



Open letter to the political forces running for the parliamentary elections on 25 September 2022

The associations promoting 'the Ministry of Peace Campaign - A Choice of Government' **ADDRESSES A HEARTFELT APPEAL** to the political forces that are running in the elections of 25 September 2022 to engage in the next government for the establishment of the Ministry of Peace, for a new vision and a new arrangement of the ministerial organization.

1. A NEW STRUCTURAL VISION OF PEACEKEEPING

On the eve of a new possible world war and in the continuation of a new War that bloodstains the European continent, today the proclamation contained in the United Nations Charter of 1945 to save future generations from the scourge of war resounds with even greater force. **Nowadays, paradoxically, the infrastructure for peace has become even more imperative; A large-scale national structural approach is needed for the maintenance and promotion of peace, together with a sustainable architecture and a new arrangement of the ministerial organization.**

Peace can in fact be adequately maintained, planned and sustained, only by defusing with specific infrastructures those factors that contribute to violence, to the opening of tensions and civil conflicts, whether they are aptitude or behavioral factors, or factors relating to wider socio-economic, cultural and political conditions. **A new juridical - political vision makes it no longer possible to postpone the desirable establishment of a new Ministry: the Ministry of Peace. From the examination of the constitutional rules, which still today have not been fully implemented, we outline the innovative role of a Ministry of Peace,** which not only we consider to be the best national structure for the implementation of the right to peace but also for areas of "ratio costitutionalis" never filled.

2. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AREAS TO BE FILLED

The repudiation of the war (ex art.11 Cost.) cannot simply assume an exhortative or programmatic value, but it has also a binding and preceptive value. The dictate of the Charter requires to overcome the concept of peace as mere absence of war (negative peace), **and to embrace a concept of positive peace, as a set of attitudes, institutions and structures capable of creating and supporting peaceful societies, coherent with the objective 16 of the 2030 Agenda "Peace, Justice and solid institutions".**

Article 52 of the Constitution establishes "for all citizens", without exceptions, the defense of the Homeland represents a duty placed above all others, which transcends the armed mode. **The universal civil service,** aimed at the unarmed and non-violent defense of the homeland, should be strengthened by providing stable resources. The experimentation of the **Civil Peace Corps** (Stability Law 2014), is an important step to enhance and coordinate the non-violent interventions that civil society has experienced in recent decades, but it is necessary to overcome various criticalities and above all it is also necessary to develop and invest more. **Other forms of fulfilment of the duty of defense of the Homeland must also be tested and implemented.** The Charter must be designed and implemented using new methods of building Peace, which can be used and tested by ALL citizens (regardless of gender, age or social status).

It is imperative to redefine in a new and even more complete way the concept of Defense as Protection and care for peaceful coexistence and as the promotion of Rights and constitutional values. Crises at various levels, national or international, are increasingly complex and more difficult to resolve, and they bring into play many factors that become potential threats to national social cohesion such as the scarcity of resources. **The intervention of civilians is essential to safeguard the peaceful coexistence or to rebuild it after the lacerations of a war, a pandemic, as well as the consequences of far and close wars.** It is obvious the need to specify the concrete organizational and financial procedural channels, through which the solidarity (art.2 Cost and second part of art.4 Cost) can be realized with an appropriate and new ministerial institution. The economic activity and its necessary compatibility with the social utility and human dignity are also disciplined by the art.41 Cost. The Charter states that the protection of the social utility and the dignity can only mark the frontier of private and public initiative and thus establish where it ceases to be legitimate. **The need of a specific public monitoring, which ensures that the production and the trade of goods is not only linked to the profit (see the war industry), is still full of empty spaces.** There is not yet an agency to evaluate and undertake the conversion of the industry for civilian purposes.

3. THE MINISTRY OF PEACE

There is a preceptive constitutional space that needs a declination and a care in the ministerial arrangement that as of today has no significant response. This pushes us to ask the parliamentary forces to explore an alternative approach. The Ministry of Defense and Interior come from the ashes of the II World War, thus replacing the Ministry of War. **A birth that, to give real fulfillment to the promise to eradicate definitively from history the scourge of the War, should have been given birth also to a Ministry of Peace.** The Ministry of Peace would shift the paradigm towards a new architecture of peace, supporting and establishing activities that promote a culture of peace in the country, with multi-year national structural strategic plans for maintaining and promoting peace. It would provide enlightened dialogue to uplift, articulate, investigate and facilitate non-violent strategic solutions to internal and international conflicts, and would also provide within the government a competence in the non-violent transformation of conflicts, through which all the unexplored spaces of the Charter could be implemented.

A Ministry of Peace could expand the work of national and international peacemakers by keeping alive the dream of change in the philosophy of those who effectively organize peace and social cohesion.

In our country there are several bodies (consults, committees, observers) which deal with activities related to the promotion of peace and the prevention of violence in different ways, but they are missing of 'an institutional control room' to create a new national system for the promotion of peace. The Ministry for Peace could identify national coordinated actions in collaboration with other ministries and other bodies set up in state administrations, so to give finally a name to a structural policy for peace: promotion of peace policies, reallocation of resources to the common good, disarmament, armaments industry monitoring and reconversion, non-armed and non-violent Civil Defense, prevention and reduction of social violence, qualification of education policies, social mediation, reconciliation and restorative justice, transformation and management of social conflicts. This new ministry would finally be the "institutional home" of the peacemakers of which our country is so proud.

We believe that it is no longer possible to postpone the establishment of the Ministry of Peace, even more so today that Peace, as a fundamental right of the person and of people recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in the Declaration of 19 December 2016, has finally freed itself from the noose that tied it to the war to enter the sphere of the guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Promoters'/Adherents' network

The Ministry of Peace Campaign - A Choice of Government

9th September 2022