



European Festival in Greece



We are the children of the much troubled Balkan region. We have gathered at the first UNESCO Children's CULTURE OF PEACE Festival in Chios, Greece, aware of the serious environmental and social problems our world faces. Moreover, we carry with us terrible nightmares and horrible experiences of war and occupation. We recognize we can only solve these problems together. We feel it is high time we unite our efforts to fight pollution, disease and social injustice rather than each other. This APPEAL depicts our feelings and wishes on these issues and shows how we think our problems can be solved. Please read it carefully, take it seriously and work together to shape for us a better future.

Peace

"Peace is patience and constant care. Peace is readiness to give and share". War is like a beast which devours love and understanding to produce hatred and misery. Our experience and historical knowledge proved that war never solved problems, it always aggravated them.

So please note :

- Do not fight. Negotiate, peacefully. Strive for social justice, democracy and education for all.
- Spend money on education, medicine and food rather than weapons.
- Objective, impartial peace-keeping forces are much needed to assist our world in its transition from a culture of war to a Culture of Peace.

We need :

- A peace oriented education to teach us the benefit of peace and not present murderous war as a series of heroic acts. History books in particular should be rewritten to reflect this.
- The mass media to relay the truth and not propaganda, not to glorify war but to explain the miseries caused by war.

Please remember :
"To demand peace, we must deserve peace. Let's make sure we do !!!"

Human rights and tolerance

- We believe that human rights are essential for peace. They form the demarcation zone where our own personal liberties stop to allow those of our fellow human beings to exist.
- We are aware that tolerance is to respect other peoples' opinions, ideas, religions, philosophies and customs without denying our own.

So please :

- Work to truly promote the universal application of human rights.



- Form permanent international bodies and give them the authority to watch and protect human rights of civilians in war zones.
- Protect in particular: the right to live, to have access to food, water, shelter and clothing.

So please give us :

- More and better schools, as well as sensitive and caring teachers with broad minds to open our horizons and not to pass on to us their prejudices.
- Do not allow racism and discrimination of any form to creep into our schools.
- Tolerance should be practised rather than preached.
- So make sure that our society, our legal system and the mass media treat all people equally regardless of race, religion, sex, culture, nationality, age or any other social and physical characteristic.

Intercultural exchanges

Culture is an essential element of human societies.

We feel that intercultural exchanges are very important for getting to know each other, develop mutual respect and preserve the cultural heritage of humanity.

We would like :

- To learn about other cultures through our education.

- To organize more UNESCO children's festivals.
- They can be true workshops of peace.

Environment

-Environmental issues are very important. We know that all environmental problems are international problems.

- They affect dramatically our world, our quality of life, our health.
- Moreover, we have come to realize that if humanity cannot live at peace with nature, it will not be able to live at peace with itself either.

- We recognize that air pollution, the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, the pollution of the seas and our water resources, deforestation, erosion and desertification, the use of pesticides and fertilisers, the biodiversity decline, the waste disposal, etc. are problems which threaten the very survival of life on our planet.

We ask you to :

- Make recycling compulsory.
- Use the Mass Media and T.V. personalities to send effective environmental messages.
- Apply the principle "He who pollutes must pay".
- Finally introduce environmental education in all schools all over the world.

To those who say "I am not the one who will save the world", we have a message :

"Join us and all together we can save the world for all future generations, to co-exist peacefully in a healthy environment".

We all share the same fate and to the problems of our world relate.

In leaving this festival of peace, we shall work to keep war forever on a leash.

Chios, Greece, May 1995

