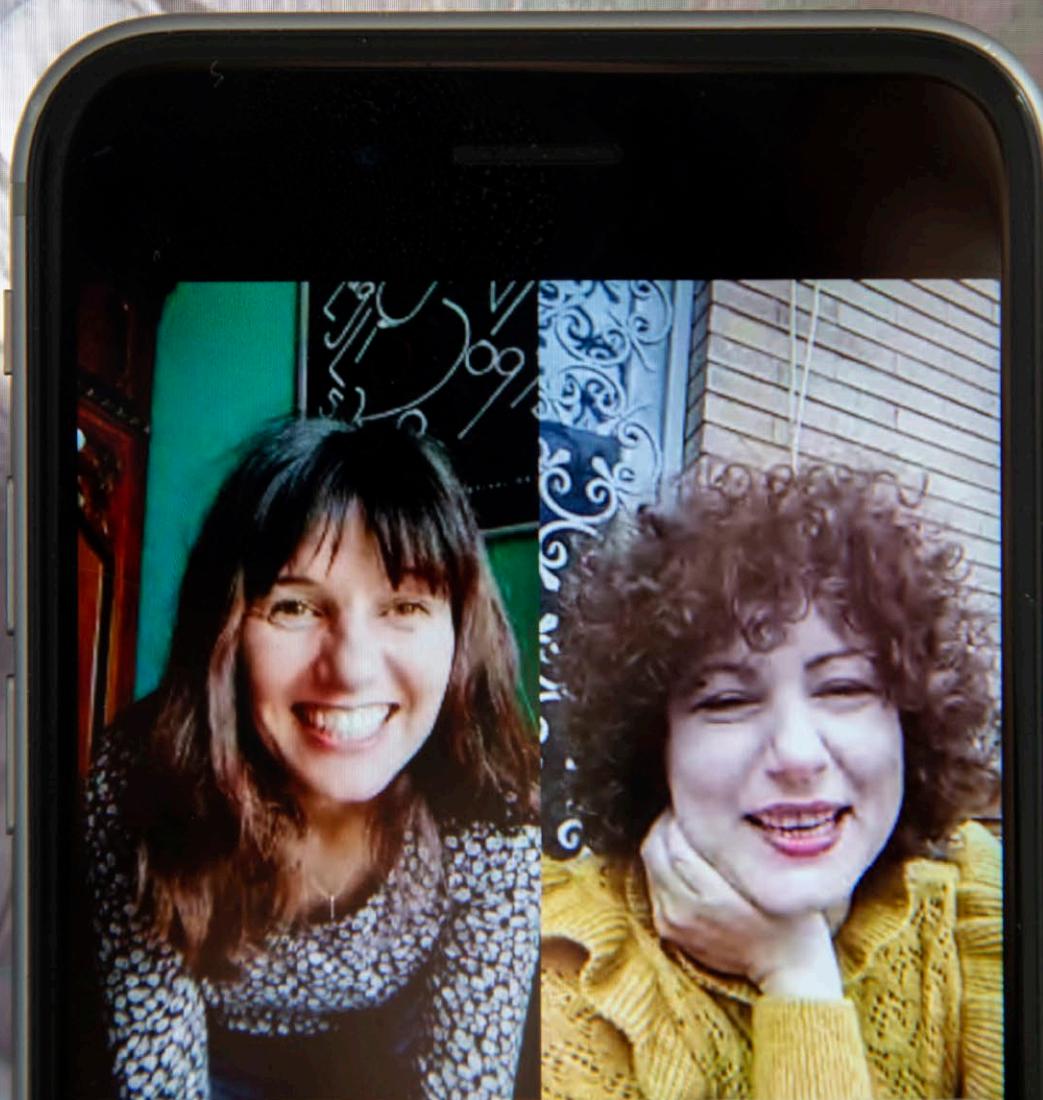




ONE HUNDRED MB OF SOLITUDE

©Massimo Di Nonno
parallelotzero





Micaela lives in Rome and Eilal, who's originally from Bangladesh, lives in Latina. They met 11 years ago and are good friends. They haven't seen each other since the lockdown began but they speak every day. Micaela says that Eilal's presence in these days is very important to her, "he is one of the few people that manages to cheer me up, maybe because he understands my vulnerability". Eilal says that he misses seeing Micaela. For him she is like an auntie that is full of energy.

What happens to our lives when the only space to meet is online

Only today we do realize the value of a simple handshake. The Covid-19 emergency and the resulting lockdown have forced us to change the way we experience family life and social relationships. It is no longer possible to meet and embrace a friend, a relative, sometimes a partner, and we don't even have the consolation of being able to plan the next meeting. Cancelled flights, closed borders, or simply the fear of bringing the virus to a beloved, one, prevent us from fully experiencing relationships with the people we are close with.

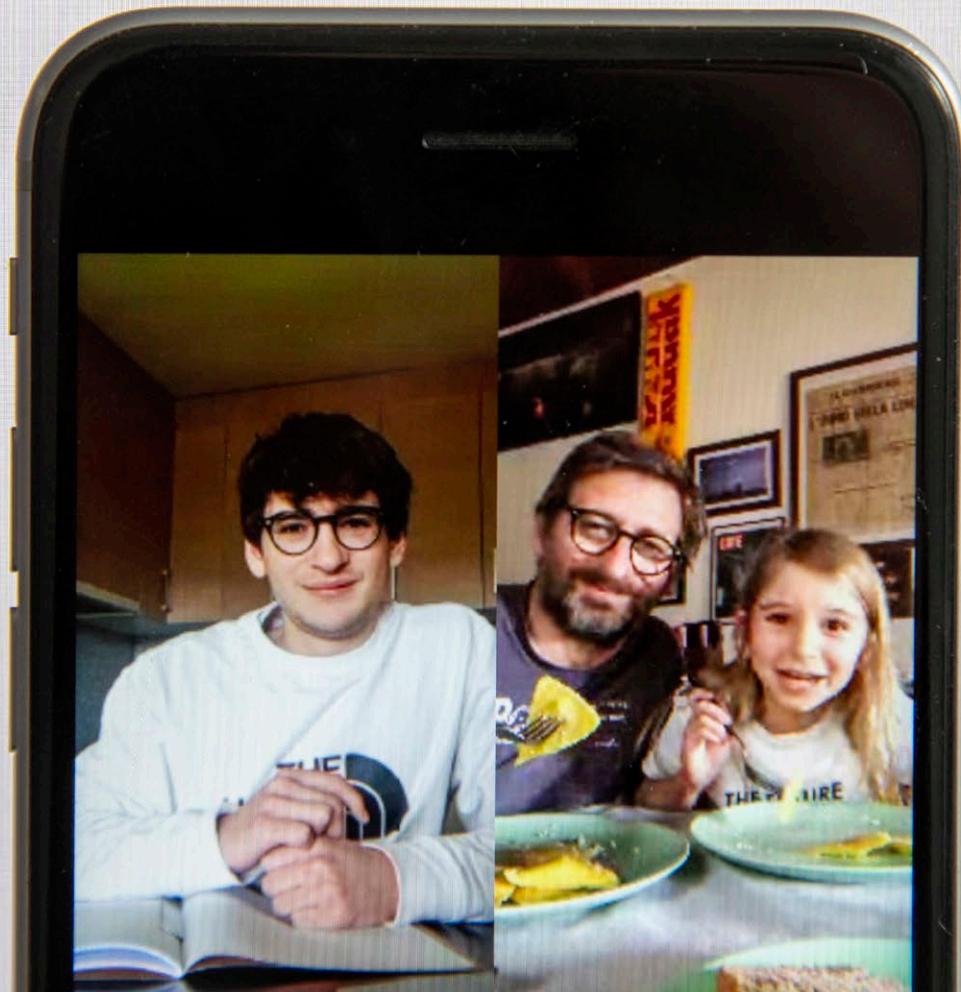
This is a painful barrier for many, especially in countries like Italy where social relations involve a strong element of physical contact. In the solitude of our homes, we try to fill this gap using the available technology. Video calls have become the only way to spend time together, to share moments of the day or the emotions that we're feeling in this difficult age.

And, paradoxically, what we sometimes unconsciously show our interlocutors during those calls – the furnishings of our homes, the knick-knacks on bookshelves and the paintings on the walls – often reveals more about us, our doubts, fears or dreams, than we were ever willing to display in public.

THAT MAKES IT POSSIBL
QUARANTINE IN A HOTEL RO
EMPLOYEE THAT MEETS C
GUIDELINES FOR HIGH-LE
EXPOSURE
GUAR



Britta and Baba both live in Berlin. They met around 5 weeks ago and became friends. When the lockdown was introduced they could no longer meet in person. Britta, in spite of testing negative for Covid-19, has to stay at home and is not allowed out to go to work. They say that video calls have become important so they can continue to get to know each other. They spend a lot of time talking each day, waiting for the day when they will be able to meet again.



Lorenzo in Barcelona talks to his father Alessandro and sister Marta. When the lockdown began, Lorenzo chose to remain in Barcelona where he was on an Erasmus exchange programme. Nowadays they video call each other every day to have lunch or dinner together. Marta can't wait to see her brother again but in the meantime she shows him the drawings she has done.



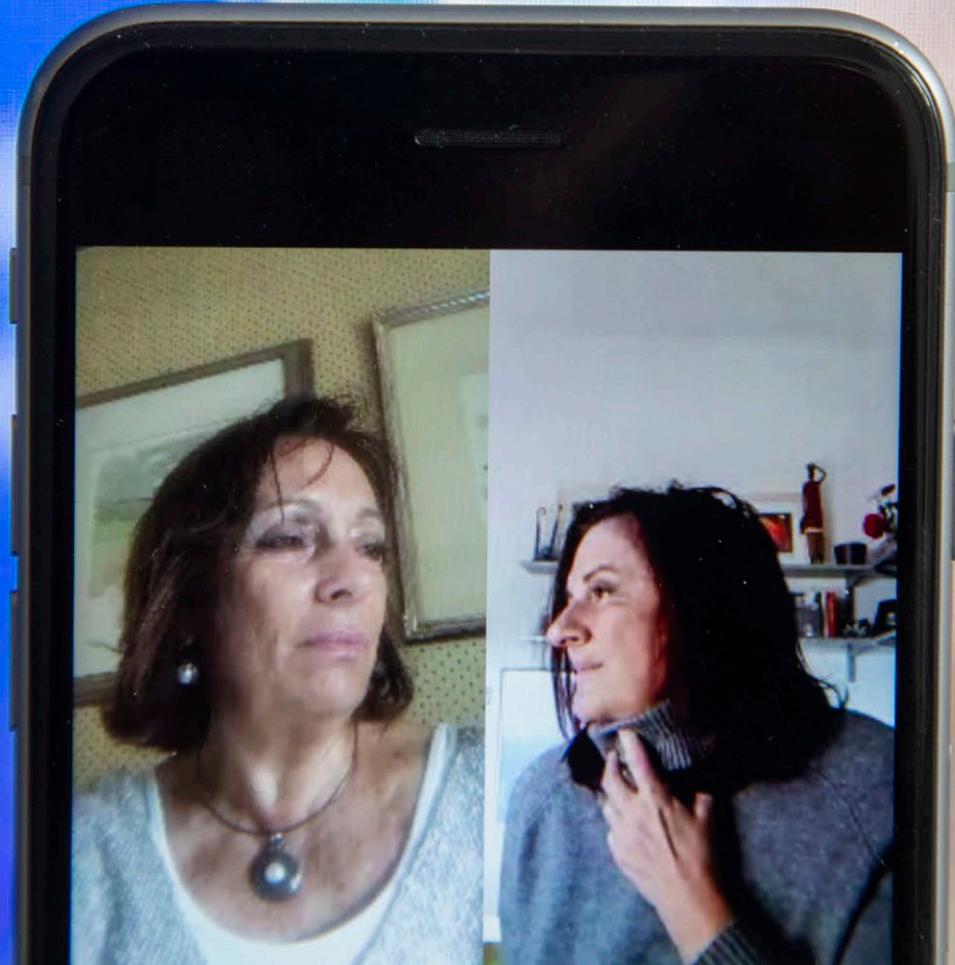
Maria Russo in New York talks to her father, who is also in New York. Last week Maria's father had a heart attack but she can't go to visit him as she is self-isolating because she has symptoms of Covid-19. The doctor has told her to stay at home but she hasn't been sent for a test. She calls her father every day at midday.



Myriam in Bologna calls her mother Cinzia in Campobasso. Cinzia was due to have gone to visit her daughter this weekend and then Myriam was to accompany her mother home for Easter. Now they video call every day. They both worry about Myriam's sister, whom they can't speak to often as she works in a laboratory that's currently very busy carrying out Covid-19 tests.



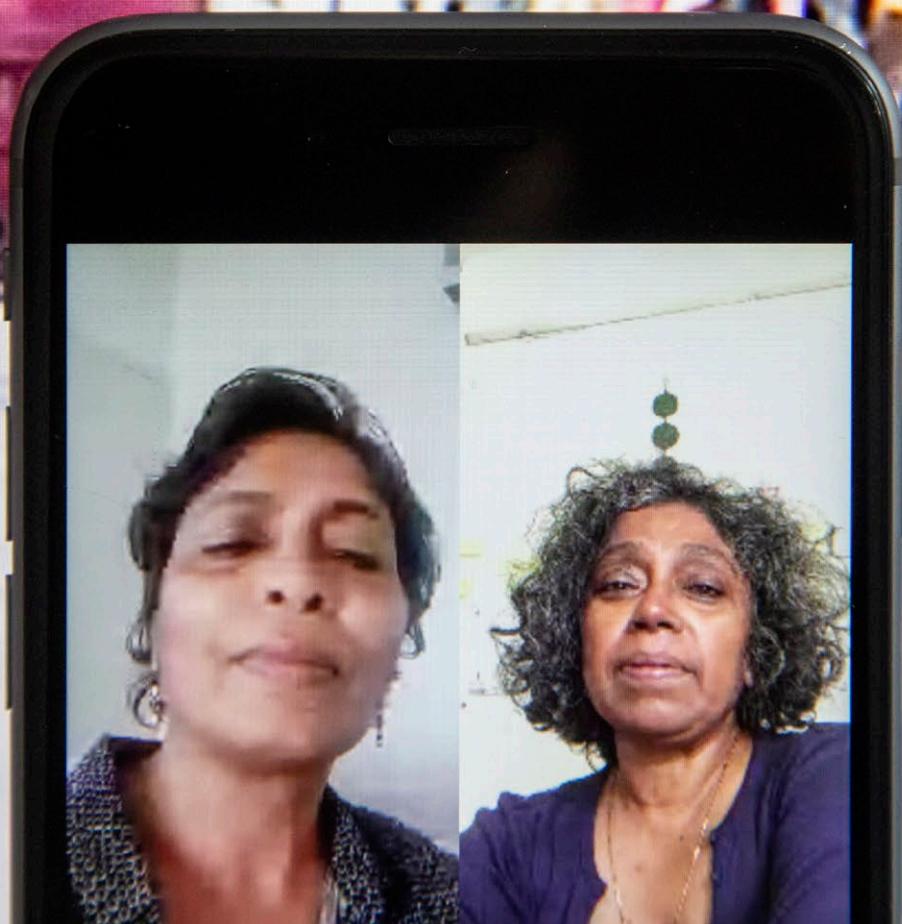
Paul and Toni live in Berlin, they've known each other for 7 years and are good friends. Toni is two years older but they both share a passion for street art. When they could still go out they would go looking for new artworks on the walls of Berlin's buildings. They speak every day and dream of being able to meet up again and go out like they used to. Now they speak on the phone to talk about things they've seen on the internet.



Paola (left) in Fano talks with her sister Pia in Ancona. They are used to seeing each other once a week. Easter is usually the time when the whole family of 18 sit down to eat all together. This year they will make do with a collective video call.



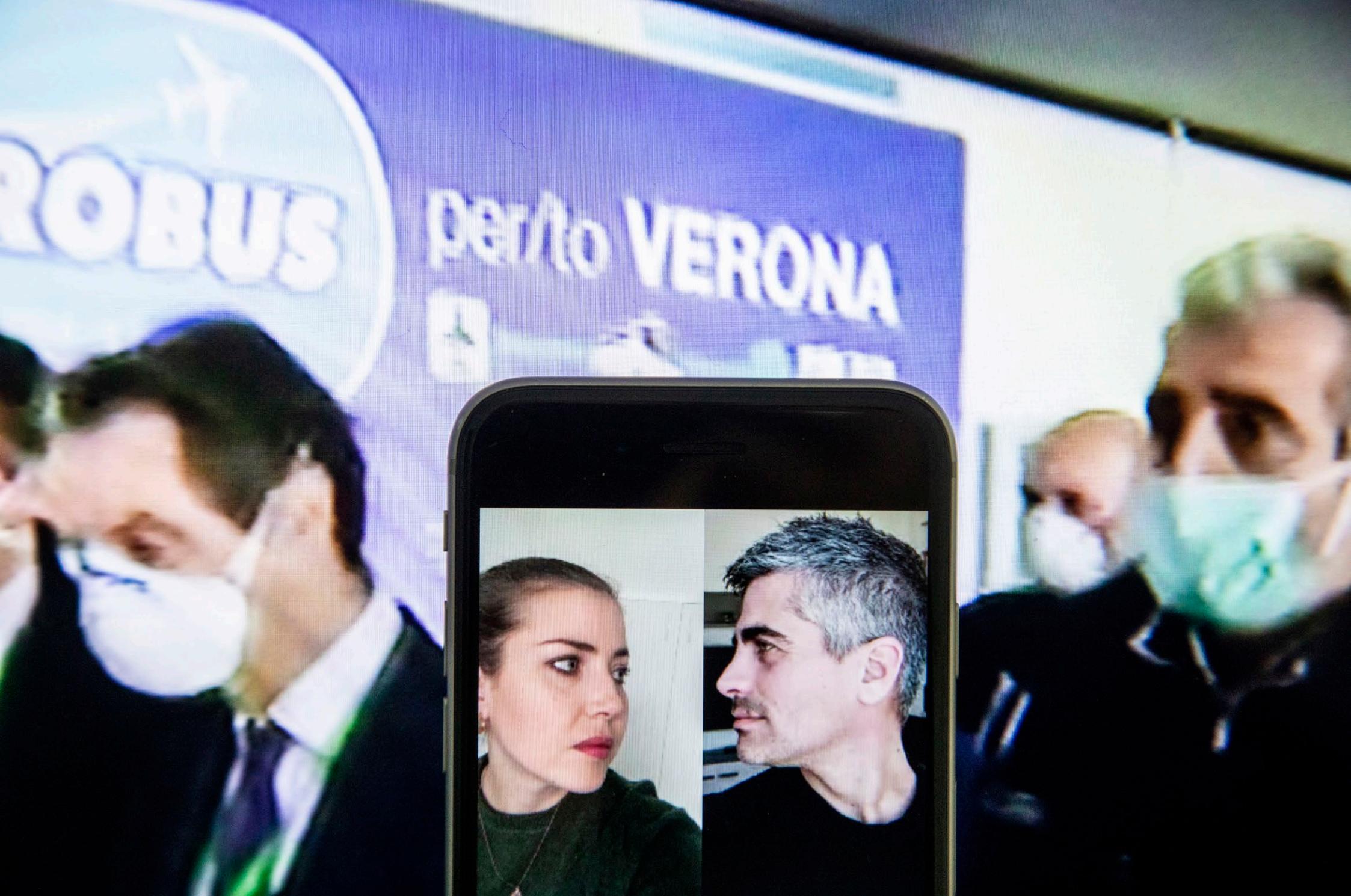
Vlad lives in Moscow with his wife Masha and their daughter Michelle. Recently Vlad has been taking care of his mother who is recovering from an operation. In order to avoid risking infecting his mother, Vlad hasn't been staying with his family but at his mother's home. For this reason, he regularly communicates with his wife and daughter via video calls. During the calls, Michelle shows her grandma the drawings that she has made for her.



Kiran (left) and Rekha (right) are two friends who live in Delhi. They have known each other for 20 years since they both got married. After both of them separated from their partners their relationship grew closer and stronger. Rekha has a small allotment where Kiran often goes to buy produce and meet her friend to eat something together. "Eating together is something that strengthens friendships". Now they can see each other on video calls to provide each other with support in a gesture of reciprocal solidarity.



Joanne Pugh in New York talks with her daughter Alison Pugh in Los Angeles. 86-year-old Joanne normally has a busy life. Now she is stuck at home, she exercises by walking up and down the stairs of the building where she lives. Her daughter Allison is a sociologist and teaches at the University of Virginia. She's currently in Los Angeles writing a book. She had planned a trip to New York for her mother's 86th birthday but now they will have to celebrate over the telephone.



Azzurra in Trento talks to her close friend Giandomenico in Termoli. They've been friends for 20 years and they speak at least four times a day. They had planned to meet up this weekend. Today, Giandomenico has called Azzurra to show her the bread he has baked himself.

GOING FOR A WALK MILES FROM HOME

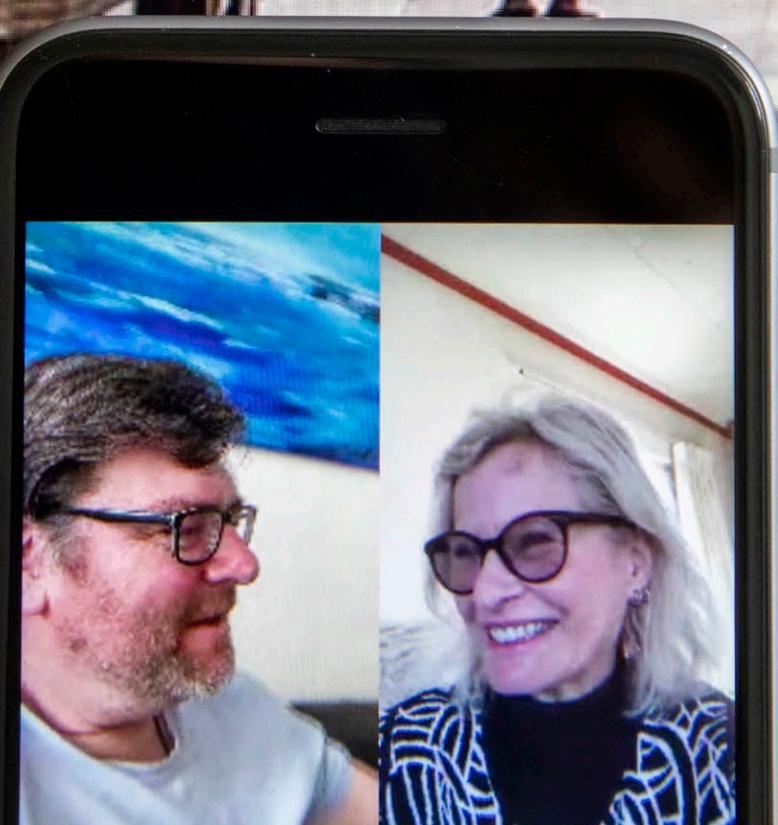
NOT ESSENTIAL



Jorge (left), a filmmaker, lives in Zaragoza and Ramzy, who is a documentary maker, lives in Beirut with his family. They are work colleagues and friends. Six years ago they met in Doha, Qatar. In recent days Jorge has been in quarantine at his mother's house far from his family because he had been in Trentino (Italy) where he had been working for two weeks. Jorge and Ramzy are involved in a joint project in Spain that was due to begin in the coming months. Now everything has been put on hold but they talk about it on the phone. Both hope to see each other soon and to continue with their project.



WELCOME TO
THE CHICAGO THEATRE



Robert and Janine are a couple who live in Holland. They live around 20 km from each other. Normally they spend the weekends together but when the lockdown was introduced they decided to stay in their own homes and speak via video call or meet for a walk while maintaining a safe distance. Robert says that it's very strange not being able to touch but that it's the sensible thing to do.



Alessandro lives in Tassara in the province of Piacenza while his sons Dario (right) and Pietro live with their mother in Milan. They haven't seen each other for a month, since Pietro's birthday. Normally, every two weeks the boys spend the weekend with their father. Now that they can't see each other, Alessandro really misses spending time with them. He worries that his absence is becoming a habit and that he's missing out on being part of their lives as they grow up. Pietro says that he misses his dad's cat and stroking his dad's beard.



Cristina, a nurse at a hospital in Campobasso, talks with her daughter Paola who lives in London, where she works. Cristina had made plans to go to London but now she doesn't know when the two will meet again. She says that her relationship with her daughter is excellent and Paola says that she misses her mother. Usually Paola doesn't like talking on the phone but in this period they're speaking more and more frequently via video calls. Paola says it really helps her in times of stress.

USA

Raddoppia

3 giorni

Spagna

ITALIA

Germania

Francia

Corea del Sud



Davide lives in Madrid and produces glasses, his brother Fabrizio, a video maker and director, lives in Brussels. They often video call each other to talk about their respective kids. Davide and his family had planned to visit Fabrizio in Brussels after Easter. The trip has now been put on hold. They would like to meet up this summer to spend the holidays together like they do each year. They hope to do this but are aware that it might not be possible.

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