

Tuesday, 13th October 2020, 9 pm, Cinema Massimo 1
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**Afghanistan, Iran and Italy.
Migrations, between discrimination and inclusion.**

Semir Garshasbi (editor of *Mediorientarsi*)
Alidad Shiri (journalist)

Alidad Shiri was a child in the city of Ghazni in Afghanistan, where he saw the joy of family relationships and friendships, but also the horror of a terrible war that destroyed entire families. It was normal to see the corpses of people abandoned in the streets, the trails of bullets passing over the houses, and to hear the noises of explosions. During Alidad's childhood, women could not work, and girls were not allowed to attend school. After 40 years of war the situation has improved – think of the greater freedom that women have, regarding work and education, as well as information and political participation. However, the return of the Taliban is upon us. Men continue to flee, taking with them women and children too, because there is no prospect of a stable future. Thus, they entrust their fate to the traffickers. First, they become asylum seekers in Pakistan, and then they go to Iran, where they are not recognized any rights. In this regard, Semir Garshasbi recalls how Iran is characterized by the regular violation of human rights and religious fundamentalism; Muslim brotherhood is invoked and exploited to create internal cohesion but not to include the many foreigners who live on the margins of the country. Afghan migrants can follow three paths: Europe, Australia, and North America. The journey lasts for years, often suspended between life and death, because they suffer from hunger, thirst, psychological, physical and sexual violence, torture and prison. Many get lost along the way, while those you manage to reach their destination have to face the difficulty to be recognised as refugees. Despite the strict migration policies of the past few years, in Italy the inclusion of asylum seekers works mainly thanks to the third sector. However, refugees personally experience racism, which does not depend on political ideologies, and which leads a part of the population to see new citizens as people to be avoided. Someone sees them as people in need who have stories to tell, but they almost never see them as participating members of society with ideas and projects. This recognition is fundamental to achieve a truly inclusive society, where actions speak louder than words.

Semir Garshasbi is originally from Iran, and arrived in Italy in 1979 for university studies and subsequently stayed here as a political refugee. He was a trade union official for over twenty years; he is a member of the editorial board of "Non solo bianco", the first magazine on the history, culture and politics of immigrants; the editor of the radio program "Mediorientarsi", a press review on the Middle East; a human rights activist in Iran and a hobby farmer.

Alidad Shiri is originally from Afghanistan, and arrived in South Tyrol in the summer of 2005. He is currently a columnist for two local newspapers, "Alto Adige" and "Trentino". He collaborates with various associations: Libera, UNHCR, Caritas, CIAM (the Vatican's "International Center for Mission and Formation"). He wrote his own autobiographical book "Via dalla pazza guerra" (Away from the mad war), ed. by Il Margine. He is co-author of the book "Anche Superman era un Rifugiato" (Even Superman was a Refugee), ed. by Il Battello a Vapore; and co-author of "La Grande Illusione – L'Afghanistan in guerra dal 1979" (The Great Illusion - Afghanistan at war since 1979), ed. by Rosenberg & Sellier. He is co-founder of Unire (Italian National Union of Refugees and Exiles).