

PEACEMED

A Commitment to Peace

From March 24 to 26, 2025, I had the opportunity to represent Caritas Morocco during a training session organized by Caritas Italy in Larnaca and Nicosia, Cyprus, as part of the PeaceMed project. This training marks the beginning of a series of workshops on the culture of peace and development, bringing together participants from various Caritas organizations in the Mediterranean region, as well as local civil society organizations.

The **PeaceMed** project, an initiative by Caritas Italy, aims to **promote a culture of peace, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and beyond.** The goal is to strengthen the capacities of partner organizations to respond to challenges related to conflict and social cohesion,



while promoting an inclusive and peaceful approach.

From the very first day, the exchanges were rich and meaningful, allowing strong bonds to form among the participants. It was a moment of human connection, where each person shared a personal or professional story that illustrated the challenges faced in their country. **These discussions deepened our understanding of local realities and possible solutions.**

Beyond the training sessions, we also enjoyed more informal moments, where participants had the chance to get to know one another better. These “cozy” moments are precious—they allow for relaxed discussions, cultural exchange, and the building of friendships. These interactions brought a beautiful human dimension to the training and strengthened the spirit of solidarity among us.



The second day was dedicated to a visit to Nicosia, the divided capital of Cyprus, where we were welcomed by Caritas Cyprus. We learned about their local programs supporting migrants and refugees. Another important part of the day was the visit to the UN buffer zone, a symbolic space that separates the two communities. There, we were able to witness international peacekeeping efforts firsthand, while learning how intercommunal initiatives help to foster dialogue and reconciliation.

This first session marks the beginning of a broader training cycle. The upcoming sessions will delve deeper into themes of peace culture, sustainable development, and the role of civil society organizations in conflict management.

These trainings are essential to build the capacities of local actors and prepare them to handle conflict situations in a peaceful and inclusive way.

This trip to Cyprus was an enriching experience, both professionally and personally. The exchange of ideas and the friendly moments shared with other participants strengthened the spirit of solidarity among us. It was a wonderful opportunity to expand our knowledge while contributing to such an important project as PeaceMed.

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