



THE PEACE FLAG.



MOTTO: PRO CONCORDIA LABOR.

## About the Peace Flag.

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The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag – whose rich symbolism is described opposite this page - was designed in 1897 by Countess Cora di Brazza. Having worked for the Red Cross shortly before she designed the flag, di Brazza appreciated the power of visual symbols and recognized that peace workers lacked a single image that unified their work. Aware of an earlier idea for a peace flag that incorporated pre-existing national flags proposed in 1891 by Henry Pettit, di Brazza felt that the earlier design was inadequate. Pettit's design was simply to place a white border around a given nation's flag and to add the word "Peace." But this approach resulted in as many peace flags as there were national flags. Needed, however, was a *single universal symbol* of peace that transcended national identity and symbolically communicated the cosmopolitan values inherent in peace-work. Accordingly, di Brazza designed the *Pro Concordia Labor* ("I work for Peace") flag. The colors of yellow, purple and white were chosen because no nation's flag had these colors, making it impossible for the spectator to confuse the *Pro Concordia Labor* flag with any pre-existing national flag. Freed from this potential confusion, the spectator who beholds the distinctive yellow, purple and white banner, becomes prepared to associate the colorful object with the values that motivate international and cosmopolitan work, namely "the cementing of the loving bonds of universal brotherhood without respect to creed, nationality or color" - values which were considered to be expressive of "true patriotism." The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag is a visual representation of the specific values inherent in "true patriotism" that undergird peace-work.

The clasped hands atop the center shield are an important part of the flag's symbolism. They represent the insight that the task of developing humanity and creating a peaceful world must be a joint venture undertaken by both men *and* women who labor for these goals *together*. The spiritual development of humanity – symbolized by the placement of the colors - is another important feature of the flag. Bertha von Suttner, the most famous peace worker of di Brazza's time who inspired Alfred Nobel to create his Peace Prize, spoke often of the evolution of the human species. "Humanity develops upward," she said, and "we are called to hasten the development of a higher and more fortunate type of human being." The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag symbolically represents these sentiments.

When Susan B. Anthony commented on the flag in 1897, she observed the flag's connection to the profound relationship between one's "inner world" and peace work. As she lay her hand on her breast, Anthony noted that "the first person to begin this work of peace is right here." Di Brazza not only agreed with this, she created a personal tool to assist the individual in undertaking this personal peace work. The "Universal Peace Badge" (mentioned opposite this page) was a device invented by di Brazza to provide assistance in developing the "inner resources" so that one can begin this work of practical, personal peace, and, ideally, develop into an instrument of peace.

## Symbolism of the Peace Flag.\*

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THE TRICOLOR, like the triangle, is emblematic of liberty, unity and fraternity, as the THREE throughout all time has stood in religion for Divine Love, Absolute Wisdom, Universal Harmony and in nature for Air, Earth and Water.

The flag, therefore, which symbolizes all these must be a tricolor, composed of yellow, purple and white. YELLOW, because this is the color of active love, of energy, and of creative paternal force, attributes of the sunlight, ripeness and plenty. PURPLE, because this is the color of triumph achieved through constancy, self sacrifice and perseverance, which are feminine or maternal attributes. WHITE, because this is the color of innocence and purity, attributes of the young and inexperienced.

These emblematic colors are so placed as to illustrate the development of humanity. The child spirit first appears sustained by the mother spirit, for the innocent must learn through patient teaching and that self-sacrificing spirit which mediates between the weak and the strong.

Tender endurance (purple) creates the hearth and the family ideals. It is therefore worthy to carry the emblems of aspiration, the crest of Universal Peace; while the paternal element (yellow), with its power and will, holds humanity to the blue staff of promise and fidelity of purpose.

The Star of Destiny caps the flagstaff and occupies the exalted position in the crest upon the central field of the flag. The soaring wings of a dove sustain the hands of a man and a woman, clasped above the shield, destined for the national arms or the devices of each society, the crest being emblematic of that friendly cooperation in labor and aspiration which raises humanity from individualism and self-seeking brutishness to mutual benevolence and universal equity.

The motto, *Pro Concordia Labor*, "I work for peace," may be placed upon the flag beneath the shield, or upon one of the white streamers from the flagstaff, with a national or society motto upon the other.

THE UNIVERSAL PEACE BADGE consists of the clasped hands, the wings and the star of the crest made in metal, and gilded for an officer, silvered for a full member, or bronzed for a postulant. This forms a pin to support a yellow ribbon for the men, purple for the women, or white for the children, upon which is printed or embroidered the device of the society and the individual number of the owner of the badge. To learn more about the Universal Peace Badge visit:

*[proconcordialabor.com/badge](http://proconcordialabor.com/badge)*

\*Text adapted from di Brazza's original 1897 *Pro Concordia Labor* pamphlet. The cover of the original 1897 pamphlet, designed by L. Prang & Co. of Boston, is used as the cover of this 2015 pamphlet (which is modeled after the 1897 original).

## THE SEVEN RULES OF HARMONY.

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In addition to designing the *Pro Concordia Labor* flag and the Universal Peace Badge, Countess di Brazza also formulated the THE SEVEN RULES OF HARMONY. These rules provide concrete guidance to individuals who wish to undertake the work of peace. First presented in 1897 by delegates from the Universal Peace Union to the first National Congress of Mothers (held in Washington, D.C., USA in February 1897), these rules were widely disseminated that year and especially recommended to the consideration of parents, guardians and teachers because they were in a position to teach the rules to children. But the rules are no mere child's play. When taken seriously, they have the power to open latent channels of compassion and direct those channels to the progressive reform work of an activist. They are printed below for your convenience:



1. MAKE THE SACRED SPIRIT OF PEACE A LIVING POWER IN YOUR LIFE, AND CONTRIBUTE ALL POSSIBLE TIME, THOUGHT AND MONEY TO ITS DIFFUSION.
2. NEVER LISTEN, WITHOUT PROTEST, TO INSINUATIONS, VITUPERATIONS OR UNJUST ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FELLOW-CITIZENS.
3. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE SPIRIT OF THE NATIONAL LAWS, AND TO OBEY THOSE WHICH EXIST; AND TO INTEREST YOURSELF FERVENTLY FOR THE MODIFICATION OF ALL THOSE WHICH YOU CONSIDER TYRANNIZE USELESSLY OVER ANY CLASS OF FELLOW CITIZENS.
4. DEDICATE YOUR THOUGHT AND USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO DEVELOP THE NATIONAL AND PATRIOTIC SPIRIT, AND DO NOT CRITICIZE WITHOUT PURPOSE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FAMILY AND OF THE NATION.
5. TREAT ALL BIRDS AND BEASTS, AND ALL EXISTENCIES OF THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE WORLD, WITH JUSTICE AND GENTLENESS. DO NOT DESTROY, SAVE FOR SELF-PRESERVATION, AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WEAK. INSTEAD, MAKE IT YOUR OBJECT TO PLANT, TO NOURISH AND TO PROPAGATE ALL THAT WILL LEAD TO THE MORAL AND PHYSICAL AMELIORATION OF THE FAMILY, THE HOME AND THE NATION.
6. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR DEPENDENTS WHAT YOU MAY LEARN WITH REGARD TO JUSTICE AND PEACE, AND SEEK TO DEVELOP IN THEM SENTIMENTS OF HARMONY.
7. SEEK EACH DAY TO UTTER SOME WORD OR PERFORM SOME LITTLE ACTION WHICH MAY PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF PEACE, WHETHER AT HOME OR ABROAD.