



THE TIRANA CALL FOR PEACE EDUCATION

Peace education prevents violence and builds a culture of peace in the midst of injustice, war and all forms of terrorism. Thus concluded representatives of ministries of education, intergovernmental, and civil society organizations convened by the Hague Appeal for Peace on October 20-23, 2004 in Tirana, Albania.

We are inspired by the powerful results of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and Hague Appeal for Peace partnership program for peace and disarmament education in Cambodia, Peru, Niger and Albania. These four pilot projects are succeeding remarkably in integrating peace education into their national systems of education. We experienced the impact of the Albanian program in the city of Gramsh, where the entire community, including the mayor, has embraced peace and disarmament education.

We call on all ministers of education, regional, and local authorities to replicate these achievements, exchange experiences, and integrate peace education into all pre-school, primary and secondary school systems, tertiary institutions, and teacher training programs.

We call on our colleagues to commit to the dissemination of examples of these successful programs throughout the world, and to give a special emphasis to non-formal, informal, youth and community-based education.

Peace education is a participatory holistic process that includes teaching for and about democracy and human rights, nonviolence, social and economic justice, gender equality, environmental sustainability, disarmament, traditional peace practices, and human security.

We call on everyone in all countries to intensify this multi-cultural Tirana dialogue, in which people from 27 countries*, 4 continents and 4 religions participated.

We commit ourselves to the vigorous implementation of the 1995 UNESCO Framework for Action; the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; and the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century, to help prevent personal and structural violence and do away with armed conflict.

We call on all governments, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, educators, and peoples of the world to replace the law of force with the force of law.

* *Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA*

Signed by:

Education Ministry Representatives

- Dr. Thiab Ayyoush, Palestine
- Dr. Gabi Baramki, Palestine
- Darcy Calderon Rojas, Peru
- Abdourahamane Daouda, Niger
- Abass M. Collier, Sierra Leone
- Mao Veasna, Cambodia

United Nations Representatives

- Michael Cassandra, UN DDA
- Ambassador Anwarul K Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Civil Society Representatives

- Albanian Center for Peace and Disarmament Education
- Cambridge Peace Commission
- Center for Peace Education, Miriam College
- Center for Peace and Justice, Lebanese American University
- Center for Study and Work on Latin America (CETAL)
- Educating Cities, Latin America
- EDUCA, Peru
- EURED
- Fundacion Escuelas De Paz
- Galician Seminar of Education for Peace
- Global Youth Action Network
- Hague Appeal for Peace GCPE
- International Baccalaureate Organization
- International Peace Agency, Brazil
- International Peace Bureau
- IALANA
- IPPNW
- Kenya Youth Foundation
- Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives Uppsala Network on the Culture of Peace
- Middle East Children's Association
- Mision Rescate: Planeta Tierra, Mexico
- National Committee For Democracy and Human Rights, Sierra Leone
- Norwegian Peace Alliance
- Peace Boat Global University
- Peace Brigades International
- Stockholm University Institute of International Education
- Teachers College Peace Education Center, Columbia University
- UNOY Peacebuilders
- Working Group for Weapons Reduction, Cambodia
- Youth Network for Peacebuilding, UNESCO