

25th November 2018

# Manifesto NDG

## PREAMBLE

Non Dalla Guerra (NDG) is an **independent, international** and **non-religious association** created, made up of and **led by young people**.

NDG was born in 2014 after experiencing an important encounter in Jordan with its people, with Syrian and Iraqi refugees. A natural and spontaneous reaction occurred as soon as we got back from this experience, which generated a new sense of humanity and responsibility that inspired us to start a youth mobilization process. Therefore, our aims are to raise awareness and improve competencies, to give importance to critical thinking, to educate, to convey the reality we got to know in Jordan, by creating a network and committing ourselves to the society.

NDG means that wherever we live, there is no answer or solution that comes from war and lack of dialogue or respect.

In the last years, we grew in numbers and activities, but now we feel the need to question ourselves when it comes to our values and goals, as members and individuals.

This manifesto aims to express **our commitment** and **political responsibility**.

## CONTEXTUALIZATION

“Fear legitimates the repression that creates extremism that justifies fear”

Padre Paolo Dall'Oglio

**This Manifesto was born as a reaction** to the context in which we are living in and to the struggles we are facing. NDG is aware of the complexity of the reality - its society and its phenomena. We, members of NDG, do not want to avoid the complexity: we fight for it.

Nowadays, we see an **exasperated individualism and materialism in the society** that bring people to look for easy and fast answers. As a result, decisions are made on a whim without taking into account the repercussions of the future.

We are worried about the rise of the illiberal government and populist trends. We perceive them not only as a result of **structural problems**, such as economic and social inequalities, but also due to a **crisis of values**: a lack of humanity, respect and responsibility amongst human beings, and even the criminalization of solidarity has started to take place.

The inability of recalling the past and lack of critical thinking, the exploitation of the media and populist and fascist narratives exacerbate the **sense of uncertainty, distrust and fear toward others**. In this globalized world, the fear of losing ones identity brings on the need to label and define someone as “the other” so as to not be deprived of ones identity.

## VALUES

The encounters we had in Jordan with Syrian and Iraqi families were a turning point for our association. We realized how **spending time with someone** and creating a space for dialogue can make a difference.

## EDUCATION

We perceive *Education* as a **long term process** that encourages people to build their own identity through the valorization of their abilities; the recognition of their **dignity** as human beings helps them reach **awareness** and **emancipation**.

As students, we recognize how important it is to interact with other young students by creating a space for dialogue and responsible personal growth.

*Education* must be a tool to create a new kind of community with a sense of justice and critical thinking. As a result, the community becomes aware and it is capable of making political choices.

## MUTUAL RECOGNITION

NDG strongly believes that **every human being** as a single individual **cannot be classified**. Every individual holds their own and **personal dignity**. We feel there is a **mutual sense** that can lead us to rediscover this perception of **humanity**.

We call this process *Mutual Recognition*, which means “to get to know each other, to connect and to bond”. It is a **process** which allows people to acknowledge differences as being useful and fruitful in order to have an **authentic encounter with the other**. By baring ourselves, we enable others to mutually see one other. This can lead to a **break down of cultural and physical barriers**.

## ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

*Active Responsibility* is a process that starts from a feeling of **passion** - the attitude to focus on the reality in which we believe in. This generates the strength to take a step forward to go beyond the surface and to engage.

*Active Responsibility* means **taking care of reality as a daily mission**. This results in having an open mind, in thinking deeply and in being involved in actions as a reflection of the dedication given to this cause. It is a **dynamic process** because it produces a sense of responsibility toward an issue. This affects people you enter in contact with, and possibly drives them to behave in an analogous way. This can be an example for many other people.

**Feeling compromised** means trying to keep a responsible attitude every day. It is not only a reaction to an immediate need, but it is an active commitment and a constant involvement.

## DAILY CHOICE

"The world changes with your example not with your opinion."

Nelson Mandela

NDG as a *Daily Choice* means to **be coherent** and, above all, to act coherently with the values and goals we embrace. Being coherent in our everyday actions requires a **constant effort** and the act of continuously questioning ourselves.

We know this effort demands fatigue and it calls for a renewed dedication in every choice we make. In dealing with every decision, we should have a clear order of priorities that allow us to fairly value everything we face despite the complexity of daily life.

The challenge is to **recognize ourselves in the actions we make**.

We are aware that our actions, attitude, lifestyle and decisions have a real **impact on our environment and on our local community** as much as in the global ones. This means that we need to continue **informing and educating ourselves**, as responsible members of our association and accountable citizens. We have to speak up firmly in front of every matter that indignates us. We do not want to be uncaring because it would make us accomplices. Only in this way, by avoiding indifference, can one remain human.

NDG realizes that the importance of coherency is directly connected to the sense of responsibility that we felt after the encounters and after having recognized that their needs go beyond material support.

## GOAL

The main goal of NDG is **to promote and to defend peace** as a long term process.

In order to reach this goal, we engage in actions such as:

- promoting **non-violence, respect and dialogue**;
- promoting/educating **awareness and critical thinking**;
- **engaging youth mobilization** to create concrete encounters where mutual listening can take place. This is a learning process and it promotes multiculturalism;
- promoting the establishment of a fair **space of dialogue** where it is possible to share and exchange opinions and ideas;
- fighting/acting **against inequalities, stereotypes and discrimination**;
- spreading a sense of **solidarity as a positive value** that should lead our daily actions;
- supporting the development of **educational projects**.

NDG is convinced that change is feasible only through the commitment of each person. Furthermore, **NDG strongly believes that the only possible way to cope with a conflictual situation is "not through war"**.

*Written by Non Dalla Guerra*