

A WORLD FIRST: RELIGIONS TOGETHER FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

Special Event on **March 29th** in Rome to present the Project

'Religions of the World Charter: Palliative Care for Older People'

Rome, March 20th 2017 - Fondazione Maruzza Onlus is pleased to announce that for the first time worldwide, representatives of all main Religions will join together in Rome on March 29th, to participate in **"Religions Together for Palliative Care"**, to promote the right of all older people affected by advanced chronic conditions to receive palliative care.

Figures published by ISTAT (Italian national statistical institute) speak for themselves; in Italy people are living longer and longer. Between 2010 and 2050 life expectancy will increase from 78 to 83 years in men and 84 to 89 in women. In 2050 there will be nearly 7 million people aged over 80 in Italy, almost 12.5% of the population. **Globally, the growth rate of the elderly exceeds that of the entire global population**, and it is expected that the number of citizens over 60 will triple, to reach nearly **2 billion people** in 2050.

The real challenge today is to look to the future; a higher prevalence of diseases, principally chronic, must be dealt with, with **an ever increase in demand for health and social care**, which if not addressed now, will have **serious repercussions on public and private spending** and the quality of life of many people .

The **'Talk Show Event'** taking place at the Marconi Room in Vatican Radio headquarters will be the occasion for Maruzza Foundation to present the **Project "Religions of the World Charter: Palliative Care for Older People" in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV)**. The Event will be participated by distinguished religious leaders from around the world, human rights advocates, doctors, nurses, patients, volunteers and men of culture.

"Palliative care is global care, encompassing the clinical, psychological and spiritual needs of patients and their families and aims to achieve the best quality of life possible and respect for human dignity. Religions are for many a moral reference and their voice reaches every corner of the Earth." said Silvia Lefebvre, leader of Maruzza Foundation. "Religions can therefore help us spread the concept that every older unwell person has the right to live in the best way possible."

FONDAZIONE MARUZZA ONLUS

The Maruzza Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization established by Antonio and Eugenia Lefebvre D'Ovidio in 1999 following the untimely death of their eldest daughter Maruzza. The Foundation advocates globally for effective and sustainable palliative care services for all persons affected by serious illness. Its activities are focused on the most vulnerable members of society: children and older adults.

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