



IS BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE AN OBJECTIVE WORTHY OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT & CITIZENS? Interview with Carmen Magallón, WILPF/ minister for Peace, Spain, Aug'23

• *A ministry has the power to set in motion a vision-driven programme. What is your vision for peace?*
Peace is a universal good. Peace is a culture. The culture of peace requires the elimination of all kinds of violence: wars, structural violence, gender violence...

Building culture of peace needs action from government & citizens, women and men. My guide is feminist experience, the historical legacy of women who revolutionized culture without killing.

• *What actions towards the citizenry?*
- A national poll, to find out current mentality & generate public debate: the question:

“ Is building a culture of peace in our country & in the world an objective worthy of the efforts of government & citizens? What ideas can you come up with?”

- Supporting cultural projects (films, theatre, AI) that raise awareness and knowledge of the history of women peacemakers

- Against gender-based violence, working with adolescents: "You can assert masculinity from other challenges, it is not weapons and domination that will make you a man"

• *What actions within the government?*

- Monthly meeting of ministries to detecting & acting against violences
- Mobilise the country's diplomacy to push for ceasefires & negotiations in ongoing wars

- Work for the elimination of the veto in the UN-Security Council

• *What to ask cities to build a culture of peace?*

- Supporting daily tasks of care
- Encourage relationships in the face of individualism, build intergenerational communities
- Tackle loneliness

• *Any concrete measure for peace education?*

Asking for collaboration of people who generate mimicry: tick-tockers, footballers, singers, bloggers...

"Speakers Corner for Ministers of Peace's "

Norway was the first country in the world to establish a Ministry of Environmental Protection. Now is the time for a Ministry of Peace - like they have in Nepal or Ethiopia. Today's media image is so militarized, that a counterbalance is needed.

The peace movement at the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom - WILPF-Norway has simply started, publishing what we believe a Minister of Peace would say - if we had one. There are many of us writing under the same vignette - with a focus on the Minister of Peace as an institution.



A Law of Culture of Peace

This photo shows the moment when our regional Parliament is approving the Law of Culture of Peace in Aragón, 09-03-23.

We need acting on this level too.

The SIP Foundation (www.seipaz.org) of which I am the President, proposed and succeeded in getting the Parliament of Aragon (autonomous region of Spain) to approve (on 9 March 2023) the Law of Culture of Peace in Aragon. This law promotes the commitment of institutions and society to education and research for peace, development cooperation and humanitarian action.