

Matteo Zuppi (City of Bologna)

Matteo Zuppi is Archbishop of Bologna since 2015 and Cardinal since 2019, as well as one of the major advisers of the Community of Sant'Egidio. He was one of the Sant'Egidio members directly involved in mediating an end to the civil war in Mozambique.

The commitment to peace and openness to Africa are two of the themes to which he has devoted the most attention, together with the interreligious dialogue, closeness to the poor and acceptance in the Church of the different life situations of the faithful, including the theme of homosexuality.

Over the last few years he has entered the Italian public debate on the issue of migrants, stating that "hospitality is an epochal issue". He has initiated numerous projects in the social field at municipal level, after-school activities, aid for disabled students and those in difficulty, as well as on the subject of working conditions.

Hassan Jarf (city of Liege)

Born in 1953 to an Arab mother and an Awazigh father, Hassan Jarf grew up in Casablanca at the juncton of a mosque, a cathedral and a Jewish cemetery.

Since 1974 he has experienced interreligiousness, interculturality and diversity on the path of exile where he would also get to deal with intolerance. He is a founding member of the "Ishane Jarf Foundaton", which has its roots in a tragedy which occurred on April 22, 2012: the homophobic assassinaton of Ishane Jarf, Hassan Jarf's son. His willingness is to work towards equality and against discriminaton through dialogue -yet without concessions to intolerance. In 2013 he wrote a book enttled Ishane Jarf: le couloir du deuil (Ihsane Jarf: The Corridor of Mourning). His book was published in the form of serials by the daily Al Ahdath Al Maghribia in Morocco where homosexuality is illegal.

His exemplary career led him to receive, in September 2018, the honorific insignia of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Liège.

Rémy Nelson (city of Nantes)

Rémy Nelson, whose real name is Rémy Mouenkoula (his nickname refers to Nelson Mandela), grew up in Gabon. He is a journalist and he has always been passionate about debates about immigration, integration and diversity in French society and its consequences. He is deeply committed to the fight against racism and discrimination in Nancy. He was engaged on the warfields with the UNIFIL (Interim Force of United Nations in Lebanon), and his memories of the horror of the conflicts have pushed him to fight against conflicts and animosity. In the 2000s he animated a show entitled « Mirabelles et Piments », which focused on the reachness of diversity. In 2011, he created the association "Mirabelles et Piments" which promotes diversity by organizing round tables, exchange events between African communities and the other citizens. Rémy Nelson and his association bring together personalities with both French, African and foreign origin from the economic, associative, political, cultural, sports world with the aim to make them reflect on various subjects such as interreligious and intercultural cohabitation of public space and reflection about diversity in France and Nancy. He also organizes "NancyCauris" award ceremony where 10 Nancean personalities are awarded for their commitment in promoting diversity.

Joséphine SOUMAH (city of Toulouse)

Born in Kindia, Republic of Guinea, Joséphine SOUMAH is 70 years old. She has been living in Toulouse since 1971.

In parallel to her rich professional career, Joséphine SOUMAH quickly invested herself in various volunteer activities for Toulouse residents with great commitment and conviction, particularly within the NGO OICID Organisation Internationale de Coopération et de Développement

("Training women in microenterprise management in Guinea, Mali and Niger") and within the association Partage Faourette.

As Vice-President of the CRAN MP association (Conseil Représentatif des Noirs de France en région Occitanie), she coordinates the access point to rights hosted by the Toulouse City Hall, where she provides free assistance to people in social difficulty, victims of discrimination linked to origin and all other discrimination in the field of employment, housing, health and right of residence for foreigners.

She is a woman recognized and appreciated for her human qualities, her skills and her work carried out for more than ten years in Toulouse and its metropolitan area.

Dr. Frank Mentrup (city of Karlsruhe)

Dr. Frank Mentrup is the initiator of Perspective Now! Plus, a project designed to support the integration of young migrants, especially those between the ages of 14 and 27, in school, social and, above all, professional life.

In addition to linguistic, educational and social integration, the aim of the project is to provide vocational orientation and support in the search for an apprenticeship. This takes place in 1:1 tandems with volunteers who support and accompany young foreigners on their way from school to vocational training. The project is also closely networked with important labour market policy actors and thus serves as a link between companies and trainees.

Since April 2016, so far approx 150 tandems (300 participants) with people from more than 25 nations have participated. The project has been supported by the City of Karlsruhe and the ESF since 2019.

In order to counteract prejudice and racism, encounters are needed, both in the form of a more relaxed get-together, but also in the form of more intensive confrontations in terms of content. Both take place in the project: the personal tandem meetings take place, binational friendships develop, but activities are also undertaken in a large group of 10-20 people, e.g. celebrations, visits to the climbing garden, joint games, cultural and cinema evenings or picnics are organised.