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Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: fighting intolerance

The noble goal to build peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies poses us several challenges on the international and the national front.

On the international stage, Italy is committed to promote international solidarity and cooperation as the founding principles of our foreign policy.

We are very worried that the unprovoked and unexpected Russian aggression against Ukraine is threatening the very foundations of the international order, that is the respect of territorial integrity. We fear this will endanger the global prospect for peace. We commend all those nations that have acted in upholding this founding rule of international relations.

But I want to reflect on another aspect: in order to build coexistence and inclusivity on the internal front we have to be better in our roles of political leaders as parliamentarians.

Coexistence and inclusivity is not the absence of conflicts. Coexistence and inclusivity actually mean listening, understanding each other points of views, managing dissent.

It is burdensome to listen to those that challenge you.

It is unsettling to go as far as understand the point of view of opponents.

It requires effort to face dissent.

But it is key to functioning if parliaments and politics.

In Parliaments, in the political spaces this can be done peacefully within rules. There conflicts can become fruitful and creative without violence.

If we are committed to coexistence and inclusivity we must protect the possibility to discuss, demonstrate and dissent.

Everywhere. There are countries where dissenting is considered a crime but those of us that live in freer societies should stand up.

This is why More than 80 members from the Italian parliament, together with MPS from the German Bundestag and the Canadian Parliament have decided to start a campaign to support and sponsor Iranian political prisoners which have been condemned to the death penalty as a result of the demonstrations following the death of Mahsa Amini. In this way we want to defend their voices. We invite other parliaments to do the same. Thanks