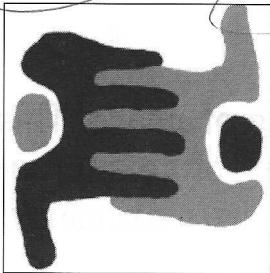


100 MILLION SIGNATURES



Peace is in our hands
(Logo Manifesto 2000)

The main points of the MANIFESTO 2000

- Respect all life
- Reject violence
- Share with others
- Listen to understand
- Preserve the planet
- Rediscover solidarity

“

The Year 2000 must be a new beginning, an opportunity to transform the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and non-violence. This demands everyone's participation, and must offer future generations values that will shape a world based on justice, solidarity, liberty, dignity, harmony and prosperity for all.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed the year 2000 as the "International Year for the Culture of Peace." UNESCO will coordinate connected activities throughout the world, including MANIFESTO 2000 for a culture of peace and non-violence, drafted by a group of Nobel Prize Peace Laureates and released on March 4. People everywhere are being urged to sign it; the aim is to gather 100 million signatures which will be presented to the UN General Assembly in September next year.

The manifesto reads:

"Because I am aware of my share of responsibility for the future of humanity, in particular to the children of today and tomorrow, I pledge in my daily life, in my family, my work, my community, my country and my region to:

Respect all life. Respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination or prejudice.

Reject violence. 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. **Share with others.** Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice, and political and economic oppression.

Listen to understand.

Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others.

Preserve the planet.

Promote consumer behaviour that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet.

Rediscover solidarity.

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."

Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity: give preference to dialogue, and listen without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others

Can preferably be signed on the internet at www.unesco.org/manifesto2000 or sent to: International Year for a Culture of Peace

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WOMEN BUILDING PEACE

Women can play a crucial role in the **construction of a culture of peace**. This traditional role played by African women is now becoming part of an international network. And men are participating as well, turning towards a new masculinity

Zan-zi-bar. The name resonates on the tongue like an awakening dream. It was in this city that UNESCO's programme of women for a culture of peace organised a meeting for 300 women from around Africa. The women, among them teachers, politicians, researchers, discussed their experiences in one of the most war-torn continents on the planet.

It was at the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, that participants decided to look closely at the special role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the world. To see whether women can crush the predominant logic of war and create a movement towards a culture of peace. The challenge is enormous, given the inexorable rise of armed conflicts (around a hundred, mostly civil wars, have erupted since 1990, mainly in developing countries). The African continent is especially hard hit, with 15 out of 43 countries currently at war (see inset).

The question is simple: can women change this situation through a "feminine

way" of understanding and managing conflict, of preventing and solving problems? Women, who carry, give and protect life are mortified by its loss. How can one make the most of the knowledge they have gained over centuries? How does one ensure that dialogue takes precedence over violent conflict and builds a culture of peace?

Demanding justice

Women the world over, in the North and South, have proven their capacity to organize, unite and find a common path. They can speak with one voice to oppose war, but they can also support each other, share their pain, circulate information, and influence decision makers (see article on women's networks). They have shown that no peace can last without their full and active participation. In Argentina, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have been demanding justice for their vanished children since 1977 - their campaign against the impunity accorded to the guilty is also a defence of the right to truth and justice, without which no pardon or true social peace is possible. During the Chechen war, Russian mothers of soldiers demanded that military authorities give them news of their loved ones who were kidnapped, victims of ill treatment or who were killed during their military service.

In the past, the struggle of women against conflict sometimes took "radical" forms, like in Greek dramatist Aristophane's play *Lysistrata*: the story recounts how five centuries before Christ, the women of Athens and Sparta decided to go on a "love strike" as long as their men went to war.

Sometimes, women's actions focus on the civilian victims of conflict. Just before the Gulf war began and immediately after the blockade imposed in August 1990 by the UN Security Council in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, 282 Arab women wanted to bring milk and flour by boat for Iraqi children. "Their boat was stormed by Western troops brought in by helicopter.

**Women give life,
and war takes it away**



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