

# WORKSHOP

DEFINING  
THE ESSENCE  
OF PALLIATIVE CARE  
FOR OLDER PEOPLE:  
**RELIGIONS TOGETHER**



## **MEETING VENUE**

**Pontifical Academy for Life**

Via della Conciliazione, 1 - 00193 Rome

## **CONGRESS SECRETARIAT AND ORGANIZER**

**Fondazione Maruzza Onlus**

Via del Nuoto, 11 - 00135 Rome

Phone: + 39 06.3290609 | Fax +39 06.36292743

[info@maruzza.org](mailto:info@maruzza.org)

## LA VISIONE

Tutte le persone anziane con malattie croniche o inguaribili che si avvicinano alla fase finale della loro vita hanno il diritto di ricevere le cure palliative incentrate sul controllo dei sintomi, la tutela della dignità e qualità di vita e il supporto alla famiglia.

## L'OBIETTIVO

La responsabilità di assistere le persone che soffrono, che sono isolate e vulnerabili, è un obbligo universale di tutte le religioni e l'espressione di un dovere morale di una società attenta ai valori fondamentali della compassione, del rispetto e dell'uguaglianza. Per questo motivo, ci appelliamo affinché le maggiori religioni del mondo si impegnino a sostenere le cure palliative come la risposta più adeguata per salvaguardare la dignità e la migliore qualità di vita possibile di tutte le persone anziane che soffrono di patologie croniche o inguaribili e per ridurre il senso di abbandono, spesso vissuto in questi casi.

## IL PROBLEMA

Secondo le Nazioni Unite (ONU), l'aspettativa di vita alla nascita è cresciuta di 20 anni, da 48 negli anni 1950-1955, a 68 negli anni 2005-2010. Secondo l'OMS (Rif. Global Atlas, WHPCA), almeno il 69% della popolazione che necessita di cure palliative è costituito da persone anziane. Pertanto, è essenziale che la società si impegni per garantire che le cure palliative siano un diritto e quindi a disposizione di tutti coloro che ne hanno bisogno. Le cure palliative per le persone anziane dovrebbero essere inserite, a pieno titolo, in ogni sistema sanitario nazionale.

## IL WORKSHOP

Dopo la "Carta delle Religioni per le Cure Palliative Pediatriche" è necessario porre l'attenzione su un altro gruppo assai numeroso e particolarmente vulnerabile: le persone anziane. Anche in questa occasione, alcuni tra i più importanti specialisti di cure palliative, geriatri, teologi di diverse fedi, esperti di diritti umani, comunicatori a livello mondiale, pazienti, volontari e famiglie provenienti da diverse culture, fedi ed esperienze, saranno riuniti in quattro tavoli di lavoro tematici per la stesura della Carta.

## LA CARTA

La "Carta delle Religioni per le Cure Palliative per le Persone Anziane" dovrà rafforzare il consenso universale sulle cure palliative dedicate alle persone anziane in condizioni croniche o inguaribili. I leader religiosi e le organizzazioni religiose possono svolgere un ruolo importante, promuovendo a livello globale le cure palliative e in particolare nei paesi a basso e medio reddito, dove i farmaci essenziali, spesso, non sono disponibili. Purtroppo, la scarsità di informazione e formazione in cure palliative e la mancanza del sostegno politico continuano a essere le principali cause di sofferenze inutili.

Iniziativa ideata e organizzata dalla Fondazione Maruzza Onlus in collaborazione con la Pontificia Accademia per la Vita.

Direttore Scientifico: Dott. Carlo Peruselli

## THE VISION

All older people affected by advanced chronic conditions and approaching the end of their lives have the right to receive palliative care that is focused on controlling symptoms, safeguarding dignity and enhancing quality of life and that also includes support for the family members and carers.

## THE GOAL

Sharing the responsibility of caring for those suffering, isolated and vulnerable is not only a universal obligation of all religions but the expression of a moral duty in actively creating a caring society that reflects the fundamental qualities of compassion, respect and equality. For this reason, we are calling upon the global faiths to reaffirm that palliative care safeguards the dignity and best quality of life possible for all older people suffering from advanced chronic conditions and that it can minimize the sense of abandonment often experienced in these cases.

## THE ISSUE

According to the United Nations (UN), between 1950-1955 and 2005-2010 the world's population life expectancy at birth grew from 48 to 68 years; an increase of 20 years. According to the WHO (Ref. Global Atlas, WHPCA), at least 69% of populations requiring palliative care are older persons. Therefore, it is essential for society to commit to ensuring that palliative care is available to all those in need. Palliative care for older people should be a mainstay of all healthcare systems.

## THE WORKSHOP

Following the "Religions of the World Charter for Children Palliative Care", we would like to focus on another particularly vulnerable group: older people. Once again we will bring together some of the most prominent palliative care specialists, geriatricians, theologians of different faiths, human rights experts, global communicators and thought leaders, as well as patients and families from diverse cultures, faiths and walks of life to devise and endorse the Charter.

## THE CHARTER

The "**Religions of the World Charter: Palliative Care for Older People**" aims to strengthen the universal consensus on global access to palliative care for older people affected by advanced chronic conditions. Religious Leaders and faith-based organizations can play an important role in initiatives advocating the global diffusion of palliative care, particularly in low and middle-income countries where essential medicines are often not readily available. A scarcity of palliative care training and the lack of political support continue to be among the main causes of unnecessary suffering.

An initiative conceived and supported by the Maruzza Foundation in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Scientific Director: Dr. Carlo Peruselli

# PROGRAMME

---

8:45am

Greetings

*H.E. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia*

President of the Pontifical Academy for Life

*Silvia Lefebvre D'Ovidio*

Maruzza Foundation

9:15am

4 simultaneous roundtables

1:00pm

Lunch

2:30pm

Unified meeting to formulate and endorse the Charter

6:30pm

Charter Signing Ceremony

7:00pm

Cocktail

1

## RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY ROUNDTABLE

*Prof. Christina Puchalski (Group Leader)*

2

## CLINICAL ROUNDTABLE

*Prof. Irene J. Higginson (Group Leader)*

3

## HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDTABLE

*Liliana De Lima (Group Leader)*

4

## PATIENTS AND FAMILIES ROUNDTABLE

*Prof. Xavier Gómez-Batiste (Group Leader)*

# PARTICIPANTS

---

## RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY ROUNDTABLE

**Prof. Christina Puchalski (Group Leader)** Professor of Medicine and Health Sciences The George Washington University School of Medicine, Director The George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health (GWish) (USA)

**Archpriest Alexey Baykov** Dean of the Russian Orthodox Church in Western Europe (Exarchate of Constantinople) in Italy (Italy/Russia)

**Ven. Tsung-tueng Bhikshuni** Abbess of Dabei Xueyuan, Director of Taiwan Association of Clinical Buddhist Studies, Committee of Research Ethics at National Taiwan University Hospital, Adjunct Lecturer in Humanistic Care Centre at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Consultant of Nectar Care Service in Singapore (Taiwan)

**Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard** Professor of Jewish Law, Law Faculty of Humboldt University in Berlin, (CLAL, 2003) (USA)

**Revd. Christian Busch** Hospital Chaplain, Rigshospitalet (Denmark)

**Revd. Dana L. English** Assistant Chaplain, All Saints' Anglican Church Rome (Italy/USA)

**Prof. Mounir Farag** Regional Adviser Health System Strengthening World Health Organization, Ordinary Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life (Egypt)

**Prof. Carlo Leget** Professor in Care Ethics at University of Humanistic Studies, Board Member at the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) (Netherlands)

**Dr. Ramesh Pattni** Professor for Psychology of Religion at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Chair of the Interfaith Committee of the Hindu Forum of Britain (India/UK)

**Revd. Mons. Renzo Pegoraro** Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Life (Vatican City)

**Dr. Carlo Peruselli** Past President of the Italian Society for Palliative Care (SICP), Director of Scientific Committee of the Maruzza Foundation (Italy)

**Prof. Rasoul Rasoulipour** Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Kharazmi University (Iran)

**Prof. Dr. Abbas Abdalla Abbas Soliman** Vice-President of Al Azhar University (Egypt)

**Prof. Anne Vandenhoeck** Research Assistant at the Academic Centre for Practical Theology of the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium)



## CLINICAL ROUNDTABLE

**Prof. Irene J. Higginson (Group Leader)** Professor of Palliative Care and Policy King's College London, Director of Cicely Saunders Institute (UK)

**Prof. James F. Cleary** Professor of Medicine, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and Director, Pain and Policy Studies Group, UW Carbone Cancer Center, Madison WI (USA)

**Dr. Massimo Costantini** Palliative Care Physician, Scientific Director Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova – IRCCS, Reggio Emilia (Italy)

**Prof. David Currow** Professor of Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University (Australia)

**Prof. Giovanni Gambassi** Professor, Department of Internal Medicine Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome (Italy)

**Prof. Cynthia Goh** Chair, Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network, Senior Consultant, Division of Palliative Medicine National Cancer Centre Singapore (Singapore)

**Dr. Suresh Kumar** Director, WHO Collaborating Center (India)

**Prof. Philip Larkin** President of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) (Ireland)

**Dr. Emmanuel Luyirika** Executive Director, The African Palliative Care Association (APCA) (Uganda)

**Dr. Mimi Tse** Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong)

## HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDTABLE

**Liliana De Lima (Group Leader)** Executive Director of the International Association for Palliative Care (IAHPC) (USA/Colombia)

**Prof. Roberto Bernabei** Director of the Department of Geriatrics and Rehabilitative Medicine at the A. Gemelli University Hospital in Rome, President Italia Longeva (Italy)

**Bethany Brown Pojunas** Researcher Older People's Rights, Health and Human Rights Division, Human Rights Watch (USA)

**Dr. Stephen R. Connor** Executive Director of Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA) (USA)

**Tamar Ezer** Research Scholar and Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School, Executive Director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy (USA)

**Prof. Ilora Baroness Finlay of Llandaff** Professor of Palliative Medicine at Cardiff University, Independent Crossbench Member of the House of Lords (UK)

**Dr. Federico Nicoli** Clinical Ethicist, Center For Clinical Ethics, Insubria University Varese, Clinical Ethics Services Domus Salutis, Brescia (Italy)

*Fr. Leocir Pessini Superior General of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians) (Italy/Brazil)*

*Dr. Katherine Pettus Advocacy Officer for Human Rights and Palliative Care International Association Hospice and Palliative Care (AHPC) (USA)*

*Dr. Yingwei Wang Director General, Health Promotion Administration, Taiwan, Former Chief of Heart Lotus Hospice, Buddhist Tzuchi General Hospital, Former Chief of Department of Medical Humanities, Tzuchi University (Taiwan)*

## **PATIENTS AND FAMILIES ROUNDTABLE**

*Prof. Xavier Gómez-Batiste (Group Leader) Director of the Observatory Quality at ICO, Chair of Palliative Care UVIC/ICO/WHOCC (Spain)*

*Emilio Carelli Journalist, President of Fondazione Nazionale Gigi Ghirotti (Italy)*

*Marleni Caro Rosales Nurse, Former Coordinator in Home Palliative Care (Italy)*

*Marinella Cellai Volunteer Caregiver in Oncology and Palliative Care, Founder of the Project "Città della Vita" (Italy)*

*Silvia Codispoti Patient, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (Italy)*

*Silvia Lefebvre D'Ovidio Maruzza Foundation (Italy)*

*Revd. Mons. Andrea Manto Director of Health Pastoral Care, Diocese of Rome (Italy)*

*Angela Pasqualotto Patient and Caregiver (Italy)*

*Revd. Dr. Peter Speck Hon Senior Lecturer, Palliative Care, Cicely Saunders Institute King's College, London (UK)*

*Prof. Barbro Westerholm Drug Epidemiology, Karolinska Institute, Member of AGE Platform Europe's Health Expert Group, Member of the Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics (Sweden)*



[fondazionemaruzza.org](http://fondazionemaruzza.org)