

"Women in Progress: Paths and Testimonies"

Monza, Italy, 28. March 2015



By Carlo Chierico

A meeting to reflect, talk and increase awareness on the role of women in our society. These are the ideas behind the conference on "Women in progress: paths and testimonies", which was held at the Urban Center, as part of initiatives "Women: feminine and plural" promoted by the City of Monza organized by the Universal Peace Federation, the Women's Federation for World Peace and the Casa delle Culture.

A meeting with many authoritative women speakers, who gave the large audience many ideas, that were deeply appreciated, taken from their own personal journey as women engaged at various levels. Actually the speakers were politicians, journalists, representatives of **associations, sportswomen... all united** by their greatest strength: being a woman.

The event strongly emphasized not only the vital role that women play in society, but was a living testimony through the voices of the speakers, who expressed their deep emotions, as well as a glimpse of reality on the work of many female figures: wives, mothers, successful **professionals, young ladies... all proud of** being a woman.



The conference was conducted and moderated by Carlo Chierico, president of the Universal Peace Federation – UPF, Monza Chapter, with the journalist Carlotta Morgana of the newspaper "Il Giorno", who opened the meeting talking about her recent trip to Amsterdam in memory of a great little woman: Anne Frank, while Carlo Chierico recalled the anniversary of the 500 years since the birth of St. Teresa of Avila, a woman really out of the ordinary, an example of life for all, not only for believers.



Other testimonies, often interrupted by applause from the audience, were those

offered by the Councillor of the City of Monza Laura Morasso, the Member of Parliament Hon. Elena Centemero, the Vice President of the Board of the Lombardy Region Sara Valmaggi, the Mayor of Muggiò Maria Fiorito, the Councillor of Agrate Brianza Giovanna Amodio, the youth involved in volunteering Wesam El Husseiny and Diana Mercado Paez, the President of the Monza Skating Club Marika Kullmann, the captain of the first team of Sanda Volley Claudia Balestreri, Valerio **D'Ippolito of the Association "Libera"**, the journalist of "Il Cittadino" Barbara Apicella, the speaker of the Benvenuto International Club Anna Vicentini, the Vice Chairman of the Women Federation for World Peace, Bergamo Chapter, Annamaria Mussato.



The Deputy Mayor of Monza Cherubina Bertola, in her welcome address, highlighted the commitment of the City of Monza for equal opportunities and

explained the support to initiatives such as this one organized by the UPF, for shared knowledge and integration. Carlo Chierico emphasized the work of the founders of UPF International, Dr. and Mrs. Moon, whose commitment to world peace continues, after the death of Rev Moon, through the work of his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han.

The Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, whose video of her recent trip to Italy was shown to the audience, inspired the participants, who were invited to sign the petition in favor of the Burmese leader, active for many years in the defense of human rights and ethnic minorities in

her country, to make sure that Aung San Suu Kyi can run for the Presidency of Burma.



During the conference the audience could attend to an artistic interlude, with

a deep but at the same time very pleasant content, with a significant time dedicated to the poet Alda Merini, by the experienced art teacher Ettore Fiorina, and songs and music from the folk tradition, with a trio of good artists, although not professionals: Lorena Cantarelli, Nicoletta Abbate and Maria Rosaria Marra.

The success of this conference, now in its third edition, means that other meetings like this will follow, and in the coming days will be published online the summary of the papers of all the speakers.



Diana Mercado Paez and Wesam El Husseiny - Claudia Balestreri – Anna Vicentini – Giovanna Amodio – Maria Fiorito

MBnews link: <http://www.mbnews.it/2015/03/monza-donne-in-cammino-testimonianze-di-pace-allurban-center/>

Il dialogo di Monza link: <http://www.ildialogodimonza.it/donne-in-cammino-percorsi-e-testimonianze/>

