting, joining the peaceful marches and other gatherings, and international networking and advocacy works. Please be assured of our prayers, support and solidarity.

Should you wish to share your experiences and stories, you are kindly invited to do so using VIVAT offices in New York and Geneva (Please contact Sr. Helen and Fr. Robert at [viny@vivatinternational.org](mailto:viny@vivatinternational.org)). Your stories will mobilize international support for advancing peace in the DRC.

In solidarity,

*Sr. Ma. Theresia Hörnemann SSpS*

Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSpS  
President, VIVAT International