



# Ecco Chamber

**FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN  
SOUTH AFRICA**



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# Chamber's Note

Earlier in the year, a South African journalist used the metaphor of dye tracing - putting dye into a river to reveal its different currents - to give us a picture of the present situation of crisis in the world. The coronavirus has acted like this dye and has revealed and exacerbated several other crises including migration, gender based violence, unemployment and racial disparities that existed long before the arrival of the infamous Covid-19.

One of the global crises on the doorstep of South Africans is that of racially-biased violence and inequality. In the midst of the widespread protests across the USA in response to racist police violence, South Africa is having to grapple with its own crisis of a similar nature which has seen 11 confirmed cases of killing on the part of South African state forces since the beginning of the coronavirus lockdown.

While the Constitution of South Africa clearly states the right of all South Africans to “the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms”, there is much to be done if this is to be recognised. On numerous occasions President Cyril Ramaphosa has noted the need to use our current moment of crisis to fundamentally alter the patterns of this country to see to it that the values laid out in the constitution are achieved.

The Italian Chamber, as a place of collaboration and inclusion, wholeheartedly endorses the values of equality and non-discrimination laid out in both the South African constitution and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. The principles of the constitution sometimes run contrary to even the acts of official government bodies, as shown in a recent judgment against some of South Africa's lockdown regulations. We encourage other organizations to consider what role they can play in seeing to it that the core values of our society are realised within our lifetimes.





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