



**RONDINE**  
CITTADELLA DELLA PACE

[www.rondine.org](http://www.rondine.org)



# RONDINE

## CITTADELLA DELLA PACE

Rondine Cittadella della Pace is an organization committed to reducing armed conflicts around the world and spreading its unique method for the creative transformation of conflicts in every context.

Rondine is an international no profit organisation based in Italy. It was born in a Medieval Tuscan hamlet, a few kilometres away from Arezzo.

The main projects developed at Rondine focus on education and professional experience. It is a place where human beings are regenerated so that they can

become leaders of themselves and their communities seeking the common good.

The project that gave rise and inspiration to Rondine is the Studentato Internazionale - World House, which hosts young people who come from war-torn countries or post-conflict environments. Here students live together, and by overcoming their daily differences and challenges, they discover the human being in whom they considered their enemy.

**Its objective is to contribute to a planet free from armed clashes, where every person has the tools to manage conflicts creatively and positively.**





*Promote the creative transformation  
of conflict through the experiences of  
young people who discover the  
human being in their enemy.*

**MISSION**





## The Founder FRANCO VACCARI

Franco Vaccari, President and Founder of Rondine Cittadella della Pace, was born in Arezzo in 1952. Vaccari internalized the topics of conflict and peace from a young age through his strong passion for education and politics and

developed his global vision. Since his university years, Vaccari has been engaged in Catholic and social activism and volunteering, teaching young people how to use dialogue, confrontation, and openness to different religious paradigms. It was with a group of young people, together with Giorgio La Pira's friends, that he decided in 1988 to open a communication channel with the Soviet Union, through the first lady Raissa Gorbachëva, then president of the Soviet Fund for Culture. By bringing a testimony of peace embodied by Saint Francis of Assisi to Moscow, Vaccari paved the way for fruitful relationships of trust with some cultural figures and with the Kremlin. The initiative led him to manage a complex peace mediation between the Russian government and the secessionist Republic of Chechnya in 1995. Acting as a reference point for

both parties, he accepted the request to host some students in the Rondine hamlet in 1997, to train them to become leaders in their war-torn countries. In 1998, he founded Rondine Cittadella della Pace. He still is the President of the organization.

Vaccari is a psychologist and an academic, director of the New Psychology Lab in Arezzo. He has received the Minerva Prize at the Campidoglio (Rome) and the Dossetti Prize, among the others. He is the author of several newspaper and magazine articles. He has published *Portici; Politica vecchia, nuova passione* (Editrice Ave, 2007); *s-confinamenti* (Pazzini Editore, 2018); *stoRYcycle* (Pazzini Editore, 2018); *Metodo Rondine* (Pazzini Editore, 2018); *Rondine Cittadella della Pace- storie di nemici che si incontrano* (Edizioni San Paolo, 2019).



“”

*When I met you,  
I didn't want to shake your hand.  
The last day,  
I chose to hug you.*

Elmira,  
azerbaijani



**1998**

Foundation of The  
Studentato Internazionale –  
World House

P.12

19

21

22

**2009**

Ventidipacesucaucaso  
*(Winds of peace in the  
Caucasus)*

**2008**

oundation of the  
Rondine International  
Peace Lab



**2012**

Una nuova classe  
dirigente per la Sponda  
Sud del Mediterraneo  
*(A New Class of Managers for  
Southern Mediterranean  
Shore)*

**2015**

Quarto Anno Liceale  
di Eccellenza a  
Rondine

**2017**

Initiative for peaceful and  
democratic elections in  
Sierra Leone



**2018**

Launching the Leaders  
for Peace Campaign

13

15

20

16

23

**2017**

University Master

**2018**

Publishing series  
"TraMe"



*Twenty-five nationalities, five continents,  
infinite identities.  
the Human finds himself in the Citadel of  
Peace, transforms his conflict  
and returns to the world.*

**THE WORLD  
IN RONDINE**



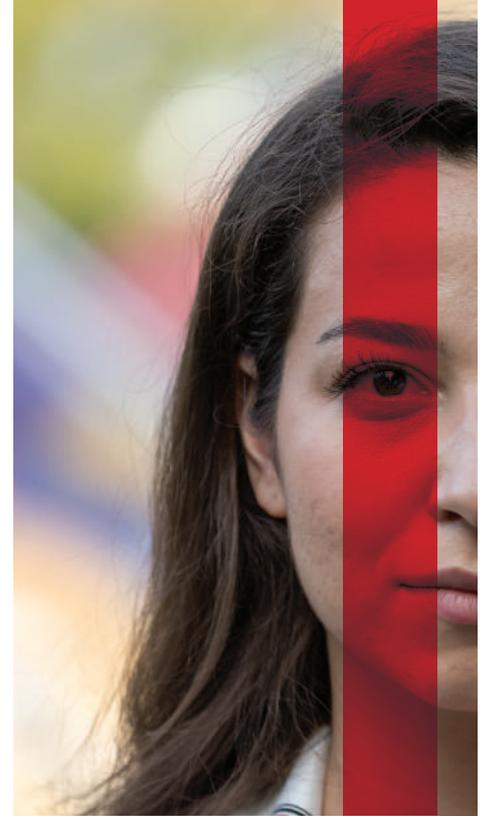
## Studentato Internazionale – World House

The Studentato Internazionale – World House is at the heart of Rondine: it developed the Cittadella della Pace and gave birth to the Rondine Method.

Since 1998, it hosts young people who come from countries where, whether currently or recently, conflict has degenerated into violent forms. In the World House the students accept to live with their enemy, facing precisely what they wanted to escape from. Together, they undertake a revolutionary path: starting from the pain and the rage resulting from war – re-discovered as renewable energy – they embrace a creative transformation model.

This process utterly invests three dimensions of their experience at Rondine: the education, the academic path, and their shared daily lives. After two years at Rondine, the students of the World House have acquired the tools and skills to promote action and develop projects in their respective countries. They have become leaders able to bring peace in environments characterized by transformation, high-level complexity, and severe conflict.

The **World House** aims at hosting young people from the five continents, as spokespersons of degenerated local conflicts. It currently hosts thirty students from twenty-five different countries in East Europe, West Africa, South America, Middle East, and West Asia.





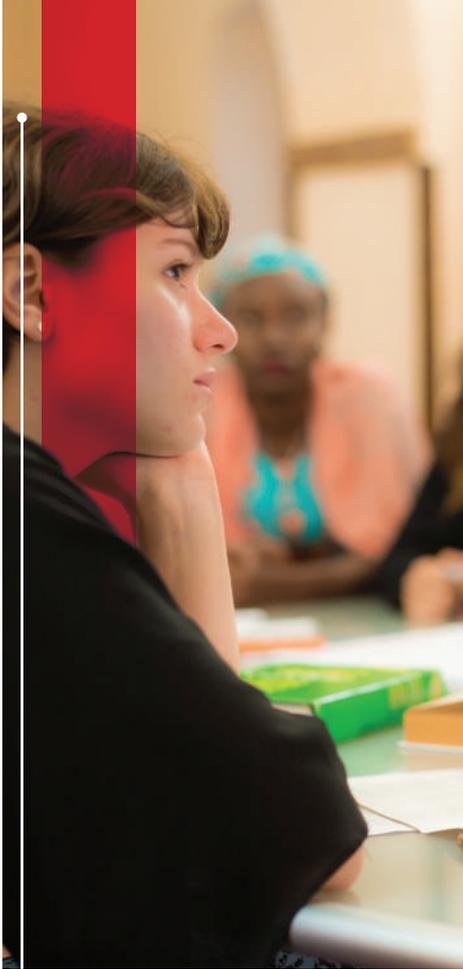
## Quarto Anno Liceale d'Eccellenza a Rondine

*Quarto Anno of Excellence at Rondine* is a formative and educational opportunity recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research as an experimental programme for educational innovation. It has been designed for all Italian students attending Classical, Scientific, or Human Sciences lyceums, who wish to attend their fourth year (Italian high school is a five-year programme) in an international environment such as Cittadella della Pace. Following the experience of the

World House, the Rondine Method is now applied to the education of teenagers about to face the most crucial conflict in their lives: the search for their identity in the transition from childhood to adulthood, an unknown land that usually inspires fear.

In Cittadella della Pace, they undertake a path of development and self-awareness, to become not only the leaders of their own lives but also agents of real change in their regions, as active citizens of the third millennium.





## Master in Conflict management and humanitarian action

The University of Siena and Rondine Cittadella della Pace are promoting a Master's degree in "Conflict management and humanitarian action", developed by the Department of social, political, and cognitive sciences and the Association from Arezzo, with the special participation of some members of the international organization Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

The Master stems from a previous long-term relation between the University of Siena and Rondine; the educational offer renewed this

relation, in order to give a prompt response to contemporary necessities.

The new one-year course is held in English, and it provides graduate students with theoretical and practical highly specialized skills. As it educates them in the management of war-torn and post-conflict situations, the Master focusses on the main global challenges currently faced by the humanitarian sector such as global health, migration, management of humanitarian interventions, humanitarian negotiation, advocacy and communication.



## Publishing series:

TRAMe

As a handcrafted weaving using both ancient and new yarns to create new fabrics, Rondine intertwines differences starting from the most distant ones: the stories of enemies.

This concept appears in "TraMe," the Rondine publishing series aimed at transmitting the history of Cittadella della Pace, the experiences of its protagonists, and the foundation of its method.

The "Trame" series has published: *S-confinamenti - un approccio al conflitto*, by Franco Vaccari (2018);

*StoRYcycling - La bellezza di storie rovesciate*, by Franco Vaccari (2018); and *Metodo Rondine - La trasformazione creativa dei conflitti*, by Franco Vaccari (2018).





*A Citadel of Peace that becomes a model  
and a concrete example  
for the creative transformation of conflicts  
in every context.*

**RONDINE IN  
THE WORLD**



## Rondine International Peace Lab



Rondine International Peace Lab (R-IPL) is an international organization counting nearly 200 world leaders: a global network which applies the Rondine Method for the creative transformation of conflicts in every possible context.

The association includes the former alumni of the Studentato Internazionale - World House. After completing their education at Cittadella della Pace, they apply the acquired tools and competences to promote dialogue and peace processes in conflict or post-conflict contexts.

Mutual trust and professional skills are the founding elements of the Rondine International Peace Lab. R-IPL members – former enemies who have become friends through their experience at Rondine – feel and live every conflict as their own, therefore, they are ready to apply their innovative approach in every context, even those far away from their homelands.



## Initiative for peaceful and democratic elections in Sierra Leone

Initiative for peaceful and democratic elections in Sierra Leone is the first innovative project with a meaningful political and social impact promoted by the Rondine International Peace Lab, aiming to foster a peaceful and informed voting process for the 2018 presidential elections in Sierra Leone.

The former Rondine students trained 12 educators, one for each region of the country, who in turn trained 360 community leaders about democracy, social responsibility, the common good, and

reconciliation. The project also involved 400 young professionals at four roundtables in the leading national universities. Overall, through an extensive awareness campaign, the message reached over one million people.

The project has significantly raised the attention on the importance of political engagement and the need for dialogue between the factions in conflict. Ultimately, it resulted in an important increase in personal responsibility and trust in the voting process.



## Ventidipacesucaucaso *(Winds of peace for the Caucasus)*

*Ventidipacesucaucaso* (Winds of peace for the Caucasus) is a project stemmed from the desire of the young people of the World House to re-open the dialogue in the Caucasian region, swept by the Russian-Georgian war suddenly broken out in August 2008.

For the first time, the Rondine Method for the creative transformation of conflicts has been applied in the context of a degenerated conflict, implementing Rondine's natural vocation towards popular democracy through the education of young people who

wish to have an impact in conflict situations.

The project gave birth to the “Documento in 14 punti per la pace nel Caucaso” (the 14 Points Document for peace in the Caucasus), elaborated together with the students of the World House, and shared with political leaders, diplomats, and international religious leaders, including Pope Benedict XVI.



## Una nuova classe dirigente per la Sponda Sud del Mediterraneo

*(New leadership for the Southern shore of the Mediterranean)*

The project *Una nuova classe dirigente per la Sponda Sud del Mediterraneo* (A new leadership for the Southern shore of the Mediterranean) is an international cooperation process undertaken by Rondine in 2012 after the events of the so-called Arab Spring.

It aimed to help the new generations from the South Mediterranean to understand the current transformation processes, and actively participate in the phase of historical changes their countries were going through.

The project is articulated in educa-

tional programmes implemented from 2012 to 2014 at Cittadella della Pace and *Centro per la Formazione alla Solidarietà Internazionale di Trento* (Centre for the Education to International Solidarity of Trento). By applying the Rondine Method, fifty young people from the Middle East and North Africa have been educated to become agents of change.

## Campagna globale LEADERS FOR PEACE

On the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited Rondine Cittadella della Pace to represent Italy at the United Nations with its experience of *“a tangible example offering a fresh start on the vast topic of human rights, which today represents an urgent challenge for the entire planet”*.

Rondine rose to this challenge by launching a three-year global campaign, Leaders for Peace.

The campaign was introduced to the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella and Pope Francis, and finally officially laun-

ched at the United Nations on December 10th, 2018.

At the core of this campaign is an Appeal written by Rondine's students and alumni and addressed to the Member States of the United Nations. The appeal urges them to take a practical step towards training young leaders for peace, equipping them with the skills to positively transform conflict situations around the world.

The global Leaders for Peace campaign is Rondine Cittadella della Pace's unique commitment to contribute directly over the next few years to affirming a new culture of human rights. This aim will be achieved by training leaders and

spreading positive conflict transformation skills among all citizens, integrating the Rondine Method into human rights education.

Italy was the first country to endorse the Leaders for Peace campaign. In 2019, Giuseppe Conte, Italy's Prime Minister, committed to redirecting a symbolic sum from the Defence Ministry towards scholarships to train young leaders for peace.

By signing the Appeal, Italy identifies armed conflict as a planetary emergency and acknowledges the urgency of spreading conflict transformation skills among citizens and leaders.



LEADERS  
FOR  
PEACE



# HOW TO SUPPORT RONDINE CITTADELLA DELLA PACE

Rondine Cittadella della Pace is supported by a large network of national and international partners, such as government agencies, representatives of institutions, business, academy, civil society private bodies and individuals. They all share Rondine's mission: to promote the creative transformation of conflict through the experiences of young people who discover the human being in their enemy.

*Every fundamental change in history has been triggered by people.  
Together we form the people who will change the future.  
Now.*

## REGULAR DONATION

- **Quarterly donation**  
Contribute to a scholarship for the training of future peace leaders.
- **Six-monthly donation**  
Help our students carry out a social fallout project in their countries of origin.
- **Annual donation**  
Help Rondine complete the Citadel of the third millennium.

## SINGLE DONATION

- **2.500 €**  
**Invest in the challenge of meeting the "enemy"**  
To free ourselves from the culture of war.
- **5.000 €**  
**Invest in a house to share with the "enemy"**  
To break down personal walls, heal invisible wounds and build trust.

- **7.500 €**

**Invest in dialogue training**

To have a global and not partial vision, to understand the causes of conflicts, to prevent them and not having to see the tragic consequences anymore.

- **10.000 €**

**Invest in projects of young leaders to change the future**

To concretely promote change, in an international network that works to develop the political, social and economic issues of the territories in conflict.

- **25.000 €**

**Train tomorrow's ruling class**

Invest in the scholarships of youth from territories in conflict, so that they are trained to become peace leaders.

## HOW TO DONATE

### FROM USA

- Gifts by check: Write your check to KBFUS, write "Associazione Rondine Cittadella della Pace" in the memo section of the check, and send it to KBFUS, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10020.
- Gifts by credit card: Go to [www.kbfus.org](http://www.kbfus.org), click on the 'Donate Now' button and select "Associazione Rondine Cittadella della Pace" through the alphabetical listings.
- Gifts by wire transfer or to contribute other types of property: Contact KBFUS at: email [info@kbfus.org](mailto:info@kbfus.org), phone (212) 713 7660.

### FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

- By visiting the website [www.rondine.org/en/donate](http://www.rondine.org/en/donate) (single or regular donation)
- By sending an email to [fundraising@rondine.org](mailto:fundraising@rondine.org)



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