

CILD Awards for Civil Liberties. The winners of the 2018 edition

Journalists, lawyers, athletes, civil servants, trade unionists, activists, film producers. These are the winners of the 2018 edition of the CILD Awards for Civil Liberties: people who contribute daily, as part of their activities, to promote and protect human rights in Italy.

The Awards, now in their fourth edition, are aimed at reinforcing the belief that respecting human rights is essential for a democracy. They help our country to recognize and give value to those who are committed to asserting human rights at a crucial time for fundamental liberties. Among these people there are the lawyers who participated in the Plan Condor trial in Italy as well as the lawyer Fabio Anselmo, journalists such as Carola Frediani and Alessandro Leogrande, the young Roma activists that created the convention '*Primavera Romani*' ('Roma Spring') and Wajahat Abbas Kazmi with his campaign 'Allah Loves Equality', the volunteers from the Baobab centre in Rome and Patrizia Moretti, Federico Aldrovandi's mother, the athletes Giorgio Minisini and Manila Flamini.

In addition, there are the winners of this year, who will receive the Awards in Milan next December 4, during the CILD Fest.

These are the winners of the 2018 edition:

Young Activist Award. Iacopo Melio. Born in 1992, Iacopo Melio launched the campaign '*Vorrei prendere il treno*' ('I would like to take the train') in 2014. With this campaign he draws attention to people with disabilities, who constantly encounter obstacles in the exercise of their civil liberties. Since the beginning, this campaign appeared innovative and gained media coverage both at a national and international level. Iacopo Melio, with '*Vorrei prendere il treno*', demonstrates the importance of communication as a social tool for asserting one's rights. But his commitment is not limited to this matter. In fact, his activism is extended to all human and civil rights, as

proved by his participation in conferences, assemblies, conventions, as well as by the posts that he publishes on Facebook taking a firm stand on the issue of migrants, receiving criticism by dozens of haters.

Activist of the Year Award. Aboubakar Soumahoro. Italian born in Ivory Coast, he is a trade unionist of the USB - *Unione Sindacale di Base*. He is active in the fight against illegal employment (*caporalato*) and supports the migrants exploited in the Italian countryside. He is one of the promoters of the mobilizations of these workers, especially those that took place in Calabria and Puglia, where recent news reports increasingly brought to light this system. However, his struggles are not only aimed at supporting these workers: with the slogan *#Prima glisfruttati* (*#Exploitedfirst*), he manages to highlight how fundamental it is that Italians and foreigners fight together to assert social rights.

Civil Servant Award. Maria Teresa Ninni. Maria Teresa is currently an educator at the Harm Reduction services of Turin Local Health Authority; she is active in the Drop in, in the 'Can Go' Mobile unit, in the projects of Peer support for the distribution of naloxone and the prevention and treatment of hepatitis C. Maria Teresa, however, did not become involved in the public service right after her studies, like many others did. Her career is long: she has over twenty-five years of firsthand experience working for the rights of people who use drugs. She founded one of the few existing associations that represent them (the 'Isle of Arran'), she collaborated to the creation of innovative services in the 90s, the organization of dozens of peer support courses that allowed hundreds of consumers to take action for their health, inclusion, and rights; she created the first and most well-known street newspaper for drug users (*'Polvere'*, 'Powder'). Moreover, she has been paying attention to the national and European networks for the promotion of harm reduction and acting for drug policies reforms. She eventually became involved in the public service, where she constantly supports those who use drugs and ask for dignity, thanks to her experience and her newly-acquired skills.

Lawyer Award. Nicola Canestrini. Nicola Canestrini, a criminal lawyer, has always been committed to the protection of fundamental rights, even for the weakest individuals. He has expertise in international law and focuses in particular on the issue of extradition, especially towards countries where human rights are most at risk. He coordinates the information website *Canestrinilex*; he is editor of the journal of the Association of Democratic Lawyers '*Diritto di Critica*' ('Right to Criticism'); and he is an activist of the associations *Giuristi Democratici Italiani* (Italian Democratic Lawyers) and *Avvocati per la Solidarietà* (Lawyers for Solidarity). He is a member of the network 'Endangered Lawyers', which in turn is part of an international network aimed at defending the human rights of lawyers who are increasingly threatened in various parts of the world, arrested or in some cases killed for their activities.

Journalist Award. Saverio Tommasi. For many years, especially through his videos, Saverio Tommasi has been telling stories about ordinary violations of human rights, as they happen in our country. He does this with a narrative thread that is very often made of lightness and irony. He manages to gather the voices of the protagonists without indulging in rhetoric. As he writes on his website, his job is to live stories, to show what nobody has interest in unveiling. These are two things that he manages to do very well and that have a fundamental value in a historical era where stereotypes take the place of mutual knowledge.

Athlete Award. Sara Gama. Born from a Congolese father and an Italian mother, Sara Gama is the captain of Juventus and of the Italian national team. She represents at best the new Italy and the new generations of Italian citizens. She puts herself and her reputation at the centre of her commitment against discrimination, inside and outside sports, by joining public awareness campaigns on this topic. She is also one of the authors of the book '*Che razza di calcio*' ('What sort of soccer'), in which episodes of ordinary racism are collected inside and outside the stadiums, alongside the virtuous examples of integration and tolerance.

Media Award. Lucky Red and Cinema Undici. Lucky Red and Cinema Undici, two film production companies, take the credit of having produced the film ‘On my skin. The last seven days of Stefano Cucchi’. The film was sold out for weeks in the cinemas where it was screened – this despite being simultaneously broadcast on Netflix. Watching this movie has almost become a collective ritual that paved the way for meetings and debates on law enforcement abuses. In this sense, the movie has followed the path of denouncing such episodes – a path that has in many cases represented the main feature of the Italian cinema.

Career Award. Franco Grillini. Franco Grillini is one of the fathers of the homosexual liberation movement in Italy. Since the early 1980s he has been a leading player in the battle for conquering civil rights and fighting against prejudice and social exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in our country. In 1982 he took part in the “conquest of Cassero”, the first place in Italy to be assigned to a homosexual association by a public institution – in that case, the Municipality of Bologna. He is one of the founders of Arcigay, that he led as president from 1987 to 1998. Those were years in which he relentlessly spread information on what was called the “gay plague”, trying on the one hand to stem the social stigma and on the other hand to develop a culture of knowledge and prevention regarding HIV/AIDS. In years when the overwhelming majority of gay, lesbian and bisexual people were hiding, he pursued a fight for full visibility. He stood up for this out in the open, especially in popular TV programs, where, outside from purely artistic contexts, a homosexual person had never been able to talk smoothly about his or her sexual orientation. He held various political offices and has always been able to combine his political activity with the struggle for equality, visibility and full dignity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of our country.

Collective Voice Award. Casa Internazionale delle Donne (International Women’s House). For almost 40 years, the International Women’s House has been committed to defending women’s rights and liberties. The building that houses it was an abandoned ruin, when it was occupied and became the seat of the feminist movement from Rome and beyond – an active and vital

space and a reference point for women. Today there are over forty associations that animate it and offer free services. Despite the fundamental role that the House holds, it risks an eviction. An eviction that would make the city and the whole country poorer and the women who live there alone.