

# 5 steps to create your **Garden of the Righteous**



**Gariwo**  
Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide

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# Introduction

It all started with an idea...

In 2003 the Garden of the Righteous of the World was born in Milan, in Monte Stella park, to honour the Righteous of all genocides.

Following its example and especially thanks to passionate public administrators, teachers and ordinary citizens, more than two hundred Gardens of the Righteous have been set up in Italy and all around the world over the years.



The crucial element when creating a Garden of the Righteous is willingness.

There is no set journey or order. This document is a collection of guidelines that leaves room for creativity and spirit of initiative to each individual Garden and Representative.

# 1

## Set up the Steering Committee

It is involved in designing the Garden, it identifies individuals that will be honoured, it **coordinates and plans the activities** of the Garden of the Righteous. If it includes several bodies collaborating on the project, it may, for example, consist of: the Municipality, associations, the diplomatic network, schools, universities, companies, donors.

When Gardens of the Righteous are created in schools and directly involve students at every stage of the project, a good practice is to set up a Students Committee in charge of selecting the Righteous, taking care of the Garden and planning activities.

# 2

## Choose a Place

Gardens of the Righteous are not memorials, they are a living places to be filled with stories. This is why it is better for Gardens to be set up in public spaces and, when they are set in private areas, they should be easily accessible and enjoyable by all.

We suggest recreating a space that stimulates **dialogue** and **gatherings**, including amphitheatres, benches or gazebos. The Steering Committee decides whether to plant new trees or to dedicate existing trees to the Righteous: respect the place and choose the trees that are best suited to the climate, soil and area available in your town. We suggest indicating the name of the Righteous on plaques or memorial stones in his or her honour next to each tree.

Browse through the **gallery** and get inspired by some examples.



# 3

## **Identify the Righteous**

An exhaustive category of Righteous will never exist, in that there will always be individuals who can anticipate the course of events with their choices throughout history. To find your way through the events of the past and the present, Gariwo provides constant support and research and consultation tools in its website so that each Representative can identify the individual to be honoured.

The primary tool supporting the choice of these exemplary individuals is the **Encyclopaedia of the Righteous**. It is a constantly evolving digital archive, which collects the stories of individuals recognised to be Righteous by Gariwo, grouped by context: the Righteous of the Holocaust, through resistance and fundamentalism to the Righteous defending the environment.

The choice of individuals to be honoured can be made in line with the theme of the annual celebration: for example, “The Righteous of Information”.

# 4

## **Identify the Representative**

The Representative follows organisational and operational aspects of the Garden: from planning activities to relations with Gariwo. The commitment and involvement in the Garden project depend on availability and resources.

The Representative is the **bridge** between the Garden, Gariwo and GariwoNetwork: he/she receives updates on the network and invitations to training events; he/she communicates the names of the Righteous identified to Gariwo, within deadlines envisaged, and asks for advice when such individuals are not included in the Encyclopaedia.

# 5

## **Bring your Garden of the Righteous to life**

The first event you can organise in your Garden of the Righteous is its **opening ceremony**.

On 6th March, every year, we celebrate the Day of the Righteous, which is the anniversary on which the stories and actions of these exemplary individuals are remembered. The Day was established in 2012 by a Declaration of the European Parliament and was proclaimed a civil holiday in Italy by Act No. 212 in 2017. Since then the anniversary has been celebrated with hundreds of initiatives in Italy and all around the world.

**Tell Gariwo about the event you want to organise for 6<sup>th</sup> March.**



After the opening ceremony, your aim is keeping the Garden alive all year round through public initiatives for all citizens. Some ideas...

- **invite Gariwo** to a conference
- **organise debates** and presentations with the Righteous or their representatives
- guided tours and audio guides: discover the tours and guides of **Milan Garden**

# The role of Gariwo

The Foundation is the point of reference in Italy and all around the world for Gardens of the Righteous of Humanity and is committed to cultivating the memory of good by educating people to personal responsibility through the dissemination of the values and stories of the Righteous.

The relationship between the Foundation and the Gardens in the network does not comply with a pre-established protocol, it respects the specific characteristics of each one of them.

Gariwo provides support in researching and identifying individuals to be honoured and suggests activities to promote and enhance the Gardens of the Righteous.

The main dissemination tool is [Gariwo website](#).

The [Gardens section](#), which is constantly updated, includes all the Gardens of the Righteous in the network to which a page is dedicated.

Gariwo promotes new cultural activities for citizens and educational initiatives for schools.

All educational resources and fact sheets are free, downloadable and available online.

Gariwo also organises conferences and workshops and encourages collaborations between the Gardens.

This is why GariwoNetwork was set up in 2017, the annual meeting gathering all members of the network during which new themes and projects are presented that will complement the work of the Foundation throughout the year.

# Timeline

- **1999** Gabriele, Ulianova, Pietro and Annamaria founded Gariwo
- **2003** Milan Garden of the Righteous of the World was born
- **2012** The Declaration of the European Parliament established the European Day of the Righteous – 6<sup>th</sup> March
- **2013** The first European Day of the Righteous was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> March
- **2014** The first Garden of the Righteous was born in Warsaw
- **2017** The Day of the Righteous became a civil holiday in Italy
- **2017** **GariwoNetwork** was launched in Milan to connect all organisations in Italy and around the world that are committed to disseminating the message of the Righteous and since then it has become an annual event organized by Gariwo in November. It is an important moment of training and **exchange** for the network, in that it is an opportunity to deal with issues that will be the focus the year, to have synergies, to develop shared projects and a common approach on the Righteous.



## The Forest of the Righteous

2003 3 Gardens



2008 10 Gardens



2014 43 Gardens



2017 82 Gardens



2023 215 Gardens



Our aim is to create an ever-wider network of people committed to disseminating the message of the Righteous, who share experiences, best practices and identify with the values of responsibility and solidarity. The ethical foundation of the Network is 2017 **Charter of Responsibility** and its annexes, inspired by Charter 77, which anyone can sign. The Charter

is the theoretical-cultural cornerstone around which the Network revolves: it establishes the commitment to disseminate the **Memory of good** and to educate to **personal responsibility** as a reaction to the culture of hatred.



# Types of Gardens

## ■ **Gardens of the Righteous**

Gardens of the Righteous are often set up in collaboration with the municipality and cultural bodies by providing a green area, the library, a historic villa. Gardens of the Righteous become an integral part of the life of a city and a space to host events and activities. Discover the experience of Warsaw Garden of the Righteous.

Other Gardens are set up in collaboration with local associations that have contributed to redeveloping a green area and others with embassies. Discover the experience of the [Garden of the Righteous in Mar del Plata](#), the Garden of the Righteous in [Halabja](#) and the [Garden of the Righteous in Tunis](#).

## ■ **Widespread Gardens of the Righteous**

In the last few years widespread Gardens of the Righteous have increasingly been set up. Widespread Gardens can be developed in different places in the city or through collaborations of neighbouring municipalities to create a network of places of memory. Discover the experience of [Val D'Intelvi Garden of the Righteous](#).

## ■ **Garden of the Righteous in universities and schools**

Setting up a Garden of the Righteous is often considered by schools of all levels as an educational project and is included in a civic education course.

In most cases, pupils and students are directly involved in searching and selecting individuals, in activities promoting the Garden and in taking care of the site.

Discover the experience of [Frattamaggiore Garden of the Righteous](#) and [Stuttgart Garden of the Righteous](#).

## ■ **Symbolic Gardens of the Righteous**

Gardens of the Righteous can be set up even when no space to host the Garden is available.

In some cases a symbolic Garden of the Righteous is created by dedicating a mural, a small plaque, a plant or some flowers to these exemplary individuals.

Discover the experience of [Marseille Garden of the Righteous](#).

# About Gardens

“

*These are the Gardens of the Righteous of Humanity in every country of the world. They play a dual role: they educate individual conscience to personal responsibility and provide constant information on the genocides and crimes of the past and the present.*

Gabriele Nissim,  
Gariwo Foundation President

“

*The Righteous, the pillars on which the bridge between past, present and future is built, prevent us from reducing the world to ourselves and guide us on the path of “caring for the other”, which is also the only way to care for oneself and to navigate in the spaces of freedom that appear as largely expanded in our interconnected world.*

Annamaria Samuelli,  
Head of Gariwo Foundation Educational Committee

“

*A garden where children and youngsters learn that a world can only be built on justice.*

Dr. Denis Mukwege-,  
Nobel Peace Prize laureate, honoured at Milan Garden of the Righteous

# Frequently asked questions

## ■ **Who chooses the Righteous?**

The Steering Committee, sponsoring bodies or the Scientific Committee of your Garden of the Righteous identify individuals to be honoured, by consulting our Encyclopaedia of the Righteous, the archives of Historical Institutes or Genocide Memorials, Yad Vashem website or by asking Gariwo for an opinion.

## ■ **Can I use your logo?**

You can request to use GariwoNetwork logo by e-mailing [network@gariwo.net](mailto:network@gariwo.net) for communication material concerning your Garden of the Righteous and the relevant ceremony.

## ■ **Who takes care of the plaques and of greenery?**

Each Garden of the Righteous is managed differently. If the Garden is in a public area, try asking your municipality; on the other hand, if it is in a private area or a schoolyard, you can organise environment-themed days and take care of trees together with citizens.

## ■ **How does one join the network?**

GariwoNetwork is a cultural movement. There is no membership card or membership fee to join it. Indeed, by creating a Garden or by disseminating the stories of the Righteous you are part of the network!

## ■ **How can I celebrate the Day of the Righteous in my country?**

The Day was officially established by a Declaration of the European Parliament in 2012, and Italy has joined. If your country has not yet done so, you can take the initiative to have your municipality or the whole country recognise the Day.

## ■ **I would like to propose a story that is not included in the Encyclopaedia. How can I do it?**

E-mail [network@gariwo.net](mailto:network@gariwo.net); Gariwo is willing to analyse the story and evaluate your suggestion.

**Do you need more information  
on the Gardens of the Righteous  
and the Network?**

**Contact us!**

E-mail  
**network@gariwo.net**

or call us at  
**+39 02 3670 7648**



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