



LEADERS
FOR
PEACE

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

All over the planet, global civil society is faltering in the face of violent conflict, war, and other challenges to peaceful relations. **Over seven billion people are going through volatile, uncertain times; levels of interpersonal, social and international conflict are record high.**

According to the World Bank, over **two billion people currently live in areas in which human and economic development is hindered by armed conflicts, danger, and violence.**

We must act to strengthen the foundations of a peaceful society, based on sustainable development.

RONDINE CITTADELLA DELLA PACE

Rondine Cittadella della Pace is an organisation committed to the reduction of armed conflicts around the world and to the dissemination of a distinctive methodology for creative conflict transformation.

With over twenty years' experience in leadership training, attended by over two hundred alumni of the Studentato Internazionale - World House, youths coming from Countries in conflict, Rondine is now offering its tools and training to the wider international community.

Leaders for Peace: THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

Upon the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked Rondine Cittadella della Pace to represent Italy at the **United Nations** with its experience of “**a tangible example offering a fresh start on the vast topic of human rights, which today represent an urgent challenge for the entire planet**”.

Rondine rose to this challenge by launching a three-year global campaign, **Leaders for Peace**. The core element of this campaign is an Appeal, a text written by Rondine's students and alumni, in which Member States of the United Nations are asked to take a practical step towards training young leaders for peace,

equipped with the skills to positively transform conflict situations around the world.

The global Leaders for Peace campaign is Rondine Cittadella della Pace's **unique commitment to contribute directly, within a few years, to affirming a new culture of human rights, by training leaders for peace** and enabling citizens all over the world to transform conflicts positively, by integrating training in the Rondine Method with education on human rights.

THE APPEAL

We are young people coming from places of war and post-conflict situations, belonging to enemy populations and parties. We have created and experienced human and cultural coexistence in the twenty years of the life of Rondine Cittadella della Pace in Italy. Through its innovative approach to conflict transformation, which we call the Rondine Method, we have learned to live together as global brethren.

At Rondine Cittadella della Pace we have understood how the concept of enemy is a global fallacy that pervades the world's different cultures and insinuates itself into peoples' lives (emotional, sentimental, intellectual and cultural), depriving relationships of mutual trust. We have concretely understood how one can move away from the permanent logic of "the enemy" and prevent a resurgence of this logic in any context. The aim is to preserve the human component in this new global society and to stop poisoning the planet with war, which feeds on preconceived notions of enmity. Through this extraordinary experience, in which we have overturned conflict into a springboard for human development, we are able to unmask the fallacy that has rendered immovable more than a

billion people in their thinking and individual or collective behaviour.

Unmasking this global fallacy will thus enable us to make a quantum leap forward in the respect of human rights, which have yet to be fully exercised due to war and the logic of "the enemy" that produces it.

This is why we are here at your service! Having recaptured mutual trust among people, we ask states, nations, social, economic, cultural and religious entities, families and individuals to heed our Appeal. We need global leaders, leaders of peace trained with this new Method, capable of immediately influencing societies and our world to guide change and propel us into a new era of human history.

70 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a century after the end of World War I, we can choose to leave one hundred years of war behind us and look ahead to a thousand years of peace. The objective is the gradual extinction of wars from the planet through the affirmation of a culture of pacified relations. For this reason, we must urgently pass on to the leaders and citizens of the world the skills that can positively transform conflict and produce endless benefits.

THE CAMPAIGN'S OBJECTIVES

Leaders for Peace is the name of the three-year campaign we are launching today, and for which we ask the 193 UN Member States, and other nations, social, religious and economic entities, families and private individuals to:

1

Provide for the training of new global peace leaders who can intervene in the main contexts of armed conflict in the world to promote the development of pacified social, economic, and political relations. Rondine is committed to training the first 200 leaders over the next 10 years with its Global Intervention Project.

2

Extend to all the Member States education on human rights in their national education systems, integrating them with the results of the Rondine Method on the creative transformation of conflicts, as a significant development of Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3

Donate scholarships to train new global leaders. We ask Member States for a symbolic contribution, which can be earmarked in their defence budgets.





LEADERS
FOR PEACE

1. Introduction
2. The Role of Leaders
3. The Role of the UN
4. The Role of the Media
5. The Role of the Public
6. The Role of the Private Sector
7. The Role of the Academic Community
8. The Role of the Civil Society
9. The Role of the Youth
10. The Role of the Women

December
2018

PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGN AT THE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, the **Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations** proposed that the association brings to the UN Headquarters its twenty-years long experience in peace education for youngsters coming from countries at war, through the Rondine Method for the creative transformation of conflicts.

Rondine answered the call by launching its global campaign **“Leaders for Peace”**, declaring its engagement in educating new global peace leaders, able to lead the society toward the gradual extinction of conflicts and toward new relationships based on the respect of human rights.

The core of the event was the announcement of the **Appeal** for the global campaign, through which Rondine is going to ask the UN Member States to **detract a symbolic amount from their defence budget in order to invest it in scholarships for future peace leaders** and also to include the human rights education in their national school programs, integrating them with the Rondine Method.

December
2019

LEADERS FOR PEACE, ONE YEAR LATER: BACK AT THE UN WITH ITALY, ARMENIA, JORDAN, SIERRA LEONE AND THE EU

Rondine returns to the UN Headquarters, exactly one year after the official launch of its Leaders for Peace campaign, to revamp its peace message and introduce to all Member States the concrete output of the campaign itself: the **Global Leaders School** project. A high-level, highly specialized training opportunity for young professionals from all over the world, in line with the **UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 4 and specifically 4.7 for quality, fair and inclusive education covering knowledge and skills on human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence.**

The event took place on December 5th, 2019 at the UN Headquarters in New York. It was organized in partnership with the Permanent Missions and Delegations of Italy, Armenia, Jordan, Sierra Leone and the European Union to the United Nations, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Youth, and featured speakers from OHCHR, the UN Department for Political and Peace Building Affairs and the University of Manitoba, Canada.

May
2020

WORLD ROOM: LEADERS FOR PEACE GOES ONLINE DURING THE COVID19 PANDEMIC

Inevitably, the **Covid19 pandemic** and social distancing measures imposed all organizations working in grassroots diplomacy a rethinking in terms of how to act, how to approach their public activities in light of the new scenario and, on top of that, of the impossibility to host in-person events.

To not halt the campaign and its advocacy activities, Rondine launched **World Room: a series of online dialogues between students, Ambassadors, and representatives of international organizations.**

World Room has been a journey around the world in **five episodes**: the Americas, the Mediterranean basin, Europe, Africa, and the Caucasus. 15 among current students and alumni have had the opportunity to present the Leaders for Peace campaign and discuss its main topics with Ambassadors from nine countries, and representatives of two international institutions, the EESC and ECOWAS. Moreover, four international experts attended the meetings as moderators or

speakers. The series has been live-streamed on Rondine's social media and has been followed by an average of 1060 users per episode. The series hosted representatives of Mexico, Colombia, Jordan, Italy, France, Slovenia, Lithuania, EESC, ECOWAS, Armenia and Georgia.

The first Country to join the Leaders for Peace campaign

ITALY

On February 19th, 2019, at a private audience with a delegation of Rondine students, alumni and staff, **Giuseppe Conte**, Italy's Prime Minister, committed to redirect the cost of weaponry from the defence ministry towards a bursary to train young leaders for peace. **By signing the Appeal, Italy recognizes armed conflict as a planetary emergency and acknowledges the urgency of spreading conflict transformation skills among citizens and leaders.**

During the visit of the Prime Minister of Italy Giuseppe Conte, to Rondine Cittadella della Pace, on May 17th, he confirmed the pledge made on February, **declaring that he would move the cost of a weapon from the Defense budget to a scholarship created to form leaders for peace.**

“”

All men and women who have made the world great were once young people, like yourselves. In your eyes I see the passion and commitment needed to contribute to building a better world as leaders for peace.

Giuseppe Conte
Prime Minister of Italy



The second Country to join the campaign

COSTA RICA

The campaign Appeal has been signed on 23 July 2020 by the Ambassador of Costa Rica to Italy, H.E. Ronald Flores Vega, at the Embassy's premises in Rome, Italy. The Ambassador has signed the Appeal on behalf of his government in front of Rondine's president and founder, Franco Vaccari, and one among the many alumni of the organization, Yanine, connected from her home city in Colombia.

The government of the Republic of Costa Rica, by joining "Leaders for Peace", **actualizes its full support to the campaign and its values, focused on the training of young, bright peace leaders and the promotion of peacebuilding, and creative conflict transformation.** Costa Rica is among the very few countries without an army. All savings from the abolition of the army were devoted to other sectors and to education.

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie, wearing glasses, is seated at a desk and signing a document. The document has the Costa Rican coat of arms visible in the bottom right corner. The background is slightly blurred, showing a vase with flowers and a wall.

““”

On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica and of the Costa Rican Embassy to Italy, we thank Rondine, its experience, and the Leaders for Peace global campaign. We are extremely glad to mark, today, a concrete step for all countries, for all peoples living in the world. The campaign represents a concrete proposal, based on projects Rondine already developed all over the world. I think that other states should also endorse Leaders for Peace, that all states could sign this Appeal soon.

H.E. Ronald Flores Vega
Ambassador of Costa Rica to Italy

The first European institution to join the campaign

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EESC

The EESC President, Luca Jahier has signed the Appeal during an online event, **“Leaders for Peace: a concrete proposal in supporting youth leadership”**, on September 12th.

The event has represented an opportunity to know more about the EESC and similar institutions in promoting peace, their programmes on the topic and – as observed by **Sandro Calvani**, Mae Fah Luang Foundation – good practices and methodologies to teach what peace actually is. “So, are we teaching anything innovative? The ability to live a change in such a deep way to be then capable to transfer it to others – said Calvani – this is exactly the precious gem Rondine invented, and we hope this method could become the one of armies, Governments, Ministries. We are happy that today it is becoming the method of the EESC”.

““”

I am proud to be the first President of a European institution to sign the Appeal among other prestigious, committed international actors.

By fostering peace and the wellbeing of its citizens, the European Union represents a symbol of the values Rondine and this campaign promote. Rondine is the best developed peace project that I have observed so far, and we all hope it can continue its activities for a long time to come.

Luca Jahier

President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

ENDORSEMENTS



“”

You have asked us to endorse your Appeal. I will, and I ask Heads of State and Government to do the same. We need leaders with a new mindset

Pope Francis



“”

I send my encouragement to the youths of Rondine: may they be beacons of change. The world can be changed from the grassroots even against all odds

Sergio Mattarella

President of the Italian Republic



“”

I undersign Rondine's Appeal. To transform a conflict into an opportunity, an enemy into a person with whom to shake hands and build a peaceful future.

Giuseppe Conte

Prime Minister of Italy





“ ”

Rondine is not merely an example, but a Method which the UN should take into account: a future of peace can be built through dialogue and by overcoming differences.

Mariangela Zappia

*Representative of Italy to
the United Nations*



“ ”

Rondine's project is extraordinary. It reminds us of our task: we must work to build quality consensus, based on the people themselves.

Ben Majekodunmi

*Chief of the Section of Equality,
Development and Rule of Law,
OHCHR New York*



“ ”

Looking at every conflict in the world today, so many answers can be found in Rondine. These young people give us trust for the future

Marie Paule Roudil

*Director of the Unesco
liason office - New York*



The "Leaders For Peace" campaign is sponsored by



Conferenza
Episcopale
Italiana



Fondazione
Assistenza Internazionale

Association Rondine Cittadella della Pace

Tel: +39 0575 299666

E-mail: international@rondine.org

C.F: 92006970518

www.rondine.org

leadersforpeace.rondine.org