



APPEAL TO HUMANITY

54th International writers' meeting at Bled

May 2022



Slovenski center PEN

Slovene PEN, the Institute for Development of Inclusive Society, and the Women for Peace and Security Slovenia platform, based on our discussions on humanity that took place in February, March, and April 2022, suggest to the 54th PEN Writers for Peace Meeting the following:

AN APPEAL TO HUMANITY

For peaceful and sustainable social development

As nature and society warn us how uncertain and endangered our survival has become, we, as fellow human beings, must overcome our inhuman and other damaging ways of thinking and acting;

As inter-religious, inter-national, inter-racial and other forms of hatred (violence, hate speech, discrimination, oppression, torture, and the killing of close neighbours - particularly children, women, older people, and other vulnerable groups) incite brutal and destructive instincts and prevent the development values so essential for the existence and growth of our society;

As, unfortunately, scientific, technological, and other social achievements are used to pollute and destroy planet Earth rather than to contribute to the public good; enrich the few at the expense of the majority; serve the armament industry to kill people, annihilate nature and destroy cultural heritage; cause hunger, poverty, violence, fear and destitution;

As a sense of humanity is the first and basic value with the potential to overcome evil and build sustainable development based on peaceful coexistence;

As art like literature can move people towards empathy, release their humanity and be the joyful messenger of this positive change;

we invite everyone to join our efforts to empower humanity and find a peaceful and sustainable future of our society.

- 1) Every day and everywhere, we should demonstrate humanity to other human beings and living organisms. To be human means to understand, be tolerant and compassionate, to help and to support others.
- 2) We must be aware that humanity empowers the common good for all of us. All good that we do for others will eventually bring benefits to ourselves and such experience will make us grow and strengthen in a positive way.

- 3) Each individual, me and you, must be the example of humanity, no matter how other people act. We should persevere in spite of temporary disregard or ignorance of these values, as long-term humanity is the only way to empower human beings and societies.
- 4) We must show courage and decisiveness when we strive for goodness in ourselves and others. The knowledge that this is the only way to empower humanity in society must always prevail over oppression and the stifling of human dignity, freedom, and rights.
- 5) Let us help now all those who suffer horror, illness, deprivation, pain, injustice, and other hardships.
- 6) We should particularly defend children, women, seniors, disabled, people with poor access to education and other vulnerable groups who, due to their weaknesses, are more exposed to exploitation and abuse.
- 7) We demand that political and economic leaders respect and realise their commitments, legal acts, international agreements, and all other legal and political documents that foster humanity, peace, safety, solidarity, the abolition of deprivation, and the application of sustainable development.
- 8) We appeal to all governments and global economic leaders to foster freedom of speech and freedom to create, which guarantee that the voices can be heard and appreciated regardless of race, nationality or gender.
- 9) We must never forget that we all belong to one human race and are responsible for ourselves, for our fellow men and women as well as for our planet Earth. When in doubt we should always choose the path of humanity and BE HUMAN.

The appeal was written by:

- Bećir Kečanović, M.Sc., director of the IRVD – Institute for Development of Inclusive Society,
- Miroslav Cerar, PhD, full professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, and politician, former Prime Minister of Slovenia, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia,
- Vasilka Sancin, PhD, full professor of international law, Head of the Department of International Law, Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, member and Vice-president of the UN Human Rights Committee (2019-2022), and
- Tanja Tuma, writer, writer and president of Slovene PEN.