



Mediterranean Manifesto for **Peace**



The result of a joint effort between young people
from Morocco, France, Lebanon, Spain and Syria

Mediterranean Relay for Peace in Hope and Fraternity – OIEC



OIEC

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DE LA EDUCACIÓN CATÓLICA
OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT CATHOLIQUE



Mediterranean Relay for Peace

in Hope
and Fraternity



FRANCE



SYRIA



SPAIN



LEBANON



MOROCCO

MEDITERRANEAN MANIFESTO FOR PEACE

The result of a joint effort between young people
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and Syria

as part of the Mediterranean Relay for Peace
in Hope and Fraternity – OIEC



We, the young people of the Mediterranean, come from five countries linked by the same sea, witness to our histories, our wounds and our hopes.

From its many shores — from Morocco to Syria, from Lebanon to France and Spain — we raise a single voice today: the voice of peace.

This manifesto is the result of a collective effort carried out within the framework of the Mediterranean Relay for Peace in Hope and Fraternity organised by the OIEC.

It expresses our convictions, our experiences and our desire for a more fraternal future.



Morocco

Mohamed, Reda, Ghita, Fara, Riham, Iness, Imane

We, the pupils of the Catholic Schools of Morocco (ECAM), commit ourselves in our daily lives to work for peace wherever we are:

- Respecting life in all its forms.
- By accepting others without discrimination based on race, religion, colour, culture or social class.
- By rejecting all forms of violence, whether psychological, verbal or physical, and prioritising dialogue and positive communication.
- By encouraging solidarity for a united and equitable society.
- By listening to others in order to understand them better and avoid misunderstandings, misinterpretations or injustices.
- By promoting and defending freedom of expression, as long as it respects the rights and freedoms of others.
- By protecting the planet through eco-responsible consumption that respects natural resources and the dignity of producers.



France

Mathieu, Ocean, Milena, Leo, Carla-Marie, Marie

We, students from Marseille, France, commit ourselves, as Christians, to follow the path and values of the Gospel:

- respecting the planet by trying to live more modestly.
- by serving others, promoting greater social justice and caring for the most vulnerable.
- learning to love our neighbour through forgiveness.
- to pray in communion with other religions.
- to be artisans of peace, unity and reconciliation.
- always seeking the good for humanity.



Lebanon

Joline, Michel, Kelly, Peter, Tamie, William

We are the youth of Lebanon, heirs to a history where bell towers and minarets stand side by side, witnesses to a shared past.

Between scars and hopes, we have learned that peace is not simply the absence of war, but is built through dialogue, listening and acceptance of others.

For us, peace means daring to speak out despite differences, choosing respect over rejection, embracing diversity instead of fearing it.

It means recognising the value of each culture and building together a future where our differences become a source of richness rather than a pretext for division.

"Lebanon is more than a country, it is a message." — St John Paul II

These words resonate within us as a mission and a promise: that of a possible coexistence, beyond borders and religions.

To the young people of the world, we say:

***Peace begins with a gesture, a word,
an effort to understand the other person.***

Let us dare to take this first step.

Let us dare to believe that a peaceful future is possible.



Spain

Jorge, María, Irene, Adriana

We, the young people of Spain, wish to convey a message of friendship, empathy and hope.

We believe in the power of respect, in the dignity of every human being, and in the power of education to build a more just world.

In this collective call for peace, we commit to:

- listen without judging.
- Foster empathy rather than hatred.
- educate for understanding and respect.
- Defending justice and human dignity.

Our hope is simple but powerful:

- may the skies be free of fear,
- that the streets be filled with laughter,
- and that every child may grow up surrounded by peace.

Wherever we are, we want to say:

Peace for everyone. Peace for all.



Syria

Today, despite the challenges, Syria retains its magnificent Mediterranean coastline around Latakia and Tartus, with its green mountains and breathtaking valleys.

These azure waters should bring us together, despite our differences, and be a place of life, not a route to migration or death.

We experienced the worst of the war: we lost loved ones, sometimes our schools, destroyed and then rebuilt.

We went through the coronavirus, then the earthquake.

And yet, hope remains.

We write with hope in our hearts and a deep desire for peace.

As citizens of a shared planet, we believe in the power of understanding, cooperation and mutual respect.

Our world has seen enough conflict and suffering.

It is time to build bridges, not walls.

Let us unite to defend justice, human dignity and the right of every child, woman and man to live in safety and harmony.

Peace is not merely the absence of war: it is the presence of goodness, dialogue and unity.

We extend our hand in friendship and invite the world to join us in shaping a future where love will be stronger than hate.



Our shared promise

We, young people from Morocco, France, Lebanon, Spain and Syria, speak together with a message of unity and hope.

We come from different shores, but it is the same sea that bathes our lands, the same light that illuminates our faces, the same dream that inhabits us: a world at peace.

We believe that peace is not a distant ideal, but a path that everyone can take, step by step.

It begins in the heart before it is built in nations.

Peace is daring to listen before judging.

It means learning to see others not as a threat, but as a brother or sister.

It means choosing kindness in a world where fear speaks too loudly.

It means resisting indifference and believing that a word, an action, a prayer can change the course of events.

We promise to become the architects of this peace, in our schools, our families, our neighbourhoods.

We want to build bridges where others erect walls.

We want to protect the Earth, our common home, because there can be no peace without respect for life and nature.

We want to defend the dignity of every person, because every injustice is a wound to peace.

We promise to bring to life Mediterranean brotherhood, which unites peoples beyond languages, beliefs and borders.

Our generation rejects hatred and chooses to come together.

She believes that friendship between peoples is possible, and that young people can be its driving force.

We look up towards the sea, symbol of a shared horizon, and we make this promise:

to always believe in the power of love,

to sow peace even in the storm,

to stand together in the face of fear,

to never stop hoping.

For peace cannot wait until tomorrow: it begins today.



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