

## **2016 Soul, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, Nina Nováková**

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Europe there is no famine, we are materially wealthy, but we are not happy – we are gripped by fear and anxiety. For politicians this state of mind is doubly dangerous, because it makes them fail in their basic responsibility: to recognise issues concerning society as a whole as well as each individual and to take on this burden as their own. We should tackle these issues and at the same time inspire people to be self-confident (and optimistic).

The last two or three generations in most European countries have not experienced war but currently we cannot feel a sense of basic safety; we do not appreciate the value of human life:

We do not accompany our terminally ill, we dispose of them and put them to hospitals;

We bury our dead without a funeral;

Abortions are commonplace – and now they are not considered to be termination of life, but a basic human right.

Human Rights are not a creative product of legislators but something that is inherent in Human Nature. They are an explicit expression of Natural Humanity.

In my opinion, we, human beings, have allowed disintegration of our personalities into separate parts. Isolated body, isolated mind and isolated relationships. Our lifestyle has become pragmatic, our communication has become instrumental, our perception of other human beings has become dehumanised.

How can we reverse this disintegration? What power can bring these human dimensions back together? I believe it is the fourth, the spiritual dimension. The dimension which enables us to search for meaning and purpose of our actions. It is crucial for all people and even more so for us, politicians. The main task of politicians is decisions-making. Without this spiritual dimension we have no certainty that our decisions are good. If our decisions are guided by humility and empathy, we are better able to find solutions which promote mutual respect, peace and harmony.

Without the courage of politicians to be such full, integrated human beings the species homo sapiens sapiens may survive, but humankind may not. Humanity is one and we each represent a small part of it. So let us work together, because our noble goals can only be achieved in cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.

**Nina Nováková**