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FINAL REPORT ROME INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 2024

First of all, I need to congratulate Professor Massimo Caneva on a successful event and for working on peace through universities for more than 25 years. These are challenging topics and challenging times. University cooperation for peace is the most important task for us all. Universities have an important role in shaping societies; unfortunately, peace is not a natural state of human beings, but it is something that we must actively work on.

Young people are changing society, but society changes and shapes the minds of youth. Generation Z is characterized by a demand for action. In spite of this, Professor Massimo Maria Caneva organized this seminar in a way that can attract and challenge the minds of the students. Dealing with topics like this cannot be stopped as there are always students who need to gain knowledge about human rights and how to build or keep peace. War or armed conflicts can be defined as fights for rights, and unfortunately, there are many ongoing at this moment. If we would like to bring peace to these places, the importance lies with the third parties, the mediators.

Professor Massimo Caneva and AESI have positioned themselves as universal mediators in promoting peace. The Rome International Seminar 2024 was well organized. The planned programs allowed academic staff to connect and open up. The combination of formal and non-formal environments for discussion enabled the exchange of experiences and knowledge among staff and students.

For the first time at our university, we conducted a survey among students and alumni from the seminar, and the results are astonishing. Students are delighted by the experience; they also learned how to contribute to peace in everyday life. Let me just quote some of them:

"...In the framework of the Rome International Seminar, a fascinating experience was presented in the process of establishing international cooperation in post-conflict communities..."

"I am aware of my role, burden, and responsibility given my profession in a post-conflict society such as Bosnia and Herzegovina."

"Participating in the Rome International Seminar prompted me to change my paradigms in thinking about responsibility within my local community, country, and the world because I am part of it, and it is necessary to advocate for peace and promote it wherever I find myself."

These events need to be recognized and more strongly supported by the EU, governments, and the UN to be more frequent and include a broader audience. Students also support this as they mention that a greater effect could be achieved if more students were engaged. Being the



mediator – the host of this event – placed Italy on the world map as a center of peace. The discussion is more open in this safe environment, and it is much easier to speak. Professor Caneva is truly compassionate and highly professional. His selection of invited speakers gives this event an even broader pool for sharing and understanding the process of building peace. This is what universities need. This kind of event leads to the empowerment of the European Higher Education Area. The world can change, and we can build a society that praises human rights, but we need to work hard; the role of the universities is crucial in this. We need to dissolve stereotypes, we need to speak about violations of human rights, and turn towards peace. History can only help us in reflecting on the things that we have not changed, and that is the reason why war is ongoing. We need to break the circle of differences and turn it into a circle of common values. This is why we need the Rome seminar to continue the work. This is why it is important to support Professor Massimo and Roma Tre University.

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