

Interview by Marcello Lezzi

to teacher of I.T. M. L. Pietramala

Why do people become radicalised?



I think that it is a very complicated process. It does not have a single motive, a single face, I mean you can find radicalisation in different contexts. You find poor people radicalised and you find middle-class people radicalised. You find radicalisation among people with low education, but you find it even in people with high education. So it's difficult to understand what are really the causes of radicalisation.

Thinking of real prevention is difficult. I mean, radicalised people usually are socially isolated, they have just one group as a reference for their life, so they get information just inside a single group, so maybe having different voices, different ideas, in a society and giving room to different ideas can be a way of preventing radicalisation. But it's not enough, I mean it's just a way.

Radicalised people often come from an unsuspectable environment there are families that are really integrated in the society and there comes their son that is a radical, or maybe he is a terrorist.

How to prevent this social behaviour? I don't know, it's above my understanding.

I think that interesting young people in big positive ideals is a means to prevent their radicalisation, and it's a means for gaining, for them, a productive and happy life. Because, when someone radicalises, instantly his horizon becomes narrower and his possibility of achieving personal and social happiness becomes less and less probable.

So, interesting young people in the lives of their peers, of the other young people, is important, and it is important to help them living in a context that is rich in people and ideas.

That's what I think. I think that is the only way to prevent radicalisation. Do not let the young people go for a single group, go for a single idea, but present them with an ample array of possibilities. I also think it's necessary to expose young people to ideas of every kind and every tendency. Because, when you limit your ideas, you open the doors to radicalisation.