

PDG BORDEN UGLESIC, District 126 CROATIA

« Let's fight hatred, violence and aggression »

We had already been discussing this issue in front of this distinguished forum. Some of the present possibly remembers Mediterranean Convention 2001 in Taormina Italy when we had the subject « FIGHT AGAINST HATRED ». Thereafter, on Dubrovnik Convention 2003 we had discussed the need of « EDUCATION IN FIGHT AGAINST HATRED », then during Algiers Convention (held in 2005) we had reported on things done, specially on indications that LIONS members from some another countries had included « fight against the hatred » into their activity plans.

In 2006 Lecce Convention we indicated the connection between hate, violence and aggression, and last year (2007) in Aix-en-Provence we talked about the need of shifting to the field of fighting the violence being a consequence of hate discourse. We also mentioned establishing of LIONS WEB FORUM named LIONS MEDITERRANEAN ANTI VIOLENCE FORUM. That body would first accumulate ideas, present our work to the public, and finally go towards an international symposium on the matter.

As time passes by the needs grow and we mustn't be late in action. Therefore, we continue today with some particular proposals...

Hatred, being the most important restrictive factor of social welfare, attracts our attention more than ten years. We have tried to elaborate this phenomenon from psychological, psychiatrically and social point of view. We begun from a childhood psychology which indicates that the roots of hatred can't be found in a little child as a feeling of love comes first.

Social psychology connects the expression of hate with a weak adaptation and missing feel of togetherness. This can be seen especially today when social relations are so complex and when a need to protect private interest might appear which could ignite latent hatred which then develops and grows steadily. A hating man hates actively and openly, makes damage to other man, makes him suffer, goes after him wishing his fall and destruction.

Life without hate is certainly more beautiful and comfortable.

Our starting thesis "Fight against hatred" we have streamered into "Education against hatred" – fully aware that can be eliminated only by adequate education during childhood period when a moral conscience is being formed. A balanced approach full of emotional warmth and love, with an active component, and, even more, with an example that parents give to children, will affect forming of a child's persona. Thereafter come pre-school teachers and school, a wider social environment, and especially information offered to the child by press, television and other mass-media.

An impossibility of communication occasionally exceeds to an open hatred and becomes a characteristic of a contemporary man. Perhaps we even don't have an idea how much hatred exists in our exhilarations, love feelings, in our tradition, so we try to fool ourselves with various decencies and formalities that just hide the hatred. Thereafter, the hatred has be analyzed and fought as a vicious disease.

Maybe in our initial more intensive work on the subject matter we haven't noticed direct connection between hatred and aggression, violence and terrorism.

All these elements are so clearly interlaced today that we can discuss them only as "complex phenomenon" as it is more than obvious that hatred generates violence, and violence expresses itself with aggression resulting with conflicts and wars. The core of terrorism is being made.

AGGRESSION is defined as an unfriendly action to individuals and objects. It could be considered as a synonym for aggressive and brutal behavior. It's relatively long-lasting and

stable characteristic of persona that reflects in experience of fury, an easy finding of targets, readiness to fight and quarrel, defiance and negative thinking.

HATRED is, therefore, in the core of these complex alerts-and an action is needed.

One might ask: - Why lions? Answer to this question is given by Lions GOALS and ETHICAL CODE that emphasize concern on civil, cultural and moral welfare of community- and it implies activities in this field.

There are three strategies in resolving aggression and hate problems: Fighting, feeling, or attempting to love them. Mostly the third strategy is used – covering with hypocrisy, ostensible love, which gives no results as everything remains the same, hate is continued.

So, why the LIONS OF MEDITERRANEAN? A simple answer: we proud and happy to be born and living here on the coast of the Mediterranean where our civilization and culture sprung up.

It could be freely said that everything generous, cultural, human and ethical is related to the coasts of Mediterranean and surrounding countries as well.

Hatred, an ancient problem on these shores has its historical and actual characteristics. Let's remember great philosophers, Aristotle for instance, who says that...Friendship is a goodness necessary for life as stands against hate...(then adds)...It's pleasure to have a friend in happiness and misery, but it's better to have him in happiness as it is the greatest welfare of man...According to him, happiness is –“an activity of intellect, the goal and purpose of action and living ...!”

These thoughts are incorporated into almost all religious doctrines which contrariety to this see in hatred, a negative force tearing man apart and bringing misfortune to him and his environment...

Therefore, we LIONS must act here, we must confront the spreading of hatred whatever the roots of hate might be.

LIONS HAVE TO FIND THEIR PLACE AND ROLE IN THIS.

To make this shorter, let me remind you on some “maybe small things”- specially to the recent behavior of young people having in its core hatred and violence...leading to an open aggression...terrorism, and ...evil.

Let's name them:

The violent behavior of SUPPORTERS GROUPS on “high risk” sport events, where mass bloody conflicts take place on daily basis creating problems to police and giving subjects to media to write about it. These conflicts directly affect sport as they have nothing in common with sport.

Misuse of alcohol and drugs among young people affecting even adolescents. More and more we face the problem of “BINGE DRINKING” (an alcohol based event where even other drugs are taken along with alcohol all in order to get drunk as soon as possible)...leading to an abnormal drunkenness followed by irritability and often even-peril for life...

Aggressive behavior among youths, more often attacks on streets, in school ad parties. Cases when group of violent youths wait for the one who's disliked and attacked without reason, badly beaten with baseball bat and then left there on the street.

The all world is shocked by massive killings, one in an American college and recent killing in Winnenden, Germany, where a teenager just recently killed more than 15 innocent people.

Violence spreads fast among young people and it comes to an alarming level now. Reports on parents being victims of children's violence are more than frightful. It has been reported that 14% of parents were violated by their children and in single parent families that percentage rise to 20...

WE PROPOSE TO THIS FORUM TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL-THIS MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION TO INCLUDE AN OBLIGATION OF PERMANENT ACTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBAT OF HATRED, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION.

This would be an obligation of all LIONS Mediterranean. In this particular moment we have to find an optimal layout for the beginning of systematic action. We think a group of representatives from all Mediterranean countries should be formed. Our task would be (considering long-lasting work and experience) to work out and put on paper this plan and program in most adequate way, and after the discussion written materials would be delivered to all and we will continue to co-operate intensively. We hope this effort will contribute to much healthier and better way of living.

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