



MANIFESTO 2000 FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

Paris, March 4 – The “Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence,” produced by a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates - with the help of UNESCO, within the framework of preparations for the International Year for the Culture of Peace – in the year 2000 – was launched publicly in Paris today by Nobel Peace Prize laureates Mairead Corrigan Maguire (Northern Ireland), Rigoberta Menchú Tum (Guatemala) and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Argentina) in the presence of UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor and numerous personalities.

The Manifesto is addressed to individuals and to civil society. It is to raise awareness among people around the world who, in signing the Manifesto, will commit themselves to adhere to the values of peace, tolerance and solidarity and undertake to translate the values, attitudes and modes of behaviour which underpin the culture of peace into daily action.

UNESCO, as the United Nations system co-ordinator for the preparation of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, has undertaken to disseminate the Manifesto 2000 all over the world. It is also launching a solemn appeal to all organisations, institutions and governments to adhere to the Manifesto. The aim of this undertaking is to collect 100 million signatures by the time of the United Nations millennium General Assembly in September 2000.

Here is the full text of the Manifesto:

The year 2000 must be a new beginning for us all. Together we can transform the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and non-violence. This demands the participation of everyone. It gives young people and future generations values that can inspire them to shape a world of dignity and harmony, a world of justice, solidarity, liberty and prosperity. The culture of peace makes possible sustainable development, protection of the environment and the personal fulfilment of each human being.

Recognizing my share of responsibility for the future of humanity, especially for today's children and those of future generations, I pledge - in my daily life, in my family, my work, my community, my country and my region - to:

1. **respect the life and dignity** of every person without discrimination or prejudice;
2. **practise active non-violence**, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;

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3. **share my time and material resources** in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;
4. **defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity**, giving preference always to dialogue and listening rather than fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;
5. **promote consumer behaviour that is responsible** and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;
6. **contribute to the development of my community**, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

Please reproduce and distribute this document around you.

You can sign the Manifesto 2000 on the Internet: www.unesco.org/manifesto2000

If you do not have access to the Internet, return the form below to:

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE

UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy - F-75352 Paris 07 SP - FRANCE

FAX : +33 1 45 68 56 38

First Name*: _____ Surname Name:
Date of birth: _____ Sex: M - F
Town of residence: _____ Country:
Date: _____ Signature:

Your name, as a signatory of the MANIFESTO 2000, will appear on the Internet website devoted to this operation: www.unesco.org/manifesto2000.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 "International Year for the Culture of Peace." A group of Nobel Prize Peace Laureates produced the Manifesto 2000 on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All the signatures affixed to MANIFESTO 2000 will be presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the millennium in September 2000.

For more information contact:

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NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES AND UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL LAUNCH MANIFESTO 2000 FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

Paris, March 4 – UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor and Nobel Peace Prize laureates Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Northern Ireland, Rigoberta Menchú Tum of Guatemala and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel of Argentina today launched the “Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence” which is intended to unleash a global grass roots movement in favour of peace, solidarity and tolerance. The Mayor of Paris also attended the meeting.

The Movement and the Manifesto 2000 are part of UNESCO's preparations for the Year 2000, proclaimed International Year for the Culture of Peace by the United Nations General Assembly at the Organization's initiative. UNESCO has been appointed co-ordinator for the Year.

The Manifesto seeks to obtain the personal commitment of individuals from all over the world to subscribe to, and translate into their daily actions, the values of peace, tolerance, sharing and solidarity which underpin the culture of peace.

In six points the Manifesto upholds the following values of: respect for life and dignity of every person; practising active non-violence; sharing time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression; defending freedom of expression and cultural diversity; promoting responsible consumer behaviour; contributing to community development with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

Introducing the Manifesto at the Eiffel Tower, Ms Maguire spoke of a “historic document [...]. What we want is the hearts and minds of people, not mere signatures,” she declared referring to the targeted 100 million signatures the Nobel Peace laureates who produced the Manifesto and UNESCO are hoping to collect.

The peace-activist insisted that the purpose of the Manifesto was to obtain the individual commitment of people everywhere to end violence and killing. In a moving address she talked of how beautiful the world could be if the values expressed in the peace campaign launched today could be translated into reality. But, she said, “for too many people it is hard to see the beauty, when you have no food in your stomach and when your children are dying of preventable disease.” Ms Maguire deplored the fact that, despite amazing progresses in technology, no solution has been found to the problem of poverty.

Ms Maguire also addressed messages of support to the peace movement from the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and from South African President Nelson

Mandela. She expressed regret over the inability of Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi to be associated to the movement because "she is not allowed any communication with the outside world."

She concluded with a rousing appeal: "We must not be afraid to go out into our world. Believe passionately in your power to change the world. There are millions and millions of people around the world who want peace and non-violence. This document gives us the power to change the world."

Ms Rigoberta Menchú then took the floor and pledged her wholehearted support for a culture of peace. Speaking as "the survivor of a genocide" and as an "indigenous mother," she insisted that "there is no alternative but to heal the wounds of the past. We who have suffered nevertheless believe in peace and are betting our future on it," she declared.

Calling on the signatories of the Manifesto to get actively involved in the institution of a culture of peace, Ms Rigoberta Menchú said "we don't want our children to be violent, perpetrators of genocide, torturers and rapists."

Educator, artist and human rights campaigner Mr Pérez Esquivel then spoke for the great many people in Latin America "victims of genocide and dictatorship and violence" and said that educators have to reassess their approach to education. "What are we educating people for?" he asked. "By simply educating good engineers we are turning out well-trained slaves," he declared insisting on the necessity of educating the young to uphold the values of peace and solidarity.

"Without freedom we cannot conquer peace," he declared. "We are talking about freedom to find new paths," Mr Pérez Esquivel said, because "the history we are taught is the history of violence." He also highlighted the help artists can provide in spreading the message of peace as "art is the language which appeals to people directly." Mr Pérez Esquivel said that "the challenge ahead is to build a new society" and denounced "progress which only serves a few while millions remain disenfranchised and marginalised."

The Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, declared that "the cause of peace today more than ever needs this movement to counter centuries of a culture of force and imposition. At the dawn of this new century and millennium we need every one to make the transition and new departure for a culture of peace and dialogue, non-violence and tolerance."

Mr Mayor called on governments, parliamentarians, the media and, on mayors to support the initiative. "Mayors," he said, "are best placed to take measures for youth who represent the future." He further emphasised the importance of peace as a "prerequisite without which there is no justice, liberty, freedom of expression or development." He also insisted that "we have the key to counter violence [...]. We know how to construct the defences of peace, through education, through the sharing of knowledge, favouring cultural diversity and creativity."

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Referring to the 20th century as century of violence and death he said, "we have paid its price with human lives. We must now pay for peace. The great challenge facing us now is to learn to respect each other, listen to each other."

Mr Mayor also spoke of the importance of fighting poverty to operate the change to a culture of peace and said that "democracy is the best way to fight poverty. Freedom, solidarity, democracy and peace are the pillars" on which a better future can be founded. "Hand in hand we can write the future, when we will have realised the potential of mobilisation," he declared, adding: "Let us cultivate peace on a daily basis. Peace is like liberty, it is not given to us, we have to build it."

Mr Mayor also announced that David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister Designate, had sent a statement supporting the initiative. In it he backs the objectives of Manifesto 2000 "recognising cultural diversity, a respect for human life and actively pursuing non-violence."

The Mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, announced that the city would back the Manifesto "by disseminating [it] in its schools and information network." He said that "Paris, city of fraternity, home of cultural diversity, could but constitute the special show-case for the first public manifestation of this programme for a culture of peace and non-violence."

Mr Mayor finally presented the logo of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, a stylistic representation of two clasped hands, designed by German artist Barbara Blickle and Spanish graphic designer Luis Sarda de Abreu.

Mr Mayor finally greeted representatives of some 100 young "peace messengers" who signed the Manifesto and will participate in collecting more signatures.

The Manifesto can be found - and signed - on the
Internet: www.unesco.org/manifesto2000