TEOFONIA: NOTE DI FEDI PER UN’UNICA ARMONIA

#### Teofonia: sounds of faiths for one harmony

In the first week of February, on the occasion of the international UN initiative “World Interfaith Harmony Week“, the Italian Islamic Religious Community (COREIS) and the Italian Hindu Union (UII) have launched the project "Teofonia: note di fedi per un unica armonia" (“Teofonia: sounds of faiths for one harmony“) with a public event at the prestigious “Sala Polifunzionale” of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in Santa Marta street n. 37 in Rome.

The Teofonia project aims to promote and share best practices against discriminations and the exploitation of religion. It has been organized in collaboration with UNAR (National Office against Racial Discrimination), an office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and the Inter-religious board established at the Ministry of Labour and Welfare of Italy.

The different events will take place in many Italian cities during all 2015 in Rome, Milan, Turin and in the regions of Tuscany, Ligury, Sicily.

The format of each event includes a short reading of Vedic and Koranic passages, a concert of sacred music performed by Muslim artists and an exhibition of sacred Hindu dance, followed by a round table about inter-religious dialogue bringing the voice of religious and institutional leaders. Thus each event gives voice to reflections on intercultural and inter-religious coexistence of highly symbolic, cultural and spiritual value, particularly important in these times of social and spiritual crisis.

In order to stress the relevance of the project as a significant tool for inter-religious dialogue and awareness, **the opening event has been organized on February 4, 2015**, **on the occasion and under the patronage of the World Interfaith Harmony Week**.

# Goals of the project are:

* to help create a society based on pluralism and dialogue among different religious communities
* to help valorize examples of best practices face to problems of cohabitation and integration
* to raise awareness about the cultural and artistic Hindu and Islamic heritage
* to deepen the knowledge about specific sacred sites and prayer places for an effective religious freedom also from the point of view of urban spaces
* to prevent religions from radicalization through the diffusion of culture, arts and music
* to stem the risk of discrimination and exploitation of religions
* to overcome existing prejudices among different religious communities

# Development of the opening day, February 4th 2015

The conference presentation of the project was held at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with the coordination of UNAR. The event was opened by the greetings of the institutions, the Secretary Hon. Franca Biondelli and Don Cristiano Bettega (CEI).

Svamini Hamsananda Giri, Vice President UII, Imam Yahya Pallavicini, Vice President COREIS have intervened together with representatives of various religious associations that have been promoters of events at the world interfaith harmony week; so that these organizations have had the possibility to present their other initiatives as well. Moderation has been entrusted to the journalist Marco Politi.

The event lasting about 3 hours took place in the morning in a 120-seat conference room; the entrance by invitation has allowed the participation of parliamentarians, journalists, personalities from the world of culture and religious authorities.

# Partners and patronages

* Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, Office for Equal Opportunities
* UNAR - National Office
* Against Racial Discrimination (at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic)
* Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Italian Republic

# Feedback press / TV / WEB

* Project Website: [www.teofonia.it](http://www.teofonia.it)
* Project FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/teofonia2015>
* TG1 Dialogue February 14 (from 2’41” to 4’41”): <http://www.tg1.rai.it/dl/RaiTV/programmi/media/ContentItem-d2c6f5f8-695d-42f6-8812-cb0a4a576256-tg1.html#p=0>
* La Repubblica: <http://www.repubblica.it/solidarieta/volontariato/2015/02/22/news/intervista-107910817/>
* sanremonews.it: <http://www.sanremonews.it/2015/02/01/leggi-notizia/argomenti/sanremo-arma-taggia-ospedaletti/articolo/al-concerto-a-roma-teofonia-note-di-fede-per-ununica-armonia-anche-i-sukun-ensemble.html>
* immezcla.it: <http://www.immezcla.it/notizie-immigrazione/item/806-world-interfaith-harmony-week-dell-onu-unar-biondelli-teofonia.html>

# Testimonials

"Italy, like Europe, just now during this period of great difficulty, should encourage the dialogue and listening, seeking both in these great religions, because all religions have messages of peace [...] Only through dialogue, as said even by our great Pope Francis, only through dialogue, listening and mediation we can solve the big problems that are afflicting us in these times, which are afflicting not only Italy but all of Europe "

*Hon. Biondelli Franca, undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy*

"There is more attention to inter-religious dialogue and it has been finally realized that this is exactly the antidote to violence and discrimination, therefore we encourage dialogue between government and religious communities as well. That is why today’s meeting, “Teophony”, between two great Religions such as Islam and Hinduism, is a matter of great importance for us"

*Marco De Giorgi, Director UNAR - National Office against Racial Discrimination, the Prime Minister's Office, Office of Equal Opportunity*

# Scheduled events of the project

* 4 FEBBRAIO 2015 - Sala Polifunzionale della Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Via Santa Maria in Via, n. 37 (Roma)
* 19 MARZO 2015 - Teatro 4 Mori (Livorno)
* 31 MARZO 2015 - Teatro dell'Opera del Casinò di Sanremo (Sanremo)
* 10 MAGGIO 2015 - Teatro Tenda Anselmi (Pegognaga, MN)
* 27 GIUGNO 2015 - Monastero Fonte Avellana (Umbria)ù

# Photo gallery

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