

In the Spirit of Assisi,
The Sant'Angelo Church Community
The Milan Forum of Religions
and Casa per la Pace of Milan

ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO A MOMENT OF SILENCE
AS WELL AS TO THREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE

In the "personal space": being a woman and a refugee.
In the "civic space": a new message to the city.
In the "political space" for Peace: the real challenge...

- Sunday and Monday 18/19th September from 6 to 7pm.

For further information or just to keep in touch:



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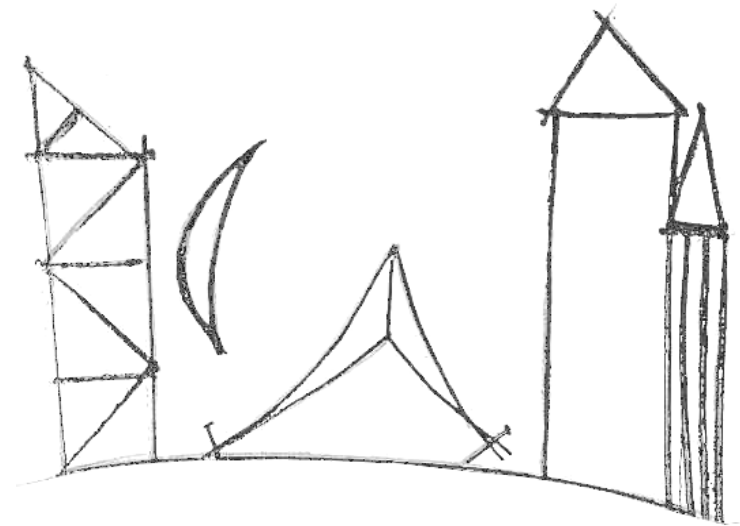
Patron:
The Milan City Council
MILAN



THE TENT OF SILENCE

HOW TO BE A REFUGEE: THE CHALLENGE OF DARING

Sunday 18th September 2016 from 4 to 9 pm.
Monday 19th September 2016 from 9 am to 9 pm.



MILANO

Colonne di San Lorenzo

Corso Porta Ticinese (bus 94. trams 3, 2 e 14)

To be or to escape.

In the difficult times we live in, we are all trying to escape from something.

Those who make a dramatic escape with their lives at stake are called by different names, refugees, immigrants, or stowaways – depending on whether they sought refuge from war, escape from violence and oppression, relief from poverty or rules which relentlessly transformed them into ‘outlaws’ – as if having grown up within another history, in another country, was a crime.

Even we, who are denizens of the First World, are trying to escape from our own fears: the fear of difference, the fear of those we suspiciously look down on because they could be terrorists or “steal our jobs”.

We are afraid of our own bewilderment at facing an epoch-defining phenomenon which has already changed our lives.

We are afraid to admit that there are not problems behind these faces and these stories but opportunities to transform this tired European culture which now seems set on building walls instead of bridges.

The challenge of daring:

We should have the courage to admit that it is useless to form military coalitions to re-establish a now irreparable status quo. This is the lesson of history.

We should see in refugees mirror-images of ourselves and begin together a long march leading to a new multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.

We should look up to those who, with courage as exiles or economic migrants risk the little that they have, along with their lives, and leave everything to walk into the unknown. Most are young, there are women among them, and families have to risk their children on makeshift boats, facing an appalling choice between certain death at home and the risk of their loved ones dying at sea.

They hope against hope for a better world that we cannot refuse to build with them in a spirit of reciprocity and solidarity.

This year our Great Tent of Silence helps you on your way towards a dialogue with these other people.

In 2016, too, as every year, we have planted in the midst of our city a great white tent – unadorned, temporary, plain-looking – where anyone can find rest and silence to meditate, think, or pray, should they so wish. Silence is actually a language that is universally understood, a space that can be shared, a prerequisite for meeting others, listen to them and compare views. It is a concrete demonstration of intent, of socialisation and of Peace.

Silence also gives us space for thinking about taking up again an individual or shared journey.

This year in the square around the tent there will be open spaces for getting to know each other, hear each other’s views and talk together to give voice to the silence inside the tent. Loud and clear messages will be delivered in the three following areas:

A personal space:

The Women’s Red Tent. All women are welcome to join this circle of reciprocity and sharing. A time to relive our own feminine roots. Being self-aware for a woman means reaching an inner landscape she may call home wherever she may be in the world.

A civic space:

A new message to the City and its institutions, starting from the still-neglected “Charter of Human Rights”. From the refugee crisis to exchange and solidarity.

A political space for international Peace:

Thinking and planning novel ways to rescue and welcome refugees through seeking shared paths and Peace.

The real challenge is to pit a new form of humanism against an ethics-free economy enslaved to the god of money.