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PRESS RELEASE

GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION

«Connect yourself for Justice» joins the great universal alliance for the education proposed by Pope Francis.

- The alliance of Catholic organizations emphasizes education as the key to “building a common future” and points it out as one of its priority lines in this Laudato Si’ Year.
- «Connect yourself for Justice» encourages educational institutions, collectives and communities to participate in the Global Compact on Education as a joint response to the appeal launched by the Pope last Thursday.

Madrid, October 19, 2020 - The network of Catholic organizations «Connect yourself for Justice» (Cáritas, CEDIS, CONFER, Justicia y Paz, Manos Unidas and REDES) has focused for this Laudato Si’ Year on three axes of action: “taking care of the common house”, “building a common future” and “working for the common good”. These are three fundamental priorities that will articulate the work of the alliance within its campaign “[Si cuidas el planeta, combates la pobreza](#)” (If you take care of the planet, you fight against poverty) with which «Connect yourself for Justice» has been promoting in Spanish society since 2015 the awareness of the message of the encyclical Laudato Si’ and the integral ecology.

“Aren’t we missing this historic moment we are living in? In history there are moments when it is necessary to make fundamental decisions [...]. In the current situation of health crisis —full of discouragement and confusion— we believe that it is time to sign a global educational pact for and with the younger generations, which involves families, communities, schools and universities, institutions, religions, rulers, all of humanity in the formation of mature people”. With these words, Pope Francis relaunched the call for the Global Compact on Education in a [video-message](#) broadcast worldwide from the Vatican last Thursday, October 15.

“Educating is always an act of hope that invites sharing and the transformation of indifference into another logic, capable of accepting our common belonging” says Francis and so it is contemplated by the [Laudato Si’ Goal #5 about the ecological education](#), marked in a priority way in the *Laudato Si’* Year from the [Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) and from the own campaign of «Connect yourself for Justice».

BUILDING A COMMON FUTURE

Generating a change of mentality on a planetary scale towards brotherhood and justice is possible through education, which becomes the creative key to a critical, responsible and committed citizenship, at a personal and collective level, with the transformation of local and global reality.

This citizenship promotes the appreciation of diversity as a source of human enrichment; environmental awareness and responsible consumption; respect for individual, social and peoples' human rights; gender equity in all dimensions of learning; the appreciation of dialogue as a tool for the peaceful resolution of conflicts; democratic participation; the ability to act, from responsibility, care and collaboration.



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In this social moment we seek to place the person in the center and invest the best energies to transform the educational work with creativity and responsibility, in order to form available people who will put themselves at the service of the community. Three steps inspired by this Global Compact on Education and with which the organizations that promote this initiative fully communicate in their work with the most impoverished communities towards an [education for social transformation and in the construction of a global citizenship](#). It is about being Samaritan people, about imitating Jesus in washing the feet of the apostles because “service is a pillar of the culture of encounter” that is required in these times we live in.

TAKING PART IN THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION

After joining and encouraging among its members to live the “Time of Creation” last September in line with the “care of the common house”, the alliance of Catholic organizations intends to “pitch in” to promote another great ecclesial and universal moment: the Global Compact on Education, relaunched by the Pope with a video message broadcast to the entire world last October 15, from which a process of participation will begin that will culminate in May 2021.

In order to promote this initiative, «Connect yourself for Justice» has proposed the launch of a questionnaire as a participation instrument for the groups and communities that want to contribute, in line with the synodality, the spirit of joint work, which is marking the pontificate of Pope Francis. The itinerary defined for this Laudato Si' Year will start with a public event in mid-November to learn more about the Global Compact on Education. The questionnaire will be launched, and its outcome will be taken to Rome, to the main event of the Global Compact on Education in May 2021, if health circumstances allow it.

It is a matter, based on initiatives such as this, of shedding light on “*the shadows of a closed world*” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 9) with education as a privileged instrument “*assuming a personal and community commitment to cultivate together the dream of a humanism of solidarity that responds to the hopes of man and the design of God*”.

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