

SPEAKER : MARIA MERCEDES ROSSI (6)



ASS. COMUNITA' PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII

Mr President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII welcomes the constructive participation of Italy in the UPR process. We noted progresses by the Italian Government in the field of Human Rights.

APG23 encourages the Government to pay particular attention to the protection of the child from conception. The number of abortions carried out (1 of 5 new-born) is incompatible with the use of abortion only as a last resort to a serious risk for the physical or mental health and life of the mother, as required by law. It reveals the use of abortion as a mean for birth control.

Therefore, APG23 recommends:

1. *Elaborating a national plan with uniform guidelines to promote and protect the right to life of the soon-to-be-born child, giving a specific and active role to civil society.*
2. *Putting in place all necessary actions to promote anonymous childbirth as an extreme alternative to abortion.*
3. *Adopting specific legal and economic means in favour of pregnant women in a quandary creating a special fund for difficult pregnancies.*
4. *Verifying through a national survey the possible social existence of instigation, favouring and coercion of abortion and guaranteeing an independent, full and systematic monitoring to establish and develop actions that strongly oppose these practices.*

Furthermore, we demand to implement the **Child' right to a family** by:

1. *Fully apply national standards for foster care*
2. *Create a database of children with disabilities who can be adopted and ensure specific professional and economic help and support to those families who are willing to adopt or foster children with disabilities*
3. *Attribute a more specific role and fully recognize family associations during the whole process of the foster care project.*
4. *Issue precise guidelines that will give full dignity to multi user and complementary Family-homes and to all welcoming centres which follow the model of a natural family and provide for fiscal aid, so as to favour their creation and development.*

On the Right of foreign persons with mental disabilities to citizenship we recommend to remove legal barriers that do not allow them to get citizenship.

On justice and detention, APG23 calls on Italy to take measures to:

1. *Eliminate the life imprisonment and to guarantee in any possible way re-education.*
2. *Urgently give a specific role to actors of civil society who have presented propositions to experiment alternative forms of detention to prison.*

Thank you.