

SconfinateLibertà: first the last ones

Proposals and report from the conference of the Waldensian Diaconate

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Milan (NEV), February 2, 2019 – “The gap between rich and poor widens. Europe's origins and its vocation to plurality and reception, tries to transform the Mediterranean border between those poor and those rich” – this is one of the messages that conference “S-confinate libertà” (Boundless Freedom) held in Milan on January

The conference opened with the greeting of the President of the Waldensian Diaconate **Giovanni Comba**: “A migration policy that does not open new, safe and legal paths in Europe is fatally doomed to encourage irregular migration. This is why we are expanding the humanitarian corridors opened for the first time in Italy at the beginning of the year, as CSD, the concern of many about the recent provisions of the law on asylum, in addition to creating greater irregularity, questions the rights expressed by the Italian Constitution... We will continue with determination to propose projects in favour of the last ones paying attention to their stories, their hopes and their fears.” “Europe stuck in front of 47 migrants on the Sea Watch is the emblem of a failure.” A moderator of the Waldensian Board, pastor **Eugenio Bernardini** -. No one is an island. Slogans and superficiality are not the solution, but there are different responsibilities. To say ‘Italians first’ means saying ‘only Italians’. “The last one

mandate, the order Jesus gave us”.

The Waldensian theologian **Daniele Garrone**, also member of the Council of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI), wonders whether we will remain human. “The democratic Europe was the answer to a century that brought millions of death wars. Ignorance, complicity and silliness have led to racial laws. What lesson from history? What will the planet be in 50 years? Will we be a province of China? / Russia? Will the millions of migrants become billions due to global warming and climate change? The European West will save its soul only if it remembers the inalienable right to life. Among the topics of the conference, the asylum policies. “The asylum policies separated from the amendment of the Dublin regulation, from the search and rescue at sea, from the opening of legal and safe ways”, stated the European parliamentarian **Schlein** and continued – “There is already another Europe: that of volunteers who follow the binding principles of solidarity and brotherhood”.

Many meaningful data emerged during the day, including those brought by the sociologist **Maurizio Ambrosini**: “There is a view of the migratory reality which is blind and forgets, among other things, that the real place where migrants are hiding is in Italy. The Italians where domestic workers support an invisible parallel welfare system. The Italians overestimate the number of migrants and asylum seekers: the perceived reality is 9%. “Souverainism won first in the minds than in the polls” commented the speaker. Three are the words proposed by the prefect Renato Saccone: “This is not an emergency, we chase the events we will always be late. We need respect without prejudices and a serious elaboration that takes into account complexity. The problem is not to open or not to open but how to govern them”.

“We should learn from history and be sentinels of the present”, said Gad Lerner. “We need linguistic and cultural resistance to overcome the climate of scorn that scientific research is a humiliation and degradation of people”.

The conference was also attended , among others, by **Luca Di Sciullo** of the Center for Studies and Research , and by **Maria Silvia Olivieri**, of the Central Service of the Italian Service for asylum seekers).

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