



Proposal

# Responding to Syrian War & earthquake traumas through Social Theatre

Facilitator's training program

## **Purpose of the Project**

Social Theatre is a method to help individuals, especially children, to cope with various kinds of woundedness. Having experienced traumatic events, such as war and natural disasters, individuals as well as the community get blocked, reducing the interpretation and the meaning of their lives to the precise moment of the traumatic episode. It then becomes necessary to offer new methods of interpretation, so that they might reconsider their stories and the possibilities of their future.

For over fifteen years, the Capuchin Franciscan Social Theatre Department has developed a specific methodology (that uses a series of practices and activities internationally called Social Theatre Training) to effectively work in trauma response and psychosocial animation.

The project is designed by the Missionary Center of the Capuchins Franciscan Friars of Lombardy in collaboration with: Capuchin Social Theatre, Voci Erranti Onlus, Custody OFM Cap Lebanon-Middle East, General Secretariat of the formation OFM Cap, General Secretariat JPIC OFM Cap, General Secretariat JPIC OFM Conv.

## **Outcome**

Responding to the war and the recent earthquake in Syria, we propose a Social Theatre facilitator's training program to provide new skills for those in a position to assist Syrian children, youth and adult suffering from trauma.

## **When & Where?**

- Part 1: 2 - 12 May 2023 in Lebanon  
-In person workshop
- Part 2: June-October 2023  
-Online sessions for monitoring activities and follow up needs
- Part 3: By December 2023  
-A 4-day follow up section. In person workshop

### **Who would participate?**

We would like to invite operators/educators/teachers from different realities that are on the ground in Syria. For examples: Parishes, Custody of the Holy Land, Franciscan Care Center, Jesuit Refugee Service, Caritas, ACN international...

We will have maximum 10 participants who are willing to come from Syria to Lebanon for the training. They will then return to Syria to implement and apply what they have learned at their specific local level.

### **Who will lead the program?**

Our trainers' team currently consists of nine professionals:

- Stefano LUCA OFMCap (Director of the Project. Facilitators' trainer. Missiologist and Islamologist).
- Grazia ISOARDI (Facilitators' trainer).
- Elias SAUD OFMCap (Arabic-speaking interpreter).
- Dr. Barbara GHIRINGHELLI (Anthropologist specialised in the Middle East and areas of war and extremism).
- Jeime REY OFMCap (Anthropologist).
- Charles ALPHONSE OFMCap (Psychotherapist specialised in Integral Optimism & Happiness).
- Joel DE JESUS OFMCap (General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation).
- Michael LASKY OFMConv (General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation).
- Mattia CANOVI (Cameraman).

### **Participants would:**

- Learn the basis of Social Theatre Methodology.
- Learn some important games and activities that are part of a Social Theatre program.
- Learn the basics about running a Social Theatre workshop.
- Learn how to write a Social Theatre project.
- Learn how to build a Social Theatre Community Events.
- Learn how to develop a dynamic relationship with children and youth based on trust and respect.
- Implement self-confidence
- Develop meta-cognitive and symbolic knowledge as sources of learning and developing intelligence.
- Rebuild a self-identity (with value and ideal) and at the same time rebuild the capacity to be, to respect and to listen to the others.
- Learn the Social Theatre methodology in order to work on *Life Skills* with children and youth who have experienced traumatic events such as war.
- Implement their nonviolent body-language.
- To be able to deal with daily and ordinary conflicts.

## **Costs?**

No fee is charged. We fully have funding for this project.

Also, we will cover the expenses for all the materials needed for the trainings as well as the travel expenses for the participants and training team. Additionally, we will give to the participants an attendance fee.

### Profile of Friar Stefano LUCA OFM Cap Director of this project

Graduated in 2007 from Theatre and Drama Academy "Accademia dei filodrammatici di Milano" (Italy). Advanced theatre studies with several international professionals from the Russian National Academy of Dramatic Arts of Moscow (G.I.T.I.S.) and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama of London.

Obtained the following certificates:

- Certificate in Theatre of the Oppressed in 2016.
- Certificate in Theatre in emergency contexts in 2017.
- Certificate in Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue Studies in 2015.
- BA and MA in Theology in 2016 at the 'Studio Teologico Laurentianum' - Venice.
- MA (3 years program - Licenza canonica) in Arabic and Islamic Studies in 2019 at the 'Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies pisai' - Rome.
- PhD in Missiology in 2023 at the 'Pontifical Gregorian University' - Rome.

Additionally, he studied Integral Ecology at the 'Joint Diploma' initiative shared between the Universities and the Pontifical Athenaeums of Rome.

Since 2005 he works in the Social Theatre domain, i.e., the use of the theatre medium in contexts characterized by social distress (hospitals, immigrants, prisons, juvenile prisons, community for drug addicts, street children, mental disorder, child soldiers, war zones) in different places such as Europe; Eastern Europe; Sub-Saharan Africa; North Africa and Middle East.

Currently friar Stefano is:

- Member of the *National Coordination of Theatre in Italian Prisons*.
- Secretary of the *National Office "Fraternità-Missione"* of the *Italian Capuchin Friars*.
- International director of the department *Capuchin Social Theatre - Caring for Life through Arts (CapST)*.
- Consultor of the *Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI)* for the interreligious dialogue with Islam.
- Professor of Islamic Studies, Missiology, and Social Theatre in different academic institutions.
- Researcher at the University Platform for *Research on Islam in Europe and Lebanon (PLURIEL)*.

**More Information at: <http://capsocialtheatre.org/>**