
Fédération Internationale des **M**ouvements d'**É**cole **M**oderne

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Communiqué from FIMEM for Peace Let's get the war out of History!

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FIMEM, the International Federation of Modern School Movements, faced with the events that continue to bring bloodshed to the Middle East, firmly condemns all forms of violence, oppression, aggression and war against the Israeli and Palestinian civilian populations.

The terrible attack committed by Hamas is in no way justifiable, nor is the Israeli government's response. Everything that is happening is fuelling the despair and exasperation of the Palestinian people, victims for decades of the Israeli occupation and the non-recognition of their statehood. We see all the victims of this conflict as our brothers and sisters.

We call on the United Nations Security Council to assume its responsibility as guarantor of international law by calling on the parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages and respect for humanitarian rights. There can never be peace and security if the two peoples are not allowed to live in the same region with the same rights.

We support the Israelis and Palestinians who, even in this tragic situation, have never stopped demonstrating and working together for mutual respect and the right to live in peace and freedom in their own State. The FIMEM supports the appeals launched by peace movements and citizens for an immediate ceasefire and for the restoration of the essential conditions for a dignified life for the populations concerned.

We know that any war, any armed conflict, is always accompanied by death, destruction and violence, and produces injustice, sows the seeds and prepares the ground for future wars.

Children are the first victims. The murder and mutilation of children, the abduction of children, attacks on hospitals and schools, the denial of access to humanitarian aid and the trauma resulting from violence are all serious violations of children's rights.

We would like to remind of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in which ALL countries in the world have undertaken to put the best interests of the child first (article 3) and, in particular, to :

- respect the right to life (article 6)
- prohibit all discrimination based on the race, language, religion, national origin, etc. of the child or his or her parents (art.2)
- respect humanitarian law in the event of armed conflict... whose protection extends to children (art.38)

At this tragic moment, as educators, we ask ourselves what we can do. Practising peace means, day after day, creating the conditions so that our pupils, who will be the adults of tomorrow, understand the value of listening and dialogue, of respecting the point of view of others in order to find together a solution to the conflicts that arise from the non-recognition of others.

The cooperative dimension of education, which characterises us as an international movement, then becomes the foundation for building peace, starting from the near to the far.

As Célestin and Elise Freinet emphasised, politics and pedagogy are inseparable, so **education for peace requires :**

- **educate people to go beyond thinking in terms of "good or bad", "friend or foe";**
- **cultivate hope and positivity (a school that renounces this betrays its objectives);**
- **to make people aware of peaceful coexistence between "different" people.**

Proposals aimed at **Peace** can focus on three areas:
education to Peace, in Peace, for Peace.

-**Educating to peace** : helping to understand the causes, consequences and dynamics of conflicts and related problems : war, the arms industry, inequality, oppression and exploitation, migration, environmental damage, violated rights, including those of children, and promoting collective action.

- **Educating in peace**: building a cooperative classroom with a project identity of peace and solidarity between all to build non-violent and cooperative attitudes; developing and structuring self-awareness about the origins of uncooperative behaviour and changing it. Peace must also be built in the interpersonal relationships of everyday life.

- **Educate for peace** : developing projects and pathways to become peacemakers in one's own reality, and then on a wider scale: planning for the future, contacting different realities by correspondence, sending videos, supporting projects.

FIMEM, a federation committed to the defence of Children's Rights and Peace Education, invites teachers from the various FIMEM movements, with their classes and groups (educational centres, associations, networks, etc.),

to initiate Peace Education programmes

in one of the directions indicated above, for example through micro-projects to intervene in a known and significant reality for them (their own class, their neighbourhood, their country, their town, other realities, etc.), but also in the realities of other countries, using tools such as international school correspondence, intercultural exchanges, etc. to help transform them in a positive direction.

The proposed itinerary could be entitled "*Building peace in ...*".

Furthermore, on 20 November, the International Day for the Rights of the Child, FIMEM member movements in each country are invited to **to organise face-to-face or online meetings on the theme "*The Right to Peace for Children*".**



Proposals, material and documentation can be sent to: educationpaixfimem@gmail.com.