

## WFWP, UPF and FFWPU Italy celebrate the Holy Day of Vesak

M. Gabriella Mieli  
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On Sunday, 14 May 2017, WFWP, UPF and FFWPU celebrated the Holy Day of Vesak in our local centre, under the request of Venerable Italie Dhammapalo Thero.

It was a cultural and interreligious event. Representatives from the European Buddhist Union, Church of Scientology, Buddhist Institute of Soka Gakkai, Zen Rinzai Buddhist Centre, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, and from organizations such as Fabric of Peace, Universal Peace Federation and Women's Federation for World Peace gathered together for this UN celebration day.

The programme was divided in two parts: Spiritual moments and testimonies.

“On this day of Vesak let us celebrate the wisdom of Lord Buddha by taking action for others with a strong spirit of solidarity” Maria Gabriella Mieli on behalf of WFWP reported UNSG Antonio Guterres message and explained the reasons why the UN in a resolution of 1999 acknowledged the contribution that Buddhism has made and continues to make to the spirituality of humanity. Most of the guests were almost ignorant of the significance and the principles guiding Buddhism.

Dr. Bruno Portigliatti, one of the founders of European Buddhist Union, and Walter Nuzzo, Regional PR responsible of Soka Gakkai, explained the differences of these 2 different philosophies, while Rev Magda Camilla Morra of Scientology reported about Ron Hubbard's experiences with Buddhism.

At the end of the 1st part of the programme the local representatives of WFWP and UPF recognized the Venerable Italie Dhammapalo Thero as new Ambassador for Peace.

One Japanese WFWP member offered a Japanese calligraphy to Ve. Dhammapalo Thero expressing his sincere heart and service in the community.

All the participants could see some precious relics and experience meditation.

The event ended with an incredible spiritual moment: people from different nationalities offered prayers in 12 different languages including Japanese, Mongolian and Korean language.

Reported by

By M. Gabriella Mieli  
WFWP Italy