

Conference in the Italian Parliament

Organized by UPF and WFPW in cooperation with Italian Parliamentarians that attended the London and Rome conference to start the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

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By *Giuseppe Cali*

This is the second conference in the Italian Parliament, following the establishment of the IAPP, by True Parents. Around 70 participants gathered, including parliament members, journalists, head of NGO, representatives of very

prominent organizations and institutions.

The theme was the same of the latest Human Rights UN day: "Stand up for someone's rights today".

Nowadays, Italian society is going through a deep transformation, for



several reasons, including the huge wave of immigration from poor and war devastated countries. The topic of human rights is daily discussed in all media in many ways, with very different reactions and approaches, making it a real battlefield. We wanted really to bring the Principle point of view on this very important human life related issue and show the heart of True Parents.

By chance, happened that in the same day the parliamentarians were very busy in voting for the new National government and the discussion for it was exactly on the same time of our conference. This could be a killing factor for the success of it, but incredibly enough some of them made a outstanding effort to attend our conference anyway. One of them, Hon. Eleonora Bechis decided to stay with us all the time, running out at the very



end, just in time to vote, while others were going in and out, passing from one hall to the other continuously.

This attitude, showed the level of interest and attachment they have to us and our organizations. Differently, they could easily find an excuse not to attend our conference, but surely, they consider us very relevant for the sake of the country.

Gabriella Mieli, vice-president of WFWP Italy, was the MC and organizer of the program. She read the Ban Ki Moon speech, given at the last Human Rights Day of UN. On our side, we had three speeches:



Carlo Zonato, UPF Italy President introduced the meeting explaining the role of UPF, giving a testimony of the founders, our True Parents, Elisabetta Nistri, President of WFWP Italy, spoke about "Peace and Human Dignity", quoting True Mother to explain how she is guiding us in many activities in order to develop the standard of true women and couples, Giuseppe Cali, Italian National leader, spoke about "The role of religions in the establishment of human rights", explaining the importance of the interreligious dialogue in the peace building and the establishment of a better society. He read several passages

of Father' speeches on this topic. All our papers were appreciated very much and elevated the spirit of the conference, to an unusual level for a parliament hall.

The other speakers were very well known human rights activists and parliamentarians. A movie directors, Ilaria Borrelli, introduced a film, that is nowadays shown in movie theaters in Italy, and was shown at the UN assembly and Euro Parliament, talking about children's rights. Other speakers were: Antonio Stango, President of LIDU the Italian branch of the International League for Human Rights, Marco Ricceri, President of EURISPES, one of the most important research institutes in Italy, Vincenza Palmieri, President of INPEF a prominent educational institution for Families and Children, Hon. Souad Sbai, former Italian Parliament member and President of an African Women organization fighting to educate and rescue African women in Italy, Hon. Eleonora Bechis, current Parliament member, and responsible of a government committee for helping immigrated children that lost their parents and remained alone. There are thousands and thousands of such children now in Italy and they are totally alone, sometime at a very young age.

The level of the papers was extremely good, very detailed, passionate, spiritual in many ways, expressing the deep desire to improve people's life and morality and especially protecting children and women that nowadays are devastated either by criminal organization, but also by a culture that prevent them to develop properly in

their true freedom, character and happiness, even in the western developed countries. The response from the public was incredible. First, the level of audience was very high, including parliamentarians, and prominent personalities and human rights experts. Then, the give and take between speakers and public became so intense, that we could easily say that the content of the question and answer sessions (we had one every two speakers), was important as much as the papers that were presented.

At the end, we were happy, with a sense of accomplishment and advancement of the Italian Providence. We appreciated and could benefit from the cooperation of some 2nd generation members, that with their young spirit, abilities and smile could add grace and efficiency to the conference. Recently, we are experiencing a "kind of magic", every time we go on public. We understand this happens thanks to God and True Parents, but we are all extremely happy to become more and more, bit by bit, even with our many limitation, instrument of God's Will to rebuild the world. We are, on the same time, sure that True Father, sided by Jesus, all saints and all brothers and sisters mobilized in the Spiritual World, is supporting us very much. As we feel grateful to True Mother and deeply connected to her effort to save the world, we feel in the same way connected to True Father's Heart to conclude the restoration process of all the cosmos. We know he is with us constantly and we feel his love more and more. We can just say: Thank you Heavenly Parent, thank you True Parents!

