



## ***PPN Comunicazione - Disinformation, the petition to fight against the phenomenon is online***

**Roma - 28 set 2021 (Prima Pagina News) The theme of the conference "Effects of disinformation, from conflicts to everyday life".**

The fight against the spread of false, poorly verified or manipulated news is one of the most powerful tools for creating a fairer and brighter future. Here is the theme of the conference "Effects of disinformation, from conflicts to everyday life", organized by the International University for Peace in Rome on 15 September 2021. The main themes of the event were the main effects of massive disinformation campaigns about the origin of Covid-19, which involved not only public opinion but also allowed some countries, through false or manipulated news, to implement strategic policies on international relations. The speech of Pasquale Marchione, Director of AIFA Italian Drug Agency, explained the unprecedented importance of the theme: "Today we live the clash between what is information and disinformation. The first, more accurate, belongs to science. The second, imprecise, belongs to pseudoscience". A group of experts analyzed this phenomenon from its historical roots to the present day, exposing the effect of fake news in the medical and scientific field, with particular attention to the controversy over the origins of Covid 19 which, despite no scientific evidence in this regard, is the subject of much fake news. Massimo Ciccozzi, a molecular epidemiologist at the University Campus Biomedico in Rome, in his speech confirmed that "the virus, from an epidemiological point of view, has a natural origin". During the period of the pandemic, this phenomenon allowed States and institutions to undertake policies to maintain their leadership, to overturn international balances or to start conflicts based on mistaken convictions. Daniela Caruso, Historian and Professor of Studies on China in Unipace expressed herself on the theme: "We are going to meet a new Cold War and the disinformation on Covid and China was the weapon to raise the tenor of the political discussion. Instead, it is with diplomacy, mediation, culture and mutual respect that bridges of dialogue are built". Also, Mario Baccini, President of the National Institute for microcredit, proposed a solution to this problem: "How do you fight the hypocrisy of disinformation? With the means made available by the European Community and national governments". The manifesto presented during the conference reaffirmed the importance of correct and verified information as a founding element of free thought and decisions overtaken by governments and institutions around the world. The objective is to raise awareness on the subject in all possible actors: users, governments, bodies and press, developing good practices and shared strategies following a scientific approach and "independent from the policies of possible interfering countries". The first step in this direction is the organization of new initiatives to promote and raise awareness of the population, with the participation of the chief experts of the major sectors affected by this "infodemia", to achieve a society "just, fair and transparent, which can give everyone the key to understanding



the future. The fight against disinformation also passes through the awareness of individuals, and for this reason, the manifesto was made available to the subscription on the site [Change.org](https://change.org) . Everyone can contribute to the realization of a new world, equal and open to all.

*(Prima Pagina News) Martedì 28 Settembre 2021*

Verbalia Comunicazione S.r.l. Società Editrice di PRIMA PAGINA NEWS  
Registrazione Tribunale di Roma 06/2006 - P.I. 09476541009  
Iscrizione Registro degli Operatori di Comunicazione n. 21446

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