

Regional Council of Veneto: Resolution n. 40
«International Day of Human Rights»*

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF VENETO
8TH LEGISLATURE

CONVENED for an extraordinary session in the Aula Magna 'Galileo Galilei' of the University of Padua on the International Day of Human Rights;

BEING AWARE of the high moral and political lesson stemming from Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: «All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood», and of the importance of the International Day of Human Rights for the development of a culture based on the respect of the equal dignity of all «members of the human family» and for the realisation of the equal rights and duties that are inherent to human dignity;

CONSIDERING that in the current year the International Day falls on the eve of relevant recurrences such as the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the 60th anniversary of the Italian Constitution and the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue;

CONSIDERING that the event coincides with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples of the University of Padua, one of the first in Europe and in the world to be formally grounded in the university system and to the development and consolidation of which the Region has contributed in a substantial way;

** Submitted 29 November 2007, by the Councillors-members of the Presidency Board: Finozzi, Tesserin, Marchese, Teso, Frigo, and unanimously endorsed on 10 December 2007.*

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the European Master Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, founded by the Interdepartmental Centre of the University of Padua with the partnership of other prestigious European universities – nowadays 41 Universities –, and with the support of the Region, celebrates this year the 10th anniversary of its establishment;

BEING AWARE of the pioneering role exercised by the Region of Veneto since 1988 through the Regional Bill n. 18, further revised and enlarged by the Regional Bill n. 55 of 16 December 1999 «Regional initiatives for the promotion of human rights, the culture of peace, development cooperation and solidarity», whose Article 1 reads: «The Region of Veneto acknowledges peace and development as fundamental rights of the human persons and of the peoples, in accordance with the principles of the Italian Constitution and of International Law regarding the promotion of human rights and the rights of peoples, of fundamental freedoms and international cooperation»;

WISHING to further contribute to the implementation of the universal principle that proclaims that «recognition of the 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» (Universal Declaration);

UNDERLYING the fact that the Region of Veneto has been the first Italian Region which endowed itself with Bills and specialised structures regarding the Ombudsman, the Children Ombudsperson, equal opportunities, immigration;

TAKING NOTE of the Region's role in particular to support educational and formational activities carried out by schools, local governments, non governmental organisations, charitable groups that are inspired by the ethics of universal values, fundamental rights and duties and fostered by the consistent practice of nonviolence;

BEING AWARE of the Region's commitment to disseminate and consolidate development cooperation based on the centrality of the human being in the development processes and policies, as set forth by the United Nations Declaration on the Right to

Development endorsed by the General Assembly in 1986;

BEING AWARE of the importance of human rights education and teaching to help internalising universal human values for the responsible realisation of citizenship rights in the respect of legality;

BEARING IN MIND the Region's responsibility to pursue in a more effective way the objectives indicated in the Regional Bill n. 55, of 16 December 1999;

TAKING NOTE of the valuable action carried out by the Regional Councillor for Human Rights, Cooperation and International Solidarity in order to endow the regional policymaking with a larger strategic horizon and more coherence and consistency with special reference to structural investments in the field of education and cooperation;

TAKING NOTE of the fruitful cooperation with the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples of the University of Padua that was been developing with remarkable endeavour for education and research in the field of human rights, peace, Ombudsman institutions, children rights, intercultural dialogue and active citizenship, as well as for information primarily through the regional Database «Archives Peace Human Rights»;

APPRECIATING the collaboration between the Region and the Interdepartmental Centre as regards notably the realisation of formational programs for teachers;

WELCOMING the positive results of research projects co-financed by the Region of Veneto and the European Commission, in particular of those regarding intercultural dialogue and citizenship (Jean Momment Programme) and trafficking of human beings (Daphne Programme);

BEING AWARE that, as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims, «recognition of the 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», and

that therefore the inherent autonomy of the Region should be fully realised in accordance with the principles of the respect of human dignity, the rule of law, representative and participatory democracy, territorial and functional subsidiarity, national and international solidarity, equal opportunities of men and women, the best interest of children;

Reaffirms its commitment

to contribute together with the institutions of the Italian Republic, the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe to promote and protect the fundamental rights of the human person, of the family and of the peoples and to pursue social cohesion, democracy, development cooperation, environment protection and the construction of peace based on justice;

Reasserts and revives

the awareness of its religious and civil roots and of the cultural, artistic, landscape, familiar, institutional and entrepreneurial heritage that was been constructed and developed over the centuries by the intelligence and industriousness of the Veneto people in an ongoing practice of freedom and solidarity, and that the Region intends to integrally commit to future generations,

Reaffirms the openness and availability of the Region to cooperate with other peoples and to the dialogue with other cultures in the common respect of rights and duties that are inherent to human dignity;

In this context and looking forward, the Region renews its commitment to continue to support activities of information, education and formation in the field of human rights carried out in the regional territory through dialogue, nonviolence and observance of the law;

Congratulates the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples of the University of Padua for the educational and research activities so far carried out and confirms the Region's will to further develop mutually fruitful cooperation;

Hopes that municipalities, schools, firms and cultural establishments will devote endeavours and resources to foster the development of effective forms of intercultural dialogue and interreligious dialogue as well, based on sharing rights and duties set forth by the Constitution, International Law of Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;

In accordance with its original vocation of territorial community committed to promote and protect all human rights for all, in particular the rights of those belonging to vulnerable groups, and as a significant act issued by the extraordinary session held in the Aula Magna of the University of Padua,

signs

the International Convention on Human Rights of Persons with Disability, endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 December 2006, and takes initiative before the National Parliament for its prompt ratification;

on the International Day of Human Rights 2007 and in the presence of the Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

solemnly declares

opened the Year that will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and

invites

municipalities, schools and civil society organisations to devote special attention to this recurrence in their respective activities.

The Resolution is unanimously endorsed by open vote.

10 December 2007

