



## Living Peace 2017 Annual Report

Living Peace project is promoted and supported by *Associazione Azione per un Mondo Unito NGO - AMU*, *Teens4Unity* and *New Humanity NGO*, reaching its sixth year of life. At the end of 2017 this peace education project has expanded worldwide even more.

More than 1.000 schools have been reached and over 250.000 children and young people have been involved.

56 international organizations work in synergy with the project to create new peace initiatives. Living Peace acts as a container: it gathers these actions of peace, spreads them and presents them; however, the basis of the project are the two pillars from which it started: the practice of Time Out and the launch of the Dice of Peace, showing phrases inspired by the art of loving.

Project presentation video: <https://youtu.be/oN8mZsv4F3E>

During this year, various activities have been carried out at local and international level:

### - Courses

Carlos Palma, as coordinator, has conducted 63 introductory courses for the Living Peace project in

Portugal, Germany, Spain, Italy, Jordan, the Holy Land (Palestine and Israel) and Egypt, and through Skype in Uruguay, Sierra Leone, DR of Congo, the United States, Guatemala, Colombia and Paraguay.

### - Training course for animators at Castel Gandolfo, Rome

From 25th to 29th October 2017, the first international course was held aimed at animators of the Living Peace project and the Teens for Unity, but it was as well extended to educators and teachers involved in peace education. The course featured 100 participants from 30 countries of 4 different continents. Many others have followed the course thanks to streaming and have been present through messages.

The themes such as "The value of peace", "The pedagogy of the dice of peace", "The 6x1 – six steps to a goal", a methodology presented by the *Teens4Unity* to carry out peace projects in their territories, were greatly appreciate by the participants. They could treasure them for the relevance of the topics, for the language used and for the scientific competence of the speakers. Moments of dialogue, sharing of good practices, experiences in the various educational fields and group work contributed to the active participation of those present at the course.

The contribution of international organizations participating in the Living Peace project has been enriching: in fact during those days the collaboration with them has arisen new initiatives at local and international level.

The course ended with the awareness that the culture of peace arises from personal commitment in the environments in which we live and work, and that being part of a global network gives more courage and visibility.

### - "Big Dice" construction

Several "giant" peace dice were officially inaugurated in the town squares by schools and local authorities in Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Italy and Hungary. Many other dices will be inaugurated in 2018. In fact, in the

2018 program, Living Peace proposed the construction of the "Big Dice" as the "project of the year" to the entire network.

#### **- World Peace Forum**

The World Peace Forum, the final event of the Living Peace project for young people, which this year was held in Jordan, saw the participation of 100 young people from 30 countries that have witnessed their faith in the love of God and the belief that the united world is possible. Part of the program involved another 750 young people from various countries belonging to different schools, universities, religions and movements.

The Forum was designed together with the young people of *Non dalla Guerra* and *Caritas Jordan*.

All of them worked with and for Iraqi and Syrian refugees (home repairs, family visits, animation with the children, work in the production of mosaics and murals painting...).

In addition, several workshops were held and a "Charta of Peace" was drawn up at the end of the program. <http://www.thechartaofpeace.com/>. This document is a call to greater responsibility from governments to find solutions to conflicts and restore dignity to refugees by promoting peace education.

#### **- Living Peace and Teens4Unity**

The 6x1 methodology became the third pillar of the project together with the Dice of Peace and Time Out.

The World Peace Relay (Run4Unity) promoted by *Teens4Unity* is enriching itself with the contribution and presence of many schools that adhere to Living Peace, becoming for them the final event of the project. Youth associations and movements are also involved.

#### **- Living Peace and Youth for a United World**

Living Peace is collaborating in the preparation of the "Genfest" - international event of the Youth from the Focolare Movement which will take place in Manila, Philippines from 6 to 8 July 2018. It will be present with experiences, five workshops and the holding of the Youth Peace World Forum 2018.

#### **- Youth Peace Ambassadors**

More than 300 young people aged 6 to 21, belonging to groups or schools participating in Living Peace, have been named Youth Peace Ambassadors from the "Cercle Universel des Ambassadeurs de la Paix" (with headquarters in Geneva). This international nomination spurs even more the young people to be protagonists in living and working for peace.

<https://youtu.be/41gluUUF8fc>

#### **- Activities with partner organizations**

Through the rich synergy of various international organizations, the pedagogy that arises from the "art of loving" is spreading. (<https://youtu.be/6wICBG1o9Ws>)

The participation to many events organized by them has led to the creation of relationships of profound trust and mutual esteem. In fact, the organizations themselves became promoters of the Living Peace project presenting it to many schools and associations (eg Asorbaex, Scholas Ocurrentes, Elephants for Peace, etc.).

#### **- Living Peace at UNESCO**

Through the representatives of New Humanity at UNESCO, the Living Peace project was presented to Madame Ann-Belinda Preis, responsible for intercultural dialogue in the field of human and social sciences.

From this meeting, prospects for mutual collaboration were opened.

### **- Workshop with the Italian music band Gen Rosso**

During Gen Rosso's tour in Portugal, they presented Living Peace project to the schools' directors and teachers as a possible continuation of the experience lived during the workshops they held with the students.

From now on at the end of each show one of the members of Gen Rosso will present the Living Peace project as one of the ways to build a culture of peace.

### **- Local coordinators network**

In some countries, such as in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Central America, Jordan, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Congo, Benin, some members of Living Peace volunteered to act as coordinators at a national level. Their function is to help create more communion between schools and groups, collect experiences, videos, photos, and share them on the worldwide network.

The action of these coordinators has contributed to the realization of national events such as celebrations of peace, artistic exhibitions, marches, prayer vigils, etc.

### **- Media.**

A presentation brochure and video of the project were produced in five different languages summarizing the activities in different contexts.

Every year the project guidelines have been drawn up adding new proposals and updates on the activities and experiences of the year.

The Living Peace book is undergoing a final revision and will be published by Ciudad Nueva in Spain presenting its history, diffusion, contents and experiences.

Several interviews (via radio and television) and articles (local and international newspapers and magazines) helped to make the project known.

Teens magazine, various editions of Città Nuova, the official website, facebook page, youtube channel, whatsapp are all very powerful means of broadcasting the project.

*The Promoters*

*AMU, Teens4Unity, New Humanity*