

THE OBSERVATORY AGAINST THE MILITARIZATION OF SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

believes that the time has come to stop treating conscientious objection as a mere individual right, to be exercised as an exception within the boundaries of military service. At a time in history when war is being normalized and our places of learning are being transformed into ideological and technological outposts for conflict, the Observatory against the militarization of schools and universities wishes to point out the risks that civil service may represent today. Indeed, in the current context of permanent war, it becomes a useful tool for warmongers, a Trojan horse to bring military conscription back into European countries: at this stage, conscientious objection must be total and become a collective and political choice.

MANIFESTO OF RESISTANCE

Against the militarization of society, the reintroduction of conscription, and for the unconditional repudiation of war

1. The repudiation of war as an absolute value

We strongly invoke Article 11 of the Italian Constitution: Italy repudiates war not only as a means of aggression, but also as a method for conflict resolution.

This repudiation cannot be suspended or subordinated to international alliances or rearmament policies. We reject a priori, every policy, every investment, and every decision that drives humanity toward self-destruction.

2. Schools and Universities:

Places of Peace, not of war

We denounce the infiltration of warmongering values into places of education. Schools and universities must be spaces of critical thinking and cooperation.

NO to scientific research subservient to the arms industry.

NO to agreements between educational institutions and the Armed Forces.

NO to the militarization and nationalism of educational programs.

NO to any form of mass profiling aimed at conscription.

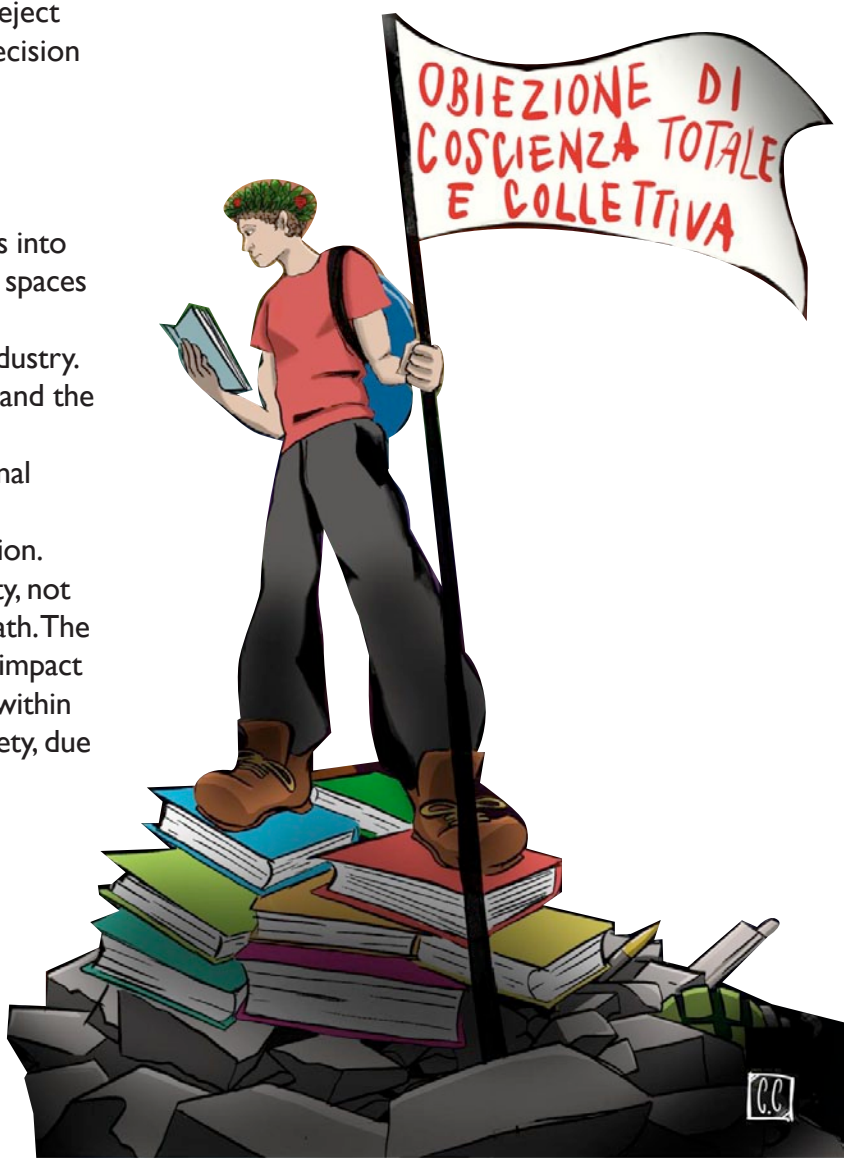
Knowledge must serve life and the progress of society, not the refinement of instruments of destruction and death. The Observatory against the militarization considers the impact of conscientious objection to be significant not only within schools and universities, but also in the wider of society, due to its implications for communities and workplaces.

OSSERVATORIO CONTRO



**LA MILITARIZZAZIONE
DELLE SCUOLE E
DELLE UNIVERSITÀ**

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3. Total and Collective Conscientious Objection

We claim the right to Total and Collective Conscientious Objection in all spheres of civil society: In the workplaces, for the right to refuse the production and transport of weapons. In research, for the right to withdraw from “dual-use” projects or those intended for military purposes. Throughout society, as a civil barrier against a system that prepares the country for a state of war.

4. Against complicity and genocide

Our objection is an act of international solidarity. Saying NO to war today means: Saying NO to the genocide of the Palestinian people and to other ongoing genocides. Saying NO to Zionism and fascism, based on subjugation and exclusion. Saying NO to colonial policies and to the West's complicity in the ongoing massacres. Saying NO to the arms race.

5. Against the repression of dissent

We reject the single narrative. The criminalisation of those who demonstrate for peace, the climate of threats and retaliation against academic freedom, censorship in schools and universities, and repression in the streets are symptoms of a global war system. There is no peace or democracy without freedom of dissent. Collective objection is our response to fear.

We call for acts of civil disobedience

against all measures adopted by our country's Government and by other national and European institutions to militarize society, including the reintroduction of compulsory conscription in any form: short-term conscription schemes, Armed Forces open days, questionnaires, medical examinations, weeks of military exercises, civil service aimed at the war effort, and so on. We say no to the mass profiling of boys and girls.

We want to defend young people

and not leave them alone to face a fate of war, against those who wish to turn them into cannon fodder, by proposing a **TOTAL AND COLLECTIVE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION**.

We call for resolute resistance against the measures of those who want war, upholding the supremacy of the principles of the Constitution of the Republic over the prospect of sliding into a war that will destroy our country.

This is how we wish to defend it: by following the repudiation of war expressed in Article 11 of our Constitution. And it is precisely in the spirit of the **total repudiation of war** that our refusal lies of any form of military or civil defense functional or complementary to the logic of war. If there are many of us, the plans for war will not prevail, and we will succeed in defending the founding values of our Republic and the rights of all peoples.

Total Conscientious Objection is today an act of possible realism in the face of the mad rush towards war. It is not enough to simply exercise this right individually solely in relation to conscription or to a potential call-up to enter the army in the event of war. We must refuse to be cogs in the war machine even from a civilian perspective.

We believe that today civil service is no longer an alternative choice to military service: across Europe, it is the tool used by warmongers to militarize the whole of society, applying the military doctrine of total defense, under which everyone is considered a “soldier” starting from their workplaces, places of study, or spaces of social cooperation.

Total Conscientious Objection is the collective force needed to save the entire country from war in all spheres of society where the citizenship rights are exercised.

We do not ask permission to remain human:

WE EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN HUMAN

**In war one fights for the Homeland,
but when one refuses war,
one fights for humanity.**