

WORLD FEDERATION OF THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES

THE GENOVA MANIFESTO

Genoa, Italy | May 2026

PART I

The Past: Who We Are and How We Arrived Here

We emerged from the crisis of addiction. An organic response from those most marginalized, rejected, and outcast everywhere they had turned. Ours was never a movement handed down from institutions or governments. Instead, generations of practitioners, united by vocation, transformed places of exclusion into places of acceptance. Through decades of applied experiential learning, through honest attempts made rigorous by practice and reflection, and through the courage of people who chose to build community rather than impose prescriptive remedies, a new model of care took root.

We did not inherit a doctrine; we built a practice. That practice has restored countless lives across every continent, every culture, and every language, and it continues to evolve. We are the heirs of that living tradition.

PART II

The Present: What Makes Us Unique

We are a compassionate culture of care and healing for people living with addiction; a learning environment for life and a place to begin again, adaptable to individual needs and perpetually evolving to meet changing times and conditions. Our method defines us: attentiveness to the whole person, to the life beneath the symptom. Together, we demonstrate how to live that life in the most powerful, fulfilling, and meaningful way possible.

Ours is a practice rooted in seventy years of evidence, across every culture and region of the world, shaped by research and honest self-assessment and correction. Within our communities, power is shared and accountability is collective. All dimensions of each person including bio-psycho-social and spiritual are recognized and honored. Vulnerability is welcomed; potential is developed. We are habilitating people: opening the possibility of a life they may never have had the chance to build. Healing is a lifelong process. Recovery is not something you receive, but something you do. Every day.

PART III

The Future: What Must Guide Us

We affirm our commitment to the principles and values that have sustained us and remain open to the needs that lie ahead: behavioral addictions, cultural diversities, intergenerational trauma, technological innovations, and challenges as yet unnamed. Our methods serve our mission. Our mission is the life freely chosen, fully supported, and always possible.

We commit to extending the healing community beyond our protected spaces and into the neighborhoods, families, and civic institutions to which our people return. We affirm the right to health as universal. We affirm that stigma has no place where dignity does. And we affirm what seven decades of lived experience have proven: that transformation is always possible. The village is as old as humanity itself and we are its most deliberate expression.

Every day, we act locally. Together, we speak globally.