

Motion: We have a right to peace

Prepared by the Human Rights Centre and the UNESCO Chair Human Rights, Democracy and Peace of the University of Padua in the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2014. Endorsed by Mayors and other hundreds participants in the celebration held in the Aula Magna 'Galileo Galilei' of the University.

- *Being aware* of the historical opportunity that the Human Rights Council of the United Nations is offering to the International Community to set forth, coinciding with the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Charter, a solemn Declaration that would include a specific human right to peace among universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- *Being convinced* that peace is a pre-requisite and at the same time a fruit of the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- *Pointing out* that the right to peace is ontologically rooted in the right to life,
- *Recalling* that respect for inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
- *Recalling* that article 4 of the United Nations Charter states that member States should be “peace-loving States”,
- *Making reference* to article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realised,
- *Stressing* that peace is a value and a multidimensional process which includes legal, social and economic aspects,
- *Considering* that the campaign being carried on in Italy for the recognition of the human right to peace is marked by the official participation of hundreds Municipalities, Provinces, Regions and civil society organisations referring to the principle of subsidiarity accordingly to article 1 of the United Nations Declaration of 8 March 1999 on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms: “Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels”,
- *Further recalling* article 7 of this United Nations Declaration that legitimises city diplomacy initiatives for recognising peace as a fundamental human right: “Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate their acceptance”,
- *Recalling* a previous Petitionary Motion prepared by the Human Rights Centre and the UNESCO Chair Human Rights, Democracy and Peace of the University of Padua in collaboration with the Italian Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights, so far endorsed by more than 300 Councils of Local and Regional Institutions (Annexe).

We urge the United Nations Human Rights Council to ensure that its Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Peace:

- Fully comply with the mandate conferred by the Human Rights Council in order to finalise the text of a Declaration which recognises peace as a fundamental right of the human person and of the peoples,
- Transpose in the expected Declaration the text of article 1 of the draft prepared by the Advisory Committee:

“1. Individuals and peoples have a right to peace. This right shall be implemented without any distinction or discrimination for reasons of race, descent, national, ethnic or social origin, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, economic situation or heritage, diverse physical or mental functionality, civil status, birth or any other condition.

2. States, severally and jointly, or as part of multilateral organizations, are the principal duty-holders of the right to peace.

3. The right to peace is universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

4. States shall abide by the legal obligation to renounce the use or threat of use of force in international relations.

5. All States, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, shall use peaceful means to settle any dispute to which they are parties.

6. All States shall promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace in an international system based on respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter and the promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and the right of peoples to self-determination.”,
- Express the principle that war as such is a crime against humanity,
- Indicate specific obligations of States, such as disarmament, supranational control of arms trade and production, international cooperation for human development and environment protection, making fully working the collective security system as prescribed by the United Nations Charter.

We urge the Italian Government:

- to acknowledge and optimise the commitment so largely deployed by Local and Regional Institutions and by civil society organisations for the international recognition of the human right to peace,
- to fully support the proposals above mentioned within the Intergovernmental Working Group on the right to peace,
- to endeavour to convince other Member States of the European Union – Nobel Prize for Peace 2012 – to share the same positive position.

We invite the State-Regions Conference in Rome to adopt the present Motion and to act accordingly with the Government.

Padua, 10 December 2014