



Gruppo di Lavoro per la Convenzione sui Diritti dell'Infanzia e dell'Adolescenza

Italian NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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COORDINATION

Arianna Saulini
Save the Children Italia
Via Volturmo 58, 00185 Roma
Tel. 06.4807001
Fax. 06.48070039
www.gruppocrc.net
coordinamento@gruppocrc.net



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ABOUT US

The **Italian NGO Group for the Convention of the Rights of the Child (Gruppo di Lavoro per la Convenzione sui diritti dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza – Gruppo CRC)** is a network open to any association, NGO, cooperative, foundation and any other stakeholder from the third sector dealing with the promotion and protection of children's rights in Italy.

In order to subscribe to the *Italian NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) newsletter* a participation form must be filled in.

To become an active member it is necessary to accept a Rules and Regulations document.

The *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* was established in December 2000 with the main aim of drafting a report on the implementation of the CRC in Italy, supplementary to the one issued by the Italian Government, to be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC Committee) under the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

OBJECTIVES

Mission

To promote a full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Italy.

Mandate

To guarantee an independent, permanent and up-to-date monitoring system on CRC implementation, agreed upon by all members, and to implement relevant advocacy actions.

Main activities

- Drafting a Yearly Follow-up Report on priority issues identified and highlighted in the Concluding Observations of the UN CRC Committee.
- Meetings with public stakeholders in order to assess CRC and the Concluding Observations implementation
- Training/information for NGO and associations
- Drafting of the Second Supplementary Report in 2009.



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Activities carried out and under way

In **November 2001** the **Supplementary Report** “*The Rights of Children in Italy - perspectives in the third sector*” was published and signed by 42 Italian associations and non governmental organizations.

Even though the document did not intend to provide a comprehensive assessment of all child-related issues in Italy, it provided a starting point for the UN CRC Committee in its consideration of the Italian situation by highlighting critical points in our system. An English version of the Report was sent to the UN CRC Committee that, in **October 2002**, invited the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* to a restricted-access meeting (the pre-Session) in order to learn more about the content of the Report.

In **January 2003** a delegation from the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* attended as Observers the Session of the UN CRC Committee and a numerous Italian governmental delegation. On the 31 January 2003 the UN CRC Committee released its Concluding Observations on Italy (CRC/C/15/Add.198).

Thanks to the Supplementary Report and consequent missions to Geneva, the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* was recognised as relevant international stakeholder:

- the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* is member of CRIN (*Child Rights Information Network*), and the publications are available on the CRIN website www.crin.org/organisations/vieworg.asp?id=2612;

- it is part of the Geneva *NGO Group for the CRC* circuit which manages contacts among NGO working groups established in several countries and facilitates the exchange of information with the UN CRC Committee.

Since 2004 a delegation of the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* has been attending the Day of General Discussion.

The *Italian NGO Group for the CRC*, in presenting the *Supplementary Report*, committed to pursuing continued monitoring of the CRC and the Concluding Observations, not only in view of periodic meetings with the UN CRC Committee, but also in order to guarantee an independent monitoring system agreed upon by NGOs working for the rights of the child in Italy.

Our aim is to contribute and campaign for changes in policies, practices, as well as reform of the law in order to make a real improvement to the status of all children in Italy.

In **December 2004** the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* published a practical guide for the third sector called “**CRC Monitoring in Italy**” thus providing a working instrument for the numerous associations dealing directly or indirectly with child-related issues. The Guide helps better understand and share aims of CRC implementation monitoring.

The guide explains the steps taken by the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC*, and aims to facilitate the participation of all the various stakeholders that, in different ways, work in the field of the rights of the child.



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As part of the monitoring process, the Italian NGO Group for the CRC decided to produce a Follow-Up Report on the implementation of the rights of the child and on the UN Committee Recommendations to Italy, on a yearly basis, focused on selected issues considered as a priority.

The Follow Up Report is the result of the monitoring carried out by the Italian NGO Group for the CRC over the year. Still it is not meant to be only a way to expose the shortcomings of the Italian system. It is also an opportunity to undertake an on going and constructive debate with public stakeholders that are in charge of children rights, and that are responsible for the implementation of the rights enshrined in the CRC.

In the **first Follow Up Report**, published on **27 May 2005**, anniversary of CRC ratification in Italy, four main focus areas were identified: legal reforms, protection of the rights of most vulnerable children, and implementation of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC.

The Report was personally delivered by a delegation of the Group to the reference person of the Group at the Ministry of Welfare. The part related to the Protocol on children trafficking, child prostitution and pornography, representing children and related to the Protocol concerning the involvement of children in armed conflicts were translated into English and sent to Geneva as a Supplementary Report.

Subsequently the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* was invited to meet the UN CRC Committee in a restricted-access meeting (the pre-Session, 6 October 2005).

In March 2006, a delegation of the Group was received by the Human Rights Inter-Ministerial Committee (CIDU) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss implementation of the Optional Protocols, and in May the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* attended as an observer

the Session between the UN CRC Committee and the governmental delegation.

In the **second Follow Up Report**, published on **27 May 2006**, issues addressed in the 2005 Report were reviewed and updated and two new clusters on Basic health and welfare, and Education, leisure and cultural activities were introduced.

On 13 June 2006 a *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* delegation presented the Report to the Human rights Inter-Ministerial Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during an ad-hoc meeting.

On 20 November 2006, the National Child Rights Day, the Report was made available to all the attendees at the event organized by the Parliamentary Committee on Children Rights.

The **third Follow Up Report**, published on **27 May 2007**, broadened the scope of the monitoring activities to include an evaluation of General CRC principles, beginning with child participation principle (Art. 12 CRC). Furthermore, a chapter on Family environment and alternative care was introduced.

On 29 May 2007 the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* presented the Third Follow-Up Report, at a formal hearing before the Italian Parliamentary Committee for Children Rights and again at an ad hoc meeting with the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU).

At regional level, public presentations of the Follow-Up Report have been held in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Marche and Veneto in collaboration with the Regional Ombudsmen for Children rights.

A delegation from the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* presented an extract of the Third Follow up Report during the UN Committee on



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the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's session examining the case of Italy.

The **fourth Follow-Up Report**, published on **27 May 2008** and signed by 73 NGOs and associations, offers an update on issues addressed in previous CRC Follow-Up Reports.

This Report provides a further analysis of critical points and introduces new issues to be addressed thanks to the active contribution of

an increasing number of Italian NGOs and associations.

The aim of the *Italian NGO Group for the CRC* is to broaden the monitoring area of the Follow Up Report each year, so as to focus even further on all the 8 cluster in which the UN CRC Committee has grouped the first 41 articles of the CRC. To that end, the Italian NGO Group for the CRC will prepare its next Supplementary Report for the United Nations 2008-2009 CRC evaluation.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE Italian NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

- ❑ *The Rights of Children in Italy, perspectives in the third sector. Supplementary Report to the United Nations by the CRC Working Group, November 2001*
- ❑ *The Rights of Children in Italy, perspectives in the third sector - Supplementary Report to the United Nations, October 2002*
- ❑ *Monitoring of the Convention on Child's Right in Italy, Practical guide for the Third sector, December 2004*
- ❑ *The Rights of Children in Italy, First Follow Up Report on the Convention of Child's Right monitoring in Italy, year 2004-2005, May 2005*
- ❑ *Supplementary Report on the implementation of the Optional Protocols on the CRC in Italy, May 2005*
- ❑ *The Rights of Children in Italy, Second Follow Up Report on the Convention of Child's Right monitoring in Italy, year 2005-2006, May 2006*
- ❑ *The Rights of Children in Italy, Third Follow Up Report on the Convention of Child's Right monitoring in Italy, year 2006-2007, May 2007*
- ❑ *The Rights of Children in Italy, Fourth Follow Up Report on the Convention of Child's Right monitoring in Italy, year 2007-2008, May 2008*

All the publications are available on the website www.crin.org as well as on the website of the Italian NGO Group for the CRC www.gruppocrc.net.

For further information on the **Italian NGO Group for the CRC**, please visit our web-site:
www.gruppocrc.net