

# The words of the Congress

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## FEMALE RESOURCES

Alessandra Morelli is an expert in humanitarian policies, formerly an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Let's deepen the sense of "female resources".

Welcome back! Today we talk about "Female resources". In fact, within the Congress an entire morning will be dedicated to deepening the formative contribution of the FMA in 150 years of history, starting precisely from the binomial woman-education and the contribution that the latter can offer to society today.

We talk about it and it will help us to better understand the role of women and her resources, Alessandra Morelli for thirty years Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Since 1992 you have managed various emergencies in high-risk conflict zones, dialoguing with the Government, with NATO, with civil society and with the realities of the Third Sector.

### ***What are the identification figures of a female education?***

I would like to thank for this moment of reflection, for this space for discussion on an important, urgent and necessary issue such as understanding resources, and I would say women's resources, for preventive education.

I start from the word resources and I would decline it all to the female.

It is a feminine noun. I propose it in our reflection as that means, that gift of embodying the capacity for support, response, care, innovation, creativity. Anything that helps to resolve a situation, but I would say more, to create the space to safeguard the dignity of the person. These are resources placed at the service of society, placed at the service of humanity.

The resource understood as generating, as the ability to generate the space for care and respect and dignity, for the defense of dignity, applied to education takes on an even deeper, even stronger value. I would say even more revolutionary because education is a revolutionary gesture.

Education is that means that puts the person at the center, safeguarding their dignity, developing their dignity, helping them to understand themselves as human, and then helping to develop their talents to become a gift to society.

So it is this revolutionary process, of nourishment within society.

Preventive education takes an even deeper step, a major revolutionary step, an anticipatory step like the concept of prevention.

I see prevention as that gesture also of attention and care and anticipation of problems, of anticipation of all the possibilities of waste that, unfortunately, society itself can inflict on humans.

And therefore education, as conceived by Don Bosco, preventive, which has this ability to act as a bridge and to put its roots in marginalization in all that is peripheral, which is periphery and

through the fight against ignorance of not knowing, to bring the person back to the center of development, of awareness, of making oneself a gift in the future.

***Based on your experience, what is the contribution that women can offer to education today?***

In my professional life, especially in the last years of my career at the United Nations with the specific task and specific responsibility of finding solutions in the chaos, creating spaces for care such as the right of asylum for the uprooted, and restoring meaning to nonsense, injecting humanity into the pain of wars... education has always been, like mental health, at the heart of my leadership.

I tried to understand what were the female resources that could give concrete life to a care and prevention education in war zones where non-education leads to radicalization, exploitation, especially of girls, and leads to human trafficking. and it leads to the rejection of a part of the human being to which we are all called to be responsible and to cherish.

Reflection on female resources ... I would like to propose a slightly different perspective.

Yes, certainly to fight against inequalities, yes certainly to fight against gender-based violence, absolutely in agreement with continuing the battles that have begun to uphold the affirmation of women also in the jobs of responsibility in our complex society.

I would also like to propose an education that leads to self-awareness, of what we women already carry naturally in our DNA, which is that of welcoming, which is that of putting a stake in the mechanism of automatism, that of awakening.

We women are always with our eyes open and we know very well that sleeping is, unfortunately, part of a modus operandi in this complex society. The woman awakens, the woman regenerates, the woman generates the awakening, the woman welcomes the unknown, the woman senses, the woman prevents.

I would really like to read women's resources from this point of view and educate women and men to have courage and take on this resource, this identity of the feminine that is complementary to that of the masculine.

I always tell young people never to disguise themselves in male leadership, never to conform to the majority leadership but to take on courageously, and therefore question themselves, take that path of the "between", which starts from the inner world and then becomes, outward action and to have the courage in one's own authenticity to realize that feminine resources, the resources of every woman, are and will always be the engine of a community.