

# Editorial



editor@newcity.co.uk

**As I write this** editorial, there have been air strikes by the USA, Britain and France on targets in Syria, following what is generally believed to have been the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime on civilians in Douma, Syria. There is also a growing tension between Russia and the West, following the use of a nerve agent on the streets of Salisbury. It is difficult to know exactly what is happening, with claim and counterclaim of foul play and 'fake news' by both sides.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Maria Voce, the President of the Focolare Movement issued the following Press statement:

*...The military intervention in Syria on the night of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April has become the focus of international concern. After the heartfelt appeal of the Holy Father, Maria Voce, President of the Focolare, expressed, on behalf of the members of the Movement all over the world, her closeness, solidarity and prayer for the Syrian people who have been suffering immensely for seven years now. 'Since we are continually in contact with our communities in Syria', Maria Voce said, 'we cannot fail to take upon ourselves their great suffering, seeing themselves as victims of a proxy war, caused and carried out by outside interests.' She stressed: 'The Movement appeals to political leaders all over the world to return to a profound and truthful dialogue, guided by the sincere search for a peaceful solution, for the good of the Syrian people and all peoples in the Middle East.'*

Paul Gateshill

*New City is an expression of the Focolare Movement, which takes as its inspiration Jesus' prayer to the Father "May they all be one" (Jn 17: 21). Over the last seven decades Focolare has grown from a small community of around five hundred in Trent, northern Italy, to a world-wide community of several hundred thousand people of all ages and backgrounds. It has also spread beyond the confines of the Roman Catholic Church, to many other Christian traditions, to other faiths and people of good will.*

*New City works to promote mutual understanding and respect through dialogue. Together with our readers we want to discover how to 'build bridges' in the different sectors of society and in personal life. We are convinced that dialogue, based on mutual love, is the only way to build a more united world which is based on universal values such as justice, equality, truth and peace.*