

Document of the Politics for Unity Movement

1. Appeal: PEACE: THE ONLY POSSIBILITY

2. Four points for reflection: TOWARDS A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Given the alarming conflicts taking place throughout the world, the Political Movement for Unity, an international network of politicians, academics and active citizens from 22 countries on five continents, joins its voice to the thousands of voices everywhere, in affirming the right to peace, in the search for concerted and just solutions that are based on dialogue, and stating: never again war.

We call on governments and political leaders around the world and multilateral international organizations to condemn all acts of terrorism and to recognize the failure of violence as a form of conflict resolution. We urge citizens in every community to act everywhere to consolidate relationships, mechanisms and processes of coexistence among peoples, religions and cultures, based on respect for our diversity.

War is not a political tool. The only instruments we recognize as political tools are those that "care" for life through the recognition of human rights and people's rights, dialogue and diplomacy, for the construction of the present and future of our humanity.

1. Appeal: PEACE: THE ONLY POSSIBILITY

Through the eyes of mothers and fathers, a political way for peace: no more sons or daughters at war, no more war in the world

In the face of the current tragedy in the Holy Land, we, as politicians of the Mppu and as part of humanity, beg all the victims to forgive us, for doing so little in the search for peaceful political solutions for what lies at the root of the current conflicts.

The violence unleashed this month by the Hamas terrorist attack, the hostage-taking and the military counter-offensive by Israel have deep historical roots. The ferocity with which it began and is developing, through regional and international ties, and the disfigurement it inflicts on all of us as humanity, compel us to make **this heartfelt APPEAL and extend it to all conflicts today.**

As the Political Movement for Unity - an international network of politicians, officials, diplomats, students and researchers, activists in parties and civil society from 22 countries on 5 continents, committed to building a more fraternal, just and egalitarian world - **we choose to embrace only one stand: that of peace, reconciliation and active conflict transformation.** We bring our contribution on the basis of **an ongoing experience, where politics is at the service of the unity of the human family.**

The conflict in the Middle East has pushed and continues to push, entire civilian populations, families with children, the elderly, the disabled and the sick, into suffering, and - like all wars in the world - **tears up the very roots of human life, setting back any growth in coexistence.**

Wars are often waged by governments and organizations that have set aside the path of politics and democratic consensus and used violence and oppression as a means to assert and increase their own power.

And yet from all latitudes, we want to cry out with a single voice: Peace! to continue "taking care for life" even in the midst of violence, and call for the right to peace, to the search for concerted and just solutions through dialogue.

In this process, civil society is a protagonist; let us give it strength and means.

We are convinced that **the spiritual vision of life** -which transcends the bonds of religious affiliation- **and historical and cultural diversities** -and which political institutions cannot ignore- **can be a space of encounter and mutual recognition.** As people and peoples, we have equal dignity: **we want to, and can, live together**, and find solutions to our conflicts together.

That is why we make **AN APPEAL**:

- **To governments and political leaders around the world:** we appeal to your consciences, **to stop using force and war as a political tool**; hatred and elimination of the other is not politics, it is barbarism. From the perspective of mothers and fathers, politics has the role of caring for everyone and each child, of cherishing life. We ask you to exercise to the full international advocacy, and work together for the right to life and peace, **repudiating war and the instrumentalization of peoples and individuals**, as well as the use of violence and extortion.

- **To the international multilateral organizations:** we ask that they do their utmost to **achieve without equivocation a ceasefire**, to legally bind the implementation of measures to stop the war, **to open channels of mediation to enact peace negotiations at all places at war around the world**. We call for a focus on the victims to prevail, through humanitarian corridors to safeguard the civilian population, children, the elderly, women and the vulnerable. We call for **respect for international law** to foster peaceful coexistence among peoples and the common good of the international community.

- **To all citizens of every community:** let us take up our responsibility to build daily a shared **culture of encounter and coexistence, of welcome and mutual respect**. Let us give voice to children and youth, to women of peace, to their experiences and to a new narrative that can grow and give hope, defeat fear, defeat hatred.

We ask everyone not to accept any justification for violence, to recognize its failure as a form of conflict resolution and to open paths of transformation based on the care for human life, of all life.

We want to recognize as the tools of politics only those of dialogue, diplomacy, and recognition of human and peoples' rights for building the present and future of our humanity. The only political action that represents us is that which assumes the role of "mother" even when avenues seem closed: it takes up the word again, it begins to weave networks to achieve peaceful and fraternal coexistence, to which we all aspire to.

8 November 2023

2. Four points for reflection: TOWARDS A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

Getting to know the origins and causes of conflicts, the actors currently involved and the contexts, international conditions and interactions, perspectives... is an arduous but necessary task whenever a conflict tears through history. We can ask this of institutions, but an essential step is also required of us: to open ourselves to dialogue, to step back from partisan assessments, to disarm first and foremost our thinking, in order to explore new territories.

No war brings good: to build peace, each politician must set before him or her a new landscape for thought and action.

We propose **four pathways**.

1) In the name of our common humanity: the violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and in other wars on the planet -such as in Ukraine, shows levels of cruelty that require us to **go to the root**. Our gaze must recognize, before any other facts, **the broken lives of mothers and fathers, of children, of men and women, human beings like us, experiencing unjustifiable suffering**. Going beyond religious, national or political identities, which history has often reinforced, it is necessary to rethink politics through the very experience of motherhood, fatherhood, sonship and friendship, in which every human being is a participant. It is these essential bonds, it is these original social forms that call us to respect every human life. **Politics has as its essential task the care of society and the common home:** to put ourselves on the side of mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, will guide us beyond boundaries that seem insuperable today. We must enhance, for example, established pathways of peace between mothers, fathers, religious leaders of the Palestinian people and the Israeli people, who have suffered and acted together for so long. As with any people, there is a deep bond that binds the Palestinian people to their land; different and equally deep-rooted reasons apply to the people of Israel. Yet, **both peoples have shown that they are willing and able to shape real coexistence**. It is the duty of their governments to listen to them.

2) Women's voices and the culture of care: we do not want to resign ourselves to the current mechanisms of power that are run by men who deal in weapons of all kinds of destructive capabilities, where attack and defense have no measure. There are many episodes in human history when **different paths have been taken, where women capable of stepping out of traditional roles are often the protagonists**.

Why not focus on other tools, other languages and methodologies, on topics that have hitherto remained invisible in the public sphere, so as to open up and tread new paths? **We need more than ever the contribution of "the genius of women," of "equal alliances" between women and men acting together**, to address the root of exploding violence. We appeal to women with their culture of care and recognition, of speech and encounter, a culture that has spanned the centuries, to inject a new energy into the social body, new reasons for peace. **We need to listen to women's voices to generate peace**.

3) War cannot be a political tool: we recognize the failure of armed violence for conflict resolution. The times urgently demand it: **politics must repudiate war in order to elaborate and adopt new norms, new tools and processes capable of a non-violent conflict transformation**. It is time to leave behind primitive and failed forms of relationships between people, between peoples. The current military approach is leading to a serious imbalance that jeopardizes the sustainability of human life on the planet; **the high amount of resources invested in war means the loss of fundamental resources to be invested in the present and future of humanity**.

To refuse war seriously means **starting with a radical analysis of economic models** that - instead of acting to reduce the unacceptable inequalities that are at the root of so much violence between peoples - continue to multiply the production of weapons that fuel terrible conflicts. When the economy kills, **the interests behind the hypocrisy of arms must be unmasked, and there must be a complete reconversion of production and finance**.

4) Peace as a right - peace as a policy: in the name of the right to peace of all peoples, we do not hesitate to support the challenging processes of reconciliation, even incipient methods of coexistence, among peoples affected by armed conflicts. It is not enough to lay down arms: only a context of justice, development and sharing can support the path to peace among peoples, which cannot be built by ignoring neighboring peoples.

There is a need to sow a fraternal political culture that transcends national borders and promotes friendship among peoples, to arrive at "loving another's homeland as one's own," a prophetic program of international politics indicated by Chiara Lubich¹

We are committed to implementing **not only peace policies**, to stabilize situations in the wake of conflicts, **but peace as politics**: this means **looking at all policies**-social or economic, cultural as well as migration policies-**from the perspective of peace**. The goal cannot be limited to ending conflicts; it is in our hands **first and foremost to create conditions so that conflict does not arise**.

As the Political Movement for Unity we intend to put our utmost effort into creating, with those who share this goal, a cultural movement similar to that which led to the abolition of slavery in the past. **War is not inevitable**.

If war has marked our past and marks this very painful present, that does not mean it must be part of the future. "Utopias" have often indicated unexplored possibilities, guided processes of humanization, and opened new horizons that have become the common good for new generations, and for all humanity.

The ongoing conflicts in more than 170 regions, and its consequences, spanning from the Middle East, to South Sudan, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia... underscore the futility of war as a method for resolving disputes. We urgently call for an end to these conflicts.

8 November, 2023



Javier Baquero Maldonado

President



Reka Szemerkenyi

Copresident



Amelia Lopez

General Secretary

Followed by the signatures of: **THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER, SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL and NATIONAL CENTERS, LOCAL REFERENTS of the MPPU NETWORK WORLDWIDE**

Esther Wanjiru Kaburu

Kenya-intl.Mppu Center

Christopher Jiménez Estrada

Mexico-intl.Mppu Center

Rafaela Brito

Brazil-intl. Mppu Center

Giuseppe Dipietro

Italy-intl. Mppu Center

Spirito Oderda

Italy-intl. Mppu Center

Giovanni Pierro Malitao Jr.

Philippines-intl. Mppu Center

¹ Chiara Lubich, winner of the Unesco "Peace Education Prize" in 1996, used this expression in her speech *The spirit of fraternity in politics as the key to the unity of Europe and the world*, delivered in Innsbruck on November 9th, 2001, on the occasion of the conference *A Thousand Cities for Europe*.

Mario Bruno	Italy-intl. Mppu Center
Cristina Calvo	Argentina-intl. Mppu Center
Maria Bencivenni	Italy-intl. Mppu Center
Daniela Ropelato	Sophia University Institute-Mppu Scientific Committee Coordinator
Luis Eugenio Scarpino Jr,	Brazil - Mppu Scientific Committee
Prisca Maharavo	Madagascar - Mppu Scientific Committee
Annette Balaoing	Philippines/Holland- Mppu Scientific Committee
J. Miguel Aguado	Mppu Europe Center
Tezra Furaha	Mppu Africa Center
Guillermo Castillo	General Secretary - Mppu Latin America
Argia Valeria Albanese	Mppu Italy - President
Ivanna Sant' Ana Torres	Mppu Brazil - President
Irene Duffar	Mppu Argentina -President
Miguel de Jesùs Niño Sandoval	Mppu Colombia - President
Alberto Scaravelli	Mppu Uruguay -President
Manuel Enrique Duarte Mongelós	Mppu Paraguay
Cesar Guzman	Mppu Peru
Gabriel Pineda	Mppu Venezuela
Jeong-Woo Kil	Mppu South Korea- President
Dieudonné Upira	Mppu Democratic Republic of the Congo
Jean Marie Vianney Ndoricimpa	Mppu Burundi
Castor Mfugale	Mppu Tanzania
Michel Batt	Mppu France
Illes Brunhilde Hertwich	Mppu Germany
Juan Fernandez Robles	Mppu Spain - President
Mihály Berndt	Mppu Hungary - President
Michelle Grandjean Böhm	Mppu Switzerland
Michal Siewniak	Mppu United Kingdom
Catarina Bezerra	Political Innovation - Mppu intl. Center
Jorge Jimenez	Executive Secretariat - Mppu intl. Center
Francesco Mazzarella	Communications - Mppu intl. Center