

HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITALY

UPR Info Pre-sessions

Situation in Italy – Child poverty

- Many countries during the previous review gave general recommendations regarding **poverty, inequality and social exclusion of vulnerable groups**.
- The phenomenon of child poverty remained substantially **stable**, regardless of the political will.
- In 2023 **absolute poverty** affected more than **1.295.000 children** (13.8% compared with 9.7% of national poor people's rate). In Italy there are almost **748.000 families** with under 18 children leaving in absolute poverty. Poverty rates amount to 8.2% for Italian families with under 18 children, while it increases to **41% for multiethnic families**.

Recommendations – Child poverty

- Implementation of the National Action Plan on **European Child Guarantee**.
- Inclusion of **actions to prevent and combat child poverty** in National Plans and Strategies for National Development and **expansion of social protection programs** for children and adolescents.
- Adequate investment in **high quality social and cultural services**, as well as in **education and healthcare** systems.
- **Preservation and increase of social welfare budgets and evaluation/reviews** of all planned and implemented interventions. Regular and systematic **monitoring** of child poverty rates.

Situation in Italy – Children living in prison with their mother

- During the previous reviews the specific issue wasn't raised.
- According to the data of the Italian Department of Penitentiary Administration updated to today, there are a total of **21 mothers in prison, with 24 children living with them.**
- Despite Law no. 62 of 2011 - which established the ICAM (Institutes with attenuated custody for detained mothers) and the **Protected Family Homes**, with the aim of creating special structures designed to recreate an atmosphere close to a family environment - the **public resources** used to establish attenuated detention contexts have proven **insufficient** due to an **uncertain legislation.**

Recommendations – Children living in prison with their mother

- The **model of Protected Family Homes** must be promoted through the **elimination of the economic constraints** contained in law no. 62/2011.
- Establish a **structural fund** and/or use the “Cassa delle Ammende” fund to create a greater number of structures and promote projects and agreements on extra-penitentiary reception.
- Resort to the **use of assets confiscated from the criminal organizations**, which are numerous and often unused.
- The **reference measure** for the application of precautionary custody for mothers with children under the age of 6 should become the **Protected Family Home**, restricting the use of ICAM only in cases of precautionary needs deemed particularly intense.

Situation in Italy – Protection of Migrant and Refugee Children

- Many countries during the previous review gave **recommendations** regarding the **need to protect migrant and refugee children** in Italy.
- **19,696 unaccompanied children** are in the Italian reception system. Despite this large number, **alternative forms of reception**, such as family-based care and foster care, remain **extremely limited**, contributing to heightened vulnerability among these children.
- In the first-line reception centers, the provision of **child protection services**, as well as support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), is **largely inadequate** and inconsistent. This leaves children, particularly women and girls, **highly exposed to violence, abuse, and exploitation**. The reception system in Italy remains highly fragmented, with **significant disparities** in the quality of care and services provided across different regions and municipalities.

Recommendations – Protection of Migrant and Refugee Children

- Ensure continuous and **rigorous monitoring** of Legislative Decree 133/2023 to ensure that minors aged 16 and older hosted in adult-designated first-line centers receive **equal protection and services as those in children-specific facilities**.
- Prioritize **child-sensitive border management policies** to prevent family separations and guarantee **immediate access to basic services, culturally sensitive care, and psychosocial support** in all reception centers, with trained multidisciplinary teams.
- **Enhance national and local child protection systems** to harmonize policies that prevent exploitation and abuse. **Develop a holistic coordination mechanism** across social, healthcare, and reception systems to ensure effective, interdisciplinary support for migrant minors' psychosocial and developmental needs.
- **Strengthen collaborations with NGOs** and local authorities to create sustainable, multisectoral approaches that address migrant children's needs. Ensure children **understand their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities supporting informed pathways to integration and empowerment**.
- Facilitate **access to social and recreational activities**, promoting **active involvement in community** associations to foster intercultural exchange and personal development. Prioritize **school enrollment** to support social integration and counter dropout risks.



Thank you