



B R U X E L L E S   D E C L A R A T I O N



*[...] the desire for peace and well being is  
innate in human beings and the process  
of peace building must be rooted in this  
natural need*

*Bruxelles Declaration, Pledge to Peace*

The event in which was  
signed the Bruxelles  
Declaration Pledge to  
Peace was held under the  
patronage of:



© 2015 Associazione Percorsi  
All rights reserved.



The Bruxelles Declaration

## Pledge to Peace

Signed at the European Parliament on November 28, 2011

A European project to promote  
the values of peace





## The aims and contents

The Declaration of Intent conventionally called 'Pledge to Peace' was created to encourage activities and initiatives aimed at promoting peace in its most universal meaning, as a condition necessary for the well-being, prosperity and dignity of every person.

The Pledge to Peace was inspired by the principles of freedom, equality and solidarity enshrined in the preamble of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In addition to being a unique document of its kind at European institutional level, the Pledge to Peace constitutes a tool to initiate, through the commitment of an increasingly wide number of public and private entities, actions, initiatives and programs aimed at building a society in which coexistence between people is based on the ideals of dignity, peace and solidarity.



## The birth of the Pledge and the subscriptions

The Pledge to Peace came to life at the conference “Peace and Prosperity - Founding Values of the European Union” on November 28, 2011 at the venues of the European Parliament in Brussels from initiative of the First Vice President – at that time – of the European Parliament Gianni Pittella, of the former President of the European Parliament Emilio Colombo, and of the Associazione Percorsi.

It was sponsored by the Italian Senate, the Chamber of Deputies and by Prem Rawat, authoritative ambassador of the Pledge to Peace, who was the first signatory.

The Declaration of Intent, to which is joining a growing number of governments, organizations, companies, public and private are signing the Declaration of Intent. The Intent allows each signatory to act independently in the design and development of peace projects. At the same time, synergies and collaboration between members are promoted, thanks to the coordination of Associazione Percorsi, organization delegated to the Secretariat of the Declaration.



The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union seals and strengthens the relevance and topicality of the content and purpose of the Pledge to Peace.

### The testimonies

The Pledge to Peace was officially presented at the Italian Senate in Rome on December 3, 2012.

It was introduced at the Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom in London on June 17, 2014.

On both occasions the highest national Italian and British authorities have unanimously recognized its importance as a valuable tool for spreading a culture of peace.





Pietro Grasso, President  
of the Italian Senate, Rome,  
March 6, 2012 in the presence of the  
President of the Italian Republic

“

*I hope the parties and institutions  
to follow through the Brussels Declaration  
Pledge to Peace.*

*Today I would like to renew my personal and  
of the Senate support to the Associazione Percorsi*

”



Hazel Blears, former Government Minister and Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom, 17 June 2014, at the UK Parliament, London

“

*When I found out what the Pledge to Peace was really about, I thought it was different to many of the similar gatherings that have taken place in the past around peace.*

*And the big difference for this gathering is that it's not asking people to sign a declaration and go away. It's not asking people simply to make speeches, and, and talk fine words.*

*The whole purpose of this pledge is to get people to sign up to practical action, to proper programs, to doing work for peace.*

”



Senator Emilio Colombo, former President  
of the European Parliament  
Roma, December 3, 2012, Palazzo Giustiniani

“

*Today, as we speak here about peace  
– and how many times that word has resounded  
during this short time we’ve been alive together  
– the question is: is peace possible?*

*Is peace possible? Or do we spend words on these  
issues, do we pursue a utopia? Because, as we  
speak, peace – in many parts of the world – is  
not there. So what is the answer?*

*One answer is to support the initiative  
of the Pledge to Peace adopted as a proposal  
of the European Parliament and through  
the work of the Association Percorsi.*

”



Hon. Gianni Pittella, First Vice President  
in charge of the European Parliament.  
Bruxelles, 28 November 2011  
European Parliament



“

*Today will be put the signature of a declaration of intent that will involve all of us, each one of those who will sign this declaration of intent for peace, for harmony and for dignity. It means that, in the wave of the message of Prem Rawat, assumes its responsibilities in peace-building, just to show that peace is not a goal, an objective, a bet entrusted to big men only, but it is a task, a duty entrusted to the capacity, the contribution – small, medium, large – of each one of us.*

*This is the meaning of the Bruxelles Declaration, that we sign today November 28, 2011, and which I hope will become a permanent moment.*

”



Renato Schifani, President  
of the Italian Senate in Rome,  
December 3, 2012  
Palazzo Giustiniani

“

*I am particularly pleased that this building,  
where our Constitution was signed, is again  
hosting the Pledge to Peace initiative.  
Peace and prosperity are the basic values  
of the European Union, but they are in  
perfect continuity with the aspirations and the  
indications of our Founding Fathers.*

”



Andrea Riccardi, Minister  
for International Cooperation  
of the Senate of the Republic  
Rome December 3, 2012

“

*... And I thank the Association Percorsi for this choice. The decision to mark the first anniversary of the Bruxelles Declaration, Pledge to Peace. You have not accepted the resignation and impotence in the face of this problem, but have decided to make a difference, to open possibilities, encourage initiatives, prevent the contagion of aggression, the culture of violence and war.*

*Dear friends, we could say that peace is not reserved to us, that peace pertains to few, few powerful nations, few diplomats, few governors. In fact in today's world, few can make war and bring the violence, we see it from terrorism.*

*But I also want to say, few can bring peace.*

*Not only that, peace begins by ourselves ...*

*... The Bruxelles Declaration is a great European dream and manifests the will to not resign.*

”



## Who can join the Bruxelles Declaration Pledge to Peace

The Pledge to Peace aims to create a network of public and private entities that share the vision of the ideals of peace that constitute its guiding principles. Organisations that commit themselves both to implement and promote projects and initiatives that translate these ideals of peace into a practice to be effectively implemented in all the civil, cultural, educational and working areas of society.

The Pledge to Peace welcomes among the signatories:

- **Civil Institutions**, for their ability to put the issue of peace at the center of the political and administrative life and bring it to the attention of civil society.
- **Public and private Institutions** that deal with education and training, to which is given the opportunity to include the topic of peace during their dynamic teachings.
- **Cultural and humanitarian organizations, associations and representative bodies**, for their role of civic awareness raising and active influence.
- **Businesses**, particularly those committed to corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Hence the Pledge to Peace represents a dynamic, practical and high profile initiative, whose subscribers take on the ideals of peace as they address their activities and – as such – become an active part in building a society based on peace and wellbeing of people.





## How to join

To join the Pledge to Peace it is simply necessary to fill out and sign the application form with the Declaration of Intent downloadable from the website [www.associazionepercorsi.com](http://www.associazionepercorsi.com) and post it to the Association Percorsi, the organization entrusted with the Secretariat function.

For companies and organizations it is necessary that the person signing has the representative powers as required by law. For public entities it is necessary that their representatives are fully authorized, under their constitution and governance, to sign a resolution and make practical undertakings and commitments under the Declaration of Intent.

The Secretariat, after having considered the applications for membership, will approve those from entities that propose initiatives which are consistent with the purposes of the Pledge to Peace and will invite the applicants to sign the contract document itself, including them in the list of signatories.

The Secretariat, in addition to performing the functions of coordination, as above-mentioned, will promote, host and undertake events, projects and initiatives with the aim of supporting the actions and programs of the Signatories of the Pledge to Peace.

Prem Rawat, Ambassador  
of the Bruxelles Declaration  
Pledge to Peace



“

*I am so happy to be a part of this effort,  
and I hope that this will take roots.  
Because really, we don't have a choice.*

*Maybe the time has come to start looking  
at this world in a new way. And it begins  
with all of us, one step at a time.*

”



Secretariat and coordination of the Bruxelles Declaration Pledge to Peace:

Associazione Percorsi

[www.pledgetopeace.eu](http://www.pledgetopeace.eu) | [secretariat@pledgetopeace.eu](mailto:secretariat@pledgetopeace.eu)

[www.assoziazionepercorsi.com](http://www.assoziazionepercorsi.com) | [info@assoziazionepercorsi.com](mailto:info@assoziazionepercorsi.com)

Tel +39 06 9291 9675