



## PRESS RELEASE

15 MAY 2023

International Day of Conscientious Objection

### #ObjectWarCampaign

#### International campaign to protect Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian conscientious objectors

On 21 September 2022, the International Day of Peace, the International #ObjectWarCampaign - by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), War Resisters' International (WRI), European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO) and Connection e.V. - was launched to demand protection for Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian conscientious objectors and deserters who refuse to participate in the war in Ukraine.

The right to conscientious objection to military service is a human right inherent to Art. 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on freedom of thought, conscience and religion and Art. 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The launch of the #ObjectWarCampaign was preceded by an appeal to the highest institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe in June 2022 to implement protection measures for those who refuse to take part in the war, as was the case during the war in the former Yugoslavia.

In September, the Campaign then developed with the launch of an online petition in support of the Appeal to the European institutions and all individual states to guarantee protection.

The online petition has reached about 50,000 signatures and ends on 15 May, the International Day of Conscientious Objection, with the handing over of signatures at a public event in Berlin and Brussels.

To mark the occasion, initiatives are planned in various European countries.

**The Italian partners of the International Campaign (Giuristi Democratici, Movimento Internazionale della Riconciliazione, Un Ponte Per, Movimento Nonviolento, Pax Christi, Pressenza, Centro Studi Sereno Regis) together with CNESC and Caritas Italiana, have scheduled [two initiatives on 16 May in Rome](#):**

**- Starting at 12:00 noon departure from Termini station for a peace presence #ObjectWarCampaign in front of the Russian embassy, then in front of the Ukrainian one and finally in front of the Belarusian one.**

**- At 5:00 p.m. Press conference in the Sala caduti di Nassirya at the Senate<sup>1</sup>** to present the main points of the appeal to the European institutions and individual countries and to take stock of the status quo of the right to conscientious objection in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus where at the moment the persistent violations of this human right, also recorded by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, force people to seek protection abroad. The press conference is also intended to be a moment to present the results of the campaign and the concluding initiatives carried out in other countries and at European institutions. Interventions are planned by: Zaira Zafarana (#ObjectWarCampaign), Fabio ALBERTI (Un Ponte Per), Diego CIPRIANI (National Conference of Civil Service Organisations), Ermete FERRARO (International Reconciliation Movement), Mao VALPIANA (Nonviolent Movement), Cesare ANTETOMASO (Democratic Jurists)

Those who refuse to kill, actively exercise their right to life and claim the possibility of settling international disputes without the use of weapons, as enshrined in our Constitution in Article 11.

#### Press contacts:

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International campaign promoted by IFOR WRI EBCO Connection e.V.

- Cesare Antetomaso - Democratic Jurists [giur.dem.roma@gmail.com](mailto:giur.dem.roma@gmail.com)

Press conference and accreditation (subject to availability)

- Cecilia Dalla Negra - Un Ponte Per [cecilia.dallanegra@unponteper.it](mailto:cecilia.dallanegra@unponteper.it)

<sup>1</sup> The press conference will be streamed live at the link <https://webtv.senato.it> or on the channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SenatoItaliano>

**Insights:**

<https://en.connection-ev.org/article-3768>

<https://www.connection-ev.org/view.php?rs=ObjectWarCampaign&stat=it>

<https://www.ifor.org/news/2022/9/21/object-war-campaign-launch-petition-to-support-conscientious-objectors-and-deserters-from-russia-belarus-and-ukraine>

<https://www.ifor.org/news/2023/3/31/ifor-stands-up-at-the-un-for-conscientious-objectors-in-ukraine-and-refers-the-cases-of-vitalii-alexeenko-hennadii-tomniuk-and-andrii-vyshnevetsky>

<https://ebco-beoc.org/node/559>

<https://wri-irg.org/en/story/2023/no-means-no-war-ukraine>