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## Common memorials of humankind

### Written declaration No. 465

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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The history of mankind has been marked with both disasters such as wars and earthquakes, and praiseworthy movements of solidarity.

For some reason, it is mostly wars which are commemorated by communities. This being the case, memories of historic solidarity movements should also be commemorated with a view to fostering a common culture of solidarity on the basis of democratic values and human rights. By keeping such memories alive, we can create a culture of pacific values.

Every language has a vocabulary full of references to war or heroism which inadvertently promote violence. In a culture based on remembrance of solidarity, however, people would not need great wars to become historic figures but they would make every effort to help others in need in a spirit of solidarity.

In today's world, disasters, particularly natural ones, cannot possibly be avoided, but glorification of solidarity is possible. In this regard, the Council of Europe should encourage the member states:

- highlight exemplary memories of solidarity in their relations with other states and increase public awareness of such memories,
- organise activities in relation to such memories,
- include these memories in textbooks and school curricula,
- focus the commemoration of past wars on the question of “what we should do to avoid similar experiences in the future”.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

AYVA Lokman, Turkey, EPP/CD  
AÇIKGÖZ Ruhi, Turkey, EDG  
BARTOŠ Walter, Czech Republic, EDG  
CEBECİ Erol Aslan, Turkey, EPP/CD  
DĄBKOWSKA-CICHOCKA Lena, Poland, EDG  
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE  
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC  
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JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC  
KELEŞ Birgen, Turkey, SOC  
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TEKELİOĞLU Mehmet, Turkey, EPP/CD  
TÜRKEŞ Tuğrul, Turkey, EDG  
WACH Piotr, Poland, EPP/CD

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Total = 23

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democrat Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group