

A call for action

We have been overwhelmed by the global health and environmental emergencies, by the growing social and political crisis; hunger, migration and widespread inequalities and conflicts. The concentration of power, inadequate local governance and an ineffective system for global governance pose tough questions.

It is not enough to simply mitigate the impact or make adjustments; profound changes on a political, personal and collective level are required.

*This call for action was born from **a participatory process that took place in 25 countries around the world**, involving citizens, administrators, legislators, officials and diplomats, scholars and members of civil organizations; it was guided through diverse cultural orientations but motivated by the same aspiration for the unity of the human family.*

Today we address it to those who are directly involved in politics as a chance and an encouragement to share some directions.

TOWARDS A POLITICS OF QUALITY

1. The horizon that guides us

Well beyond the lacerations, obstacles and terrible sufferings that we face, human history can be understood as an irreversible path towards unity and peace, involving everyone. We are striving along this path with all those who never stop dreaming and fighting, and especially with young people. We believe that what guides this fascinating journey is not strength from individualism, but a profound solidarity sustaining the life of the global ecosystem.

Writing this call we don't want to either imagine indistinguishable, unrealistic projects, nor to only elaborate specific actions in response to local political demands: we want to share some views and translate them into action:

- **the irreplaceable function of politics** for the common good, in order to point out clear priorities and harmonize the interests at stake, ranging from the local level to the international sphere;
- **the orientation towards more collaborative and polycentric forms of governance**, founded on a new reciprocal and global responsibility;
- **the need to put those who are socially weaker at the center** of development plans, infrastructure and services, along with their demands and potential, because when the *polis* is suitable for the smallest, it is suitable for everyone.

The horizon that guides us is a continuous search for **a politics of quality**; first of all it comes from the quality of our relationships, a quality which precedes, contains and surpasses institutional forms in politics as well. We believe that a process of innovation will spring from it, inspiring new tools for participation and representation, thereby regenerating democracy in decline in so many countries as well as working out new institutional forms where peoples are free to choose their own paths.

Movimento Politico per l'Unità - Politics for Unity Movement - (MPPU)

Via Piave, 15 - 00046 Grottaferrata (Rome) - Italy
info@mppu.org | politicalinnovation@mppu.org

2. A better politics, both gentle and strong

A better politics: not a perfect politics, dictated by ideological narratives, but the best every day, which is responsive, able to listen and study, competent, effective, interwoven with the contribution from women and men, young and old, healthy and sick, people of various faiths and cultures.

A better politics is a “gentle” politics, one that distances itself from hostile communication, does not use people for electoral calculations, and plans for the long term; it is a politics that activates processes, enhances, and recognizes the organizing capacity of communities; it knows how to take the side of victims but it does not abandon those who are guilty. A sign of this path’s authenticity will also be the achievement of gender equality in political representation.

At the same time it is a “strong” politics, capable of vigorous choices. Doing politics means deciding; yet the best solutions are rarely quick and one-sided. **Let's develop room to search** for those complex solutions that reality requires which can only come from pluralistic thought including different skills, generations and cultures. So let's choose dialogue, "the extremism of dialogue": every political dimension can make a contribution to the decision-making process: development and environment, technological and biological, local and global, native and foreign...

3. A different paradigm, universal fraternity

"After thousands of years of history marked by the consequences of violence and hatred, we have every right to ask that humanity may now begin to experience the fruits of love, and not only of love lived out among individuals, but also among peoples" (Chiara Lubich).

Without naivety, we have chosen universal fraternity as our compass because **it can change the rules of the game**. Its implementation becomes a criterion for regulation and assessment; it adds creativity and resilience, proximity and a strategic capacity to the policy-making process. Many of us have begun to experience this.

We choose fraternity in order to take care of others and the earth, leaving aside the politics of hegemony and dominance in order to take on the signs of concrete attention to need, with openness and equity. Let's choose the universality of fraternity to evaluate not only the effectiveness of the results but also the method in politics - in the local and the wider continental and global dimension.

We choose to act as a network starting from some achievable goals; for us today the priority is commitment to a vaccine for all. We are going to challenge established systems that seem invincible, but we believe that choices aimed at justice and sharing are possible. For this reason, we are relying on civil society once again; we are strengthening popular diplomacy, cooperation among cities and multilateralism. Every step forward will also be a step in the direction of a new international system that we have been awaiting, because the earth is our shared homeland.

To adhere to this call for action, a signature is not enough; we must decisively act together to take up a path for change. This path will open out into local workshops for reflection and groups of engagement, in order to determine those political choices that we consider most urgent and consistent, and to implement them in our territories with the appropriate tools. To love and heal the world.