



# Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## [Rondine City of Peace]



This year, 33 students from King's, Western and Huron took part in the King's Rondine seminar course. Travelling with King's faculty, Dr. Pietro Pirani and Dr. Allyson Larkin, the group joined an additional 70 students who studied together for one month in Italy.



Students engaged in workshops, symposia, and site visits to regional cities, including Rome, Bologna and Florence, as well as seminars that focused on issues of inter-ethnic conflict, climate, religion, borders, migration, and other fields of conflict and peacebuilding.

### How do we 'Learn to Live with Our Enemies'?

Posted: May 1, 2025

By: Allyson Larkin, Associate Professor and Chair of Social Justice & Peace Studies



Today, we welcome students from King's University College and Western University to Arezzo, Italy, where they will be studying at Rondine Cittadella della Pace, for an international experiential learning course that seeks to answer the question, "How do we learn to live with our enemies?" For one month, our students will engage with youth from conflict and war regions around the world to understand the roots of conflict.

At Rondine, learning to live with our enemies begins with understanding the other who we may see as an enemy. This process begins through dialogue and learning to tell the story of a conflict together with an enemy. Imagine the opportunity to hear youth from Israel and Palestine share their stories about how they understand the history of the conflict.

In a world that is increasingly polarized, and where spaces to actively listen and understand the perspectives of others are shrinking, this month-long program is a rare opportunity for our students to hear and learn from other youth whose home countries are locked in war and conflict, but who are brave enough to imagine a different future.



## A Place to Find Hope

Posted: June 9, 2025

By: Julia Bani, fourth-year King's student

I recently had the incredible opportunity to participate in experiential learning at Rondine Cittadella della Pace, a truly unique community built in a village that was abandoned after World War II, and brought back to life as a place where peace is built. What makes Rondine so powerful is its mission: to bring together young people from conflict zones around the world and foster dialogue, understanding, and peace, starting at the human level, and begs the question: Who is your enemy?

Living and learning alongside people from such diverse and sometimes opposing backgrounds taught me more than any classroom ever could. I saw firsthand how conflict is transformed through empathy, communication, and the courage to see the person behind the "enemy."

From conflict transformation workshops to community building, to speaking to the World House and high school students, every moment at Rondine challenged me to grow, not just as a student, but as a global citizen and future changemaker.

This experience reaffirmed my commitment to working in spaces that bridge divides and promote healing.

If you're looking for hope in a divided world, Rondine is it.

Grazie Rondine, and to all the incredible people I had the privilege of learning from, including my professors Allyson Larkin and Pietro Pirani, who were amazing support for everyone throughout the journey.



## Social Justice and Peace Studies - King's at Rondine Seminar

**Course Description:** This course takes place each May at Rondine Cittadella della Pace (Rondine City of Peace), an international, Nobel Prize-nominated centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building. Rondine brings together youth from around the world, from regions dealing with ongoing conflict, to collaboratively design strategies to de-escalate conflict and build cross-cultural relationships.



King's students spend one month in residence at Rondine, in Arezzo, Italy, where they live in an apartment setting. Seminars and workshops take place at Rondine, while site visits include trips to regional cities, including Rome and Florence. When in Rome, students participate in a seminar with the Vatican Section for Migrants and Refugees.

This course is an extraordinary opportunity for King's students to take the theories they have acquired in classrooms and engage with youth who are preparing to be global leaders on the frontlines of urgent social issues.

### About Rondine Cittadella della Pace - [www.rondine.org](http://www.rondine.org)

Rondine Cittadella della Pace is an organization committed to reducing armed conflicts around the world and spreading its own method for the creative transformation of conflicts in every context.

Its objective is contributing to a planet free from armed clashes, in which every person has the tools to manage conflicts in a creative and positive way.

Rondine was born in a Medieval Tuscan hamlet, a few kilometres away from Arezzo, Italy: here, the main Rondine projects for education and professional experience are developed. It is a place where human beings are regenerated, so that they can become leaders of themselves and their own communities, in the search for the common good.

The project that gave rise and inspiration to Rondine is the Studentato Internazionale – World House: it hosts young people who come from countries that are the scene of armed conflicts or post-conflict and helps them to discover the human being in their enemy, through the difficult and surprising effort that comes from living together daily.

