



Ius Primi Viri
International Association



Centre for
Human Evolution studies

**AN INTEGRATED METHODOLOGY
TO PROMOTE THE INTERCULTURAL
COMPREHENSION AND
THE RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY**

Prof. Luciana Luisa Papeschi

*Psychologist, Anthropologist
Co-President of I.P.V., VicePresident of C.E.U.*

**OSCE CONFERENCE ON
TOLERANCE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST
RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION**

Brussels, 13-14 September 2004

*I.P.V. - C.E.U.: Via A. Bertoloni 29 - 00197 Rome (Italy)
Tel: +39 06.807.34.20 - Fax: +39 06.807.73.06*

E-mails: Ipvroma@tin.it CeU@ceu.it Websites: www.dirittiumaniipv.org www.ceu.it

AN INTEGRATED METHODOLOGY TO PROMOTE THE INTERCULTURAL COMPREHENSION AND THE RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Prof. Luciana Luisa Papeschi

Only an involute culture and a true ignorance can legitimate those who still believe in racism. States must take upon themselves the responsibility to endow their educational systems with the values expressed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: this is a condition that cannot be disregarded to win, at a world level, all kinds of racism, intolerance and xenophobia. The evolution of the human being is bringing us gradually to a multiethnic and multicultural society, where the basis of educational values should hold in due consideration of the equality in the diversity, in meaning that consciousness of diversity in interaction with the others based on respect, enrich people's evolution of experience and useful knowledge. It is necessary to achieve a form of conscience, at an educational level to enable people to manage their own automatisms and brain's process of defence devoted to the preservation of the own experiential living to push everybody on a constructive dialogue. Social discomfort, poverty and inequality of treatment experienced in vast world's regions, are conducive to resurfacing of both ancient and new hates among peoples and ethnic and religious groups.

Thus because present culture and politic of democratic peoples have mainly recourse to the "weapon" of tolerance to win racism and various discriminations and, therefore, is on this conceptual basis that they encourage peace education and democracy. But it is tolerance sufficient for educating people to respect for diversity, thus eliminating racism and xenophobia?

No one wants to be tolerated, rather one wishes to be respected and understood. Anyone would like to be free to express his/her ideas, even if they are different from those of others. In order to achieve this "freedom of expression", we must "choose" a dialogue which is aimed at searching the truth and reaching together goals that may satisfy biologic, social and spiritual needs.

So many suffering worldwide are created by obscurantism and blindness of human beings who are blinded with cultural models which hamper the integration of political, economical and religious models different from one's own.

The evolution of scientific knowledge make us today certain of the universality of the "human race", once subdivided in many different races.

The genetic inheritance does not make anyone superior or inferior to another one, rather it

enables everyone to become aware through an harmonious development which has to be favoured by the environment and the society in which he/she lives.

It is social environment by its information, therefore, which can make us “racist” or “tolerant”, “good” or “bad”. It becomes, then, of extreme importance to create an environment and a culture favouring the development of a critical consciousness enabling the individual to free him/herself from any kind of negative conditioning, such as the drive to discriminate rather than integrate everything which is different from him/herself.

The conditioning that forces the individual to defend what he/she has previously stored in memory within his/her family and social environment lays, in fact, at the ground of any kind of racism, xenophobia and intolerance.

“Superiority” is an arbitrary act by the power of a person over his/her fellow, of the strongest person over the weakest one and it is contrary to any form of democracy, religion and also to the logic of common sense.

The challenge of the Third Millennium for peoples’ humanization is certainly represented by Education to Human Rights, cooperation, respect for and integration of diversities.

It suffices a group of excited people to kill an individual whose only “guilt” is to be of another country, or to assault a football fan of a different team from our, or a political activist of a different party from our. Unfortunately, the adding up of a desire of aggressive compensation makes, in many cases, a pleasure the battering of the “different one”, because he/she has become the scapegoat for that aggressiveness. We start to slowly and gradually accumulate a desire of aggressive compensation ever since childhood, when we are submitted to the first impositions from which we helplessly try to rebel.

Today there is still someone believing that the method of reward and punishment is valid to educate citizens. No! This method does not work and the individual bursts with rage and does not accept neither impositions nor blackmails coming neither from parents, nor school, or from the State. Coercion does not work and, moreover, does not educate.

We need to reflect over the above said in order to induce institutions, public offices and citizens to take responsibility upon themselves. We need to renovate school, to educate the individual to the respect for the environment, to socialization, to sanitary prevention. And we need to give him/her information useful to make him/her comprehend he/she is an evolving individual and an active part of society. This renewal is necessary to lead young people to understand the causes of the present ecological and social disaster which they have to try to overcome. In order to do so young peoples have to abandon those theoretical expectations which nothing have in common with the fundamental drives of human beings which are: the drive to the respect for human dignity, the drive to freedom, to justice and to pleasure, which should gradually evolve into gratification and love for oneself and for any kind of living being.

These are the evolutionary bases of the society of the Third Millennium and we must confront them. The solution of the problem can be found in a “political model” whose only ideal is man/woman’s centrality in his/her psycho-physical and spiritual becoming. With science and conscience it is perhaps still possible to avoid the slow suicide of the inhabitants of the planet Earth.