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## STILL I RISE NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2023

*It was announced by Council Members Sara Conti and Giuseppe Maria Morganti during the meeting of the Grand and General Council of the Republic of San Marino on 13 March.*

**14/03/2023** - The non-profit organization Still I Rise has been nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize 2023**: the nomination comes from the Republic of San Marino and was made known by Council Members Sara Conti and Giuseppe Maria Morganti, former Head of State, during the Grand and General Council meeting on 13 March 2023.

«Using the words of Nelson Mandela "**Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world**". And Still I Rise provides free education and protection to vulnerable and refugee children», is the reason the council members provided when they submitted the organization's nomination for the prestigious award.

«We are incredibly grateful to Council Members Sara Conti and Giuseppe Maria Morganti, and to the entire Republic of San Marino, which we feel particularly close to in its historical independence as the 'Ancient Land of Freedom'. We are a very young organization and have a long way to go, but this nomination is a great encouragement for all of us to continue to do more, and better,» said **Nicolò Govoni**, Executive Director of Still I Rise.

«The news made the entire Still I Rise team very enthusiastic: this trust in our work is a real encouragement for each and every one of us. Particularly at this time for our colleagues in Ma'an, our school in North West Syria, who are facing the tragic anniversary of the 12th year since the beginning of the war. They are dealing with the aftermath of last month's devastating earthquake and the repeated lack of attention from the international community,» added **Giulia Cicoli**, Advocacy Director of the organization.

For 2023, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee has received 305 nominations, including 212 individuals and 93 organizations. The full list of nominees is kept secret by the Committee for 50 years; however, those submitting nominations have the right to make the name of the individual, entity or organization public.

Nicolò Govoni, Executive Director of Still I Rise, was nominated for the same prize in 2020. Three years later comes the nomination for the entire organization, with which the Republic of San Marino has launched important projects over time, culminating in the unanimous approval of the law to allow unaccompanied foreign minors to be fostered by San Marino residents.

**STILL I RISE APS**

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## ABOUT STILL I RISE: AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION

**Still I Rise** is an international humanitarian organization founded in 2018. Its goal is to **educate, safeguard, and protect refugee and vulnerable children** around the world. It is headquartered in Rome and operates in North West Syria, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo while in Greece, after ending its educational program, it continues with its advocacy work. Still I Rise is also active in Italian-speaking Switzerland. Still I Rise is completely independent thanks to private donations and actively refuses funding from governments, the European Union, and supranational bodies.

In December 2022, the organization was awarded the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice in an award ceremony held in the city of Mumbai, India.

**EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS** - Still I Rise's educational projects are needs-based and community-focused, with two distinct operational approaches: the Emergency and Rehabilitation schools and the International Schools.

In the case of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Schools, the intervention takes place in volatile contexts, through the proposal of a versatile curriculum for the rehabilitation of minors: the ultimate objective is to reintegrate them into the public school system. The model also addresses basic needs such as nutrition, hygiene and child protection, as well as psychosocial support to regenerate the well-being of the child and their family unit. The Emergency and Rehabilitation School model is active in Ma'an (Ad Dana, North West Syria) and Pamoja (Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo) schools.

As for International Schools, the intervention takes place in more stable contexts, where migrants settle for the long term. Here, Still I Rise brings high-quality education to those who would never be able to access it, through a 7-year educational pathway, totally free of charge, that can open doors to the world's best universities. Still I Rise is the first non-profit organization in the world to offer the International Baccalaureate framework free of charge exclusively to refugee and vulnerable children. The international school model is present in the Still I Rise International School in Nairobi, Kenya.

**ADVOCACY WORK** - Defending the fundamental human rights of its students is at the core of Still I Rise's work.

In **Greece**, in 2019, the organization pressed criminal charges against the management of Samos' reception and identification center before public prosecutors in Samos and Rome, for the violation of the human rights of unaccompanied minors living in the camp. In 2019 and 2020, Still I Rise obtained unprecedented interim relief measures from the European Court of Human Rights, which ordered the immediate transfer of 12 unaccompanied minors to a safe place.

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Alongside legal action, Still I Rise is at the forefront of the struggle to guarantee children's right to an education. In the **North-West of Syria**, Still I Rise fights to keep the international public spotlight on a war which has raged on for 12 years, and speaks out against the international rehabilitation of Bashar al-Assad's regime.

In **Kenya**, the organization's work is centered to ensure social justice in access to education to both refugee and vulnerable Kenyan children, while in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** efforts are aimed at removing children from mining work. In addition to Still I Rise's efforts on the ground, the organization advocates to end child labor and abuses in the mines by calling for a clean and certified cobalt supply chain.

In addition, through the photographic project '**Through Our Eyes**', carried out by Still I Rise students in Greece, North West Syria and Kenya, the organization aims to reveal the talents of its students and allow them to speak about their lives and hopes directly to an audience they would otherwise never be able to reach. The photographs have toured over 100 cities in Europe and the United States of America, even landing in the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

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