

# **The Annual Conference on Cultural Diplomacy 2015**

## **"Building Bridges of Peace and Reconciliation in Times of Greater Global Insecurity"**

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### **Soldiers of L.O.V.E.**

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*It does not really matter who I am, where I come from nor where I go. I'm just a human being, an animal that once achieved the wisdom that would change the future of the world. Wisdom was the keystone of humanity, and it was supposed to be our human nature. But today, we bow our heads in shame, we bow our heads in blame, we bow our heads to pray.*

Today, I don't feel qualified to talk about anything, now that I have realized that I know nothing. But I'd like to talk on behalf of someone whose voice can't be heard: the woman in the mirror. She has an enthusiastic personality but she can also be terribly shy. She always feels keen on enrolling to 'anything' for good. Nevertheless, one of her favorite sentences is '*It's all for love*' or an inspiring 'I know I can't change the world, but at least I can try it'. I can't stop loving her, mostly because of the way she makes me feel. Indeed, she's my perfect soulmate, another part of me. However, since the last few weeks, months or maybe years, I don't exactly remember the time, I can hardly recognize her. For the first time in her life, her sweet smile is missing. There is no conversation but a terrifying silence. She is speechless. When I look directly at her eyes, I can see a worry, an anguish, a painful distress as I never saw before. Last week she confessed that she was hesitating to talk about her beliefs, she was doubting about the power of her inner strength. For the first time in her life, she questioned what was before, always, her only answer to all my questions. She was worried that love, yes, L.O.V.E., would not be enough anymore. It would be so hard to admit that they don't care about us... Then, she asked me: Will you be there? She asked me to hold her hand, she asked me to take somebody's help to keep the faith. And I promised, I promised that whatever would happen, I will never let her hand go. She will not be alone. That night, we both started to cry at the same time, for all those stories buried and untold, for all those children dying in their mothers arms, for all those whose life is a beach.

*"In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope. In a world filled with anger, we must still dare to comfort. In a world filled with despair, we must still dare to dream. And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe."*

*"I'm starting with the man in the mirror, I'm asking him to change his ways;  
And no message could have been any clearer, If you wanna make the world a better  
place, take a look at yourself, and then make a change!"*

*"We have to heal our wounded world. The chaos, despair, and senseless destruction we see today are a result of the alienation that people feel from each other and their environment."*

*"The foundation of all human knowledge, the beginning of human consciousness, must be that each and every one of us is an object of love."*

*"Wherever you go - in every country, or in every continent, people yearn and hunger for only one thing, to love and be loved. Love transcends international boundaries and heals the wounds of hatred, racial, prejudice, bigotry and ignorance. It is the ultimate truth at the heart of all creation."*

*'The only solution for peace is increasing the height of your spirituality.(...)  
We all must unite, to turn darkness to light'*

*"Keep the faith, because it's just a matter of time before your confidence will win out"*

*— Michael Jackson*

And Faith was found in the winds, when an anonymous artist decided to take his grand piano to a Parisian street. He dared to play a song in front of an empty restaurant to invite the passers to 'Imagine' all the people living in peace. Nothing is real, but all is possible if God is on our side. This was the message of a father to his child. In a duel with guns, love is our weapon. And flowers and candles are there to protect us.

*Michael Jackson*, the King of Pop, will always be considered one of a kind, a contemporaneous genius recognized as the greatest entertained in the world. He was an infant prodigy in Jackson 5, beat MTV saying Billie Jean was not his lover, dared to thrill the world surrounded by those already dead, questioned who's bad or the irrelevance of being black or white. Among his thousands of recognitions and awards, a major glory arrived late, on 2010, when Michael Jackson was posthumous awarded as Humanitarian of the Century. This was a recognition well deserved after being considered twice for the Nobel Peace Prize for his philanthropic work and his personal concern for those suffering, mostly for the children of the world. Six years after his premature death, we his 75 million fans worldwide - that is 1/10 of the actual world population- keep his memory alive and remember his words about L.O.V.E even with stronger attitude than ever. It is not just his talent as a singer, a dancer, a musician, a composer, a writer or an entertainer that makes Michael Jackson's legacy a beacon that lights the way in darkness. The power of Michael's L.O.V.E. was and will always be his extraordinary humanity and personal experiences of a lost childhood that determined a singular sensitivity for those suffering. He did not hesitate to extol the power of love, of unity, of the humanity, that captivated everyone from young people to politicians and spiritual leaders all over the world. It's hard to imagine a place where nobody knows who Michael was, because through his music he reached deep within our soul. And through his music he will live forever, he will remind us that we are the world, we are his children. He invited us to talk to the man in the mirror for making that change. And here we are, his soldiers of L.O.V.E. Like the stars, his light will shine upon us forever.

*Let's make that change. We want peace.* Two months ago, on October 6, we rescued a picture from the biography of our 'It's all for L.O.V.E. projects Charity Association - 4LOVEprojects.org' page in the social networks. It was dated September 9, 2013, when we supported and encouraged peace in Syria, as we had done before and later with other countries stricken by the human drama that disputes and wars entail. We opened 'Make that change. We want Peace'(facebook.com/events/512140378949724), an event where participants were invited to make a personal reflection on the role of Michael in World Peace, to consider which song, message or action of Michael inspires them the most in this regard to achieve it. It was also an event to compile a little bit on what each one of us, men and women in the mirror, can do to try to change things, to make that change. The deadline was November 20, the International Children's Day. 'Earth Song' followed by 'Heal the world', 'Be not always' and 'Man in the mirror' were the most preferred 'Messages of Peace' chosen by a sample of Michael Jackson's Fans from different corners of the world. Besides, the comments and proposals reflected how the music of Michael express our own feelings, how it enhances the power of his L.O.V.E. However, when we opened the event, we could hardly imagine that the proposal to discuss the role of Michael, his music and his personality in World Peace would find a second dimension tinged with social dismay. We could hardly imagine that on Friday 13, peace would come to all our walls full of commotion, that peace here and there would be the subject of the most intense talks. However, the worse was to realize that the bitter days we were experiencing in Europe are just the tip of a big iceberg, that terrible number of deadly militant attacks across the world, mostly in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria, which have worsen in the last fifteen years.

Dear Michael, here we are, your soldiers of L.O.V.E. We are moonwalkers who still dare to dream, to go on 'Dancing the dream'. We still dare to hope. We still dare to comfort. We still dare to believe. We are starting with the men and women in the mirror, we are asking them to change their ways. Your message couldn't have been any clearer, if we wanna make the world a better place, we must take a look at ourselves, and then make a change. We want Peace, and there's nothing that can't be done if we raise our voice as one!. We Keep the Faith. It's all for L.O.V.E.