

16.4.2026

Message from the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Mr. Ron Huldai

Mayor of Milan, my dear friend Giuseppe Sala,

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

There are moments when cities are measured not by the roads they pave or the towers they erect, but by the bridges they choose to build. Over a quarter of a century ago, Tel Aviv-Yafo and Milan chose to build such a bridge between them.

"De Milan ghe n'è domà vun" — There is only one Milan! — so say the Milanese.

And as we say in our city: There is only one Tel Aviv-Yafo.

But the bridge we have built is vital to us both. It is a bridge that has bridged nations; a bridge that has fostered partnership, creativity, diligence, entrepreneurship, and liberty. It is a bridge that has promoted democratic responsibility and the conviction that, even in times of profound disagreement, we must never abandon the human connection. Tel Aviv and Milan have chosen dialogue over silence, partnership over boycotts, and bridges over walls.

In Israel today, we are facing difficult debates. There is pain, there is protest, and there is a struggle for the very character of our society. Tel Aviv stands at the heart of this struggle—not against its country, but for its democratic soul; not for isolation, but for a future defined by liberty, checks and balances, hope, and the ability to find common ground even when we disagree.

Tel Aviv remains one of the most vibrant, outspoken, and courageous arenas for civil liberty, for critical discourse, and for the tenacious defense of an open society.

I ask you to stand with those who believe that, even now, the right path is to maintain the bond.

Stand with those who believe in partnership.

Stand with those who refuse to turn disagreement into a boycott, or pain into severance.

For democracy is not the state of constant agreement; it is the profound commitment to keep talking, to keep building, and to keep hoping.

Thank you, Grazie mille.