



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES VILLES MESSAGÈRES DE LA PAIX
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACE MESSENGER CITIES

THE CAMBRIDGE RESOLUTION

We, members of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC), together with representatives of observer cities, are meeting for the 21st General Assembly in Sochi, Russian Federation, on November 12 – 16, 2008, to further express our commitment to the establishment of a culture of peace within our local and international communities, and to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The celebration of this honorable document invokes a moment of self reflection regarding our respective countries' individual status in upholding human rights standards and what our individual municipalities can do to petition our governments to abide by the commitments made by being a signatory to the Declaration.

We live in the era of the "war on terror" where the attempt to legitimize the practice of torture and other abuses undermine and directly contradict the inherent human rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Although it is understood that there are legitimate threats to the security of our nations' and cities' from both international and domestic actors, raging from terrorism to common crime, we, as cities, must combat the use of torture in our countries by petitioning our respective governments to honor the words of Article Five of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

With the understanding that torture is impermissible under any circumstances, including war, public emergency, or terrorist threat, the IAPMC encourages its member cities to publicly advocate for increased human rights monitoring of places of detention located within their own countries and internationally.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the IAPMC strongly opposes the use of torture within places of detention, supports international monitoring efforts worldwide, and specifically encourages its member cities to petition their governments to sign and ratify the United Nations' Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Debated and adopted in Sochi, November 14, 2008.

International Association of Peace Messenger Cities