

Liechtenstein – MP Mrs. Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch

Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis

Madam President, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honour to speak on behalf of the Parliament of Liechtenstein. We gather here united by a common duty: to defend humanitarian norms and to protect human dignity – precisely at a time when both are under increasing threat.

As a small country without an army, Liechtenstein knows how vital international law is for peace and security. Our sovereignty rests not on military power, but on the force of law.

That is why we firmly uphold the central role of the United Nations as the guardian of the multilateral order. Yet, as the wars in Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza continue, we must restore confidence in the UN's capacity to act as a true organization for peace. Parliaments have a unique responsibility to mobilize political will and demand leadership.

The universal ratification of the Geneva Conventions remains a milestone of civilization. Still, we witness their blatant violation every day – through attacks on civilians, misuse of civilian infrastructure, and gender-based violence. Such violations must never become normalized.

Accountability is therefore essential – it delivers justice to victims and helps prevent future atrocities. Liechtenstein consistently advocates for strong and independent international courts. The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court must be protected from political interference and sanctions.

We are also facing new challenges. The use of artificial intelligence in warfare risks undermining the very basis of humanitarian law. When algorithms decide over life and death, humanity itself is at stake. We urgently need clear international rules governing the military use of new technologies.

We are living through a crisis of multilateralism. Rising nationalism and geopolitical rivalries have weakened our collective response to suffering. Around the world, humanitarian budgets are shrinking while needs are growing.

Liechtenstein chooses a different path. In 2024, we increased our official development assistance to nearly 40 million Swiss francs – an increase of about 10 percent. These funds support projects in crisis regions such as Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Ukraine.

We also contribute more than one million francs annually to the International Committee of the Red Cross – a testament to our long-standing and reliable solidarity.

Today, more than 310 million people require humanitarian assistance, and over 120 million are forcibly displaced. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, representing 60 percent of those facing food insecurity. Our responses must therefore prioritize their specific needs.

Humanitarian policy must be seen in a broader context – one that connects the rule of law, development, climate action and gender equality.

Liechtenstein stands firmly for dialogue and peaceful solutions.

In Ukraine, Liechtenstein has approved a multi-year reconstruction commitment focusing on humanitarian demining, rebuilding education and promoting the rule of law.

Conclusion

Liechtenstein may be small, but our message is clear:
Humanity, the rule of law and solidarity are not negotiable.

Parliaments worldwide must act as defenders of these principles – by ensuring accountability, demonstrating leadership and strengthening cooperation. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that humanity remains not the weakest, but the strongest force in world politics.

Thank you.