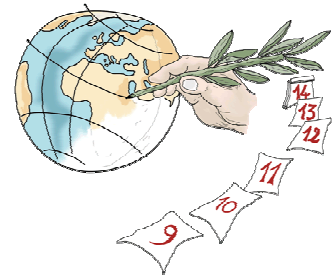




Peace day by day

Choosing a responsible peace.

Towards the U.N. Youth Assembly and the March for Peace
Perugia-Assisi 07/10/2007



As a saying goes, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness".

It seems as much beautiful and important, as young people, to construct a way towards the United Nations Youth Assembly and the March for Peace Perugia-Assisi 2007. Fostering an active and constructive approach to widespread attitudes, which are generally irresponsible.

The usual responses are fear and uncertainty, denial and lack of concern for our own and other people's rights in a world in which everything looks weak and confused. We, as young people and citizens, would like to choose once again the road of a personal as well as voluntary commitment to promoting peace in our daily lives.

"Non-violence as charity must begin in our own house" (Gandhi).

"Peace begins from you...". This was a popular slogan a few years ago, which holds good for our times too. Peace begins from you, it begins from us all: from our talent, from our creativity, from the consciousness that Life is dipped in History.

Peace depends on the ability and the opportunities that we give ourselves to programme and plan our future; well knowing that young people in the world do not have the same possibilities everywhere.

Where human rights are denied, it happens that hunger, thirst, injustice, violence, poverty limit the desire for better tomorrows. We want to fight for those young people whose Rights are denied to restore justice and dignity for everyone.

We call for national and international institutions to take their responsibilities and that the UN have more power and authority. The UN is the moral authority apt to stop and prevent wars and should better guarantee and protect everyone's rights and freedom.

We want to be the UN of the youth, involved as citizens of the world, as young "peace ambassadors". We would like to light this candle: we demand more engagement, starting from ourselves, and we refuse any easy way out.

To this purpose, we are ready to meet and study in order to formulate and put forward effective as well as lasting solutions to put an end to wars and injustice.

We want to become staunch advocates of humanity and encourage dialogue amongst people and listen to other people's needs. The promotion and implementation of Human Rights all over the world will thus appear clearer, making a world more sustainable.

Thoughts in progress

"Everyday peace" means to act in order to give hope and confidence to the others by the exercise and defence of our own and others people's Rights.

Scoutism teach us that our walk cannot be vain and it assumes full meaning when it has a goal and an aim.

For this reason we propose some paths of preparation to the UNYA and the March for peace.

Peace is important, and without a daily commitment to solve problems, it is to be only an empty word.

We cannot afford to lose any other appointments with history (everyday history), which are even more important in the spread and success of peace.

As Scouts we shall have the opportunity to give "answers of peace" to the present problems of the world.

We shall act with the same sense of brotherhood that scout movements share this year in celebrating the Centenary. We shall propose paths and actions of peace all over the world.

We wish to emphasize some **challenges** of today that demand a sign of "new skies and new lands".

We try to take this opportunity to express our thoughts and feelings, in order to work out more appropriate solutions to the challenges and demands Life presents us with.

a) *Participation: Politics as a primary goal:* Politics as an opportunity for freedom and responsibility as well as for comparison and elaboration.

Politics is the place where we provide for the future of the the people, as place of planning and dreaming.

Politics can do a lot to "build peace".

In order to succeed in such a mission, men and women need to fulfill their right to participate, to share plans of justice and find solutions to problems.

Very often we feel ourselves cut off from places where the fate of the world is actually decided. Although we do have the right to Politics in order to put in practise our ideas and our proposals.

There are democratic means that we can use in order to make our voice be heard. Do we use them in the right way?

Do we really ask ourselves what our proposals, our plans, our dreams are?

Are there types of "participated democracy"?

b) *We have the responsibility of "the leaves of grass":* In the world we live in we are responsible even for the smallest leave of grass.

We have the Right to live in a sustainable planet. Nevertheless the great economical choices often do not make all this possible.

Natural resources constitute a growing economic business.

Just look at the wrong choices in the use and consumption of water, they are generating real wars.

It is important that our lives should be based on different styles and behaviours.

We do know that even the smallest act is precious because it qualifies ourselves.

Great questions tied to the exploitation of the environment are still open.

We still do not know how many conflicts are the result of an excessive exploitation of resources.

What are the projects in which we can be involved starting from our small realities?

c) *Witnesses of Peace:* in these hard times we need to take examples from strong witnesses of our times such as St. Francis, Mandela, Gandhi, Baden-Powell, and many others.

We should look at the lives of these witnesses: they have marked out a road to liberty with clarity and fidelity.

What are their strong messages?

d) *"The Peace Words":* Often languages are violent and are a sign of incomprehension.

Media use daily "semantic manipulations".

Every word seems empty and meaningless.

There is a constant change in the way of communicating; the role of images becomes more and more important. Even world press is no longer true to facts.

Nevertheless it is our right to be correctly informed.

Do "alternative ways" of communication exist?

Does a communication exist that could spread news according to an ethical model?

What are the words that talk about Peace?

What are the words which can lead us to show a new behaviour and a new style of life?

- e) Dialogue is right for everybody:** the practise of dialogue becomes more and more difficult. Our lifestyle is not suitable for people to meet, and be loyal and honest to each other. This is what prevents the building of disinterested and social ties. Nevertheless dialogue is good for everybody because it comes intelligence. Dialogue is fruitful in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Dialogue works if we open ourselves to discussion. Therefore dialogue becomes a lifestyle and not only an attitude. Thus the world becomes like a village where people and cultures meet each other. What are we ready to do in order to construct dialogue?
- f) Religions for Peace:** while religions are often regarded as an obstacle to peace (let's take for instance the wars in Africa and, generally speaking, the way we talk about Islam), we believe instead that religions can contribute to peace. The knowledge of peoples' histories helps us to reflect on our common roots, which is a necessary step to enable us to peace building. How can Islam, Hebraism and Christianity contribute to peace? Is it possible to talk each other? What should be the better way for interreligious dialogue and mutual acknowledgment?
- g) Conscience of peace:** Life does not wait we are ready to choose and adopt systems of universal rules: we often face new individual and collective problems, which need a prompt, responsible answer. Our conscience is always looking for the right ways to practise our values, choosing what is right to do here and now. Are we aware of our values and responsible of our choices? How can we practise peace in our everyday life?
- h) Institutions and Citizenship:** It is important to look at a new citizenship, to feel ourselves part of a world which goes beyond "my home" and "my point of view". We are citizens of Europe, of the whole World; active citizens, aware of our Rights and Duties. This attitude is the result of education. Our identity becomes stronger and more mature when we face the "differences". In this way we overcome our doubts and fears for the unknown, that we perceive dark and faraway. "Citizen of the World" should be? What about his/her social and cultural background? What opportunities and projects should he/her have? What concrete occasions and meaningful experiences should I include in my life? What can I do to a process of change and to fully exercise my Right to World citizenship?
- i) The Job: new economy, new economies:** Economy is the greatest question of our times. It includes everything and it seems out of our control. We cannot live without it. Is it possible a fair economy? What are the instruments and opportunities for a cultural and economic revolution? Are there in the world new forms of economy, which are more ethical and could make everybody a protagonist in the economic process?

Things to do

Dear Rover / Ranger Guides,

We propose you some suggestions for activities and things to do in order to practice on the above mentioned topics.

These are paths and proposals to interact with your territory and to be real "ambassadors of peace".

- Try to learn about the activities of associations in your territory, trying to support plans, projects, campaigns.
- Look at forgotten and neglected international crisis, and try to think about projects to foster economic and cultural development, respecting peoples and cultures.
- Organize debates and meetings involving people from small and unknown parts of the world.
- Start meetings and projects among scout groups/units.
- Make inquiries and plans that could give you a better knowledge of situations.
- Carry out new proposals and projects following the previous debates.
- Make people aware of your proposals and projects.
- Prepare an exhibition on your experiences and actions of peace.
- Share a moment of prayer with your group/unit.

Do your best!

Note: United Nations Youth Assembly is not related with United Nations Organization and its structure. Its name is ideally referred to UNO purposes, as international assembly of the young people of the world.