



Provincia di Venezia

Assessorato alle Politiche sociali, Sport, Pace e Cooperazione Internazionale

Venice, 23 September 2007

Scuola Grande di San Rocco
10th European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation

Speech by
Councillor Rita Zanutel

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd like to greet you all on behalf of the President of the Province of Venice, Davide Zoggia, and the entire Province Government.

Today's ceremony marks a very significant moment, since it celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.

The events linked to the 10th anniversary celebrations have provided an important occasion for the citizens to get closer to the relevant activities organized by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation.

Today's Ceremony marks a very significant step, since it celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation.

The events linked to the 10th Anniversary Celebrations have provided an important occasion for the citizens to get closer to the relevant activities organized by the European Inter-university Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation. This occasion coincides with the European Year for Equal Opportunities for All and occurs in the eve of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations Assembly. Despite this we still record systematic violations of human rights all over the world.

The monitoring of the implementation of the Goals adopted with the Millennium Declaration in 2000 has shown serious breaches and delays. Breaches which are even more serious if one looks at the general state of decay of low-income countries, linked in particular to the presence of diseases which have been long ago defeated in the western countries, but which are still existing in devastating proportions in the third world. The political will to face these problems is lacking and, as a consequence scientific research is progressing almost only for diseases that occur in rich countries. In the last twenty years health research investments have increased, but only 11 out of 1300 new medicines placed on the market are directed to treat the first five causes of daily death. For these five major diseases, pharmaceutical research does not go over the 0.3 % of global research.





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Still far is the objective to destine the 0.7% of the Gross Internal Product to development. To reach the UN Millennium Development Goals, and free from extreme poverty citizens from low-income countries thus ensuring basic health care and adequate primary education 10 thousand dollar per year would be sufficient, a goal which should be for sure attainable considering that on a yearly basis 1204 billion dollar are spent on military investments.

Inverting this tendency is crucial. Equally crucial is to destine adequate resources to international solidarity and this can only happen with the consensus of the population. Political choices, in particular the most significant ones must be accompanied by a massive educational action, helping the communities to become aware that no one in the common globalised world, neither individual or state, can save its own situation without external help..

The most urgent need is that of another economic world order, based on social justice, on human development, and on human rights guarantees for all. The institutions will have to commit more seriously and continuously, making coherent political choices in close relationship with civil society. Only this way it will be possible to promote a universal human rights culture.

The activities of the European Inter-university Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation constitute a fundamental contribution for this necessary process of transformation.

