



Photo: Arianna Pagani

[www.unponteper.it](http://www.unponteper.it)

[www.sostegniadistanza.unponteper.it](http://www.sostegniadistanza.unponteper.it)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016





# WHO WE ARE

Un Ponte Per... is a voluntary association founded in 1991, immediately after the bombing of Iraq, which promotes solidarity initiatives for Iraqis who suffered during the war. Originally called Un Ponte Per Baghdad, the association later became simply, Un Ponte Per..., after expanding its work into Serbia and Kosovo, as well as other countries in the Middle East and Mediterranean.

The aim of Un Ponte Per...(UPP) is the prevention of new conflicts, particularly in the Middle East. This is achieved through advocacy campaigns, programs which educate and encourage cultural exchange, collaborative projects and peaceful civil interventions. UPP believes that concrete interventions promoting solidarity are inseparable from the commitment to build and strengthen ties between Italian civil society and civil society in those countries in which it operates.

# WHAT WE DO

For over 25 years, UPP has created and sustained projects relating to issues of health, culture and education, promoting peace and human rights, thanks to many supporters in Italy, and collaboration with the UN and the EU. Our work was carried out during the entire period of embargo against **Iraq**, and continued during the 2003 war, with emergency interventions in the most affected areas. After the 2003 conflict, UPP took steps to support Iraqi civil society: protecting their cultural heritage, fighting for human and environmental rights, defending minorities, calling for freedom of expression and association, and promoting a culture of nonviolence. UPP has also been active in the most recent conflicts in Iraq with emergency responses, offering shelter and a continual distribution of aid. UPP is dedicated to active peace-building, and recognizes that humanitarian aid always demands a long-term commitment, in this case, to the Iraqi population, the Kurds and the protections of their rights.

In 2011, UPP initiated a far-reaching aid project in **Syria**, aimed at helping refugees in neighboring countries. Since 2015, its work has been predominantly in areas with Kurdish majorities, sending humanitarian aid and supporting work in clinics run by the Kurdish Red Crescent. In 2016, UPP initiated an emergency program aimed at Syrians fleeing the Raqqa area, and welcoming those fleeing from Iraq towards Syria.

UPP has been active in **Jordan** for 11 years, supporting local organizations which defend rights and protect women and children. More specifically, UPP has been involved in education projects for Syrian children, and others which give assistance to women who have suffered from gender based violence.

In **Lebanon**, UPP works to promote solidarity through projects which support Palestinian and Syrian refugees. In 2016, it started a National Civil Service Abroad program which sends young volunteers to help in the education and recreation centers.

In **Palestine**, UPP works with the platform 'Interventi Civili di Pace', it participates in campaigns for solidarity and supports other awareness raising campaigns.

Since 1999, UPP has been active in the **Balkans**, collaborating with displaced Serb communities, and providing support for those families who are most in need. In 2016, UPP launched a program for migrants and refugees moving through the area.

Until 2010, UPP's campaign in **Turkey**, 'Un Ponte Per... Diyarbakir' actively promoted and supported the recognition of rights for the Kurdish people.

UPP has been active in **Tunisia** and **Morocco** since 2011, supporting local organizations in their campaigns to defend human rights and protect activists.

In **Italy**, UPP works closely with schools, universities, social and trade unions, to build bridges of peace and awareness with the countries where it operates. UPP promotes campaigns for peace and disarmament, defends the common good, and welcomes migrants and refugees. It is also active in advocacy at the institutional level, working to protect human rights activists and defenders in all the countries where it operates.



## HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

The explosion of conflict in Iraq caused by the advancement of Daesh (the Islamic State) in 2014 triggered an immediate response from UPP, which launched a large-scale **Humanitarian Emergency Program** to confront the crisis of internally displaced people. This quick and effective intervention was made possible because of the 10 years UPP has already been in Iraq, working on a program aimed at the **protection of religious minorities**.

In the first phase of the emergency, UPP was able to distribute water and food, hygiene kits, blankets and stoves. At the same time, it provided information and orientation services to people in camps and those recently arriving at the border. This work continued throughout 2016.

In response to the new emergency caused by the offensive to liberate Mosul, UPP set up a new program to meet the needs of more than 30,000 people. **Darna** (Our Home) provided needed assistance to displaced families fleeing the area, distributing health and hygiene kits, heaters and field kitchens..

At the same time, UPP's ongoing programs in Erbil and Dohuk were adapted so that they could effectively tackle the new crisis, expanding to provide assistance to recently displaced families.

In particular, a mobile unit, staffed by a team of doctors and social workers from another UPP project, **Zhyan** (Life), was set up to monitor the psychological and physical health of women in the Debaga camp.

Social workers and psychologists from UPP's **Ahlein** Program (Welcome) offer support to minors in the Zelikan camp (Dohuk). They assess the health status of children arriving from Mosul, identifying the most serious cases and the type of intervention that would be most helpful given the trauma suffered.

Finally, a team from the project, **Mass Communication**, has been dedicated to providing orientation and support to displaced families in the Debaga camp. They offer information about the services available, promote campaigns for their safety, and closely monitor the needs of the families there.

*Donors: UNHCR, UNICEF, AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, Otto per Mille Walde- sian Church, Province of Bolzano, private donations, CCFD-Terre Solidaire.*



## SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ

UPP has been working on the Syrian-Iraqi border since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, receiving people fleeing the conflict, providing them with information and basic necessities.

In 2014, UPP launched a program to provide psychosocial support and orientation in all the camps that received Syrian refugees in the areas of Erbil and Dohuk. The program continued throughout the two-year period, 2015-2016, and gave particular attention to children. They offered training courses for doctors, social workers, volunteers, educators, and psychologists working in mental health centers, and created protected spaces where children could relax and take part in play-therapy.

Thousands of people received assistance during the course of this project: many individuals got access to mental health services, and through the various awareness raising activities offered, families gained key information about issues, such as child marriage. *Donors: OCHA, UNHCR.*

In 2016, UPP opened a new office in the governorate of Sulaymaniya, which allowed it to extend the reach of its work to the Arabat camp for Syrian refugees. The project there, **Taleem Lil-Jamie** (Education for Everyone), has worked to provide better education

possibilities for Syrian children and host communities in the area. Collaborating with teachers from local schools, the project offers non-formal education and trainings. Among the opportunities provided was a youth center which opened in the Arabat camp, and 6 leased minibuses which allowed approximately 2,000 students to attend schools regularly.

*Donors: AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, private donations.*

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*Distribution of humanitarian aid to displaced Iraqis through the project, 'Darna'.  
Namrod, village north of Mosul. December 2016.  
Photo courtesy of Haitham Kakey*

*Above  
Minors in psycho-social support centers for Syrians,  
Domiz refugee camp  
Dohuk. November 2014.  
Photo courtesy of Pierluigi Giorgi*



## SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

As part of its multi-year commitment to persecuted minorities in Iraq, in 2015, in collaboration with Arci Toscana, UPP launched a 3-year program aimed to support younger generations of Iraqis. It opened 4 youth centers in Iraqi Kurdistan, devoted to minority communities which encouraged open dialogue, mutual recognition and reconciliation. The program, **Youth Across Ethnicities**, opened 4 centers in Dohuk, Sulaimaniyah, Zummar and Erbil in 2016, which hosted a variety of cultural, social, musical and communal activities, among which was a comic book workshop led by the artist, Claudio Calia, and a video-making workshop in collaboration with Massimo Mucchiut. These activities were accompanied by training courses, thanks to help from social workers and local staff. Among the themes explored were human rights, peace-building (along with the history, theory and practice of nonviolent conflict resolution), peace education, and the use of art as a tool to promote peace. As always, there was a focus on youth activism, encouraging the promotion of nonviolent action, the effective use of media and social networking, and the recognition of the importance of freedom of thought, speech and association. Over the course of 2016, several cultural exchanges were organized between Italian and Iraqi youth: an Italian delegation was hosted in a center in Iraq, and an Iraqi one came

to Italy, hosted at the premises of UPP in Italy.

*Donors: European Union, Italian Episcopal Conference, Otto per Mille Waldesian Church, Province of Bolzano.*

In August of 2016, UPP launched the program, Fursa (Opportunity), providing support and development opportunities for youth in Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, with a special focus on Syrian refugees. The project lasted 18 months, and involved 23,500 children and teenagers in three countries, helping them to improve their living situations through development interventions and the cultivation of a sense of social cohesion. The project aimed to promote greater autonomy for young people from communities of Syrian refugees, creating opportunities for greater economic and social inclusion.

*Donor: European Union.*

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*Above  
Youth Center in Erbil.  
March 2016.*

*Photo courtesy of Massimo Mucchiut - Lyno-Leum*



## PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND MINORS

**Ibtisam** (Smile) is a UPP program aimed at the protection of minors in conflict zones. It provides psycho-social support to displaced Iraqi students and Syrian refugees in the Ainkawa district (Erbil), as well as protection for their families. The first phase of the program (which ended in 2015) succeeded in reaching 3,500 children and providing training for 77 teachers and social workers. In 2016, the program was extended further, reaching 13 local schools (3,800 children), training 138 teachers, 25 psychologists and 11 social workers.

*Donor: Caritas Switzerland.*

**Ahlein** (Welcome), a related program, supports displaced children in the Dohuk governorate. The program provides integrated mental and psycho-social health services, as well as awareness-raising workshops for families on issues of child protection, and assistance in the creation of self-help groups. In 2015, Ahlein opened 3 clinics in the Bjet Kandala, Khanke and Sharya camps which offered counseling and therapy to both individuals and families. This important work was reinforced over the course of 2016.

*Donor: UNICEF.*

**Zhyan** (Life), a 3-year project active in the governorate of Erbil, opened 4 clinics specializing in reproductive health, and provided assistance to over 6,000 Iraqi and Syrian women, 300 of whom also participated in programs offering psycho-social support. In addition to the clinics, Zhyan also created a mobile healthcare unit, operated by a highly specialized staff, offering assistance to women and children in both camps and rural areas. After the crisis caused by the attempt to liberate Mosul, the project expanded to still more camps, accommodating newly displaced Iraqis from the Mosul area.

*Donors: AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, private donations.*



## PEACEBUILDING AND SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

At the end of 2015, UPP launched an important 3-year program dedicated to peacebuilding: **The Road to Nineveh: Social Cohesion, Peace and Coexistence**. The program has the specific objective of strengthening the capacities of Iraqi civil society organizations so that they can effectively engage in mediation, dialogue, and processes of reconciliation and restorative justice among displaced communities from the Nineveh Plain. The goal is to avoid further conflicts by reinforcing intra-community relations, with a view to the return of communities to their cities and villages once liberated from Daesh. The project involves 10 key civil society organizations, local provincial councils, media outlets and community leaders (in particular, women and youth), and will continue until the end of 2017.

*Donor: UNDP.*

Since 2009, as part of its work with Iraqi civil society, UPP has supported the **Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI)** — a coalition of Iraqi and international civil society organizations. ICSSI holds an annual conference which brings together hundreds of activists, journalists, trade unionists, women’s associations, and representatives from NGOs from all over

the country. UPP supports ICSSI’s advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns by relaunching them in Europe. Among the most important are: **Shahrazad** (women’s rights); **Save the Tigris and the Iraqi Marshes**; **Save Iraqi Heritage**; **Workers’ Rights**; **Freedom of Expression, Press and Information**; the Baghdad Marathon.

UPP also supports the activities of the **Iraqi Social Forum**, and is committed to protecting Iraqi Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs). In 2016, in collaboration with Iraqi WHRDs and the Iraqi Women’s Journalist Forum, UPP opened a center in Baghdad which provides legal aid and protection for activists.

*Donors: Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI, Karibu Foundation, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.*



# PROTECTION OF IRAQI CULTURAL HERITAGE

This program, launched in 2004, was borne of the will to safeguard and preserve the books and audiovisual heritage housed at the National Library in Baghdad, which was severely damaged during the 2003 conflict. Over the course of 11 years, the library has been renovated and rebuilt, and the catalogue was digitized. Restorers and computer scientists had internships at Florence's National Library, and participated in a workshop on restoring and digitizing material, and developing the website for the National Library of Baghdad. In addition, a book was written — and then translated into several languages — on the cultural heritage of Iraqi minorities. The skills of Iraqi librarians have since been made available to cultural centers within minority communities to safeguard their book holdings. Between 2014 and 2015, there have been various new training courses in both Italy and in Iraq for Iraqi archivists on subjects of restoration technology, archival science, cataloging and digitizing.

The aim of protecting Iraqi cultural heritage sparked another UPP project: **Out of the Siege** which supports communication and dialogue among minority communities, encouraging mutual exchange and cultivating reciprocal understanding. The project concluded in late 2016 with a conference entitled **Protection and Promotion of Iraq's Cultural Heritage at Risk in Ninewa: Challenges and Opportunities**, held at the Syrian Museum in Ainkawa (Erbil). A joint statement of intent was signed by the participants aimed at involving local and international institutions in the endeavor to preserve this rich cultural heritage.

*Donor: Italian Episcopal Conference*

UPP has always been dedicated to improving the conditions of the persecuted Yazidi people, and has translated the book **Ezidis in Iraq** by the scholar Saad Salloum, into both English and Italian as a way to help the community's efforts to make its culture known.

*Donors: Italian Episcopal Conference, Flora Family Foundation*

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*Left  
A training in restoration of texts by Iraqi minorities  
Erbil, Iraq. Aprile 2014.  
Photo courtesy of Roberta Paci*



## HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

At the beginning of 2015, UPP began work in Syria, concentrated in the predominantly Kurdish region of Rojava. In collaboration with the Kurdish Red Crescent, they delivered several humanitarian aid cargos of medicine, health supplies, and winter blankets and tents — all intended to meet the needs of tens of thousands of people. Medicine and healthcare equipment were distributed to hospitals in Rojava, as well as to the 15 Kurdish Red Crescent health centers. Winter tents and blankets were also distributed in the Newroz and Roj camps. In addition to these supplies, UPP provided training in management and humanitarian emergency operations to its partners in hopes of strengthening local capacities.

Within this context, UPP initiated the project, **Safe**, in 2016, which oversaw the delivery of additional humanitarian aid packages in the area to meet the needs of more than 30,000 people. They distributed health and hygiene kits to families forced to flee Raqqa (the Daesh stronghold in Syria). **Safe** also supported the 4 Kurdish Red Crescent clinics in order to ensure they could operate at full capacity, providing free services to about 40,000 people. One of these clinics, Amuda,

has become the only oncology center in the entire region.

The project will continue throughout 2017, distributing pharmaceutical drugs to 6 Kurdish Red Crescent centers. As the program grows, it will focus on pediatrics and women's reproductive health, with a goal of reaching at least 50,000 people.

*Donors: AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, Otto per Mille Waldesian Church, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, private donations.*

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*Above  
A worker from the Kurdish Red Crescent  
waits for a shipment of humanitarian aid from  
Un Ponte Per... on the Iraqi-Syrian border  
November 2016.  
Photo courtesy of the Kurdish Red Crescent*



## IRAQI REFUGEES IN SYRIA

Immediately following the launch of the offensive to liberate Mosul from Daesh in October 2016, UPP started a health care assistance program for Iraqis seeking refuge in Syria, primarily in the Al Hol (Hasakeh) camp, which accommodates approximately 14,000 people.

In close collaboration with the Kurdish Red Crescent, the project established a health care center which guarantees that those in the camp have access to daily medical visits and health information. Those serious cases that require more attention are reported to the Hasakeh hospital. Special care is provided for those with disabilities or mobility problems, as well as for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

At the same time, an ambulance system has been set up which is able to make daily trips to the border crossing at Rajm Sleby (between Iraq and Syria) to assist Iraqis in need. The ambulance then transports them to the health center or Hasakeh Hospital, depending on the severity of the problem.

*Donor: UNHCR.*

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*Above  
The mobil health unit set up  
by Un Ponte Per...  
Syria. December 2016.  
Photo courtesy of Domenico Chirico*



## PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND MINORS

Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, UPP has been active in Jordan, providing support and orientation for refugee families, as well as assistance and protection programs. Special attention has been given to the needs of women and children, while at the same time remaining acutely aware of the needs of the host communities.

Over the course of 2016, UPP launched the **Learning for Life** project, aimed to ensure that children and other vulnerable populations could continue their education, and also receive whatever psycho-social support might be necessary (often in the form of play-therapy). Learning for Life was expected to train 28 teachers and social workers. 5,000 kids gained access to educational facilities and school supplies, while 1,600 teenagers participated in intensive education programs made possible by the creation of 2 informal education centers in Irbid e Ramtha.

*Donor: OCHA.*

At the end of the year, UPP launched the project, **lbti-sam** (Smile), and through it, 2 schools (in Irbin and Amman) were renovated, thus able to accommodate 3,000 students from Syria and Jordan. Also during this period, 20 social workers, healthcare professionals

and teachers took part in a training course on infant care, protection and responding to trauma. The program will continue for the first 6 months of 2017.

*Donor: AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development.*

Also in 2016, UPP committed itself to the protection of women, in close collaboration with the Jordanian activist, Lina Khalifeh, founder of the **She Fighter** Initiative, the first women's self-defense center in the Middle East. Together UPP and the She Initiative organized several meetings and practical workshops for Syrian and Somali refugee communities in Jordan on the basic principles of self-defense as a way to combat gender violence.

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*Above*  
*A worker from UPP and Lina Khalifeh during an activity*  
*organized by the project 'Learning For Life'*  
*Amman. May 2016*  
*Photo courtesy of Alessandro D'Accordi*

# LEBANON

## PROTECTION OF MINORS

For years, UPP has been present in Lebanon with its program, **Family Happiness**. This program offers support from a distance, and is dedicated to Palestinian and Syrian-Palestinian children who are refugees in Lebanon. In 2016, UPP launched the National Civil Service Abroad program, **Education without Borders**, which sent four Italian volunteers abroad, where they will stay until 2017. After receiving special training in Italy, the four young volunteers have gone on to pursue non-formal education tracks dedicated to character development for Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian children. The courses are particularly active in the Shatila and Bourj el-Barahneh camps, where volunteers teach English to kindergartners, and offer remedial classes in the afternoon. These are offered alongside recreational activities, organized with UPP's on-site partner. An additional program is planned in the Beqaa Valley, in collaboration with the Permanent Peace Movement, where trainings have been organized for Lebanese and Syrian youth.

*Donor: Civil Service Abroad Program.*

# PALESTINE

## CIVIL PEACEKEEPING INTERVENTIONS

The presence of a Civilian Peace Corps and international volunteers, especially in rural areas of the West Bank, is considered an effective tool for reducing the violence inflicted by settlers and abuse by the army. Since 2010, UPP has been a partner in this project, and has contributed a group of young volunteers every October, the period in which olives are harvested in Palestine. At one point, groups in Italy organized the means needed for harvesting, promoted awareness raising events and started a blog:

[raccolgendolapace.wordpress.com](http://raccolgendolapace.wordpress.com)

*Donors: private donations.*

# SERBIA E KOSMET

## THERE IS A CHILD...

In 2016, a group of UPP volunteers in Serbia organized a summer trip for approximately 50 Serbian children from Kraljevo, Kosovo and Metohija. The program, which initially ran from 1999-2012, brought young Serbian refugees to Italy, offering them accommodation either in a dorm or in the homes of Italian families. In recent years, the young participants have also been hosted in cities in Greece and Montenegro. The initiative was organized jointly with the Red Cross of Kraljevo.

*Donors: private donations.*

## SOLIDARITY TRIPS

Also in 2016, in collaboration with the Italian Geographical Society, the usual trip to build solidarity and increase knowledge took place in Serbia, Kosovo and Metohija, accompanied by UPP volunteers in Serbia. These regular trips provide an opportunity for local families to meet Italian families who participate in the distance support program, **Svetlost**.

*Donors: private donations.*

## SOLIDARITY GREENHOUSES

Thanks to contributions from many supporters, in 2016, UPP was able to donate 11 greenhouses for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables to needy families in the distance support program, **Svetlost**.

*Donors: private donations.*

# SPONSORSHIPS PROGRAM

## FAMILY HAPPINESS

The project **Family Happiness** supports school attendance for Palestinian youth in Lebanese refugee camps. Primary attention goes to orphaned children, or those who struggle with serious social or health conditions. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Palestinian NGO, Beit Atfal Assomoud, which has been active in the camp since 1974, and which also works to provide health and social support in 10 of the 12 other camps in Lebanon. In 2012, the city of Naples, through the project, 'Smiles', supported 5 Palestinian youth in refugee camps, and organized a day of awareness-raising for some high schools in the city. Since 2013, the program has expanded to reach Syrian children and adolescents, as well as Syrian-Palestinian refugees in the country, with daycare and nurseries, temporary classrooms, trainings, and healthcare services.

*Donors: private donations, Coordinamento La Gabbianella, Comune di Napoli.*

## FARAH

The project, **Farah** (Joy), aims at supplying medical assistance and care, and follows the treatment of Iraqi minors suffering from chronic or serious illnesses. The program provides support from a distance for minority children living in the country, and is carried out in collaboration with the Kurdish-Iraqi organization, Yaum al-Hurriyya. The medicine provided is purchased locally, and local partners ensure its distribution to families. The children who participate in the project generally reside in small villages in the area, particularly those which are more remote, far from the main hospitals in the region.

*Donors: private donations.*

## SVETLOST

The project, **Svetlost** (Illuminating Invisible Children), aims to provide support to displaced families from Kosovo, both in southern Serbia and to those returning to Kosovo, as well as to families who are not refugees but are still struggling with poverty and hardship. In 2010, the project was relaunched, thanks to the book and DVD, 'The Scream from Kosovo', which, through powerful testimonies and videos, describes the living conditions of refugees from Serbia and Kosovo 10 years after the conflict in 1999. Since the beginning of 2011, in collaboration with the Monastery of Decani, the project has also extended to the Serbian communities in Kosovo.

*Donors: private donations.*

# ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN



## SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS

Since the beginning of 2015, UPP has been actively committed to welcoming migrants to Italy and encouraging mutual recognition, increased understanding and cultural exchange. Across the country, this support has been strengthened and realized through the implementation of micro-projects run by local committees of UPP, dedicated to welcoming migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Following the caravans which took UPP volunteers to the borders of Europe (Ljubljana, Ventimiglia) to offer solidarity to migrants, at the end of 2015, the **first mission was organized to the island of Lesbos, Greece**. UPP maintained its presence there until April 2016. Volunteers joined other international activists on the coast, offering emergency rescue relief and first aid to migrants arriving in boats which had fled Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. They then coordinated 4 groups of Italian activists who went in turns to the island itself.

*Donors: UIL, private donations.*

As part of its work supporting migrants and refugees, in 2016 UPP gave its support to the project, **S.T.A.M.P.**, a mobile unit which provides information to immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people in Rome, initiated by the network 'Resistenza Meticce', already active in the city for many years. The project offers free services and tools which

might be useful to those passing through Italy and continuing on their journey. For those recent arrivals who decide, or are forced, to stay in Italy, the project provides important guidance and assistance aimed to help people become self-sufficient. S.T.A.M.P. focusses on 3 areas of intervention: language orientation, basic information on transport, public offices and documents; legal assistance and free medical help; and finally, they offer a place with computers, free wifi, and headphones for Skype calls. The work will continue throughout 2017.

*Donors: Otto per Mille Waldesian Church, private donations.*

In May 2016, UPP initiated its project, **Solidarity Van** a camper van equipped with solar panels, computers, a printer, an antenna cable providing wifi, and a power unit allowing families in transit to recharge phones and mobile devices. Two UPP members traveled the Balkan route, offering families in transit the opportunity to recharge their phones and connect to the internet, guidance about services for migrants, and a sense of waiting times and their rights. For 3 months, the van moved between Serbia and Hungary, ending its mission on Thessaloniki, Greece.

*Donors: private donations.*

# PEACE NETWORKS, DISARMAMENT, AND 'SBILANCIAMOCI'

In Italy, UPP takes active part in a number of initiatives: 'Rete della Pace' (Peace Network), Tavolo Interventi Civili di Pace e delle Rete Disarmo per la promozione di Corpi Civili di Pace' (a platform for interventions aimed at civil peace and disarmament), and the campaign, 'Sbilanciamoci' which works for a more just economy based on an alternative model of development. Among the initiatives in 2016, was preparation for a trial mission of an Italian Civil Peace Corps to be sent into conflict zones, now scheduled to take place in Lebanon in 2017. This project is aligned with the goal of the campaign, 'Un'altra Difesa è possibile' (Another Defense is Possible), which has collected over 52,000 signatures for a ballot initiative, delivered to the Italian parliament.

*Donors: private donations, Otto per Mille Waldesian Church*

# TRAININGS AND EDUCATION FOR PEACE

Every year, UPP runs trainings and workshops which educate for peace. They provide the youth in Italy the tools needed to become conscious and informed citizens, respectful of different cultures and traditions. This work grows out of the assumption that school is a place where one can find — and build — roads leading to tolerance and integration. In 2016, UPP's education group concentrated its efforts in the Campania region, thanks to an initiative from the local council of Naples. A number of training sessions were organized with teachers and instructors from primary and secondary schools on themes such as nonviolence, active listening, and peace education.

# OBSERVATORY IRAQ

The purpose of this project is to promote and disseminate accurate information about the situation in Iraq and in the Middle East and North Africa more generally, through the website, [www.osservatorioiraq.it](http://www.osservatorioiraq.it). Founded in 2004, the site — now a key resource for registered journalists — is continuously updated with news and reports. In 2012, the project was relaunched with new editors and new graphics, achieving high standards, and successfully publishing an original study on the post-revolution situation in the Arab countries. Since 2013, Observatory Iraq has been independent of UPP, though they still support one another, and their initiative. In 2014, together they completed a book entitled: **La crisi irachena. Cause ed effetti di una storia che non insegna** (The Iraqi Crisis: The Consequences of Our Failure to Learn from History) on the emergency that broke in Iraq (published by: Edizioni dell'Asino). In 2016, UPP and the Iraqi Observatory jointly edited another book, **Rivoluzioni Violate. Cinque anni dopo: attivismo e diritti umani in Medio Oriente e Nord Africa** (Violent Revolutions. 5 Years Later: Activism and Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa), Edizioni dell'Asino.

# THE SHOP

UPP's project, 'The Shop', produces gadgets that target messages of peace and solidarity. It promotes Fair Trade as a tool for economic and social prosperity in those countries in which it operates

*Donors: private donations.*

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*International independent volunteers  
express solidarity with migrants and refugees  
Lesvos, March 2016.*

*Photo courtesy of Manu Gómez - Fotomovimiento*

# CAMPAIGNS



## IN DEFENSE OF

At the beginning of 2016, UPP took on a leadership role in the creation of a network of Italian civil society organizations, bringing together over 25 NGOs and associations involved in the protection of human rights and of international activists. The initiative led to creation of a new campaign, **In Defense Of**, dedicated to promoting human rights and supporting and protecting those who defend them (Human Rights Defenders). To further this goal, UPP produced a document which provides tools for understanding different ways to protect activists. This work was made available to the network and was also presented during the first conference of the campaign, entitled, **Difendiamoli! Storie di difensori dei diritti umani nel mondo e strategie di protezione** (Defend them! Stories of Human Rights Defenders from Around the World, and Strategies to Protect Them) at Italy's House of Representatives. In January 2017, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives approved a resolution on the defense of human rights, based in part on research carried out by the network.

Donors: Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GIULIO REGENI

UPP endorses and participates in the campaign, launched at both the national and international level, to discover the truth about the death of the Italian researcher, Giulio Regeni, killed in Egypt on January 25, 2016. UPP took part in days of mobilization, and promoted activities to gather information related to the campaign.

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Above  
The staff of Un Ponte Per...in solidarity with The  
Truth about Giulio Regeni campaign  
Erbil, September 2016  
Photo courtesy of Domenico Chirico

## WORLD SOCIAL FORUM BDS CAMPAIGN

UPP identifies with the aims and processes of the World Social Forum, which organizes periodic international and regional meetings in support of social movements, ultimately grounded in the conviction that another world is possible — one based on solidarity, on social and environmental justice, and in opposition to neoliberal globalization. In 2013, the axis of this project shifted from South America to the Mediterranean and the Maghreb, in order to provide a sense of continuity and resilience to the impulse behind the Arab Revolts within local civil society. Volunteers and employees of UPP attended in the World Social Forum 2016 held in Montreal.

This initiative supports the academic and cultural boycott of Israeli institutions — not individual citizens of Israel — and the boycott of Israeli products, starting with those from settled areas within the Occupied Territories. This form of nonviolent resistance takes a stand against the violation of human rights as established by the Geneva Convention and UN resolutions. The campaign, originally launched in 2005 by a majority of organizations within Palestinian civil society, was inspired by the movement against Apartheid in South Africa. It was relaunched in Italy in 2009, with strong backing from UPP.

## ITALIAN KURDISH SOLIDARITY NETWORK

UPP supports the Italian-Kurdish Solidarity Network, and participates in related initiatives which take place in Italy, as well as in activities that seek to disseminate information and raise awareness.

# INFORMATION

**Official Name:** Associazione Un ponte per... (UPP)

**Year of establishment:** 1991

**ONLUS:** Recognized by the "Anagrafe delle Onlus" AGEDRLAZ Prot. n° 0022455 del 27/03/2015

**NGO:** Recognized by AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (Decreto n° 2016/337/000281/5)

**VAT number:** 04734481007

**Fiscal Code:** 96232290583

**Framework Partnership Agreement** con l'Ufficio della Commissione Europea degli Aiuti Umanitari (ECHO)

**International Partners:** UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNHCR, European Commission, ECHO, UNDP, UNOPS, OCHA, CARITAS Switzerland, Swiss Cooperation, AICS - the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Italian Local Authorities:** 10 Regions, 20 Provinces, 50 Municipalities.

**Annual Budget 2015:** € 6.498.871

## STRUCTURE

### UPP ITALIA

#### Headquarter

Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, 132

00185, Rome, Italy

Tel: +390644702906

Fax: +390644703172

info@unponteper.it

#### Comitati locali e regionali:

Bergamo, Bolzano, Torino, Padova, Tuscany, Umbria, Rome, Naples.

### ON LINE

www.unponteper.it

www.sostegniadistanza.unponteper.it

Facebook: @unponteper

Twitter: @ponteper

Instagram: @unponteper

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/unponteper

### UPP IRAQ (KRG)

#### Erbil Branch

Qasil Rustum st. n. 240/8/520

Ainkawa, Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

erbil@unponteper.it

#### Dohuk Branch

KRO road, close to Sheelan Hospital, Shirin Street n. 2

Dohuk, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

dohuk@unponteper.it

#### Sulaymaniya Branch

Sulaymaniya city, Ashti 106,

Alley 59, House No. 10 (KR I)-Iraq

sulaymaniya@unponteper.it

### UPP JORDAN

#### Amman Branch

Jabal Alweibdeh, Kullliat Al-Sharia St. 46

Amman 11191, Jordan - P. O. Box 91061

amman@unponteper.it

### UPP LEBANON

#### Beirut Branch

Furn al-Shebbak, Antoine Saad Farah Building 757

Beirut, Lebanon

beirut@unponteper.it

### UPP SYRIA

#### Derik Branch

Al-Malikiyah, Derik

Syria

