

19785 *LAW 27/2005 of 30 November 2005 on the Promotion of Education and the Peace Culture*

JUAN CARLOS I

KING OF SPAIN

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING

Know that: The Spanish Parliament has approved the following law, which I hereby sanction:

WHEREAS

The 20th century has been a century of profound contradiction.

It has been a century of unimaginable advances in many spheres of life.

From technological advances which could help us overcome many diseases, reduce poverty and eliminate starvation, to changes in political culture which have enabled authoritarian government forms to be replaced by other, democratic, forms.

However, and in spite of these advances, we have watched the 20th century become one of the bloodiest centuries in History. Two great wars, the Cold War, genocidal outbreaks in countries such as Bosnia, Rwanda or Kosovo, and great economic crises which heightened the differences between those who have the most and those who have nothing, are clear indicators of the great contradictions of the century we have just left behind.

In summary, it was a century noticeably dominated by a culture of violence characterised by seven serious insecurities which often result in frustration and, therefore, in violence at very different levels, becoming apparent. These seven insecurities were made evident by the 1998 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); they are economic, financial and of an income, culture, health, personal, environmental, political and community nature. These insecurities are at the root of the many injustices and inequalities prevailing both locally and regionally, and even on a worldwide level.

This law, acknowledging the absolutely decisive role of education as a driver of the evolution of societies in the framework of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace (2001-2010) proclaimed by the United Nations, aims to provide a starting point from which to replace the culture of violence which has defined the 20th century with a culture of peace which must characterise the new century.

The culture of peace is comprised of all the values, behaviours, attitudes, practices, feelings and beliefs which ultimately shape peace.

This peace culture must be implemented by boosting education for peace, non-violence and human rights, by promoting research for peace, by eliminating intolerance, by fostering

dialogue and non-violence as a practice for spreading in conflict management and transformation.

This law, drafted under paragraph a.2 of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, lays down a series of measures intended for the education and research context and aimed at establishing a culture of peace and non-violence in our society.

Article 1.

1. Spain shall solve its international disputes in accordance with the UN Charter and other international instruments to which it is a signatory, collaborating to strengthen Peace and International Security, Cooperation and Human Rights.

2. The Government shall promote peace through solidarity, cultural, research, education, cooperation and information initiatives.

3. To that end, the Government shall establish cooperation mechanisms with the Spanish Autonomous Regions and Local Authorities as well as with other State Government bodies and organisations. In addition, and with the same aim, it shall establish memorandums of understanding with international bodies and the main NGOs and other organisations in the context of peace.

Article 2.

In order to achieve the above peace goals, the Government is to:

1. Promote the teaching of subjects, at all levels of the education system, in accordance with the values which characterise a culture of peace, and the creation of specialist subjects on issues relating to education for peace and democratic values.

2. Encourage, from the point of view of peace, the incorporation of values of non-violence, tolerance, democracy, solidarity and justice in the contents of textbooks, teaching and educational materials and audiovisual programmes aimed at students.

3. Promote the inclusion of initiatives relating to education for peace in the local and national education curriculum.

4. Combine teaching within the education system with the promotion of education for peace for everyone and for life, by training adults in the above values.

5. Collaborate with the United Nations in the promotion of specialised universities.

6. Promote increased public knowledge and teaching of humanitarian International Law and Human Rights legislation.

7. Promote specialist training of men and women in negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution techniques.

8. Promote peace-building tasks in conflict areas with the participation of specialist personnel.

9. The Government shall create regular consultation mechanisms with the civil society and consultation linked to, and associated with, Peace movements, for the purposes of adequate compliance with the provisions contained herein.

Article 3.

The Government shall grant aids for study or research on peace-related matters and shall promote the recognition of social and media peace initiatives.

Article 4.

The Government must:

1. Promote the necessary action and activities to carry out the contents of international Conventions on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and discrimination against women and on the grounds of sexual orientation.

2. Promote the necessary action to contribute to the demobilisation and social reintegration of minors involved in conflict.

First Additional Provision:

The Government shall notify Parliament of any peace culture action carried out and of any resources allocated thereto.

Second Additional Provision:

In the framework of the UN General Assembly 2001-2010 International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, the Government shall seek to develop concrete peace culture initiatives in full coordination with the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Single Transitional Provision:

The Spanish Government shall formalise its accession to The Hague Appeal for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century as soon as possible, and undertakes to develop the programmes and proposals contained therein.

Single Final Provision:

This Law shall come into force on the day immediately following its publication in the Spanish Official State Gazette (“Boletín Oficial del Estado”).

I therefore

hereby order that all Spanish nationals and authorities observe this law and ensure that it is observed.

Madrid, 30th November 2005.

JUAN CARLOS Rex

The President of the Government,
JOSÉ LUIS RODRÍGUEZ ZAPATERO