Peace & Sport 2019

For several years I have attended the forum Peace & Sport International Forum on behalf of the IFSC. In 2019, I had the honour to be invited as one of the six jury members for the 2019 Peace & Sport Awards, which took place 11-13 December 2019 in Montecarlo, Principality of Monaco. “Considering your high-level of experience and responsibilities in the peace through sport movement […] Indeed, as with previous editions, we are conscious that a jury made up of eminent personalities known for their sensitivity towards peace-promotion through sport is vital for selecting Awards winners”. I wish to thank the IFSC for giving me the opportunity to work for this important matter.

Our choice to collaborate from the beginning with universities gave us a very important connotation in the educational area and especially many links with universities and young people all over the world, including many developing countries or war areas. During the year I am active for April6 – International Day of Sport for Development and Peace and with educational seminars. Also, when I am invited in medicine conferences or lectures, I spare some time to promote Peace & Sport with a short film.

Last May I invited the Champion for Peace, Nouria Benida from Algeria, at the University of Perugia and together we were invited by CONI President, Giovanni Malagò, and by the Director of the Department for Life and Women’s Health, Giovanni Scambia, Policlinico Gemelli Catholic University of Rome. Here we had very fruitful conversation about women’s Health in developing countries and in particular about the prevention of endocrinological problems of athletes and support through maternity. This was also a topic of a workshop during Peace & Sport: Health and Maternity of athletes.

Among other key topics, I would like to mention the workshop on Sport in the Urban Areas which enabled me to explain the evolution of climbing from mountain and elite sport to urban sport for all and Olympic sport. In the last years the focus was on the refugees more than the wars.

After the forum I received a lot of positive feedback about climbing and our work in Peace & Sport, including the request for a meeting in January with Iris Vlachoutsicos, Peace & Sport International Relations & Sport Diplomacy Director, and of collaboration with Rita van Driel, IPC Governing Board.

Dr. Paola Virginia Gigliotti
IFSC Honorary Member