

Youth for Peace Appeal

We are Youth for Peace and we have come from all over Europe. We came together with the representatives of USA and Africa Youth for Peace, gathered by the Community of Sant'Egidio. We have come to Auschwitz to remember the genocide of Jews, Roma and Sinti and to remember the annihilation of hundreds of thousands of people from every European country.

On 1st September 1939, 80 years ago, a big period of suffering arose for this people with the invasion of Poland. Afterwards, Europe and the entire world were unsettled by the Second World War. The inconceivable violence of war, which freed every hatred, allowed Nazism to achieve its deadly plans. The people rose from that immense tragedy with humility and courage. They built the Europe of today: a great field of peace where looking for the way of dialogue and the respect towards others is paramount.

We have been born many years after Shoah, “the Big Evil” for the Jewish people and the Porrajmos “the Big Devouring” for Roma and Sinti. However, we are committed that this event closely concerns us. During these days, we have been touched by the testimony of who as a kid, survived the horror of the death camps, holding onto humanity and hope. For this reason we believe that there is no future without memory.

We are worried for the persistence, in our countries, of anti-Semitic and racial prejudices; for the dissemination of slogans and intolerant behaviours. We are worried about the growing of nationalists, xenophobic and fascist movements, especially among the young. We feel the responsibility to go against evil, to rebel against the logic that wants to build walls. These walls are too many, and divide people and communities. We feel the responsibility to build an alternative to hatred, indifference and fear, all of which dominate the hearts of many.

Solemnly, we are committed to build a world where everyone can live together: a world without racism, without violence, where there is a place for who escapes from poverty, war, climate changes and lack of freedom. From Auschwitz a new horizon of humanity arises for our countries. From this place a movement of hearts is reborn that wants to spread friendship to many other young people like us, so we can be improve and make our countries more human in a peaceful Europe.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, 20 July 2019