

PEACE
2001-2010 INTERNATIONAL DECADE
FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD



IS IN OUR HANDS



**World Union of Catholic Teachers/
Union Mondiale des Enseignants Catholiques/
Union Mundial de Educadores Catolicos**

Secretary General: Mr. Aad van Kints
Postbox 732
2700 AS Zoetermeer
tel: +31 79 320 20 78
e-mail: a.g.l.w.van.kints@freeler.nl

**Mr. Aurore Salinas
Coordination Culture of peace
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP - France**

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About: your letter of 4th January 2005

Our organisation has been invited to give information about the program of the Decade: Culture of Peace.

I will give with this letter the answers on your questions. It is a very important issue for the quality of life in our world.

I hope that all this information can help to improve the results with this program.

With kindly regards,

Aad van Kints,
secretary general WUCT

Requested information

1. I have visited the starting conference of the Decade in Paris.

With the materials of the conference I have made a report for the board about the Culture of Peace and I have all the member organisations invited to support this action by:

- reporting the boards of the national organisations;
- suggesting structural and occasional measures to build up a culture of peace.

After one year we have spoken for the second time with the presidents of the national organisations about the results of their efforts to start the campaign in their own country.

There had been started activities in the framework of the program in coöperation with other organisations of teachers, parents and schools.

For myself I have started an action day for the culture of peace in a village in the Netherlands.

The schools were strongly involved of the culture of peace. Also in other cities and villages in the Netherlands were such activities.

The aims of this program are to learn the pupils, how we can live together.

The second aim is to establish a school community of board, staff, teachers, parents and pupils, where the first duty is, how to work and learn in peace together.

The workplace for the activities of our national organisations is the school, the key figure in the school is the teacher.

Activities are brought out from the school in the society of a church, a village or a city.

2. The most difficulties are related with the own program which has every organisation.

The World Union is not in the position to oblige the member organisations to place this topic on the program. The World Union can only invite the member organisations to place it on the agenda. The World Union has been prepared to support any action about the culture of peace, because it is one of the basics in our society.

3. WUCT has chosen for two domains of the program:

- 1. To improve the culture of peace by education, because Wuct is a world organisation of teachers' organisations. There WUCT has an entrance in the global society.

In different countries there is each year a week for the peace. Also in the schools this is a theme for discussion, lessons, projects, etc. during this week..

- 2. To improve the respect of all for the human rights. Different member organisations have taken activities national and international, when leaders of free trade unions were taken as prisoners in their own country. By actions of letters and the collecting of money those organisations have given support to the prisoners and their families.

Beside this WUCT will support a same position for men and women. Therefor it is important to strengthen the education for the ladies and women as a condition to get a same position in the society.

4. There are without doubt results of our work in the area of the culture of peace. But more and more there are great problems with different groups of population in a country or with the difference between the people in a country and the migrants. The world is in change and this gives new problems at the culture of peace.

South Arica is an exemple of live together in peace. Bur other countires in Africa and Asia there are great problems with struggle or war. In Europe you disvover more and more incidents. It is difficult to find a way of life for all the people in Europe.

5. In Europe people have forgotten to learn and to support their own culture. Beside this they have not introduced their own culture for the migrants and deepened themselves in the culture of the migrants.

6. On the long term you can measure the number of schools which have a protocol against the plague and the rag. An other issue is the pupil mediator as a problem solver for the other pupils in schools. You can measure, how many schools have a mediator and how many services gives a mediator average in a school year.

7. There are developed different partnerships for the culture of peace. The first is the coöperation of teachers with the boards of schools; the second partnership is with the parents of the children in the school. But also the coöperation with the churches may not be forgotten. In our situation this is the Roman Catholic Church. Also the coöperation with the townships and city quarters is very useful to establish a culture of peace.

8. I did not know the website. Now I have studied this website and I can assure that in the magazine "WUCT News" I shall give attention to the activities and projects in the framework of the Culture of Peace.

9. It is difficult to announce the engagements for the next five years. The Executive has been renewed totally last year. The new Executive will make a balance sheet with all the projects and activities for the coming years. This activity plan will be discussed in the meeting of the Board in the beginning of October 2005.

10. WUCT will give attention to education of peace. Also the equality of men and women; the promotion of human rights and the development of tolerance and solidarity will be brought in the attention field of the member organisations.