

**SILENE ASSOCIATION DECLARATION**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

21 of September 2024

Without concealment or in secret, with their complicit architects and indifferent spectators, violence, death, and desolation remain present in the hearts of people, between nations, and against Nature. It is necessary to invoke and demand peace, but no less important to understand it well and learn to live in it, adjusting and softening the relationships we maintain with others, Nature, and ourselves. Peace, more than the absence of violence, is the presence of harmony.

We stray from peace when we believe ourselves to be above or outside of Nature, where everything is interdependent; when we corrupt our own humanity by forgetting the noble values that ennoble it, succumbing to indifference, distrust, competitiveness, aggression, hatred, or cruelty; when, driven by fear or greed, we become predators and cause suffering and death, whether of human or non-human beings; when, seeking peace, we prepare for war and wage it. Peace is trust, hospitality, and dialogue.

Peace is not genuine where human rights, the rights of peoples, and the rights of Nature are disregarded. There is no true peace when there are winners and losers, excess and misery, abuse and repression, good and bad, when others are not brothers and sisters; when it is built on threats, silences, or lies; when it is not both an ideal and a path; when one seeks to be at peace with Heaven without being at peace with one's neighbor and with the Earth. And vice versa. Peace demands both justice and spirituality.

For there is no peace without a careful and kind attitude towards the natural environment, without embracing simplicity and sobriety, without walking lightly, loving Mother Earth and her creatures. Believing that we are its masters and not its children has led us to treat it selfishly, irreverently, and foolishly; driven by irresponsible greed, we destroy forests, oceans, the soil, the air... life itself. Peace arises from balance, harmony, and humility.

Blessed are the peacemakers who at the same time seek inner peace, the joyful peace of one who, like water, clings to nothing and is content with everything; the pure peace of one who does not judge but loves and forgives; the serene peace that endures amid fire and storm, of one who lives in the present with full attention; and finally, the deep peace that springs from a new heart filled with conviction and benevolence, from a humble heart that knows itself as nature.