



Human Rights Council

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Joint Stakeholders' Submission on:

Human Rights in Italy

Submitted by:

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Caritas Internationalis

and

Caritas Italiana

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This stakeholders' report is a joint submission of the above-mentioned organizations. The report highlights key concerns related to Human Rights in Italy in several areas. Each section conveys recommendations to the Italian Government.
2. The data and information obtained for this submission came from various sources and includes information from teachers, educators, and other civil society actors living and working in Italy. All information concerns the period between the previous UPR of Italy held in 2014 and March of 2018.
3. IIMA is an international NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. IIMA is present in 95 countries where it provides education to children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.
4. VIDES International is an international NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, which is present in 42 countries worldwide. It was founded in 1987 to promote volunteer service at the local and international levels for ensuring human rights of vulnerable groups, especially children and women.
5. Caritas Internationalis is a global confederation of 165 national Catholic Church-inspired organizations working in humanitarian emergencies, international development, social, and health services.
6. Caritas Italiana is a pastoral organization of the Italian Bishops' Conference. It connects 220 diocesan Caritas committed in their daily activities to support the most vulnerable people. Caritas Italiana is engaged in many areas including peace, old and new forms of poverty, volunteering, civil service, immigration, mental health, and homelessness.

II. GENERAL REMARKS

7. This NGO coalition welcomes the constructive participation of Italy in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The present joint submission represents the follow-up to the recommendations of previous UPR cycles, with a special focus on children-related issues such as birth registration, as well as the full implementation of their right to education. Migration and asylum policies, the right to work, and rights of women in Italy are also addressed in the present report.

III. THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS: THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

8. This NGO coalition perceives migrants – including undocumented children – children with disabilities, youth, and women as the most vulnerable groups in Italy, due to the discrimination and human rights abuses to which they are subjected.
9. In December 2018,¹ 10,787 unaccompanied minors were registered, most of them coming from Albania, Egypt, and Gambia. Human rights-related abuses experienced by migrant children will be addressed in the following sections of this report, especially with regard to the right to education.
10. With regard to trafficking of human beings, Italy is both a destination and a transit point for onward trafficking of victims from Eastern Europe and Africa. The lack of a properly shared data system prevents the clear quantification of the phenomenon. According to the International Organization for Migration

¹ Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, report di monitoraggio “I minori stranieri non accompagnati in Italia”, See: <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Documents/Report-MSNA-mese-dicembre-2018-15012019.pdf>

(IOM),² the situation is worsening as an increasing number of people fall victim to trafficking, in particular, women and minors are those most at risk. They fall victims of sex trade or other forms of forced labour due to the following factors: nationality (in particular Nigerian), low level of education, and disadvantaged family conditions.

11. The **recent reform on international protection, immigration, and public security** (Decree Law No. 113/2018 known as “Decreto Salvini”, entered into force on 4 October 2018 with Law No. 132/2018) introduced sweeping changes to asylum, immigration, and citizenship. The law abolished the humanitarian protection status, which was afforded pursuant to the Legislative Decree No. 286/98 (Act on Immigration). This move follows previous efforts by the Ministry of the Interior to limit the use of humanitarian status to prevent people from obtaining legal stay in the country. The reform affects a large number of persons, given the fact that this status is the main form of humanitarian protection granted by Italy; 3,000 migrants obtained subsidiary protection, 5,000 obtained the status of refugee, and 18,000 obtained humanitarian protection in the first nine months of 2018³.

12. Law No.132/2018 restricts the access to the System for Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), a network of decentralised secondary reception centres that provided accommodation and support to migrants and access to more opportunities for education, training, and work. These centres are renamed SIPROIMI (System of Protection for Those with International Protection Status and Unaccompanied Foreign Minors) and will be reserved solely for beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection, foreign unaccompanied children, and holders of residence permits for “special cases”: victims of violent or seriously exploitative crimes who are in danger for having cooperated with justice or escaped from the constraints of a criminal organisation, victims of domestic violence, or serious work exploitation.⁴ There are also three motivations for granting short-term permits: urgent need of medical care, displacement due to natural disaster, and acts of high civic value. Asylum seekers will be thereby excluded from SIPROIMI and will have access only to CAS (First Reception Centres and Temporary Reception Centres) for a short period, or to CPR (Centres of Permanence for the Repatriation), detention facilities where foreign citizens who do not have a valid residence permit are imprisoned in order to define their legal position. Under the new law, migrants with humanitarian permits will no longer be permitted to enter SPRAR. Instead, it will be limited to those who obtain the much more onerous refugee status. Those with lesser forms of international protection will have no access to housing support. That means they will be forced into private, often church-run, homeless shelters or onto the street. According to the data furnished by Caritas, since the implementation of the law, a total number of 21,428 admissions were registered in ecclesial structures (2,589), unaccompanied minors (702), SPRAR (4,658), and CAS (13,479)⁵.

13. The new Immigration Law will likely remove access to vital services, such as the ability to rent a house and the ability to get a driver’s license, because asylum seekers will no longer be able to register with the local authority as residents. The wait for all citizenship applications via naturalisation or marriage has been doubled from two years to four. Furthermore, the change will create two different ‘classes’ of citizenship, which we can refer to as ‘natural’ or ‘acquired’, and therefore two classes of citizens – immigrants (often the poorest and most vulnerable in society), and those born in Italy. Such ‘acquired’ citizenship can now be revoked based on criminal offences linked to terrorism or in cases of ‘resistance towards a public official’. Many provinces have suspended all document renewals and local government registrations as the new law is implemented, leading to a widespread sense of confusion and uncertainty about the status of asylum seekers - and increasing difficulty for NGOs offering support to these vulnerable groups.

² IOM, See: https://italy.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/IOM_report_trafficking_2017.pdf

³ ISMU, See: <http://www.ismu.org/ricerca/dati-sulle-migrazioni/>

⁴ CARITAS, See: <http://immigration.caritas.it/sites/default/files/2019-01/I%20cambiamenti%20introdotti%20dal%20DL%20Sicurezza%202018.pdf>

⁵ CARITAS, See: <http://immigration.caritas.it/sites/default/files/2019-01/DL%20Sicurezza.%20Modifiche%20al%20sistema%20di%20accoglienza.pdf>

14. The Immigration Law aims to close all the CARAs (Centri di Accoglienza per Richiedenti Asilo / Reception Center for Asylum Seeker) within a year. The objective is to avoid the overcrowding of several migrants in a single point, preferring instead a dispersion in smaller groups in various territories. This NGO coalition considers the abrupt modalities of the closure as potentially problematic. Already, one CARA has been closed at Castelnuovo di Porto (in the region of Lazio) and measures have begun to clear the migrants in Sicily's reception centre of Mineo, which was once the largest in Europe. These measures may potentially lead to a radical change in the way that the concept of receptivity is reflected in migration policies. The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatovic, expressed concern by the modalities of the closure of the CARA refugee center in Castelnuovo di Porto in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on January 31⁶. The closure, she wrote, could "disrupt the commendable efforts put in place in the past years by the local services for the integration and rehabilitation of the residents, and particularly the special care provided to the most vulnerable". In principle, while the transfer of asylum seekers from large and overcrowded centers to smaller and more "human" structures could be beneficial, we are concerned about the brusque modalities in which the evacuation is carried out. This NGO coalition highlights how the transfer from larger centers to smaller structures should be carried out in a dignified way in order not to compromise the integration process of asylum seekers, respect their right to international protection, and ensure access to essential services, such as health and education. In addition, it remains worrisome to identify what alternative housing solutions will be provided for those with lesser forms of international protection than the refugee status.

15. Some permits for temporary residence under the new Immigration Law do not allow for their automatic conversion into a visa for work or study, which was instead possible for those who were granted humanitarian protection in the past. Due to the high rates of unemployment throughout southern Italy, where most asylum seekers are settled, and the challenge of getting a work contract without valid documents, this will leave many asylum seekers will become undocumented or "irregular," unable to work legally or stabilize their legal status. Unfortunately, many of these newly undocumented migrants are forced to seek work in the few industries available to them: dealing drugs for local organized crime networks or working in seasonal agriculture.

16. The abovementioned new legal measures do not offer adequate guarantees to vulnerable persons, such as victims of abuse and torture. Those who may have suffered torture and ill-treatment during their journey to Italy may fear denouncing their traffickers. We express concerns that the reform on immigration would push further underground asylum seekers, prolong administrative detention, benefit traffickers and other criminal groups, and further exacerbate social tensions.

17. We recommend the Government of Italy to:

- a. Suspend the reform on immigration and clarify what kind of alternative solutions for immigrant reception will be provided for those with lesser forms of international protection than the refugee status.**
- b. Receive minors arriving in Italy in a respectable and welcoming manner that facilitates full enjoyment of their rights, in conformity with international human rights law.**
- c. Design and implement an effective and comprehensive educational strategy, involving teachers, educators and public officers in order to prevent all forms of discrimination and ensure that cultural diversity is valued and respected in Italy.**

⁶ See: <https://rm.coe.int/letter-to-giuseppe-conte-prime-minister-of-italy-by-dunja-mijatovic-co/1680921853>

- d. **Ensure systematic, mandatory, and on-going training on the rights of the child for all professionals working with and for children, in particular law enforcement officers, judges, and penitentiary staff.**

IV. CITIZENSHIP

18. This NGO coalition expresses deep concerns for the situation of foreign children born in Italy, considering the hard-line measures in force about acquisition of citizenship.

19. The complex issue of citizenship is linked to the failure to reform the *ius soli* Law. According to Law No. 91/1992 a foreigner born in Italy may become an Italian citizen on condition that he/she has resided there legally and continuously until he/she reaches the age of majority and declares, within one year of reaching the age of majority, that he/she wishes to acquire Italian citizenship (art. 4, par. 2). The text of the reform, which dates back to October 2015, would have introduced the possibility of becoming an Italian citizen by birth, if one of the two parents had a permanent residence permit, at the end of schooling (*ius culturae*) or through a moderated *ius soli* (*ius soli temperato*).

20. Law No.132/2018 brought several changes in the citizenship Law No. 91 of 1992. To acquire citizenship through marriage or residence now it is necessary to have an adequate knowledge of the Italian language level B1 (art. 9, par. 1), certified by a public or equivalent school which has been approved by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities, and Research. Additionally, the fee for citizenship by marriage or residence in Italy increased from 200 to 250 euros (art. 9-bis). The Law 132/2018 introduces the possibility to revoke (or deny) citizenship of those who have been convicted definitively for crimes related to terrorism (art. 10-bis).

21. Proceedings for granting citizenship by marriage or by residence in Italy may now last 48 months (art. 9-ter) with a retroactive effect on current proceedings (art. 10-bis, par. 2). In a country which has made transparency and the regulation of procedural time the two fundamental objectives of its public administration reform, the decision to set the deadline procedure for the definition of the citizenship application at 48 months appears highly discriminatory, if compared with the deadline of 90 days applied as a general rule to all other proceedings.

22. We recommend the Government of Italy to:

- a. **Amend the present citizenship law regarding *ius soli* in order to facilitate granting of citizenship to foreign minors born in Italy.**
- b. **Reduce the time period for considering citizenship applications in accordance with the key principle of public administration reform.**

V. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Children with disabilities

23 This NGO coalition welcomes Recommendation No. 143 aimed to “Continue strengthening with specific measures the implementation of the two-year programme of action to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities” which enjoyed the support of Italy during the 2nd UPR cycle. We commend attempts of the Italian government to facilitate the integration of students with disabilities. We note with appreciation that principles, tendencies, approaches, and pedagogical practices implemented in Italy progressively have been adopted by school systems in other countries.

24. The 2019 Finance Act (Law No.145/2018), approved at the end of 2018, provides the following measures: (i) assessment of disability; (ii) creation of individual educational plans; and (iii) establishment of Territorial Group for Inclusion and the Interinstitutional Regional Working Group (GRIL).

25. However, we remain concerned that children with disabilities and their families continue to experience barriers to their inclusion in society and to the full enjoyment of their human rights. Children affected by physical or mental disability, affective disorders, personality, and other developmental disorders are not provided with the adequate assistance in order to cope with the formal education system. Likewise, integration is still deterred by structural and other physical barriers. Despite the persistence of serious difficulties preventing children with disabilities from fully exercising their rights, implementation measures in this regard are currently given low priority by the Government, especially in terms of education.

Roma Sinti and Caminanti children

26. This NGO coalition expresses deep concern for the situation of migrant children in Italy. In particular, children belonging to Roma communities face a wide range of challenges in accessing their fundamental rights, especially education, healthcare, and housing. According to the latest survey of 2015 on RSC (Roma, Sinti and Caminanti Communities) carried out by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with ISMU (Initiatives and Studies on Multiethnicity), the total number RSC students amounts to 12,437 for 2014-2015 school year, detailed as follows: 2,179 pupils in nurseries; 6,441 in primary schools; 3,569 in secondary school – first level: 248 in secondary school- second level.

27. According to the Europe 2020 strategy, smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth should have facilitated the inclusion of Europe's largest minority. However, currently Roma children tend to be over-represented in special education and segregated schools. Whenever Roma children are introduced into mainstream classes, evidence has shown that they attend school sporadically and have low school performance. The low school attendance rate is due to multiple factors: on one hand, life in nomadic camps may not be conducive to regular school attendance, on the other, highly discriminatory practices are still pervading the educational environment. These factors, combined with poor educational background stemming from situations of marginalization and social disadvantages, strongly discourage these children to adequately respond to formal education. As a result, their drop-out rate is significantly higher than their Italian peers.

Human Rights Education

28. While recognizing the achievements reached over the last few years, there is still much work to be done in order to fully include human rights education in the formal education system in Italy. Regrettably, supportive initiatives remain limited. Although some information campaigns on human rights have been undertaken, we observe with concern that Human Rights Education is not yet part of school programs nor of teacher training.

29. We recommend the Government of Italy to:

- a. Prioritize allocation of resources for educational interventions, including extracurricular and recreational activities and adequate provision of support-teacher staff, in order to guarantee children with disabilities full access to quality education;**
- b. Increase measures to combat discrimination, in particular against children with disabilities and children with a migratory background, through programmes and policies aimed to reduce inequalities in access to education, health, and development;**
- c. Continue efforts to promote awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of non-discriminatory practices especially related to children with disabilities and Roma children in order to foster an inclusive and tolerant environment in schools and other spaces for children;**

- d. **Fully implement recommendations No. 52 and 152⁷, supporting training in the field of human rights and adopting legislation on access to vocational training and programmes to improve the integration of foreigners and minority children in schools;**
- e. **Systematically include Human Rights Education in school programs and in teacher training programs in order to develop an understanding of everyone's common responsibility to make the realization of human rights a reality in each community.**

VI. RIGHT TO HEALTH

30. This NGO coalition welcomes the acceptance of Recommendation No. 25 regarding the implementation of legislation on the restriction of alcohol, drug, and tobacco consumption.⁸ While we recognise the efforts made by Italian government in fighting substance addictions, we still express our deep concern for the alcohol, drug, and tobacco abuse among underage drinkers, especially boys.

31. According to a report released by ISTAT in 2017, while everyday alcohol consumption is decreasing, the percentage of those who consume alcohol occasionally is increasing.⁹ Moreover the phenomenon of “binge drinking”¹⁰ still affects 17% of young population (between 18 and 24). Sixty-five point four percent (65.4 %) of the population aged 11 and older consumed at least one alcoholic beverage in the year. The percentage of daily consumers of alcoholic beverages is 21.4 %, down from what was observed ten years earlier (29.3 % in 2007). On the rise is the percentage of those who consume alcohol occasionally (from 38.9 % in 2007 to 44 % in 2017) and that of those who drink alcohol outside of meals (from 25.6 % in 2007 to 29.2 % of 2017).

32. Despite the Law No.158/2012¹¹ prohibiting the selling of alcohol to minors, this NGO coalition still observes a wide consumption of and addiction pattern to alcoholic products among children and adolescents. This indicates implementation gaps of relevant law as some alcohol vendors continue to sell alcohol products to underage customers.

33. Concerning smoking addiction, a survey¹² presented in 2018 from OSSFAD (Osservatorio Fumo, Alcool e Droga) showed that 23.3% of the population smokes. Despite a small decrease among men, the number of smoking women has grown since 2017 (22.3%). Moreover, 11.1% of smokers are aged between 14 and 17 (about 254,000 young people).

34. According to a survey on drug consumption presented to the Parliament in July 2018¹³, 34.2% of students (15-19 years old) tried an illegal substance at least once compared to 25.9% in 2016. According to the 2018 data provided by the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) cannabis remains the illicit drug most commonly used by the general population in Italy, making the country only second to France in its consumption. The next most common drug of choice in the country is cocaine, putting

⁷ Recommendation No. 52: “Continue the ongoing efforts, particularly concerning awareness, education and training in the field of human rights (Kuwait)”. Recommendation No. 152: “Adopt legislation on access to vocational training and develop programmes to improve the integration of foreigners and minority children in schools (Iran (Islamic Republic of))”. See Report of the UPR Working Group on Italy, p. 17, p. 22, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/4 (10 December 2014)

⁸ Recommendation No. 25 “Adopt further legislation that restricts and prevents minors from all consumption of drugs, alcohol and tobacco (Lebanon)”. See Report of the UPR Working Group on Italy, p. 15 UN Doc. A/HRC/28/4 (10 December 2014)

⁹ ISTAT, See: <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/215088>

¹⁰ “Binge drinking”: The consumption of an excessive amount of alcohol in a short period of time, Oxford Dictionary

¹¹ Gazzetta Ufficiale, See: <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/gu/2012/11/10/263/so/201/sg/pdf>

¹² OSSFAD study for ISS (Istituto Superiore di Sanità), See: <https://ufficiostampa.iss.it/?p=890>

¹³ Relazione annuale al Parlamento sul fenomeno delle tossicodipendenze in Italia anno 2018 (dati 2017). See: http://www.politicheantidroga.gov.it/media/2153/relazione-al-parlamento_2017.pdf
www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/8585/20181816_TDAT18001ITN_PDF.pdf

Italy at seventh in the European classification for utilization of this substance. The use of most illicit drugs is concentrated among young adults between the ages of 15 and 34; however, the highest prevalence of cocaine usage in the last year was reported in those aged between 25 and 34 years.

35. This coalition also expresses concern about the growing addiction to gambling, especially among young people. According to a report recently published by European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD Italia)¹⁴, 36,9% of students between the ages of 15 and 19 gambled at least once in 2017. Despite the decreasing number of young people involved in gambling, the situation remains alarming, especially in Southern regions (Apulia, Basilicata, Campania and Sicily).

36. The worrying trend of addictions to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and gambling among young people is a source of deep concern. Not only are addictions dangerous for their health, but they can also have a strong impact on their development and potentially lead to social exclusion.

37. We recommend the Government of Italy to:

- a. Provide awareness raising campaigns, with extensive involvement of media, in order to sensitize the local communities on the risks of underage drinking and on existing national legislation in this regard;**
- b. Strengthen education and sensitization activities on human rights and children's rights for both parents/guardians and the children themselves in order to fully convey the implications and dangers of addicting substances;**
- c. Foster education as an alternative to drugs and recruit and train social assistants to provide support and monitoring to young people at risk;**
- d. Continue its efforts in reducing gambling advertisement and availability to minors.**

VII. EMPLOYMENT AND ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKET

38. We highlight the acceptance of Recommendation No. 59, regarding legislation to put an end to discrimination in employment.¹⁵ Moreover, we underline the acceptance of Recommendation No. 136 regarding legislation eliminating the practice of indefinite internships.¹⁶ Nevertheless, we note with concern that the recent reform on the Labour Market (Law Decree No. 87/2018) did not adequately address the issue of fixed-term contracts and internships.

39. Despite a slight improvement, the economic crisis still has a serious impact on employment and access to the labour market in Italy. The unemployment rate was 10.3% in 2018.¹⁷ Young people, women, and migrants are the most vulnerable categories because they struggle most to access the labour market, while 50-60 years olds mainly risk being fired or being unable to receive retirement funds.

40. The youth unemployment rate (15-29 years old) in Italy reached 25.3% in 2017, as the Italian statistical agency ISTAT recently reported.¹⁸ A further point of concern can be found in the number of young people, between 15 and 29 years old, classified as NEET (Not in Education Employment and Training). The

¹⁴ ESPAD Italia, See: https://www.epid.ifc.cnr.it/images/downloads/Report/Gioco/Consumi_azzardo_2017.pdf

¹⁵ Recommendation No. 59 “Adopt measures to put an end to all kinds of discrimination, particularly discrimination between men and women in the workplace (France)”. See Report of the UPR Working Group on Italy, p. 17, p. 22, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/4 (10 December 2014)

¹⁶ Recommendation No. 136: “Eliminate the practice of indefinite internships for graduates of universities and technical schools and replace these with paid employment opportunities, both in the public and private sectors (Mexico)”. See Report of the UPR Working Group on Italy, p. 17, p. 22, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/4 (10 December 2014)

¹⁷ ISTAT, See: <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/disoccupati>

¹⁸ ISTAT, See: http://dati.istat.it/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DCCV_TAXDISOCCU1

percentage of this group is 24.1 %¹⁹ and it represents the highest NEET rate in EU for the first quarter of 2018 (19.1%)²⁰. The percentage varies from area to area, and often the lack of job opportunities in Southern regions force young people to leave, thus impoverishing their societies. Many young people face difficulties in finding a job upon completion of their education and they can only access short-term and fixed-term contracts, which do not ensure them a sufficiently stable financial income needed to become independent from their families and guarantee them a future. On the one hand, their young age helps them find opportunities, on the other hand the lack of experience forces them to accept internships or enter the informal economy to survive. A common feature of employment contracts in the informal economy is to class an individual as part-time while, in reality, she/he is expected to work full time. This allows for the undermining of minimum wage requirements, the diminishing of income for vulnerable younger employees, and the significantly undermining of these employees' ability to put aside funds for pensions.

41. In this serious scenario, women face even greater discrimination both in the access to the labour market and in their likelihood to retain their job in case of pregnancy. Regrettably, young mothers are still harassed and some young women are employed only if they sign a letter of resignation in advance in case they become pregnant (also known as "resignation in white"). Starting from March 12, 2016, following the entry into force of Legislative Decree No.151/2015 (implementation "Jobs Act" Decree), the resignation and consensual termination of employment contract must be filled out only through the special form available on the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies website. It represents an important reform to counteract the practice of "resignation in white", which still remains widespread in the country.

42. We recommend the Government of Italy to :

- a. Take measures to combat unemployment and underemployment especially with regard to young people and women.**
- b. Develop a comprehensive policy to ensure that all measures pertaining employment are consistent with a human rights law, especially for the most vulnerable groups.**
- c. Strengthen their efforts to counteract the exploitation of migrants and ensure fair working conditions to all workers, including undocumented migrants.**
- d. Strengthen and guarantee the full implementation of existing measures to support young people, including "Bonus Garanzia Giovani", "Bonus Sud", "Bonus Assunzioni Alternanza Scuola Lavoro", "Irap relief" for fixed-term contracts, proposed in 2019 Finance Act (Law No.145/2018,), and the "Bonus Giovani" contained in the "Dignity Decree" (Law Decree No. 87/2018).**

VIII. RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Violence against women

43. We commend the acceptance of Recommendations No. 113 regarding initiatives to protect women from violence and other abuses.²¹ While welcoming the efforts made by the Italian Government to punish and prevent femicide, this NGO coalition expresses deep concerns about the phenomenon of violence against women, which remains a significant problem in Italy despite the Government's determination to confront it.

¹⁹ ISTAT, See: http://dati.istat.it/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DCCV_NEET1

²⁰ EUROSTAT, See: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20180712-4?inheritRedirect=true>

²¹ Recommendation No. 113 "Take all necessary measures to address violence against women as well as gender inequality in particular in the workplace and in the context of pregnancy or family status (Ireland)"; See Report of the UPR Working Group on Italy, p. 20 UN Doc. A/HRC/28/4 (10 December 2014)

Further efforts are needed in order to change the entrenched stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and in society, perpetuating traditional roles of women as mothers and housewives and undermining their social status and educational and career prospects.

44. According to the recent EURES survey, three thousand women were victims of voluntary homicide in Italy from 2000 to 2017. Femicide is on the rise with an increase of 5.6% in 2016. Incidents of femicide have never reached such high levels (37.1% of total murders)²². Gender-based violence continues to be perpetrated in the context of a patriarchal society, where these manifestations are culturally and socially embedded and they continue to be accepted, tolerated, or justified. Domestic violence is not always perceived as a crime, affecting all categories of women at different social levels.

45. This NGO coalition welcomes the acceptance of Recommendation No. 56 regarding the implementation of legislation on strengthening women's representation in leadership roles²³. To guide businesses on empowering women and advancing gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and community, the UN Global Compact and UN Women launched the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in 2010. The Seven Principles²⁴ offer a holistic framework based on real-life practices for businesses to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. To date, over 1,800 Chief Executive Officers from around the world have signed the CEO Statement of Support and have committed to continuous leadership and improvement on gender equality and women's empowerment. In March of 2017, after consultations with over 190 companies, the Women's Empowerment Principles Gap Analysis Tool (WEPs Tool) was launched to provide businesses with a free, user-friendly, and confidential self-assessment of their performance on women's empowerment and gender equality.

46. In Italy, we observe a concentration of women in part-time and low-paid jobs and the persistent gender wage gap in both the public and private sectors which adversely affects the career development of and pension benefits for women.

47. We recommend the Government of Italy to:

- a. Take concrete measures to eradicate multiple forms of discrimination against women and eliminate the structural causes of inequalities.**
- b. Enhance a positive and non-stereotypical portrayal of women in the media and in advertisements.**
- c. Encourage women to report all incidents of violence, especially domestic and sexual violence, to law enforcement bodies by destigmatizing victims, sensitizing the police and the judiciary, raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, and ensuring that women have effective access to civil courts to obtain restraining orders against abusive partners.**
- d. Take adequate measures to punish the perpetrators of violence, guaranteeing effective assistance to the victims, through efficient support services.**
- e. Encourage businesses to implement gender strategies and value chains for challenging gender norms and promote positive images of women and girls in marketing, in accordance with the Women's Empowerment Principles of the UN Global Compact.**

²² Report request form: <https://www.eures.it/richiesta-analisi/>

²³ Recommendation No.56 "Continue to intensify its ongoing efforts to strengthen women's representation in leadership roles and decision-making position" (Cyprus)

²⁴ See: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/womens_empowerment_principles_ppt_for_29_mar_briefing_without_notes.pdf

IX. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

48. This NGO coalition welcomes, as a positive step, the acceptance by Italy of Recommendation No. 118 concerning the social reintegration of victims of human trafficking. We also welcome the acceptance of Recommendation No. 124 on the establishment of a mechanism of identification of human trafficking cases²⁵.

49. Italy continues to be primarily a country of destination for trafficked persons, as well as a country of transit to other destinations in Europe. While forced prostitution remains the most known and visible trafficking typology, the current economic crisis and the prevalence of illegal or precarious labour markets has brought human exploitation to higher rates. In 2017, the total number of newly assisted victims of THB was 1,050 (of whom 85.6% were female); 121 (11.5%) of the victims were children. In 2018 (up until 16 October 2018), there were 569 newly assisted victims (of whom 92.6% were female); 42 (7.38%) of the victims were children. The main countries of origin of the victims in 2017-2018 were Nigeria, Romania, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Albania, and Bulgaria. The majority of the assisted victims were subjected to sexual exploitation (78% in 2017, 90% in 2018), followed by labour exploitation (13% in 2017, 7% in 2018), forced begging (1.9% in 2017, 1.5% in 2018), and forced criminality (0.2% in 2018, 2.7% in 2017)²⁶.

50. Generally, the victims of human trafficking and exploitation are forced to endure inhuman living and working conditions: they have to work very long hours, receive payments inferior to the agreed amount or that which is stipulated by law, they often are paid irregularly or not even paid at all, they can be misled with regard to obtaining residence permits, and are often forced to pay money or are assigned heavy tasks, in harmful and dangerous environments. Moreover, they suffer retaliation, extortion and xenophobic behaviour, gender discrimination or sexual harassment.

51. We recommend the Government of Italy to:

- a. Undertake focused, efficient, and coherent measures, including allocation of adequate financial resources, to combat all forms of human trafficking.**
- b. Prioritize the protection of actual or potential victims of trafficking by promptly and effectively responding to reliable information on possible violations and providing support and compensation for victims.**

²⁵ Recommendation No. 118 “Consolidate the measures aimed at combating violence against women and at achieving social reintegration of those women who are victims of human trafficking (Romania)”; Recommendation No. 124 “Improve identification of victims of trafficking in human beings by setting up a coherent national mechanism of identification and referral of such cases, including among unaccompanied minors, irregular migrants and asylum seekers (Republic of Moldova)”; See Report of the UPR Working Group on Italy, p. 20 UN Doc. A/HRC/28/4 (10 December 2014)

²⁶ GRETA, See: http://www.ontheroadonlus.it/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/GRETA_2018_28_FGR_ITA.pdf.pdf