

Conclusion. Peace can be built

Without resentment, peace can be built from evidences, freedom and friendship.

The text of the Letter of Peace addressed to the United Nations concludes with the resounding affirmation that: peace can be constructed. An affirmation based on the commitment to live life according to the requirements which precede the ten points of this document; ten points of the Letter of Peace which are summarized in this conclusion.

Conclusion

The second paragraph of the Letter of Peace points out a double wish:

- A. To indicate certain principles that may help overcome obstacles in the construction of peace.
- B. To offer the foundations on which to build a solid peace.

This conclusion synthesizes the opening statements:

- A. The main obstacles for peace are the historical resentments, and
- B. the principles that can help overcome them such as liberty, self evident facts, and friendship... These three principles make up the foundations on which a stronger peace can be built.

Resentments

Points I and II address the issue of historical resentments, to show that if the desire to build peace is genuine, one must reject frivolous postures regarding blame and guilt for the ill events that occurred prior to our existence. Resentments cloud our better judgment, impede us from accepting facts, and hinder the attitude of friendship, which as we will see later, constitute two of the three foundations on which to build peace.

Liberty

Every human being is born free of guilt of the historical past. And as stated in the first three points of the Letter of Peace, society must always defend, favor, and develop a genuine liberty for its individuals if it really seeks peace (Point VII). This freedom must be sincere, not adulterated or deformed; one that believes we are “brothers by existence” (Point V). Hence, liberty is not individualistic or capricious; it is both individual and social simultaneously and must be guided by beauty, harmony, and solidarity.



Alfredo Rubio expresses this in his article “La fuerza de las evidencias”¹:

«Prejudices, habits, and hasty methods produced by our reasoning or in the medical arena have caused the true and spontaneous liberty of children to be greatly distorted. Not to mention the subsequent primary education offered in good faith, from birth by the family, and at daycare centers, etc. regarding the proper progressive growth of the child’s responsible and co-responsible liberty; all this as a result of the customs and ideologies of the elders. When will society teach in such a way that children’s freedom is respect thus allowing them to perceive self evident facts rather than forcing them to sift facts through the use of such artificial sieves otherwise known as the rational or factual concepts that are highly altered due to personal feelings, current ideologies, and pressures from diverse cultures. Being free and of sound mind, we will foster wisdom.»

Self evident Facts

Just as the Letter of Peace proposes in its content, the best way to achieve peace is to base ourselves on self evident facts. At times a person that relies on facts or bases arguments on them could seem intolerant and autocratic. But what happens is quite the contrary; the evident truths to human reason “are here, before us”. Therefore there is no need to insist impatiently or stubbornly that others see and accept these realities, or try to impose them on anyone. As is often said, reality is tenacious and persevering. Employing facts as references does not mean trying to convince someone with authoritative arguments. In reality it promotes individuals and groups of individuals to have their own criterion. They will accept the facts if they so wish; because it is an attitude of respect to freedom, to the freedom of thought.

On the other hand, self evident facts are not anyone’s private property. They belong to all and therefore can be used by all to facilitate the dialogue and coexistence among individuals and among nations.

The present crisis that human reasoning is enduring can lead to its disdain. As a result the other two great capacities that humans possess would be distorted. Both liberty and the capacity to love must be intelligent and wise in order for them to be mature and complete. Fostering intelligence in the formation of new generations must not limit itself to supplying information or developing the capacity to reason. Instead it should aspire to gain the wisdom of living or of how to behave, which is the basis of coexistence and development, and thus peace. It is necessary to cultivate the capacity to observe, to be able to open our eyes to reality. A reality we will rely

¹ A. RUBIO, *La fuerza de las evidencias*, en Revista RE de Pensamiento y opinión, nº 37, p. 15

on instead of applying our molds, and preconceived ideas which cause so much suffering, especially when applied to human beings.

Friendship

Friendship has been promoted in different moments throughout history. Point III of the Letter of Peace indicates the important role friendship has in the quest for peace, in the sense of overcoming resentments. Why not become friends? Inquires the text; an interrogation directed to individuals, groups of individuals and nations.

Friendship acknowledges two previously mentioned aspects of the person; that friendship must be free, intelligent, and wise. This statement may be pinpointed in a few requirements or conditions considered essential for the emergence of an authentic friendship and for it to foster good, as expressed in Point III.

Friendship is plural and varied. There are many types and levels of true friendship. It could be said that friendship works as a common denominator for all human relationships. In conclusion, friendship distances us from individualism and collectivism.

It Is Possible

After suggesting the four premises, the Letter of Peace goes on to say "peace can be built". With this, the Letter of Peace takes us to the very threshold of harmony. As people of today it is our responsibility to build peace.

Peace, just as all that is human, is limited. After viewing history, one could conclude that perfect and definite peace will never be obtained. However, steps forward have been taken. There have been periods of peace during history yet they have not emerged on their own like mushrooms, or without the work of many; they resulted from numerous efforts, dialogue, compromises, and agreements. Every single person that is spared from death as a result makes the great strain of efforts for peace worth their while!

At the beginning of the document the Letter of Peace tells us that there are many obstacles that oppose peace. It does so to avoid misleading people into being unrealistic about what they wish to achieve in their fight for peace and at the same time to encourage them to take part in this mission. Working toward peace is a arduous and slow task; precisely why we should get on with it right away!

Farewell

“Thankyou, friends”

The Letter of Peace wishes to thank all who read and toil for peace inspired by this document. All of us benefit from this. Welcome are all those who wish to work and contribute to a greater peace for all!

Jordi Cussó² comments on the Letter of Peace below:

«The text of the Letter of Peace begins and ends with the word “friends”; in its beginning and in its end. It is a path to follow: which begins with friendship only to arrive at friendship. We start with a relationship based on kinship, justice, and history to reach a relationship based on liberty and love. Gratitude emerges from liberty and love.

To build peace we must not conform to the origin of our being: I have been born in a family, in a town, in a country, thinking this is enough to create the necessary bonds. We must look to the future and understand that we must achieve friendship based on freedom thereby building strong ties in solidarity. Obligations, impositions, the “it has befallen upon me”, complaints, fatalism, resignation, and the norm fail to provide a sufficiently solid foundation on which to built peace. Any personal interests or atypical situations much too often entail the appeal to already established laws; laws that are interpreted and manipulated according to those personal interests. Solidarity, on the other hand, is not obtained with treaties and negotiations alone, or by any concrete purpose. The reason being, that once the purpose was reached, solidarity would come to an end. If however that goal was not achieved, we’d tire of trying from having others block our path. Brothers, neighbors, friends, fellow citizens, and all contemporary peers can only love one another if they accept each other freely; along with their limitations, issues, and interests. Liberty is definitely a good soil on which to harvest friendship. This cognizance allows us to reach peace and celebrate it. We must progress from a friendship resulting from circumstances such as bloodlines or nationality into one that is free and grateful; a universal friendship that is strong and enjoys great solidarity because it is free. Remember, friends without resentments are true friends.

Why “friends” is an appropriate heading for this section: It will remain quite difficult to achieve peace as long as half of humanity finds itself unable to live in friendship with the other half. Peace will not be possible while men and women live a conditioned, subordinated, and jealous friendship; one that harbors dominion of one being over the other. Who knows, maybe this should have been the first point revised on our peace

² J. CUSSÓ. “La Carta de la Paz, un itinerario de evidencias.” En J. RIGOL Y OTROS. *Convivencia en el siglo XXI: la Carta de la Paz*. Barcelona, 1994. p. 71.73

agenda; not only due to the fact that men have mistreated women, but in light of the fact that many resentments prevail between them. Friendship emerges between equals, which is why both men and women must be free.»

Those of us, who work co-responsibly for peace and in solidarity, may call ourselves true friends.