

Milan, March 1st 2024

Report on WIHW event at Milan University, Italy

The Legacy of Religious leaders in times of crisis

Religious Fraternity and Social Cohesion for Peace

Wednesday 28th of February 2024 the Faculty of Political Science of Milan University hosted a event organized by COREIS the Islamic Religious Community in the occasion of the WIHW, the 5th anniversary of the *Human Fraternity* document and of the *Makkah Charter*.

The dean of Milan University, Prof. Franzini, and the deputy Major of Milan, Anna Scavuzzo, opened the event that was attended by hundreds of participants: students and citizens coming from several cities in Italy. A message from judge Abdelsalam, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Elders (Abu Dhabi, UAE) was read and distributed. The following panel included a distinguished professor of International Relations and Peace keeping, the Franciscan High Commissioner from the Holy Land, the chief Rabbi and President of the Rabbinical Assembly in Italy, the imam of the Central Mosque al-Wahid of Milan and the Archbishop of Milan. A music performance by a professional violinist concluded the event playing a Jewish, Christian and Islamic melody.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East increased the expectations and success of interest from participants and media for the first event where local Institutions were called to share their vision for educational policies together with the main religious leaders of the city of Milan. The need to understand the difference between propaganda and a correct information on religious identities and the reading and interpretation of sacred texts was among the main focus of the presentations and the open debate.

Among the outcomes of the future action plan:

- The cooperation between political representatives and religious delegates for the common good of civil society,
- A better awareness of the added value of unity in diversity, solidarity and cooperation, between citizens and believers,
- Trying to prevent, manage and avoid any discrimination, hatred and violence,
- Promoting the dialogue of sacred art, architecture, calligraphy, music, theatre but also a increase in the comparative study of the traditional interpretations of sacred texts and religious teachings,
- Training youth programmes and visits to religious sites during religious festivities.