

## Each man and each woman ... has the right to live in peace! Each man should have the opportunity to commit to peace

One hundred years ago, the first World War left 10 million dead on the battlefield, 20 millions blessed, mutilated, invalid. The hundreds of wars that came after have caused over two hundred million deaths, without taking into account the so-called "collateral damage" (millions and millions of women, men and children killed or torn by hunger and diseases provoked by the same wars) and the huge amount of assets and resources that have been destroyed and have hindered the development of the whole humanity.

The recent events in Paris and Nigeria, as well as the war in Syria and in Kurdistan have told, among other stories, the reality of a world where war, conflicts and violence are still "normal", a world that still struggles to find its way to peace.

Economic interests, religious fundamentalisms, the lack of respect for each other and for diversity, the lack of dialogue and listening, discriminations and injustices, the culture of waste are at the root of the various wars-conflicts-violence which strike, in a fragmentary way, our planet and still make victims, especially among women and children.

As Pope Francis has underlined: "We entered into the Third World War, only being fought in small pieces, in chapters"

Therefore we must work to set up a culture that will stop the proliferation of violence, that will identify new paths to reach unity, identify tools to heal the wounds, and that, in the respect of identities and diversities, will identify common values on which new models of society and community can be built, where no one is or feels discarded, marginalised, refused or insulted, efforts are needed so that the right to peace is recognised for every person and every people.

The commitment of many people should be enhanced, especially that of international volunteers who work every day to build peace, disarm minds, approach people, build bridges. The organised International Volunteer work was born as a response by civil society to the ruins caused by the war and to the need to rebuild relationships of universal brotherhood among the conflicting parties.

Hence, it is most advisable today to value and spread the vocation of voluntary work as a way towards peace, since volunteer activity can build fraternal relationships while respecting identities and diversities, can enter into conflicts with non armed and non violent tools, can approach those who are still very distant, by creating concrete spaces for meeting and dialogue, by building communities based on unity and solidarity, both at local and global level. Today, more than ever, volunteers are promoters of peace.

We acknowledge the historical opportunity offered by the Human Rights Council, on the United Nations' 70th anniversary, to the International Community to formally include peace among internationally recognised human rights through a solemn Declaration of the right to peace.

We are convinced that peace is an essential condition and in the meantime the fruit of the enjoyment of all human rights.

We strongly underline that the right to peace is rooted in the right to life,

We underline that the respect of human dignity and its related rights, represents the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

We remind that article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations establishes that member States must be "armed with peace",

We recall article 28 of the universal Declaration which establishes that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.



We underline that peace is a multidimensional value and process, which includes legal, political, social and economic aspects,

Given what provided for in article 1 of the **Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**: Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.

We recall the agenda prepared by the University Centre for Human rights and Unesco Chair of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace of the University of Padua and so far approved by the councils of more than three hundred local governments,

**We ask:**

• **The United Nations Human Right Council :**

- that its intergovernmental working group on the right to peace:
  - Prepare the text of a Declaration which legally recognises peace as a fundamental right of persons and peoples,
  - transposes in the final text the article 1 of the draft Declaration prepared by the Advisory Committee on Human Rights,
  - enounces the principle according to which war in itself is a crime against humanity,
  - indicates precise legal obligations for countries, with particular reference to disarmament, control of 'weapons' production and trade, cooperation to human development, protection of natural environment, enforcement of article 43 of the Charter in order to set up the collective security system provided for by the same Charter,

• **To the Italian government**

- to support, both at EU level and in all the relevant international institutions, the recognition of the right to peace
- to adopt such a right,
- to value and strengthen the commitment of many volunteers who, both in Italy and all around the world, work for peace, as peace promoters,
- to value and structure the bound-to-born Civil Peace Corps, in relation with international cooperation,

• **to the European Union**

- to recognise the right to peace
- to include among the aims and purposes of the activities of the European Volunteer Corps for Humanitarian Aid, the actions of peace-building.

This appeal is promoted by FOCSIV in collaboration with: Centro Nazionale del Volontariato – Forum Terzo Settore - Centro Diritti Umani di Padova – AOI – LINK 2007 – Rete per la Pace - Movimento Nonviolento – Piattaforma M.O. - Rete Italiana per il Disarmo.

