

ANNEX IV

Letter sent to the President of the Italian Republic by the Promoters of the Ministry of Peace Campaign

Prof. Sergio Mattarella
President of Italian Republic

Palazzo del Quirinale

Rome- Italy

16 Marzo 2018 

Dear President,

We, Presidents of the organisations that promote the "Ministry of Peace, a Government choice" campaign are writing you to put to your personal attention the first extraordinary results of the Campaign "Ministry of Peace, a Government Choice". We, and the people we represent, daily live the positive tension to compete with material and spiritual progress of our country, as stated in art. 4 of our Constitution.

We respond to this constitutional duty in different ways: by directly sharing the life of people in difficulty, minors, young people, adults, families, Italians and foreigners; at the service of collectivity in actions of proximity to people, for the protection of everyone's fundamental rights; we are engaged in both formal and non-formal education, research, information and training, making dialogue the reference method for the promotion of fraternal relations between individuals and peoples.

We are committed to the construction of a country, a European Union and a world based on the value of the human person in respect and appreciation of differences, in a full relationship of subsidiarity with the institutions and within the framework established by the International Law of Human Rights, which has its roots in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We wish to get our voice to you, Mr. President, who are the 'keeper' of the Constitutional order and guarantor of national unity, you who are called to choose the most suitable person to form the new Government interpreting the political direction following the vote of the Italian people in the interest of the country.

Italy repudiates war; this constitutional dictate must assume the binding and preceptive value that is proper to it. The country can no longer continue living based on the "historical rent" of Our founding fathers. If the Italian people want to fully implement what they want, they can no longer limit themselves to defense or repressive threats to peace and social cohesion, whose undisputed role - though necessary, is insufficient.

We would like the institutions to adopt the vision prefigured by the Constitutional Charter, for which the constant and unbroken construction of positive peace is a pre-conditional burden, task, and function to any other political action.

The state needs institutions that can create peace and support the groups and organs of society who daily build it through a constant commitment to the promotion and the protection of fundamental freedoms and internationally recognized human rights.

It is no longer possible to "organise positive peace" - the state must be able to be recognized as one "institutional reference house" for all of those forces of civil society that already operate in the construction of peace paths and activities.

The country urgently needs to adopt nonviolence as a political style, as Pope Francis has hoped for in the message for the World Day of Peace on January 1, 2017.

This is why the bodies we represent ask for the institution in the next legislature of a Ministry of Peace, with expertise on the positive management of social conflicts, i.e. the Civil Defence Non Armed and Non-Violent, to qualify educational policies for the promotion of peace, to promote policies of disarmament and reconversion of war production, to give concrete form to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The young generations await and aspire to this new vision capable of catalysing hopes deeper where the "curae filius" and not the "homo homini lupus" scourge still spreads in society and in the world. We believe that the establishment of a Ministry of Peace responds to the spirit and the letter of the articles 10 and 11 of the Constitution, of the Preamble and of the articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, of the Preamble and the articles 1 and 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, as well as of the Declaration on the Right to Peace adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2016.

The establishment of a Ministry of Peace also responds to specific social justice needs. Only by building peace day after day, a positive social fabric is created, able to overcome disruptive forces, populisms and crises, to react to the violent impulses that arise from conflicts, social and economic problems and the tensions of the peripheries of marginalization and to assert the highest value of human dignity, of the equal dignity of all human beings. To say "human dignity" means to say that life and peace constitute an indissociable combination.

We must bear in mind that the Ministry of Peace is an innovative response to the need for human security and welfare. Furthermore, based on a recent survey that we would like to share with you, it emerges that 66% of the interviewed voters would be in favour of the institution of the Ministry of Peace.

That is why, Mr President, we would like to ask you, as part of your institutional powers, to consider and solicit this proposal in the meetings with the political forces in view of the formation of the new Government, so that peace can effectively become a Government Choice. In order to illustrate the contents of the survey and the campaign, we express our desire to be received in the forms and in the ways it deems appropriate.

With deep gratitude and esteem, we offer the most deferential greetings and best wishes for the precious and always more necessary function of safeguarding the founding values of our country.

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Azione Cattolica Italiana, Matteo Truffelli
Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario, Gianfranco Cattai
CESC Project, Michelangelo Chiurchiù
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