



**International Christian Peace Movement**

***National President: Father Claude Mostowik MSC***

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## **Media Statement**

### **Bring Australians home from Syria**

**Father Claude Mostowik msc, President of the Pax Christi, has called on the Australian government to seize the moment to bring back to Australia women and children who have been detained in north-eastern Syria, 'Germany, France and Belgium are some countries that have risen to the moment where there is a lull in the fighting between Kurds and Turks to rescue their citizens and bring them to safety and to justice, if need be'.**

**He said that Australia must 'fulfil its responsibilities to its citizens and help them when they are in need'. To use the excuse by Government leaders of not putting more Australian lives at risk is a cop-out. Most countries do this to rescue their citizens when caught up in conflict zones and areas of other forms of disaster. This is what governments are always prepared to do when the lives and well-being of their citizens are at stake. Australia has done this in the past. Father Mostowik said, 'we have a moral obligation to respond. We cannot ignore**

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**the plight of these women. In particular, we cannot ignore the suffering of the children to continue because of the decisions and actions of their parents.'**

**The Pax Christi Australia President in calling for the repatriation of Australian citizens said that fear about national security should not be decisive. Australia has the means to protect itself from any perceived or real threat. Australians often pride themselves as being a people of the 'fair go'. If this is to occur, we must 'have a go'.**

**Fr Claude Mostowik msc**

**President**

**October 21, 2019**

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