



ITALY

WHERE ARE THE MIGRANTS?

©Bruno Zanzottera
parallelozero



Modou Gueye with Maddalena and other members of the Sunugal socio-cultural association. Sunugal in Wolof language means "Our boat". The association was set up as a network for immigrants in Italy whose families had remained in Senegal and has its headquarters at the Casottello farmhouse on the outskirts of Milan, where there is also a restaurant. Since the coronavirus emergency began, both have closed and members have been spending their time fixing up the premises and preparing the garden for the summer season.

WHERE ARE THE MIGRANTS?

An invisible virus is keeping migrants out of sight (and making them more vulnerable)

- ▶ The Covid-19 epidemic has pushed migrants even further out of sight and to the margins of society
- ▶ The majority of asylum seekers are waiting for their asylum procedures to begin again and many who have been granted refugee status are unable to work (in contrast to those working as delivery riders)
- ▶ A significant number of migrants have chosen to volunteer, reciprocating the help that they have received from Italians

#GENERALNEWS #HEALTH #SOCIALISSUES #HUMANRIGHTS



Italy. Harvinder Singh (aged 19), Sahinpriit Singh (44), are from Punjab in India. Together with Italian Luca Polizze (18) they are harvesting salad in a greenhouse belonging to the Galbusera farm in Cernusco Lombardone in the province of Lecco. The farm employs 4 Indian workers and 2 Italian students from the agricultural college. A further 6 farm employees, who had travelled home to India for the winter, have been unable to return to Italy due to coronavirus travel restrictions. All the pickers have worked non-stop throughout the lockdown period.



Edwin, aged 27, is from Liberia. He arrived in Italy three years ago and has applied for asylum. For the last year he has been working as a delivery rider for Glovo. Since the beginning of the corona emergency he has been working non-stop, even though long queues now make the delivery process much slower and he actually earns less than before.



Hassan, aged 25 and from Bangladesh, has been in Italy since 2017. He shares his accommodation and work with 27-year-old Ali from Pakistan, who has been in Italy since 2019. Both have applied for asylum and work in a Chinese shop in Brianza but because of the coronavirus lockdown, they have been left jobless.



Harinder Pal, from Punjab in India, has worked for three years milking the cows on a dairy farm in the province of Crema. For Harinder there are no weekends, holidays or pandemics that can interrupt his work. The cows need to be milked 365 days a year.

What has happened to all the migrants during the coronavirus emergency? No longer mentioned, they seem to have disappeared. But this apparent invisibility makes them even more vulnerable and marginalized at a time in which the epidemic is testing everyone.

Many have lost their jobs, others have seen their asylum requests put on hold. Women victims of trafficking, who often have children in tow, have been forced to wait for their integration programmes to begin again. Undocumented migrant farmworkers in the countryside are afraid to go back to work without the necessary authorisations, while delivery riders toil without breaks on deserted city streets.

But there are a significant number of migrants who, during this strange time when normal life seems to have been put on hold, have chosen to dedicate their time to others, volunteering and performing acts of kindness and solidarity (both large and small) also towards their Italian neighbours.



Abdul, his wife Abideni and their children Waris and Beauty live in a small apartment in Erve (Lecco), where they are helped by the "Il Gabbiano" Association. Having departed from Nigeria together, they were separated in Libya, Abideni with her then 5-year-old son and pregnant with her daughter. Both endured dramatic experiences before reaching Italy separately and without hearing from each other for one year. Now reunited, they were beginning to rebuild their life together when the Covid-19 emergency struck and they were forced to remain at home.



Yahya (aged 21) is from Gambia and has applied for asylum in Italy, having arrived in the country in 2018. After having worked for one year on a job programme for the Olginate council, he found work as a machine operator for a local company. But his contract has expired and because of the coronavirus emergency, he doesn't know if it will be renewed.



Ahmed Mhady comes from Mauritania. He works part time for the social cooperative "Il Grigio", in collaboration with Caritas Ambrosiana. Twice a week he goes to the Milan fruit and vegetable market where the wholesalers donate produce to Caritas to supply food banks for the poor. During the coronavirus lockdown his workload has increased because of the rising demand for food parcels.



Motunrajo, aged 28, is from Nigeria and arrived in Italy, where she has applied for asylum, in January 2018. After being reunited with her partner, he left for Germany and due to bureaucratic obstacles he is now unable to return. Two weeks after his departure she discovered that she was pregnant with Priscilla. She had just begun to work for a cleaning company when the coronavirus emergency put a stop to everything.



Boubakar, aged 21, comes from Guinea Conakry and has lived in Italy for three years. He has applied for asylum. Five months ago he finally found work at a McDonalds in Garlate (Lecco), but now he is stuck at home waiting for the coronavirus emergency to end and hoping to return to work.



Harinder Pal, from Punjab in India, has worked for three years milking the cows on a dairy farm in the province of Crema. For Harinder there are no weekends, holidays or pandemics that can interrupt his work. The cows need to be milked 365 days a year.



Waris, aged 8, plays in the courtyard in front of his house. Born in Nigeria, when he was five years old he crossed the desert with his mother and experienced the horrors of transit through Libya. Now he is settling into the community of the small town of Erve (Lecco), where there are very few children and they are currently not allowed to play together.



Madni is a 20-year-old from Pakistan. He arrived in Italy following an extremely long overland journey and has applied for asylum. He was delighted to gain employment in a factory and is one of few migrants to benefit from the temporary redundancy payments.



Salif, aged 19 from Senegal, arrived in Italy in 2017 and in spite of being an unaccompanied minor, has endured a challenging time. Now, thanks to the “Il Gabbiano” association, he is completing his middle school studies via distance learning. While waiting for the end of the coronavirus emergency he is learning how to tend the vegetable garden.



Nigerian mothers and children who have requested asylum in Italy and live in accommodation run by the "Il Gabbiano" association in Calolziocorte (Lecco). Due to the coronavirus emergency, all of the bureaucratic procedures to obtain documents as well as training courses, apprenticeships, work experience and integration programmes have been put on hold.



Mouhib Abdelilah was born in Morocco. For more than 15 years he has been working for the ARCA association in the street unit that heads out during the evenings each week to take food and provide assistance to the homeless in various areas of Milan. His work has intensified during the coronavirus emergency because many shelters and soup kitchens for the poor have closed and so the number of people in need of assistance has increased. In December of last year Mouhib was awarded the Ambrogino d'Oro civic medal by the mayor of Milan for his work with society's most vulnerable.



Modou, aged 21, comes from Gambia. He has been in Italy since 2017 and has applied for asylum. He lives in an apartment in Olginate (Lecco) with 5 other young men. During the coronavirus lockdown he has tried to pass the time by doing some exercise.



Kumar Sandeep, Kulwinder Singh, Arwinder Singh and Dawinder Singh are from Punjab in India. They work for the Galbusera farm in Cernusco Lombardone in the province of Lecco. The farm employs 4 Indian workers and 2 Italian students from the agricultural college. A further 6 farm employees, who had travelled home to India for the winter, have been unable to return to Italy due to coronavirus travel restrictions. All the pickers have worked non-stop throughout the lockdown period.



Ahmed Mhady comes from Mauritania. He works part time for the social cooperative "Il Grigio", in collaboration with Caritas Ambrosiana. Twice a week he goes to the Milan fruit and vegetable market where the wholesalers donate produce to Caritas to supply food banks for the poor. During the coronavirus lockdown his workload has increased because of the rising demand for food parcels.



Edwin, aged 27, is from Liberia. He arrived in Italy three years ago and has applied for asylum. For the last year he has been working as a delivery rider for Glovo. Since the beginning of the corona emergency he has been working non-stop, even though long queues now make the delivery process much slower and he actually earns less than before.



Modou Gueye with Maddalena and other members of the Sunugal socio-cultural association. Sunugal in Wolof language means "Our boat". The association was set up as a network for immigrants in Italy whose families had remained in Senegal and has its headquarters at the Casottello farmhouse on the outskirts of Milan, where there is also a restaurant. Since the coronavirus emergency began, both have closed and members have been spending their time fixing up the premises and preparing the garden for the summer season.



Mouhib Abdelilah was born in Morocco. For more than 15 years he has been working for the ARCA association in the street unit that heads out during the evenings each week to take food and provide assistance to the homeless in various areas of Milan. His work has intensified during the coronavirus emergency because many shelters and soup kitchens for the poor have closed and so the number of people in need of assistance has increased. In December of last year Mouhib was awarded the Ambrogino d'Oro civic medal by the mayor of Milan for his work with society's most vulnerable.



Ahmed Mhady comes from Mauritania. He works part time for the social cooperative "Il Grigio", in collaboration with Caritas Ambrosiana. Twice a week he goes to the Milan fruit and vegetable market where the wholesalers donate produce to Caritas to supply food banks for the poor. During the coronavirus lockdown his workload has increased because of the rising demand for food parcels.



parallel o z e r o

via Donatello 19/A Milan- info@parallelozero.com - www.parallelozero.com - +39 02 89281630