



## **CMI *DON'T TELL MARTTI* FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

### **Q: Why should I give money to Martti Ahtisaari?**

A: Instead of raising money for Martti Ahtisaari, the idea of this gift is to support something Martti values: peace. The proceeds of this campaign will go to support the peace mediation work carried out by CMI, the organisation founded by peace laureate Ahtisaari.

### **Q: Shouldn't the government finance this kind of work?**

A: In 2016, the Finnish Government supported the operations of CMI with a total of 3.4 million euros, but cuts made to development cooperation funding have, on an annual level, taken a total of 1.7 million euros away from CMI. This has had an impact on the activities of the organisation.

### **Q: What are the benefits of CMI activities?**

A: CMI seeks to resolve conflicts around the world through dialogue and mediation. They are the core competences of CMI, and recognised as the most effective ways of resolving conflicts. Peace saves human lives and money. The average cost of one round of peace negotiations is 40,000 euros, while the cost of warfare is 4 billion euros a day. In the long term, peace makes it possible to improve the preconditions of life. It creates a base for economic growth and employment. A successful peace process makes societies fairer in order to prevent new conflicts.

### **Q: But what use is CMI to Finland?**

A: Peace mediation is Finnish knowhow, and part of the Finnish DNA. Peace is a part of the Finnish brand. Finland's participation in international cooperation for the protection of peace and human rights is defined in Section 1 of the Constitution of Finland, and the activities of CMI are in line with the objectives and principles of the Finnish development policy. An external assessment commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland found that the activities of CMI benefit the foreign policy of Finland and promote a positive image of Finland globally. CMI is viewed as a reliable and solution-focused actor whose work is not tied to interests within great power politics. President Ahtisaari is a Finnish Nobel peace laureate and his legacy lives on in the work of CMI.





The conflict resolution work of CMI provides an opportunity to work in countries in which Finland has no embassies and to create new opportunities for cooperation. Participation in international operations is the best way to guarantee security for Finland, too.

**Q: We have enough problems in Finland, why should we give money to solve problems in other countries?**

A: International conflicts also affect Finland. For example, the emergence and development of refugee crises and the tension that follows has strong links to tension between government and non-government actors. In addition, the geopolitical security situation in areas close to Finland has strong links to regional tensions elsewhere, such as Eastern Europe and the Middle East. In order to find sustainable solutions to problems like refugees and terrorism, it is important to address the core reasons that lie in the background. This is precisely what CMI does, helping to ease tensions between conflicting sides.

The peace mediation work of CMI gives Finland access to critical information about the development of the key conflicts around the world and about the development of the regional and international relations connected to them. In addition, CMI provides quiet first-hand information on smouldering conflicts that are yet to become known internationally.

Peace mediation can help profile Finland as a practical and solution-focused actor within the international community and strengthen the idea of the Finnish values and practices that have always been in the heart of Finland's international reputation.

**Q: Couldn't someone else do this?**

A: CMI is the best actor for this. According to an external assessment commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the operation of CMI is unique, not only in Finland but globally. CMI's strength comes from remaining independent of states, offering solid expertise and being Finnish. In addition to this, CMI's work was found to be cost-effective and significant in terms of results.



**Q: What about people in the target countries? Shouldn't we let them make decisions in matters concerning them?**

A: CMI's view is that peace efforts cannot be outsourced. Sustainable peace processes are always based on local people taking over the process. CMI's principle is to provide support to peace processes led locally and nationally, to extensive social commitment, and to all key parties making an effort in the peace process.

In conflict areas, CMI's versatile pool of experts enables them to use peace mediators who are familiar with the local circumstances. CMI works in close cooperation with local operators and works directly with the conflicting sides. CMI's special added value in the international community comes from its ability to act as a mediator between the official and unofficial actors.

**Q: The campaign looks very expensive. I don't want my money to go to anything other than peace mediation work.**

A: All funds raised during the campaign will be used to support the activities of CMI. The campaign is implemented and the visibility largely generated with our partners on pro bono basis.

**Q: Why can't we tell Martti about this?**

A: We want to give Martti a surprise present on his 80th birthday on 15 June, and we absolutely don't want to spill the beans before that!