



United Nations Human Rights Council
28th session
18th March 2015
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

Item 6

UPR

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF ITALY

Mr President,

Save the Children Italy welcomes the report of the Working Group on UPR of Italy, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

However, we would like to highlight three issues:

1. Ratifying the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

UPR Recommendations 145.13 – 145.14, call on Italy to ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Italy has still not ratified this Protocol, despite the fact that Italy became one of the first signatories in 2012. In July 2014 a bill of law to ratify the Protocol was approved by the Council of Ministers and assigned to the Parliament in September 2014 but the discussion is still pending.

Save the Children recommends that Italy approves the law AS 1601 in the shortest time possible and hence ratifies the third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on a Communications Procedure.

2. Ensuring protection to unaccompanied children and children seeking asylum

Several UPR Recommendations¹ are related to issue of migration, in particular one called Italy to introduce legislation to ensure assistance and protection for unaccompanied children.

In 2014, 170.100 migrants have arrived in Italy by sea, including 13.096 accompanied children and 13.026 unaccompanied (representing 14% of the total migration flow).

There is an urgent need to create a national system for the reception and protection of unaccompanied foreign minors financed by a specific multi-year fund, and establish a mechanism to monitor the standards of reception facilities. Save the Children recommends that Italy approves the Bill of law AC. 1658 in the shortest time possible in order to put in place a national system for the reception and protection of unaccompanied foreign minors.

3. Explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children, bringing legislation into line with the 1996 Supreme Court ruling against violence in child-rearing

Several UPR Recommendations² call on Italy to enact legislation to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in the home.

¹ Recommendations 145.160 – 145.180

² Recommendations 145.126 – 145.127

In Italy, corporal punishment is banned at school³ and in the prison system⁴, but it is not explicitly banned at home, even though in 1996 the Supreme Court of Cassation ruled that the use of corporal or psychological violence for educational purposes was illegal. The introduction of the explicit banning of corporal punishment in national legislation would serve as a strong deterrent to such behaviour.

Therefore Save the Children recommends that Italy introduces the necessary legislative reforms to explicitly ban all forms of corporal punishment and other humiliating and degrading forms of behaviour towards children, also in the home.

Thank you.

³ School Regulations, 1928.

⁴ Law No. 354/1975 - Prison System Regulations.