

## CH CONFERENCE CALL – 2<sup>ND</sup> May 2020

# United World Week “#InTimeForPeace web event”

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND TIME OUT FOR PEACE

#### Music and slide:

- Special CH Conference Call "In time for peace" – 2nd May 2020
- United World Week a global marathon – PEACE - JUSTICE – FRATERNITY
- Solidarity in the front line - EQUADOR – BRAZILE – PHILIPPINES – INDIA
- The culture of unity - music and testimonies
- Human rights and justice for all - USA – D.R. CONGO – SYRIA – ITALY
- Stories from all over the world which call on us to build peace for everyone, now, together.

Paolo Italy: Welcome to this special link up that opens in a special way the United World Week 2020. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening everyone! I'm Paolo, I'm a journalist and I work for Italian television. Many of you know that this UWW should have started in Korea, and instead, as you see, it is starting from a kitchen, in a flat in Rome.

Today we will experience a real marathon, a race around the world, partly because we will be together a bit longer but also because we want to see how, in a world that is living dramatic times, the commitment to fraternity has not stopped at all.

I talked about a race and I don't want to waste time, so let's go to Korea. Hello Liz!!!!

Liz, South Korea (in English): A big hello from Korea. I'm Liz. We Koreans couldn't miss United World Week. Covid has changed our lives here too, but it hasn't diminished our people's strength or determination. So a special greeting to everyone, and over to Lydia!

Lydia, New Zealand (in English): Hello! (A greeting in Maori) from New Zealand. It's just past midnight here and so we are the first to inaugurate the United World Week 2020. To you Ezequiel!

Ezequiel, USA (in English): Hi all from Texas! I am 15 years old and I study in high school, but now, with the Coronavirus emergency, we are having school at home. Hola, Anita Martinez!

Anita, Argentina (in Spanish): Hola a todos! I'm Anita and I'm speaking to you from Cordoba, Argentina. I am a journalist and today we will tell you what we are living here in Latin America. I now hand over to another Argentinian, who is in Italy, Facundo!

Facundo, Loppiano (in Spanish): Hello everyone from Loppiano, near Florence. I'm Facundo. In this little town we are living a strong experience of being one family, which really opens us up to the world! Over to you, Conleth!

Conleth, Northern Ireland (in English): Hi everyone, I'm Conleth from Northern Ireland, I'm a lawyer who wants to specialize in conflict resolution and that's why I'm here in Rome volunteering for the United World Project for this year! Bonjour Arnaud!

Arnaud, Burundi (in French): Hello everyone! Greetings from my beautiful country, Burundi. Here, too, in the African continent there are beautiful stories of many people who are living for a more united world. We will tell you about them soon, but not before saying hello to Laxman!!!!

Laxman, Nepal (in English): Hello everyone! I'm Laxman from Nepal. I'm a flight attendant, but I've stopped at the minute because we are not flying. I'm also a choreographer and I'm speaking to all of you from Qatar. It's so great to be here with all of you today! Welcome to Pascale!

Pascale, Lebanon (in French): Hello, everyone! Greetings from Beirut! Lebanon does not want to miss this appointment with the united world. See you soon and in the meantime I'll say hi to Gloria!

Gloria, Hong Kong (in English): Hello everybody, I'm Gloria from Hong Kong, China. We are many people working for a better world. Hi, Aline, the floor is yours!

Aline, Brazil (in Portuguese): Hello everyone, I'm Aline. Greetings from San Paolo! I'm a TV director; I'm married and the mother of two children. I'm so happy to be with you today in this marathon!

## **TIME-OUT**

Aline (in Portuguese): The title of the United World Week is "In time for Peace". Is it possible to live for peace even in these conditions, with the Coronavirus? We want to find out today with the help of everyone!

Paolo: Fantastic. Meanwhile it's just past noon, the time when, all over the world, for almost thirty years now, many people stop any activity for a moment to pray for peace or even just to reflect. We want to start today with Time Out, so let's do it together and then we'll start!

(In English)

(Effects)

Gen 3 girl: We can't get used to this! We can't be indifferent! We should do something! We have to stop!

Various voices: Stop! Stop! Stop!

Gen 3 girl: At 12 noon all together we do the Time-Out. We take a minute of silence or prayer to ask for peace and refocus the personal commitment to build it wherever we are.

Gen 3 boy: We are the Gen 3 of Houston and we're taking a time out every day at 12 o'clock and we've been doing "Time for peace" with a couple of other people from different States and different countries.

Gen 3 girl: Now let's do it. (Silence) This is crucial! Now it's your turn to do the time out every day to cry out the urgency of Peace.

## **"Mosaico" – "Uno del Otro" by Gen Rosso**

(A song from Spain in Spanish)

Conleth Burns, United World Project (in English): Thank you to Mosaico, a group born after a Gen Rosso tour in 2017. The piece they sang is called "Uno del Otro" - 'For one another'.

## **250 Film Makers**

Conleth: 250 film makers came together to share one global pandemic story. Let's have a listen:

(Music)

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that a whole town in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound. (...)

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

## 2. CHIARA LUBICH ON PEACE

(Music)

Chiara Lubich: [...] The presence and loving care of a Father of all calls each person to be a daughter or a son, loving the Father in return and living out day by day the Father's loving plan for each person's life, that is, to carry out his will. And we know that a father's first desire is for the children to treat each other as brothers and sisters, to care for and to love one another. They

should know and practice what can be defined as the art of loving. This art calls on us to love each person as ourselves, because, as Gandhi said, "You and I are one. I cannot hurt you without hurting myself".

This art calls on us to take the initiative in loving without waiting for the other person to love us. It means knowing how to "make ourselves one" with others, that is to take on their burdens, their thoughts, their sufferings and their joys. If this love for the others is lived by many people, it becomes mutual.

Certainly, today, whoever attempts to shift the mountains of hatred and violence faces a huge and heavy task. But what is impossible for millions of isolated and divided people becomes possible to those who have made reciprocal love, mutual understanding and unity the motivating force of their lives.

Nothing good, useful, or fruitful can be accomplished in the world without accepting hardship and suffering – in a word, without the cross. Being committed to bringing peace is not something to be taken lightly! We need courage; we need to know how to suffer. Certainly, if more people were to accept suffering out of love, the suffering that love requires of us, it could become the most powerful weapon for giving humanity its highest dignity: that of feeling that we are not so much a set of peoples alongside one another and often in conflict with one another, but that we are one single people.

This communitarian spirituality is not necessarily linked to one Church: it is universal and can therefore be lived by many. Through this spirituality, men and women throughout the world, are slowly but surely sowing seeds of a new civilisation, a new and peaceful world, which is more welcoming especially towards those who are most in need.

May God, the Father of all, make these efforts of ours fruitful, along with the efforts of all those who are working towards the lofty goal of peace. As John Paul II said to the United Nations on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding: "In the next century and the next millennium we can build a civilization worthy of the human person, a true culture of freedom and peace.

He continued, "We can and we must do this! In doing so, we shall see that the tears of this century have prepared the ground for a new springtime of the human spirit".<sup>1</sup> (Applause and music)

Conleth Burns, United World Project (in English): What is impossible if we are isolated becomes possible if we make reciprocal love and unity the driving force of our lives. A powerful and prophetic message from Chiara Lubich. The world is physically isolated today because it needs to be. Yet as we travel the world here together, you can see, we can see, even in this time the impossible has become possible. The solidarity, the love, the fight for justice, the search for peace.

All possible, all needed.

### **3. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE CORONAVIRUS**

**From Ecuador** (In Spanish)

Anita Martinez, United World Project - Argentina (in Spanish): Latin America is a continent of great contrasts, and one of the countries most affected by the pandemic is Ecuador, where there is also a distinct experience of inequality in society and challenges to peace ... We're now going over to them to hear what they are experiencing there.

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<sup>1</sup> From Chiara Lubich's talk at UNESCO headquarters, Paris, 17<sup>th</sup> December 1996, on the occasion of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.

We have with us the Apostolic Nuncio to Ecuador, Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa Coso and Clara Carrillo. How are you?

Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa: Good morning. Fine thanks.

Clara Carrillo: Fine, thank you.

Anita: [...] First of all, we want to ask you, Archbishop, about the situation of the pandemic in your country at the moment and what the Church is doing to help your people?

Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa Coso, Apostolic Nuncio in Ecuador: As a country, we are in a state of shock, like all countries in the world. No one was prepared for this. [...]

It has been a terrible tragedy because we were overwhelmed by the pandemic. Little by little, the number of deaths is still increasing, but following the same patterns as in other countries, the trend is slowing down. In this situation, the Church has tried to help people on various levels. At the level of worship, there are only a few parishes that have not been able to connect virtually with their parishioners, because people want to see their parish priest.

There is also spiritual and even psychological accompaniment for many people who are suffering. And then in the form of solidarity, Caritas has worked on various fronts but above all, in order to reach the most vulnerable, it is trying to work together with other groups, both governmental and private, to create cooperation. Of course, not everything can be achieved, but considerable work is being done.

In this sense, especially in the area of Guayaquil, several priests have fallen ill, including a few bishops. [...] For my part, at a certain point, responding to an appeal from the faithful, and thinking of the blessing that the Pope had sent, I took the initiative to give the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament, on Holy Thursday, on behalf of the Pope. These were very strong experiences of faith. [...].

Anita: Thank you very much Archbishop Carrascosa... We are with you at this special time and ask God to give you strength.

Mons. Andrés Carrascosa: Thank you.

Anita: Clara, on the other hand, this disease has affected you personally very much... Could you tell us a little bit about what you've been going through?

Clara Carrillo, Guayaquil – Ecuador: Hi, I'm Clara. I live about 15 kilometers from Guayaquil. Because of this disease I lost 3 relatives: my father and my mother's two uncles.

My father was ill for 4 days. On the morning of Monday, March 30th, I talked to him on the phone for a couple of minutes. I tried, in a few seconds, to communicate the faith to him. I told him my brothers and I were praying for him. I remember very well the last words I said to him: "May God bless you and accompany you". That same night they called me to say that he had had a heart attack and it had not been possible to resuscitate him. We couldn't even give him a traditional burial.

Later, on April 5th and 9th, my mother's two uncles died. Apparently both because of the coronavirus. What can I say in this situation? You are never prepared to face this kind of trial... but in the midst of it all it seemed that through prayer all those times of pain and separation were a call from Jesus. I experienced that I wasn't alone, that many people were supporting and taking care of me and my family. [...]

Now I can assure you I feel a great peace, even if at times I am emotional... but as the days went by I was able to understand that God's timing is perfect. Despite the circumstances, I experience a new relationship with Jesus and better communication with my family and friends, even with the ones who are hundreds of kilometers away, but have always been with us with messages or words of support.

Some people tell me, for example, that I am brave, that I am strong, because I am managing to overcome these painful times quite well. But my answer is that it is not me, that what

helps me a lot is to go beyond the pain, knowing that little by little it will change, because there are people going through much more difficult situations than mine. Concrete acts like sending a text message to those who are sick, comforting those who are feeling anguished, listening to those who simply need to be listened to.

The experience of grief has also helped me be empathetic and say sincerely that I can share the grief of someone who has lost a family member, a loved one. Because I feel just the same, literally. And I immediately assure them of my prayers.

Anita Martinez: Thank you very much, Clara... they're not empty words. We're with you. I think your testimony is surely a gift for us and gives us a renewed perspective to help us live through this time... Thank you both.

Archbishop Andrés and Clara: Thank you.

### **Interview with Cristina Calvo (in Spanish)**

Anita Martinez: Now, with this strong experience in our hearts, let's go to Buenos Aires to meet Dr. Cristina Calvo, an Argentinean economist and director of the International Program *Democracy, Society and New Economy* at the University of Buenos Aires, to give us her vision of what is happening in the world and in Latin America.

Anita Martinez: Hi Cristina, how are you? Nice to see you.

Cristina Calvo: Hi Ani.

Anita Martinez: The Coronavirus brings out many situations of social injustice. How can we combat this inequality?

Cristina Calvo: As you say, the Coronavirus certainly reveals that, very often, the values of justice, solidarity and equity remain as abstract terms and don't exactly shape public policy. I'll give you just two examples: one is that poor people in vulnerable neighbourhoods don't have clean water to wash their hands. Secondly, refugees and undocumented migrants have no access to emergency aid. This dramatically illustrates pre-existing inequalities. Nonetheless, we still need to discuss how to combat inequality, because we're in the middle of the emergency. But we certainly need more goods in common, more investment in health care systems, greater respect for nature, the restoration of ecosystems and many more relationships of affection and nearness.

Now crises help us become aware, but that's not enough, because later on awareness must be accompanied by memory, action, thought and creativity. This is important so as to be able to take more and better care of one another.

Anita Martinez: What do you think we can do so that the economy is guided by justice and not by markets?

Cristina Calvo: No doubt, the Coronavirus is also showing that the system we are immersed in is not a viable system for people's lives. Just think that in recent years, both in the North and in the South, there have been huge cuts in public spending on health, assistance to the poor, and pensions. And today, paradoxically, these are the biggest costs that governments are having to bear to cope with the emergency situation.

We have understood that the social dynamic is made up of many things - of politics, the economy, affection, culture... Becoming aware is important, but it's not enough, because when we talk about structural issues, history shows that structural issues are transformed when the balance of power changes. Will this happen? We don't know... but Gramsci, I've always liked him, distinguished between pessimism of the intellect and optimism of the will, and I choose the latter.

The post Coronavirus period will be important if we go out no longer on our own, no longer controlled or depressed, but, on the contrary, more convinced that transformation is possible and that there is a different system that we can build.

Anita Martinez: Thank you so much, Cristina. I'll go with this "optimism of the will", I think it can be a summons for all of us who are listening to you on the other side and we can all live it together.

Cristina Calvo: Thanks, Ani.

### **Portugal – “Superheroes” (in Portuguese)**

Francisco, Gen 4 - Portugal: Hi! I'm Francisco. I'd like to tell you about what the Gen 4 are doing.

We will prepare biscuits and cakes to deliver, with the help of an adult, to our heroes!

Fire-fighters, policemen, doctors, teachers, shops...

Please tell your friends and ask them to make videos and photos to send us. Can I count on you?

Bye!

### **Project Lia (in English)**

Conleth Burns, United World Project: They say if you want peace work for justice. Project Lia proves that. It is a prime example of how we can concretely be in time for peace. (...)

Journalist: With new tools Joyce David explores a new job. It's an opportunity for a new path for the 38 year old who is just weeks out of a six year sentence behind bars.

Joyce Davis: Just because I have a past doesn't hinder my ability to be a success as an individual

Journalist: Joy is one of the three new employees at Project Lia, a non-profit job training program specifically for formerly incarcerated women. In this space in the Circle City industrial complex, the women working here are repurposing discarded material into one of a kind home and office furnishings. But there is a lot more to the hands-on work they are doing.

Joyce Davis: And then utilizing the materials that other people have discarded or don't see the beauty in it, it's kind of like the same thing with us; you know, people don't always see the beauty in us. So we are able to refurbish materials and refurbish ourselves kind of at the same time. [...]

Elisabeth Wallin: A lot of times these women are dealing with trauma and in a more survival mind-set, and that prevents you from dreaming big.

Journalist: Elisabeth Wallin is the founder and executive director of Project Lia. It's her effort to reduce the recidivism rate in Indianapolis. [...]

Journalist: Nearly 60 per cent of women report not having full time work in the month prior to arrest. In addition to providing employment Project Lia offers skills training to help overcome obstacles to re-entry.

Elisabeth: It's very entrepreneurial in ways involved in all aspects of the business from marketing, selling, producing, ideation of new products and prototyping which in ways is a good practice for their lives and what they're dealing with when they go back home. [...]

Conleth: We're joined now by Elizabeth Wallin, founder and director of Project Lia.

Elizabeth: Hi. Thank you for having me.

Conleth: What I'd love to know Elizabeth, what prompted you to start this and what have you learned?

Elisabeth: I got started after sort of realizing my passion towards creating more opportunities of economic justice and social solidarity for women here in the US that are largely disregarded from our communities especially as they return back from incarceration and try to settle back in.

So a lot of my passion drew out of that, kind of fight for justice as you speak to, and also in the value of the United World and how do we do that in action. (...)

One of the biggest things that I've learned and try to continue to learn is that it's a long journey, an incredible journey. So it's work through a process as opposed to very goal oriented or task based work where you can kind of see the end of it. So sometimes it's hard to stay focused in that present moment but it's really what matters

Conleth: I listened to the story of one of the women who's been part of a project Lia and I think her story could be the same story of many others who are part of Project Lia.

Let's have a look at that story and after we'll talk some more.

Elisabeth: Great.

Kathy Merchant, Employee, Project Lia: I was homeless. I didn't have a job. I had some personal tragedy type things that kind of took a toll on my ability to see beyond the darkness in it all. Overall it's just been a series of bad decisions on my part in the past and it kind of just led to my being incarcerated. During that time is when I got this position with Project Lia.

The obvious way that it helps me is because this gives me employment. I mean, I work, and I get a wage so I have some money coming in. They have helped me with transportation to get to and from work and also to other obligations that I have because of my legal situations.

To have people that I don't even know put some energy towards me being a better person and, you know, something different than what I was prior to that, it's a huge deal to me. I mean I feel very grateful, I'm very humbled.

Conleth: That was amazing. I think one of the great lessons at least for me listening here to you sharing your story is that if we want to have this system change we need to roll up our sleeves and get involved in this justice building work. And I know that many many people who are listening here today, who are watching today, are going to be inspired by Project Lia and all of the work. And for that Elizabeth we say a massive thank you and good luck for all of the future work. For those of you who want to know more about Project Lia go to the website: [www.projectlia.org](http://www.projectlia.org).

Elizabeth: Thank you.

#### **4. EDUCATION FOR PEACE**

##### **DanceLab Armonia**

Paolo Balduzzi, United World Project: So, working for peace doesn't only mean working with what is good but also with what is beautiful, with beauty. And that's why we are connected right now with Montecatini Terme which is a town near Florence, in central Italy for those who don't know it, and with me there is Antonella Lombardo, Elisa Catolfi, Maria Chiara Giaccai, Vera Zerellari and Alessandra Spinetti. Hello everyone.

Voices: Hi!

Paolo Balduzzi: Antonella, I will start with you because you were a dancer and also a choreographer and now you direct an art centre: DanceLab Armonia. Can you tell us how all this began?

Antonella Lombardo: Yes. I wanted young people who were starting to dance to experience dance in its highest sense, in its purest reality. At that time I had the good fortune to meet Chiara Lubich who gave me a name for this project, and the name was Harmony. She said that Harmony is also a huge programme; in fact it means very profound unity. Out of this project, a few years later in 2006, the Harmony Among Peoples project began, which wants to bear witness that art has a superior language where everyone can meet and we have often experienced that it truly is a tool for unity among peoples.

Paolo Balduzzi: Antonella, on this path that you have followed, in starting up Harmony Among Peoples, an important part has been played by Elisa, Elisa Catolfi that at some point you met on your path. Elisa, tell us something about all this.

Elisa Catolfi: In 2006, this project really began, and it has various fronts. In Italy, the International Harmony Among Peoples Festival was founded, an international campus for high specialization in dance for young aspiring professional dancers from all parts of the world and from conflict zones. In the Middle East, instead, we began an arts campus for children from refugee camps and the Palestinian territories. In addition, there is a lot of work going on in schools of different kinds and levels, which then links into the Harmony for Peace March.

Paolo Balduzzi: It's wonderful work and here we are also lucky enough to have some girls, who, like you and Lisa, have been or still are pupils at the school. One of these is Vera. Hi Vera.

Vera Zerellari: Hi, good morning.

Paolo Balduzzi: Can you tell us briefly how your life has changed since meeting harmony among peoples.

Vera Zerellari: Yes, my life changed a lot after having many experiences with the association and our life has changed in daily life, in everything we do. And we also face difficulties in a different way. So I can say that for us young people this art experience is really very important.

Paolo Balduzzi: Because then it also affects your choices for the future. This, for example, can be explained by Maria Chiara. You made a particular choice for your life and your studies too. You've just graduated a few days ago, thanks to your experience with Harmony DanceLab. Can you tell us more?

Maria Chiara: Yes. Thanks to this project I chose what I wanted to study and the university I wanted to go to. In fact, I graduated last week in International Studies in Political Science and so I hope that, thanks to my dance training but also thanks to my studies, I will continue to work on concrete peace projects.

Caption [www.onelad.net](http://www.onelad.net)

Paolo Balduzzi: Fantastic. We have been talking a lot but it's also nice to show something. Because I know that you have prepared something for united world week. Alessandra, over to you.

Alessandra Spinetti: Through the choreography we're going to see now, we want to witness that art can create a very profound unity.

Paolo Balduzzi: Ok then, let's watch the young people at DanceLab together with everyone else around the world. ...

**Video clip dance on the theme of "Now" by Gen Rosso**  
(Choreography by Gabriel Ledda and Laxman Kami)

## Living Peace - AMU

Paolo Balduzzi, United World Project: Here we are, Anna Moznich is linked up with us today. Hi Anna, welcome!

Anna Moznich, AMU - Action for a united world: Hello everyone!

Paolo: So, Anna, you are a community teacher and you work at AMU, Action for a United World which is an NGO a non-governmental organisation promoting development for individuals and peoples but in the spirit of sharing, fellowship and solidarity. Is that right...?

Anna: Yes.

Paolo: So, Anna, you work for AMU in the education department, which includes education for peace. Back in 2011 the Living Peace project began in Egypt. What is it?

Anna: Living Peace International is a Peace Education project that began in Cairo in a primary school, during the Arab revolution. It was a difficult time of conflict and a teacher - Carlos Palma - offered his pupils some simple tools to try to counteract the conflict and promote peace among them and with other people. The project is based on two fundamental pillars: Time Out and the practice of the Dice of Peace. So it's a project that helps young people practice values to do with peace, spreading them through concrete, every day actions and so contributing to building the culture of peace.

Paolo: Anna, you mentioned the "dice of peace", which we know because we've talked about it in other link ups. Can you explain how it is used in the Living Peace International project?

Anna: Yes, the dice is an ordinary game dice only that instead of numbers there are phrases about values to do with peace. In the schools that use it, the dice is generally rolled every morning, and everyone is committed to living the phrase. This brings about visible change in the lives of young people, the students, but also of the teachers and the families too. The dice has spread all over the world and has been adapted to different cultures and religions.

Paolo: Listen Anna, among the many initiatives that have developed in the context of Living Peace International, are there any that were particularly special for you and that you would like to tell us about?

Anna: Yes. I'm thinking of the experience in Nepal, where the young people in the Living Peace network committed themselves to helping people who are very vulnerable, for example collecting food to be distributed to families in need or teaching children and teenagers the correct techniques for washing hands. They and all of us continue spread this fraternity antivirus, as we like to call it.

Paolo: So, to sum up, you're not short of work!

Anna: No, not at all.

Paolo: Okay. Then I'll let you go to work. Thank you for being here with us and for starting United World Week with us.

Anna: Thanks, thank you all. Bye everyone!

Paolo: Bye!

## Interview with Emilia Heo (in English)

Liz: So we are joined now by Emilia Heo, Professor of International Relations and Peace Studies at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. Hi Emilia, thanks for joining us.

Emilia: Hi Liz. Greetings from Japan.

Liz: So Emilia, we've just heard the stories from DanceLab and Living Peace. You are an expert in reconciliation and peace studies. How can grassroots peace-making efforts have influence on reconciliation between enemy states?

Emilia: That's a very difficult question. You know rebuilding a broken relationship is not easy, especially when it comes to state to state level. We usually expect governments to take action, but these days we do have a lot of examples of a bottom up approach that demonstrates the power of civil society like the two experiences that we have seen before.

[...]

At my current institution in Japan where I teach international relations, we have students for more than 30 different nationalities sitting in one classroom and it's usually French next to German, or Chinese next to Japanese, Sinhalese next to Tamil. They're in an enemy state relationship. It looks like a beauty of diversity but putting them together in one place, does not automatically lead to it when we talk about a painful past. Peace Education therefore I think is very crucial. Many of them aim at becoming diplomats, politicians or Liz like you working at international organizations. I consider it's very important that our younger generation steps into these roles with a commitment to work for the entire world and they're not just only for one country.

Working for peace sounds very beautiful but it's very difficult, when you want to be for it, because you face a lot of division, hatred and misunderstanding. But I think if we stay connected and live our commitment together by throwing the die for peace just like what we have seen in the previous video. I think it will have a huge impact into a larger scale and maybe up to the government level.

Liz: You argue that the COVID-19 pandemic proves the danger of 'Me First' policy approach to international relations. Why? What can we do to change this?

Emilia Heo: 'Me first policy' is commonly seen in international society. It is the responsibility of the government to protect their citizens first. What I found dangerous is what we mean by need? Where do we put the barrier between me and you. Between us and others. That line can stop at family members, friends, country, continent, the whole humanity. We are free to choose where we want to draw the line depending on our belief and conviction. But depending on where we drew that line the future of our world will completely change. And I think unless we consider the whole humanity as one family, mistrust and hatred and ignorance, all of these towards others will only deepen and probably build in an even more, a worse disaster.

Well the first step to make a change, for me, I would suggest is simply to learn the difference. What do I have that they don't have? And why? Do I deserve to have more? Why does their country act differently from mine under the same situation? We should remember that no one holds the power to choose the place to be born. I could have been an Italian, a Chinese or an American. Well we know this so giving hands to create a stronger sense of belonging that goes beyond the national border will not happen over one night. I think it requires courage to open up ourselves, trust in others even though we might get hurt again, or a genuine belief in love. But above all I think it requires a strong desire for peace with them, and not against them.

Liz: So thank you Emilia very much, I think like me personally I have to start doing my part, and thank you for this inspiration and efforts and enthusiasm. Thank you very much!

Emilia: Thank you!

## 5. HUMAN RIGHTS

### Federico Aleotti – a project in East Africa

Arnaud Favina (in French): And now we go to East Africa. Federico Aleotti is a young Italian engineer who has been working for about a year across Rwanda, Uganda and Congo on energy projects for small villages. Let's hear his story.

Federico Aleotti, energy engineer, Rome, Italy: Hi, I'm Federico, I'm 25 years old and I'm an energy engineer. My home is near Rome. A year and a half ago I graduated and I decided to travel to East Africa with some students and teachers from the University of Rome.

During this journey we crossed Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya and visited many renewable solar and hydroelectric energy plants. We studied how these technologies can be integrated in developing countries to achieve the most sustainable development, from a technical and social point of view. I also got to know some companies and in particular a start-up of young entrepreneurs from all over the world in the field of energy access like rural electrification in areas far from big cities.

What do we mean by access to energy? In villages far from big cities where the national electricity grid often does not exist, people often equip themselves with small photovoltaic panels to power bulbs or recharge their mobile phones. The wealthier ones can sometimes afford to buy diesel generators which are extremely expensive and even polluting.

We promote the use of the most innovative renewable technologies in the three fundamental aspects of sustainability: environmental, social and economic.

Environmental sustainability because we are replacing obsolete and impacting technologies like diesel, with renewables, such as solar and hydroelectric power. Social sustainability because access to energy has a huge impact on the communities involved in these projects. Just think of the being able to pump and purify water, or lighting the streets and houses at night, so that people can work, read and study in the evening. Optimizing all the agricultural and production processes of the area. Above all, the most important aspect is job creation. Both directly, because we employ staff in the villages where we work, and indirectly by stimulating micro entrepreneurship.

In this field, something quite significant was that we have hired electricians in the villages where we work. They are highly qualified but have to go to the big cities to find work. Thanks to our projects, they now have a steady job that allows them to develop professionally in their home villages, and gives them the opportunity to develop their own community without having to look for alternatives elsewhere.

Our customers have a very low spending capacity. Their average income is often less than a dollar a day and this calls for extremely innovative and creative business models. We rely on the productive use of energy, which means that our ultimate goal is not to turn on a light bulb or recharge a mobile phone in these places, but bring the full potential of energy, everything that can be done with energy and see how to enhance the value chains within the context in which we operate. We are talking about agriculture, the grain mill or ice for fishermen to preserve their fish or, for example, milk preservation and pasteurization. We do all this through micro-credit programs trying to make it possible for local business owners to buy machinery for their work. Secondly, setting up small industrial plants to process raw materials and making sure that the added value remains within the community and does not go to the big cities for example. Finally, training them to manage their own businesses.

I've been in Africa for a year and a half now and I realize that I've grown a lot both from a professional-technical and human-relational point of view. On the one hand in the office we are now a big team of people from all over the world, so there's a huge multicultural exchange; on the other hand I've had the chance to travel to a lot in different countries, to meet different and complex communities.

Probably the most important thing about the work we do in these contexts is not so much bringing technology, energy, or turning on the light bulb, but all the potential that comes with it, in terms of community development, individual development and mutual growth. This relationship with local communities is probably what gives most value to the meaning of the work we do.

Slide: [www.equatorial-power.com](http://www.equatorial-power.com) – Telegram channel: "Muzungu is my name"

### **Gen Fuoco – Democratic Republic of Congo (in French)**

(Song)

### **Interview with Prisque (in French)**

Pascale Mounsef, United World Project, Lebanon: Hi everyone! I am delighted to welcome Prisque to be with us today! He is a lawyer and a human rights activist in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and is the President of the Justice and Peace Commission at St. Clément Parish in Kinshasa.

Hi Prisque! Can you tell us why you chose law? And how did you take advantage within your profession of your activism in human rights so as to help your community?

Prisque Dipinda Davovua, lawyer and human rights activist: Thank you Pascale for your question. My choice of law is explained by the fact that I wanted to fulfil a dream. Since I was a child, I have always dreamed of being someone who defends the rights of the oppressed (...). That's why I went to law school and became a lawyer.

My human rights activism is justified by the fact that many people in my community are victims of human rights abuses. In particular, arbitrary arrests, confiscation of their property, their belongings, detention in inhumane conditions and payment of fines that do not exist. (...)

So because I know the law and as I am a Gen, I felt obliged to help them. So, since 2017, we started organizing human rights training, civic education training and free legal advice and assistance.

Pascale: "Are there people who oppose your initiatives? And how do you manage to overcome them and move forward?"

Prisque: "The police see us as their enemy, all the more so when we contribute to the emancipation of citizens by making them aware of their rights.

So, courage and the rejection of fear are effective ways of dealing with this opposition.

That is why, whenever we are faced with opposition, we use the legal means that are recognized and, above all, the fact that we are lawyers, to get round that opposition.

And it is with this courage and determination that we managed to obtain the release of a boy who was innocent but who was unjustly arrested and detained simply because his family had no money and had no chance of finding a lawyer.

In the same way, we also settled a land dispute with a widow who had divided her land in two and sold it to two different people. The second buyer, being in bad faith, also wanted to take the part allocated to the first buyer. In front of the judge, we helped this widow. We gave each buyer the right portion of the land and the widow was able to get her money back.

It is through these initiatives that we now have a platform for reflection and sharing experiences on human rights and - and certainly with the intercession of Chiara in Heaven - we

work together for the emancipation of the human person and respect for their most fundamental rights.

Thank you very much. I wish you all a happy United World Week".

Pascale: "Thank you very much Prisque! It's really great to know how much you are doing for human rights and campaigning for justice! Thank you so much!"

Prisque: Bye!

### **Interview with Melchior (in English)**

Conleth Burns, United Word Project: We go from Congo to South Sudan, where we are joined now by Dr Melchior Nsavyimana, who is currently working for the UN Humanitarian Air Service. Thank you Melchior for taking the time to join us.

Melchior: Thank you

Conleth: Melchior, in South Sudan, six years of civil war have claimed the lives of four hundred thousand people. Six million people are on the brink of famine. And now they face the COVID-19 pandemic. How is the situation there today?

Melchior Nsavyimana, UN Humanitarian Air Service, Juba, South Sudan: Thank you for the question. The situation in South Sudan is very, very difficult in terms of humanitarian need. It also is a new country, independent, also a new country needs more support in terms of the infrastructure and health. So this pandemic it came to a situation which was already dramatic. But now we are talking about lockdown which means there's no way even for a humanitarian community to continue to continue to help people in need because of the challenges connected to the coronavirus.

Conleth: This responding to challenges type of leadership is something that you also explore as part of the *Together for a new Africa* program, of which you're a pioneer. It promotes a collective style of leadership in response to challenges just like this. What do you think there is in that program that can help not only South Sudan and Africa at this moment but also the whole world respond to these massive challenges?

Melchior: We are discussing what our role is in the corona pandemic outbreak. So I think that what other young people and initiatives can learn from us is to be protagonists during and to be also protagonists after the outbreak. To be ready to contribute to what the world will ask, in terms of economy, political leadership, social leadership etc. I think that now is the point really where we need to come and show this is leadership for unity we are fighting for and we can just witness now, right now, during this outbreak, but that also it will be our leadership which will build the future of the world.

Conleth: Thank you Melchior. Not only for the work you're doing there in South Sudan, this very important humanitarian work, but also this leadership work you're doing across all of Africa.

If you want to learn more about that together for a new Africa program visit the website [togetherforanewafrika.org](http://togetherforanewafrika.org).

### **Gen Verde: "Solo la luce – Only light"**

Laxman Khadaksingh Kami, United Word Project (in English): Now, over to Gen Verde for the world premiere of their new video "Solo la luce - Only Light". The song is inspired by the words of Martin Luther King and his family have given permission to Gen Verde to use these words, calling it a 'noble project'.

Video clip Gen Verde: "Solo la luce – Only light"

## 6. STOP TO WEAPONS AND TO THE EMBARGO ON SYRIA

### Disarmed Economy

Liz (Seong Young) Lee – United World Project: “Economia disarmata” or Unarmed Economy has realized that many weapons were being produced by their country and some were being used in armed conflict. They wanted to stop it. Let's listen to what they're doing to change this.

Cinzia Guaita, the RWM Reconversion Committee (Iglesias-Sardinia): Three years ago we realized that a local factory in Sardinia, RWM, was producing aircraft bombs that were sold to Saudi Arabia and used for the war in Yemen.

We said to ourselves: “So war starts here, because war starts where the weapons are made. Therefore peace can also start from our town.”

Following a RUN FOR UNITY event that concluded with a public meeting, we created a committee, made up of more than 20 groups that were already working for peace at local, national and international level. They came together to talk about this and with great mutual trust we worked to encourage reflection and action in local and national politics. We have organized events and study conferences. Now we are working on a project for the reconversion of the local economy towards peace.

Davide Penna - Professor of History and Philosophy, Disarmed Economy Network (Genoa):

In Genoa we thought this must be the time for Peace. Last May we heard that a ship owned by the Saudi company Bahri was passing through our port, just a short distance from our homes, carrying weapons and loading other military equipment. Together with some 30 local associations we decided to mobilize to support the port workers who were refusing to load weapons and to inform citizens and involve local politicians so they could take their responsibility seriously and enforce law 185, passed in 1990, which expressly prohibits the production, sale and export of weapons to countries engaged in conflict.

This led to two important decisions. First the Liguria regional council approved the so-called Assisi motion in May. Second, the Genoa City Council did the same thing a few weeks later in June, to reiterate that our city doesn't want weapons and does want peace.

MariaChiara Cefaloni - Speech therapist, Disarmed Economy Network (Rome):

An Economy without Armaments began in the Focolare Movement to promote peace starting from economic reconversion and disarmament. We network in Italy with other groups such as the Disarmament and Peace Network, Pax Christi, The Ethical Bank and Amnesty International. We organise training events so as to act concretely in our cities as we did in Sardinia, Genoa and many others.

In November, thousands of us will meet at the "The Economy of Francesco" event to commit ourselves to re-establishing the principles of economics, an economics that is peaceful.

Contact us on social media and let's network. Let's look around where we live and ask ourselves "How can I build peace starting from me, starting here, today?"

Together we can be the change that responds to injustice, a change "in time for peace".

### Australian Choir

Lydia Palaiologou, New Zealand: I think singing helps us overcome any fear we might be feeling about the **Coronavirus**. This is why the Pub Choir was created in Brisbane, Australia. It has over one thousand people and in this video you are about to see, they sing Close to You, by The Carpenters.

Video clip Pub Choir – Couch Choir

## **Appeal for Syria**

Paolo Balduzzi, United World Project: There is a country in all our hearts, a country rich in art, history and culture with truly extraordinary beauty. A country, however, that has been destroyed by a war that has lasted almost ten years and has brought this country to the brink of a truly unprecedented catastrophe.

I am talking about Syria. Syria, which, by the way, is facing the coronavirus emergency, being crushed by a very heavy embargo, almost total, which makes the living conditions of men, women, children, practically dramatic, we might say cruel.

That is also why the international association New Humanity is has launched an appeal to the United Nations to overcome this embargo and to make medicines and all other forms of medical care accessible.

So far the appeal has reached and collected 8,000 signatures, but you can see for yourselves that this is not enough. This is not enough, more must be done, this appeal must be made known, it must be shared, it must be pursued in every possible way to bring it to all spheres of society.

Father Georges also asks us this, and from Aleppo he takes us straight to the heart of the Syrian people...

Fr Georges Sabea, SM – Marist Father, Aleppo – Syria (in Arabic): We're a people who haven't made it yet! I'll tell you about Aleppo in particular: after 9 years of war, on February 16, 2020, the last district of Aleppo had just been liberated and the people began to draw breath, to dream of a better economy, a more human life, without fear of war... no more bombs would fall! Instead, less than two weeks later, a bomb fell very near us. We were forced to stay at home... there was no respite, we found ourselves in a very big crisis.

How can the price of any kind of food rise overnight?! So we can no longer buy it?

I would like to ask the world: can a reality like the one we are experiencing be tolerated?

Is it possible that all this happens just because there is a political decision that denies me the right to live with dignity?

I would like to ask you, please, please defend us, speak up, say that there are people in the world today who have been denied so much, because there are politicians who have power, who have decided to deny them their rights. Thank you!

Paolo Balduzzi: You have heard Father Georges' powerful words. They are a call to action; they really push us to do something for this people.

Now let's hear Jessica tell us how the young people are living there in Aleppo and then we'll also hear from Taoufiq a paediatrician, also from Aleppo who tells us what they are experiencing these very days.

Jessica Mouwwad, Baniyas – Syria (in Arabic): The young people here said why don't we get together, share our fears, look after one another and pray part of the rosary together every day? Little by little I saw that when I share my fear with others, it diminishes.

We remembered the 30 families we helped at Christmas by sending them food. We thought: how are they coping now that everything is closed, there's no work and they all have small children ... So we offered them the little help we could to try to give them some support.

Taoufic Achji, paediatrician, Aleppo – Syria (in Arabic): Since almost 80% of the population in Aleppo lives below the poverty line, people depend a lot on the public hospitals that unfortunately aren't able to serve the large number of people who need health services.

As well as this, there are only 10 ventilators in the main hospital. That's why I think we have a problem with our health system.

I thank God that the coronavirus hasn't spread much in our country yet! But if it does, we will have a serious problem. That's why we need a lot of help; we need the embargo to be removed!

### **Interview with Prof. Romano Prodi**

Paolo Balduzzi, United World Project: We are connected to Bologna where Professor Romano Prodi is listening to us from his home. Good morning professor, thank you for being here with us today!

Romano Prodi, former President of the European Commission, Bologna, Italy: Good morning to you. All the best for everything you do.

Paolo Balduzzi: Thanks, thanks. Look we have seen these three testimonies from Syria and I would like to start right here. I would like to ask you an impression of what we have just seen.

Romano Prodi: What can I say? Three testimonies all of the one single disaster. Truly... it's been ten years now that Syrians have suffered at the hands of one side or the other. What have things come to? That is what I ask myself. So, signing something against the embargo on medical supplies has to be a first step, because it's a widespread tragedy. I'm signing because at least we can relieve a little of today's suffering. In this sense, the appeal is just a kind of last resort, because it affects the medical supplies in a country that has been at war for ten years and no longer has health facilities that work.

Paolo Balduzzi: Is it possible to believe in fraternity even at such a difficult time?

Romano Prodi: Let's be sincere. If we analyse it politically, we are dreamers. However, we must start out from even the tiniest things in order to create bonds. This terrible pandemic has generated some bonds of solidarity, indeed quite a few. Some have been instrumental, some less so, but it is not that we can act on the basis of an exceptional situation to rebuild bonds that have been broken. I believe that we must go back to the fact that there should be no excessive prohibitions at all, or very limited ones. Meanwhile in the international context, a structure should be reorganized to help some Asian areas and especially Africa, to re-establish relationships there where bonds have been ever more broken.

Paolo Balduzzi: I ask you one last thing: what would you like to say to all those who are listening right now?

Romano Prodi: Especially to the young people: we must dream. Dreaming is helpful, but working together is needed for that dream to become any kind of reality. So what I see and ask is to communicate, communicate with one another, and teamwork, joint studies. Initiatives like this that can act as leaven. This is what needs to be done. Woe to those who are alone in this circumstance!

Paolo Balduzzi: Okay thank you, thank you Professor for being with us today and thank you for this significant contribution. Thank you very much.

Romano Prodi: Thanks to you. Let's hope we can come out of our houses soon!

Paolo Balduzzi: We really hope so! Bye. Thank you.

**“I’m signing because” (in English)**

Siba Sulaeman, from Iraq (Australia): Hi, my name is Doctor Siba Sulaeman; I’m an emergency physician from Melbourne, Australia. I sign this petition because I believe in human rights. I came from Iraq and I saw what suffering and embargo on Iraq for many years and Syria is now suffering this too.

Nali Lopes: I’m Nali, I’m from Angola, I’m a pharmacist currently working in the UK and I’m signing this petition because I think we need to do all we can so that no country is left out on this global battle against COVID-19.

**“Cover the world with love”, - song and dance from India**

Slide: Mumbai, India

"Cover the world with love" by Jerry Estes  
Shania – Risa – Diya – Faith

Laxman Khadaksingh Kami – (in English): Take out your phones and open your computers. Go ahead, follow the link below and sign this petition. Let's do our part to be #TimeForPeace today.

**7. SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF THE CORONAVIRUS**

Laxman Khadaksingh Kami – (in English): Thank you Shania, Risa, Diya and Faith. Let’s stay in India and then move ahead to our friends in Pakistan and then a little further ahead to our friends in the Philippines, where individuals and communities are showing those most in need, we’re here for you, we’re in solidarity with you, we’re close to you. Let’s watch.

**Rahul Mishra) (in English)**

Speaker (male voice): On 22nd March, India announced a 15-day lockdown as a preventive measure against the coronavirus outbreak. This left many migrant workers stranded with no source of income, struggling to pay the rent or even buy their daily food. In Bandra, at the heart of Mumbai, one of India's Major Metropolitan cities, thousands were affected.

Rahul Mishra, Y4UW India: When the lockdown was being announced, I had bought some food stuff for the family in excess so that we don't need to worry for the whole month. But then I realized, looking at the situation, where in my surroundings there were a lot of people who are not getting a meal to eat properly. So I decided why not to give some of my food by cooking a meal for more than 28 migrants per day. So I practiced this for a week, then I had no source any more left. So what I did is I tried connecting with some local bodies here and people to come and start distributing food.

Reporter (female voice): The big story that we are tracking for you this evening. Those are images that are getting to you from the Bandra station

Speaker: The lockdown was then extended for another 20 days. Right after the second lockdown was announced, over 1000 migrants gathered in protest outside Bandra hoping to go home. The police were forced to intervene in the situation.

Rahul Mishra, Y4UW India: The cops had taken some serious action against these people and they stopped distribution of all food from outside people. So I had no source.

Right after the protest there were a lot of news based on the community and the religion that the Muslims and the Hindus were creating a big havoc and that's why they were trying to blame each other, but what I realized within me, when I decided to cook food, is that I have people of various religions with me: Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Catholic with me; who were ready to help me and cook food for more than 100 migrants every day twice a day.

Speaker: The community of Muslims, Hindus and Christians now feeds more than 100 migrants twice a day.

Rahul Mishra, Y4UW India: I said why not practice what I have learnt in the Focolare and that's where I thought of this situation and started that I could also help by doing my bit and also going beyond my own borders to help these people out.

### **Noreen and Aslam Parvez - Islamabad, Pakistan (in Urdu)**

Aslam Parvez: During the lockdown we realized that some of our relatives were very worried because they didn't have enough to live on.

Noreen Parvez: We decided together to give them some of our money so that they could at least buy what they needed.

Aslam: Then I also heard about a friend who was unemployed. We phoned him and sent him financial help too.

Noreen: We also talked with our children at home about how we could help people in need, in these difficult times. They said we could use the money they had received as a gift at Easter, to give it to the poor. As the days went by we realized that we no longer had enough money to pay the children's school fees at the end of the month, but that didn't stop us, because we felt that God was with us.

Aslam: Some days later the government announced that all the schools would reduce their monthly tuition fees by 20%. This made us very happy and we realised we must not be afraid, but must continue to help because then God helps us.

### **“Noche Buena” Project - Philippines (English and Tagalog)**

Paula Hipol, Pasig City - Philippines: Hi! We are the Noche Buena Project that started in 2009.

Once again it heeds the call of the times to help those affected by the community quarantine by bringing food and water to our daily wage earners and bringing personal protective equipment and other medical supplies for health care workers.

Angelica Garcia, Quezon City - Philippines: We decided to use the Noche Buena Project platform in order to reach more people so that we can provide not just meals to our front liners but also the personal protective equipment that they needed to be able to do their jobs to be able to treat people with the virus.

Pinky Flores Mestica, Pasig City, Philippines: I remember before, immediately after hearing news like that, a calamity in the Philippines or somewhere else in the world, right away we wanted to act, we wanted to help.

Katherine Anne Bulan, Tagaytay City - Philippines: In 2009 a typhoon hit the Philippines but Metro Manila was hit the hardest. There were hundreds of deaths in that community and almost all of the homes were destroyed. We couldn't go there as the typhoon was still ongoing but as soon as we heard this we knew that we had to do something.

The typhoon happened in October and a few months after it was Christmas and there were still a lot of families. We want to bring back this spirit of joy in giving and basically the spirit of this

Christmas back to the families who lost all hope. For the past 11 years we've helped over 10,000 families giving a simple Noche Buena for them to celebrate with their families during Christmas.

Alfredo Bautista, Quezon City, Philippines: They volunteered to visit and help our place. That time I also helped in whatever I can, carrying relief goods, distributing the goods to the typhoon victims, cleaning up the area, which was what we were doing.

They let me be part of the feeding program, because I was very thin and small then. I was excited to see them, because we would play ball games after being fed. I was always with them.

Kathleen Anne Bulan, Tagaytay City - Philippines: We decided to continuously help them not only with the material packages but also having a relationship with them laughing with them, playing with the kids and sharing stories.

Alfredo Bautista: The first time I volunteered to work in the feeding program, I joined them, I saw the children. And I thought, five years earlier I was in their place, I was being helped. Now I am the one helping. It feels so good.

Angelica Garcia, Quezon City - Philippines: We get messages from the donors saying thank you for giving us this opportunity to be able to help and it's really touching and encouraging to keep doing what we do at the Noche Buena project which is to provide hope and joy. So maybe the Philippines now has the longest Christmas celebration since we started this early.

### **Interview with Esther Salamanca (in Spanish)**

Facundo Ezequiel Quinn, United World Project: We are joined by Dr Maria Esther Salamanca, Professor of International Public Law at the University of Valladolid, Spain.

Hello Esther. Thank you for joining us.

Esther: Hello!

Facundo: Esther, we have just seen local solidarity in action both in Mumbai and in the Noche Buena project. Covid-19 is a global challenge that requires global solidarity. How can we effectively build this international solidarity?

Maria Esther Salamanca, Professor of International Public Law at the University of Valladolid, Spain: Thank you Facundo. Well, I'd say that we must be aware of belonging to humanity and be responsible for its problems, and in this sense your work is fundamental. We know that international solidarity is an expression of human fellowship; it's a social principle and a moral virtue. But it's also a legal-political operating principle. This means that it must be put into practice at all levels and not just reactively after crises or emergencies have already arisen. But also in a preventative and above all structural way. We need structural international solidarity.

Facundo: Can this be an opportunity to rethink the mechanisms we use globally?

Esther: Of course. There are more than 300 international organisations and other forms of cooperation; what happens is that when faced with major emergencies or crises there isn't a coordinated and satisfactory response from the international community. What is wrong with that?

Well, there is a lack of solidarity. What is lacking is solidarity and the spirit of unity. All these international structures of solidarity are dead, they need to be renewed, they need to be made efficient and effective and above all they need to be given meaning; the structures are not an ends in themselves, they should serve the people and seek the common good, and in this process States and international civil society are very important. In practice, international solidarity must be linked to subsidiarity. In this way we can avoid the mistakes of globalisation.

Facundo: Thank you very much, Esther. We hope that this United World Week will be an opportunity to think more concretely about how to build this international solidarity.

Esther: Thank you.

## “Sejamos Luz” Project (in Portuguese)

Aline Muniz, United World Project: Like the rest of the world, the coronavirus crisis has taken us by surprise, and the inequalities already existing in our country have become even more marked. Some people are isolated, yet many large families live in small shacks. It was with these families in mind that the "Let's be light" project began.

(Music)

Graziella Pinto: Where's justice? In the midst of this economic crisis caused by the Corona virus pandemic, why are the rich managing to stay afloat and the people who need help the most are suffering the consequences?

This year's United World Week is about 'In Time for Peace' - peace, human rights, legality and justice. We know that peace dies where there is no justice. That's why we are working to get concrete solutions to uphold human rights.

Mateus Rodrigues: In this context, the Youth for a United World and the Gen of Central-West Brazil have launched the "Let's be Light" project. Its sole objective is to encourage building a more united world in times of pandemic. Within this project we have the "Solidarity Campaign" where all the things collected in our community, among friends, acquaintances and family, are destined to families, groups, people or institutions that need it most at this time.

Graziella Pinto: The campaign was launched on 29th March. Initially it aimed to raise awareness and distribute cleaning and hygiene kits, and masks for the prevention of the Corona virus to communities in need. However, after checking the situation of the homeless and disadvantaged communities in our region, we saw that, in addition to cleaning and hygiene products, they also needed food, clothes and drinking water. And so the project grew and with the help of the whole community of the Focolare Movement in our region we were able to distribute cleaning and hygiene kits, masks, food and clothes to many people in need.

The first phase of the project ended on April 15th and went well. Now we are in the second phase and are working really hard to help more and more people who are in need.

## Face Masks

Aline Muniz (in Portuguese): One of the problems caused by the Coronavirus in the world is the lack of protective masks. In many places we are making them ourselves, also with a lot of creativity. Let's see.

(Music and environment)

Amarilys de Barberin-Barberini, Mariapolis Lia – Argentina (in Spanish): When the chance to make masks came up, we thought it was a great opportunity to show solidarity and make our contribution to those who are giving their lives on the front line.

Shortly afterwards, the great news came that our masks had been approved. We work shifts with all the people in the little town to optimise and improve production. In this beautiful working environment, with everyone's great willingness and with deep commitment, all that we produce is full of love.

Margarida Lo, Macao (in Chinese): In March, the situation of the Coronavirus pandemic around the world was very serious. I received a message telling me that a hospital in Rome needed some face masks. So, I discussed with my family and then immediately went out to search for them. We were glad when we heard that the hospital received those masks just two days later. I think this experience is like an encouragement of God, to help us go on loving even when we are

uncertain of the result. After that, together with the focolare community in Macau, we did even more to help the pandemic situation. Thank you!

Mabih Nji Helvisia, United World Ambassador, Cameroon (in English): As United World Ambassadors of Cameroon we have been trying to be the voice of the voiceless.

We created face masks locally to be able to give to our vulnerable population. We therefore targeted orphanages and very far remote health centres. We know that no virus or no situation can stop us from wanting us to reach the vulnerable population of our society

Mihye Jung - Micaela, Daegu – Korea (in Korean): Instead of providing disposable masks that pollute the environment, we thought of creating and distributing our own washable masks made of cotton.

In order to maintain as much physical distance as possible, we each worked in our own house. By working on the various parts we made about 150 masks and shared them with our neighbours who were most in need.

To find out who needed the masks most and deliver them, we contacted a city councillor and the children's centre. The councillor was impressed with our activities and donated money. The neighbours were also impressed by our activities and made donations. With this money we were able to make 70 more masks.

Elena Granata, Polytechnic of Milan - Italy: We are short of masks. We are short of masks especially for the third sector, for the communities, for people working in various sectors.

So we are setting up a national virtual district for mask production that brings together knowledge, universities, expertise, chemical engineers, but also small manufacturers, as well as logistics. It's a network of people who are at home right now but who could start to work.

If you want to help us we need everything. We also need small dressmaking or tailoring units, where there are 2 or 3 people who work together, but with a collective knowledge and ability to keep the system going.

Because right now either we are united or we won't make it. Thank you.

Caption segreteria.mascherineinretemail.com

**“Be a light” by Nick Cianfarani and Joe Sapala – USA** (video clip)

## **8. RUN4UNITY: A NETWORK OF PEACE IN THE WORLD** (in English)

Lydia Palaioligou, New Zealand (in English): Here it's midnight and I'm ready to go to bed so in a few hours I can get up and do the Run4Unity from my kitchen. Let's watch a short video that shows us how we can participate in Run4Unity 2020.

Chiara Schelmer: Hey, maybe you know Run4Unity, the race that usually takes place outside and with many people. This year, Run4Unity, will be happening in a slightly different way. On May 3rd, we are getting the worldwide online relay race started from 11 to 12 o'clock across all time zones.

By meeting online by groups, we can do sports together from home and get creative.

At 12 noon, we'll stop to take a moment to pray for peace. We can support TimeOut by drawing a clock with the hands at 12 and share it online.

We'll pass the baton by connecting with those who live on the next time zone.

And just like this, Run4Unity will extend all over the globe, despite all the difficulties.

Register your group on the Run4Unity website and on there you can follow, right there, and on the Facebook and Instagram pages, what's happening in the world.

From one time zone to the next.

See you ...

Oh wait, I forgot something – right now we’re doing warm up for unity to get to know the spirit behind the Run4Unity race.

And of course, we’re also doing physical exercise.

So follow us on social media and join us.

Bye!

Ezequiel Reyes, USA (in English): There's something really special about this Run4Unity. For 24 hours tomorrow - for Lydia in New Zealand and for me here in Texas - we tell the world that we want to be #InTimeForPeace. Our friend Juani from Buenos Aires in Argentina will tell us how they'll do it there.

Juan Ignacio Clariana – Argentina (in Spanish): Hi, I’m Juani from Buenos Aires, and tomorrow we are going to do our “Run For Unity” through Zoom, with the Alba Centre for intercultural Dialogue, the Bet El community, and the Focolare movement. We will share our experiences during the quarantine and give an interreligious message of peace to our city and the world.

Lydia Palaioligou, New Zealand (in English): Join us tomorrow at 11am at your time zone and we will share this message of InTimeForPeace.

## **TG Teens**

Lydia: Teens4Unity also wanted to help out during this difficult time. So they started a new initiative, let's check it out.

(Music)

Marco, tutor Teens: *Teens* is now a News Broadcast too.

Marta, tutor Teens: Welcome to Teens News, made by teenagers for teenagers, which gathers news from all over the world.

Marco: In this first edition live from home we will tell the experiences of young people around the world who are experiencing this pandemic.

Marta: let's start immediately with the first report, from Spain.

Marta, Spain (in Spanish): This experience of isolation is becoming a great opportunity to realize that we can love even living within a few square meters

Marco: We are now moving to Bergamo, one of the areas in Italy worst affected by Covid19

Anna (Bergamo): For the last three weeks, I've been working with two friends on a music project.

Marco: The coronavirus is a kind of invisible enemy that's difficult to fight. But some people are experiencing other wars.

Paolo (Aleppo) in Arabic: Hi, I'm Paolo from Aleppo. The coronavirus crisis that the whole world is experiencing is very difficult.

George (Damascus) in Arabic: Hi, I’m George from Damascus. The coronavirus also has a positive side because it has taught us how to improve our health habits.

Marta: Today is Earth Day and, talking of the environment, let's hear from someone at a middle school in Ferrara who together with her class helped protect the environment.

Sara, Vigarano Mainarda): When I got home I noticed that my parents produced too much unsorted waste so I decided to help them sort out and shortly afterwards we noticed there was much less unsorted waste.

Marta: And if you want to stay tuned to other experiences from all over the world, go to the website [www.cittanuova.it](http://www.cittanuova.it) or write to our email [teens@cittanuova.it](mailto:teens@cittanuova.it)

Marco: Special thanks to everyone and see you at the next Teens News. (Music)

## **MARIA VOCE (EMMAUS): LET'S KEEP GOING TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED WORLD PROJECT**

Gloria Pong, Hong Kong): Welcome Emmaus!

Maria Voce (Emmaus): A very special greeting to everyone!

Gloria: Emmaus, here we are, we're nearly at the end of our marathon. What are your thoughts about it? How can we go ahead now?

Maria Voce (Emmaus) President of the Focolare Movement: You've asked me two very important questions. The first: what is my impression at the end of this marathon? It's an impression of great joy, of great gratitude for the testimony of Chiara's family that is living and working throughout the world to build a more united world, a world in peace, a world that is one family.

But let me say a very special thank you to the young people, to the young people who have worked for this moment, to the young people who have dedicated their enthusiasm, their creativity, their courage, their physical strength, their experience in social networks and the media, to lead all of this which has led to this result. What is the result? It's been to highlight, to show at least some of the many experiences and expressions of this life of Chiara's family.

So a really big and heartfelt thanks to the young people, I say it again: the young people never disappoint me! So thank you!

Then you ask me how to go ahead. First of all, of course go ahead! You can't stop! The United World Week lasts just one week, but we must always work for a united world. So I would like us to transform the idea of United World Week into a "United World Present Moment", that is, in every present moment we live and work for a united world.

And what drives us? Love drives us! Love has pushed us and must continue to push us; it is love that makes us take care of others, of creation, of all the needs around us. And what gives us the strength in this work? We've experienced it: the strength has come and can only come from the unity of all, that is, it is the strength of unity that urges us on and that makes us see the sufferings, and take on the sufferings, crying with those who cry, but at the same time giving witness to joy. We've seen this in the whole link up: there were tears too, there was difficulty, but above all there was so much joy.

Then, of course, once a year the United World Week will take place, there'll be the Run for Unity and those a times to show everyone this reality. But all year round, not only do we have to live, but all year round we also have the United World Project that allows us to participate in and put into the networks all the experiences we have, everything, all the initiatives, all the ideas that we will have. So we must continue, definitely!

And then we have seen, we are seeing that this crisis that involves us all is also an opportunity we might say, that is making us change our limited outlook and open up to horizons that include all humanity. So we are truly living for humanity and that is another reason why here at the Centre, we are setting up – what can I call it - a committee, like an emergency committee which, starting from this vision of unity, will look at the crisis situation all over the world and will promote, support and spread the various initiatives within the Movement. So this something important and it's new, and we want it to be for the whole world.

At the same time and with the same purpose, we are also launching in the whole Movement all over the world, an extraordinary communion of goods. We're opening a special bank account so that by a continuous giving and receiving this account can promote and support the various initiatives and give to every little gesture of love we do in a zone, or here at the Centre, wherever it is, the breadth of unity and the breadth of universality that only the unity of the whole

Movement can give, do you understand? So everyone's needs can converge here at the centre and from here help can be provided for all. This extraordinary communion of goods will help the Movement all over the world and be alongside everyone.

So, with these two means, that will help us to live this unity throughout the whole Movement, I send a big hug to everyone. I would like to give a virtual hug to the whole world that is watching me, that is listening to me, and with this hug I would like to wish everyone continued success for a united world and for building peace, because we are in time to build peace and this is the time to build peace, which for us means unity above all.

Bye everyone!

Gloria: Bye Emmaus, thank you Emmaus, let's go on with love and joy.

Emmaus: With love and unity, of course!

## 10. CONCLUSION

Paolo: So we have nearly finished. We have truly toured the world and seen what it really means to live, in time for peace.

Aline (in Portuguese): The search is ongoing for the rest of the week, we have over 250 events online in more than 70 cities and you can find details of all events at [www.unitedworldproject.org/uww](http://www.unitedworldproject.org/uww).

Join us, invite your friends and continue this conversation.

Conleth (in English): But it's not enough to listen to these experiences and not do anything about it.

Gloria: We have seen that being #InTimeForPeace is something to be experienced.

Laxman: It's about rolling up your sleeves in every local community.

Lydia (in English): In every corner of the world.

Anita (Spanish): To respond to injustice and inequality.

Arnaud (in French): Working to protect human rights.

Facundo (in English): To build communities of solidarity and care.

Pascale (in Arabic): Today, we begin with the signing of this petition.

Ezequiel (in English): To stop an embargo that hurts the Syrian people.

Liz: But this is only the beginning.

Aline (Portuguese): To be #InTimeForPeace takes more than that.

Paolo: Good so let's take up this challenge. We're ready. Let's start now not only signing the appeal but going to the website of the United World Project to hear about all the events that are going on this week and more.

Our appointment for the next link up is Saturday 13th June

All: Bye!!

(Credits with the song "Now" by Gen Rosso)