

Dr. Liviu OLTEANU: **LET US BE AMBASSADORS FOR LIBERTY, HOPE AND PEACE, THINKING IN THE CONTEXT OF TIME**

Intellectuals analyze the operations of international systems; statesmen build them; and diplomats think in the context of time.

But who are those *ambassadors* contributing to obtain results within the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, religion, security and peace? And which tools should be used to achieve this purpose?

To solve these international challenges, some categories of people need special training in diplomacy. First of all, the ambassadors required for our times, are those who *think in the context of time*.

A successful diplomacy for international crisis, violence and instability is up to some characteristics. What does it mean?

1. To *know and to understand history*, and never forget the lessons learned. The knowledge of history does not provide exact policy prescriptions in present circumstances, but it does illuminate choices.
1. To take advantage of opportunities *to engage proactively through international events* where these different opportunities can be successfully promoted.
2. To raise central questions of policy formulation and implementation, *seeking to achieve a negotiated outcome*. As James Baker advises: “Never let the other fellow set the agenda.”
3. *Be firm as well as flexible*. Jean Nussbaum, the founder-president of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty, upon meeting Angelica Ispirescu Costin in Romania in 1962, advised this young lady, persecuted for her faith by Communist regime: “be firm and steadfast in the principles, but flexible in their presentation”.
4. To influence certain policy debates *through dialogue* and communication between cultures, religions and governments, as a solution for freedom, peace and security.
5. To demonstrate an *analytical temperament* and to ensure meticulous attention to detail; to resist the temptation to decide or prescribe before taking the time to analyze. Jeff Bezos stresses, “If you don’t understand the details of your business you are going to fail.”

1. Upon the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty, we are happy to announce the launch of a new journal: ‘Ambassadors for Liberty, Hope and Peace’.

2. Robert D. Blacwill, London Academy of Diplomacy

3. According to the London Academy of Diplomacy

The need to train the trainers. All stakeholders: *politicians, diplomats, scholars, religious leaders and civil society representatives* need special training as diplomats; they need to think and to act in the context of time. Joining together, they can contribute better for liberty, global peace and security. *Diplomats* are key persons prepared to negotiate solutions in front of international

challenges and they should be encouraged to develop and implement strategies for disseminating best practices to key audiences. In particular they should forge good relations with universities, think tanks, religious leaders and communities, civil society as well as with other relevant stakeholders.

Today, nations and people need to develop a deeper understanding of the other; respect, for the religious and philosophical conceptions of other civilizations, religions and cultures; and teaching others to live with differences. To avoid a mutual undermining of the authority of the standards of human rights, we have to know one another better.

What is needed is a critical defense of universal human rights in a way that gives room for different cultural and religious interpretations. This is not to confuse empty *words* with *practice*. Some countries are *democratic* in name, but dictatorial in daily life; and there are many who speak of the *dignity* of human beings, yet treating others without respect.

The issue of the dignity of every person and of protected life in the context of wars or migration, and the issue of human rights and specially of freedom of religion, conscience and expression – in the context of violence and terrorism in the name of religion - need international cooperation and a strategic plan with an effective mechanism and an active application.

## Conclusion

(a) *Every country of the world* needs to promote through its example and its politics, the Culture of Non-Discrimination, Respect, Justice, Tolerance and Liberty for all people, religions, cultures and civilizations, religious minorities and the dignity of each person.

(b) Neither the Christian denominations, nor Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, or Socialists, Communists, and so on, have any moral right to impose pressure on another to accept their philosophies, beliefs or religion; *they* also have no right to prevent another from voluntarily teaching their teachings or to stop another from changing his or her religion.

(c) Governments should not have any right to impose an ideology or to discriminate against religious or other belief minorities; nor to manifest discrimination, intolerance or persecution against the freedom of conscience of any persons, who are different to them.

We offer you our brand new journal - a special edition dedicated to the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AIDLR.

Let us be ambassadors for liberty, hope and peace, by thinking and acting *in the context of time*.