

**GAMIP PRESENTATION IN THE OPENING OF THE SECOND LATINOAMERICAN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONGRESS.** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

I'm going to start this presentation with the words that Saul Arbess sent to us from Canada, where he resides.

He is member of the GAMIP Board of Directors involved in GAMIP from its very beginning in 2005.

Co-founder of Peace Initiative promoting Department of Peace in Canada.

*In a remarkable gap in global peacebuilding, few countries in the world have national infrastructures for peace (I4P). Virtually all have departments of defense, formerly departments of war, as well as some variation of departments of security, built upon a paramilitary policy and structure. This military infrastructure is highly resourced, easily mobilized and present at all levels in a given society. In this structural system, it is no wonder that, in policy and decision-making at the Cabinet level, decisions are most often based upon a military-type intervention. Even responses to environmental and climate issues have become largely seen as security issues in this policy environment.*

*The Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP) was founded in 2005 in London to fill this major gap in peace building institutions in governments around the world. At the time of its founding, only one state had a ministry of peace, Solomon Islands, and peace building was only one area of responsibility of the minister.*

*Subsequently, GAMIP members played a major role in the formation of the Costa Rica Minister of Peace (2009) and the Nepal Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction(2007).*

*Other states with ministers of peace are:*

*Ethiopia (2018), Afghanistan (2019)*

*Our impact was, in large part, the result of Summits for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace that were held on 5 Continents: North America, British Columbia, Canada(2006); Asia, Japan(2007); Latin America, Costa Rica(2009); Africa, Cape Town(2011) and Europe, London(2005) and Geneva(2013). This meeting of the International Ombudsman Organization is our newest summit and the first in Latin America.*

*The Geneva Summit convened the first global conference on Infrastructures for Peace (I4P). This is an example of the vision of GAMIP and its importance in peace building work around the world. Two regional organizations were also created by GAMIP: the African Alliance for Peace and the Southeast Asia Alliance for Peace.*

*Given the rising risk of nuclear war and the erratic behaviour of world leaders of nuclear nations, the increasing number of violent conflicts within nations and the spread of terrorism, GAMIP's role on the world stage has become more urgent and necessary, working with our allies in member countries around the world. That is why we are so*

*pleased to be forming a relationship with the IBA and anticipate a stimulating and valuable conference with you.*

On behalf of GAMIP -Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace- I want to thank you for having invited us to participate and sponsor this II Latin American Congress of Restorative Justice and also for the initiative to carry it out, without a doubt a great contribution to the establishment of a Peace culture.

The objective of GAMIP, as its name implies, is the establishment of peace structures, however small, in the governments of the peoples, at all levels, and also in civil society organizations. It is to open a space for the establishment of the Culture of Peace.

It is naturalized that in governments there are structures for war, in practically all governments in the world there is the Ministry of Defense, it is incorporated in our minds and in our actions. GAMIP's proposal is to establish "offices" that develop thought and action towards non-confrontational ways in conflict resolution. And that with time and their concrete actions these offices are gaining space to the extent that as humanity we become aware that differences are not resolved through the exercise of violence, in whatever form it assumes.

At this moment we are developing with two more people who participate in this meeting: Prof. Alicia Cabezudo and Dra. Marta Paillet, the establishment of a regional GAMIP here, in our area: GAMIP Latin America and the Caribbean. With people offered for the task from different countries: Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Colombia and Argentina so far. And we invite you all to join us in this initiative.

A regional GAMIP in America. This same region of the planet that on April 15, 1935 signed as the Pan American Union the Roerich Pact for the protection of the Cultural Heritage of Humanity and adopted this symbol, The Banner of Peace, three red circles inside a bigger red circle, to identify those assets representative of the cultural heritage of each people. The Red Cross of Culture. One of whose meanings is the Past, Present and Future of Humanity within the circle of Eternity.

We build on what those who preceded us built before us and on what those who come after will build. The question is: What are we building? What do we leave with our passage through this planet for those who come behind?

This symbol has accompanied GAMIP in its World Summits. It has also been present at the First Congress of Restorative Justice last year in Rosario City, Santa Fe, Argentina.

This II Congress of Restorative Justice is for us, members of GAMIP, an immense joy and a path of hope to travel among all. At the last Summit held in Geneva in 2013 one of the themes developed and experimented was the Restorative Circles. It makes the essence of GAMIP the restoration of ties, individual, social, international, all, and we celebrate this Congress dedicated to one of the restorative aspects: Justice, which perhaps is most

visible to us today.

And a fundamental characteristic of this Congress: organized by Ombudsmen. Precisely, this Congress was born, already from the first, in the minds and actions of the Ombudsmen.

This Congress, this GALyC, this region, are sponsoring a new alliance: IOI-GAMIP. "Think locally and act globally."

Why?

GAMIP fosters peace structures in civil society and in governments. The Ombudsman belongs to the structure of the State but has an important degree of independence in his actions, without a doubt it can constitute an important door for the establishment of peace infrastructures in governments, also constituting an important alliance between public and private actions. Which enhances the actions of both sectors.

This II Restorative Justice Congress is a space for new structures, for new alliances, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals . In the framework of Objective 17: Alliances to achieve the objectives, only by finding our common working points, we will be able to achieve the change that we want in this world.

GAMIP is to open the door to a new structure. Make room in our minds for new possibilities.

"Since it is in the minds of men where the bases for war have been established, it is in the minds of men where the bases for peace must be established," says the UNESCO Constitutive Act.

Co-creating together a New Humanity for a New World. Where the world's resources go to food production, housing, education, instead of the production of weapons and war machinery.

Where education is oriented to ways of understanding each other better instead of seeing how we can better eliminate each other.

Where we think about collaborating instead of competing.

One way to add for this is through the establishment of Culture of Peace units. In the neighborhood, in the neighborhood club, in schools, in companies, in unions, in communal, provincial and national governments. But primarily in our minds and in our hearts.

It is like dawn, it is all dark and dimly begins to glimpse a clarity that expands in such a way that suddenly everything is light.

GAMIP invites us to walk towards that light, in alliance with all those who walk there.

Here with this Restorative Justice Congress and with the IOI, and with all those who want to join. The doors are open, expectant.

Thanks and best wishes to all participants in this Congress.  
And through them for the group that we all belong: Humanity.