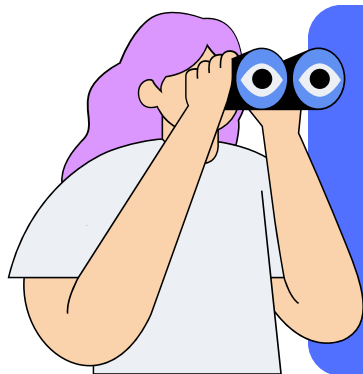


PROJECT REPORT

GOMAKEADIFFERENCE
by [Marika Pescosolido](#)



GLIMPSE AT THE PROJECT

Project name: “Breaking Assumptions Built On Outliers”

Objective: Documentary “Breaking Assumptions, Echoing stories”

Timeline: June 2, 2025 - In progress (Estimated: Summer 2026)

Impact: Action against religious discrimination in Italy

INTERVIEWEES

RECORDED:



NOOR SUWWAN

Adjunct Faculty member in International Relations at the University of Wollongong in Dubai, where she explores the intersection of social media and diplomacy.



Dubai, UAE



LEILA EL HOUSSE

Italian-Tunisian historian and professor specializing in African and Mediterranean history at the University of Padua and Rome. She received the Matteotti and Francesco Saverio Nitti Award.



Rome, Italy



ROSANNA MARYAM SIRIGNANO

Expert in Arabic-Islamic studies, translator, and transcultural educator. In 2019 she founded MaryamEd, a platform offering courses on Arabic language, Islamic studies, and spiritual growth.



Avellino, Italy



PIERFRANCESCO MAJORINO

Italian Democratic Party politician and former Milan city councillor, known for promoting interreligious coexistence and backing Milan's first official public mosque within the city boundaries.



Milano, Italy

FUTURE SPEAKERS:



TAKOUA BEN MOHAMED

Tunisian cartoonist and illustrator



SARA BORRILLO

Professor in History of Islamic Countries



DEBORAH SCOLART

Professor and researcher of Muslim Law



PAOLO BRANCA

Professor of Arabic language and literature

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE TRAILER!](#)

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



The project officially began on May 26, 2025 when I started sending emails to professors, researches, and activists to invite them to be part of the documentary. A specific Google account was created with the name “BAES” (**B**reaking **A**ssumptions, **E**choing **S**tories) for communications, using the email address: documentarycrewproject@gmail.com.

78

experts contacted



The first interview with Noor Suwwan was filmed on June 2, 2025 in Novotel Al Barsha in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) in occasion of the Young Economic Forum Dubai 2025. On June 28, I met Leila El Houssi, and on July 8, I interviewed Rosanna Maryam Sirignano. Finally, on July 10, I went to Milan in the Palace of the Lombardia Region to film Pierfrancesco Majorino.



CHALLENGES!

I need to admit that the greatest challenge I have faced while running the project (still in progress) is time! First of all, Italian university professors in June and July are usually busy with the summer exam session, and August is often a holiday season, meaning that their availability was significantly limited. Additionally, due to personal issues related to my upcoming departure to the United States, I could not be in my home country for the planned period. This is why half of the agreed interviews had to be postponed to the winter break (Tokoua Ben Mohamed, Sara Borrillo, Deborah Scolart, and Paolo Branca). Hence, the documentary will be completed by summer 2026.



After completion, the documentary will be screened in private Italian cinemas, where the majority of the financial GoMakeADifference award will be spent. On these occasions, it is likely that fundraising initiatives will be organized in support of “Doctors Without Borders.” Subsequently, the documentary will be sent to the “Festival dei Popoli.”

TECHINICAL POINTS



CANON POWERSHOT G1X MARK III

MONEY MANGEMENT

As mentioned in my budget plan, the majority of the expenses will be made while booking private spaces for screening the documentary.

What	Units	When	Total price
<u>Camera tripod</u>	1	May 27	31.99 €
<u>Microphone</u>	1	May 27	29.00 €
<u>Pepper Spray.</u>	1	May 27	13.92€
Train (one-way)	4	July 8, 10	245.80 €

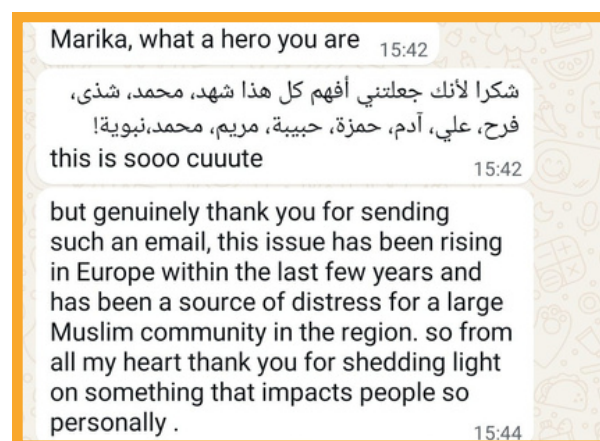
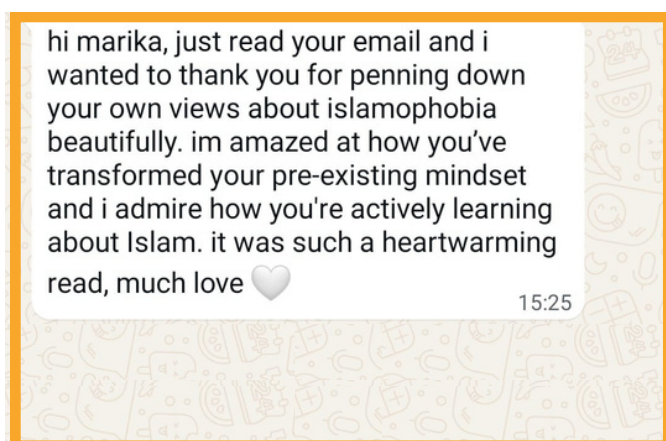
TOTAL: 320.71 €

HOW DO I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Reading this PDF, it is clear that my project underwent numerous changes compared to what was planned when applying for the “GoMakeADifference” Award. While still at UWC Robert Bosch, I held meetings with other students who were interested in taking part in the project, but coordinating the group became overly complicated and the funds would have been immediately used up. Moreover, the possibilities for others to record were extremely limited, and after trying to find compromises, I decided to work on the project independently. This is also why the number of units planned for expenses was reduced, and I will now have the possibility to organize more events for the screening of the documentary!!!

While recording the interviews, all the experts thanked me for taking the responsibility to initiate the project, given the urgency of religious anti-discrimination activities in Italy. I have to admit that currently I don't have the possibility to clearly trace what the impact of the project has been, given that it is not completed, but I can still describe the impact it had on me, and in following reports I will better outline its impact on my community!

However, following an email from my school account discussing the topic of “Religious discrimination against Muslim religious minorities in Italy,” I received the following messages from other UWC RBC students:



IF INTERESTED, I CAN SEND THE EMAIL REFERENCED.

This project was born out of a friendship. My English teacher once said, “Behind every success there is someone who supported you, and we should never stop appreciating, or at least remembering, that someone.” Nab is my someone. She opened a door I didn't even know existed - inviting me to my first Arab community dinner, welcoming me into a culture that once felt so far away, and showing me what belonging can look like. Living and sharing with her is my UWC story-the one I hold the tightest to my chest. The love, empathy, and respect she taught me through her kindness became my inspiration for this project-and, in many ways, of my life. Without her, this project might never have even been imagined, and I'm endlessly grateful for every “You can do it!” she whispered when I needed it most.

This documentary wants to ripristinate the empathy so violently amputated in public discourse, chanting our common human values and building compromises on our differences. This documentary asks for hope! It asks for compassion! It asks for LOVE!

GOMAKEADIFFERENCE

BREAKING ASSUMPTIONS
BUILT ON OUTLIERS

