

EUROPEAN HUMANIST FORUM

milan 17.18.19 october 08

# the strength of **nonviolence**

Palalido and University of Milan - Bicocca



DEAR FRIENDS

THIS FIRST NEWSLETTER IS COMING TO YOU WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE EUROPEAN FORUM THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN MILAN ON THE 17TH, 18TH AND 19TH OCTOBER 2008.

Each month you will receive the most important news so that you are always up to date as the big day approaches.

In this issue:

- Invitation to a special person: **Giorgio Schultze**, spokesperson for New Humanism in Europe
- The Forum's position regarding nonviolence
- The Forum website
- Logistical information regarding hotels
- News
- A competition open to all



*Giorgio Schultze  
European Spokesperson  
for New Humanism*

## THE CONSTRUCTORS OF THE FUTURE ARE MAKING A DATE

We are working for the construction of a Europe that is open to the future, rich in its diversity, welcoming in its institutions, nonviolent and showing solidarity in its actions, capable of opening new horizons and new paths that the human being needs to take.

It's true that violence seems to prevail everywhere and all the time and it is exactly because of this that we need to come together, to see each other, to speak, and to create moments of discussion and sensitisation.

It is a determination against all forms of violence, that produce pain and suffering in Europe and in the world, but it is also the choice of nonviolence as a methodology of life.

We are sure that new lights of solidarity are being ignited; a new sensibility is in dialogue with the diversity and the history books are being re-written by the peoples; the cultivators of hope are multiplying.

Let's make a date to construct a Europe of Nonviolence, the vanguard of the Universal Human Nation, in Milan on the 17th to the 19th October 2008: "The Strength of Nonviolence"

## THE FORUM'S POSITION REGARDING NONVIOLENCE

*"Nonviolence is the strongest force available to Humanity" Gandhi*

*"The worst thing is not so much the evil deeds of wicked people, but the appalling silence of good people" Martin Luther King*

*"peace will not result from a violent approach to violence. Nonviolence is the only way out" Silo (Mario Rodriguez Cobos)*



# WHAT IS ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE?

Violence in the present world is increasing and expanding in all fields, generating a climate of fear, uncertainty, asphyxia and dark times. We are not only speaking of the physical violence of war and criminality, but also of economic, racial, religious and psychological violence, domestic and family violence and inner violence. Sometimes we hear the word nonviolence but, also due to the superficial nature of information, we don't always have a precise idea of what it is. Nonviolence is not pacifism, neither is it a simple methodology for demonstrating.

Nonviolence is not the resigned attitude of those who through fear avoid confrontation. Nonviolence is a great life philosophy and methodology of action, that has always inspired profound moral and religious convictions and today is the only coherent response to the spiral of violence that surrounds us.

Frequently nonviolence is identified with pacifism, but in reality the latter is not a method of action or a life style, but a constant denunciation against the arms race. Therefore, it is inferred that nonviolence and active nonviolence consist of **a personal commitment, a life style and a methodology for social change.**

**NONVIOLENCE** is written without a hyphen because nonviolence is not simply the absence of violence, but rather an independent, positive value.

## THE FORUM WEBSITE [www.humanistforum.eu](http://www.humanistforum.eu)

The website is in 4 languages and updated daily!

You can find:

The **programme** that is gradually being defined

The **associations** that are promoting the forum, and already number more than 50!

The **working groups** where the specific subject areas are being worked on and all the contact information for the coordinators if you are interested in giving your contribution or would like to participate.

Some information about the **history** of Humanist Forums around the world dating back to 1993

The **TV channel** where there are many videos produced by humanists around the world

**News** that we report on the first page; each week you will find something new.

## **IT'S IMPORTANT TO REGISTER!**

Choose the area you are most interested in, this will help us to create the working groups and organise the most appropriate locations for you to work in at the venues.

### **LOGISTICAL INFORMATION REGARDING HOTELS**

From the website it will also be possible to reserve your accommodation; we will send separate information the moment the service is on-line.



## NEWS

All the teams are very active to reach our agreed objectives.

More than 30 experts in cultural, social and political fields  
have already confirmed their presence in the Forum.

In the first page you can see the speakers that have already confirmed their presence,  
today there are already more than 30!

### SPONSORS

The Forum is being sponsored by

Milan Council - Ministry of Culture, Cinisello Balsamo Council, Agrate Brianza Council, the Province of Rovigo, the Province of Verbania, the Province of Pesaro and Urbino and the Province of Ferrara.

### ADVERTISING

We are printing 100,000 invitation postcards that will be distributed for free in various venues of Milan 2 weeks before the Forum.

### SHOW BUSINESS CONTACTS

We are in contact with important show business personalities who will speak about nonviolence (Ottavia Piccolo and George Clooney, Raul Bova and Fiorello, and also with famous footballers, etc).

Ottavia Piccolo has confirmed her presence.

### WORKING GROUPS

Registration for all the working groups is still open.

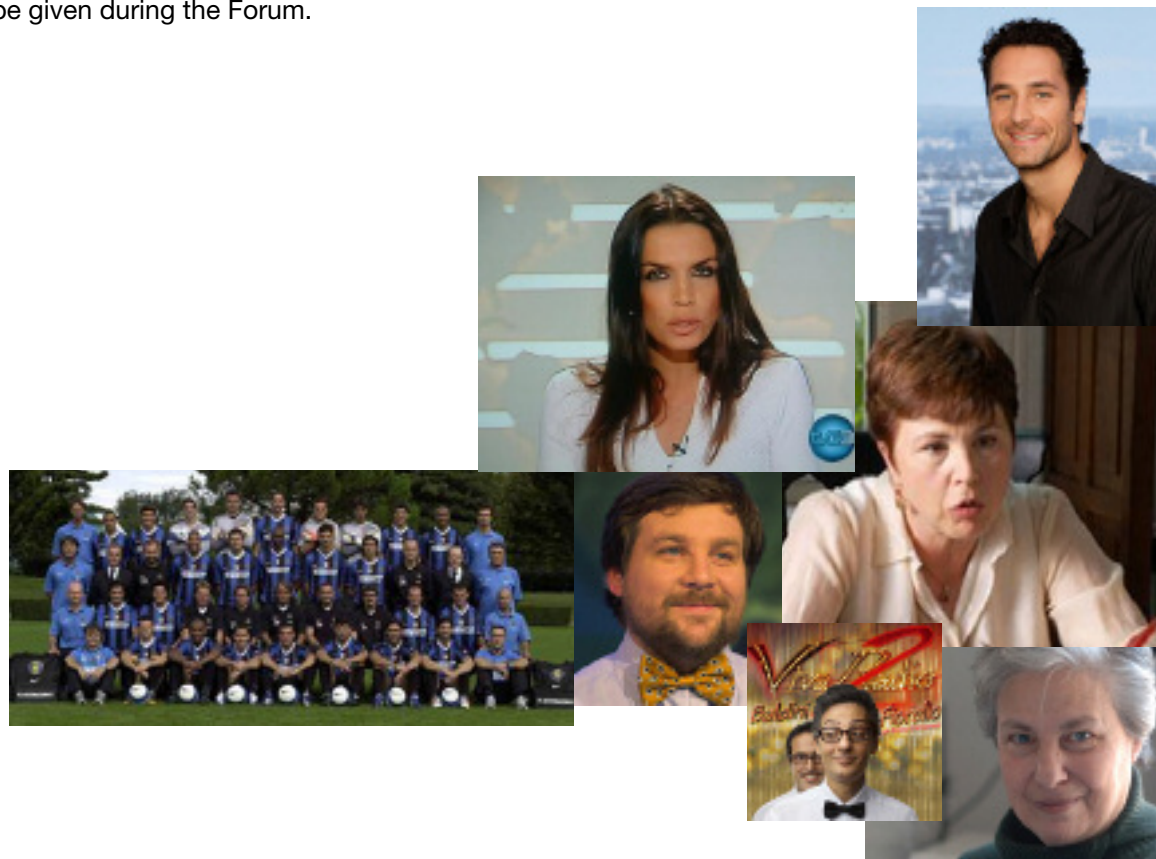
There are already more than 15 conferences!

You will find more details on the website in the section "Working Groups"

### COMPETITION FOR DESIGNERS FOR THE SYMBOL OF NONVIOLENCE

We have launched a competition for a symbol of nonviolence and an advertising campaign that will close on the 15th May (information at [www.creathead.it](http://www.creathead.it))

Prizes for the winners will be given during the Forum.





## INITIATIVES IN PROGRESS

### CONCERT

There are many contacts with sponsors and artists to do a great concert for nonviolence and for women. Today there are open contacts with Laura Pausini, Irene Grandi, L'Aura, Paola and Chiara, Vibrazioni, Tiromancino, BluVertigo, Elio and le Storie Tese.

The concert will only be done if we find enough sponsors to cover the costs.



### GRAFFITI ARTISTS

On Saturday a space will be prepared in Palalido where famous graffiti artists will be able to express their ideas of nonviolence through a coordinated work over 3 walls of canvas 3x6m that will be made available.

Subsequently the various sections of the wall will be put up for auction as works of art and the profits will be used to cover some of the costs of the Forum.



### YOUNG PEOPLE FOR NONVIOLENCE

Saturday afternoon a space will be available for children and young people where they will be able to express their creativity through drawing and painting.

Under expert guidance of teachers, they will be able to express their interpretation of NONVIOLENCE.

### MAKE YOUR OWN NONVIOLENCE TV ADVERT!

Participate in the competition "enjoy nonviolence",  
**MAKE YOUR OWN TV ADVERT ABOUT NONVIOLENCE**  
A real competition that will be publicised in a dedicated area  
on our own TV channel

The best spot will be given a prize during the forum.

Download the document `enjoy_nonviolence.doc`  
from the download area (folder named `enjoy nonviolence`) from the website,  
you will find all the guidelines to participate.



**WRITE TO US IF YOU CAN'T FIND ANY INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE.**

**INFO@HUMANISTFORUM.EU**

*Until next time*

*European Forum Organising Team "The Strength of Nonviolence"*