

2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)

PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST FOREIGN CHILDREN

Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States Parties to the Convention to take "all legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children and young people from all forms of violence, physical or mental abuse or brutality, abandonment or neglect, ill-treatment or exploitation, including sexual violence". Other articles of the Convention further specify the right to protection of children from all forms of violence (Article 34 on sexual exploitation and violence, Article 35 on trafficking, Articles 32 and 36 on economic exploitation and other forms of exploitation). Article 39 of the same Convention also provides that States Parties are to take all appropriate measures to facilitate the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of any child who is a victim of neglect or abuse. States must therefore prepare all actions and interventions aimed at treating the serious consequences that violence causes on subjects in developmental age. Prevention and protection, therefore, should be the first commitment of the institutions.

The exposure of foreign minors to violence and mistreatment turns out to be much greater than that of Italian minors. **The percentage of foreign minors in charge of social services for maltreatment is three times higher than that of Italian minors:** out of a sample of 1,000 resident Italian children there are 7 victims of violence, while considering a sample of 1,000 foreign resident children the victims of maltreatment rise to 233¹. It should be noted that this figure is in sharp increase compared to that found in the previous survey of the Authority for Childhood and Adolescence (2015), when the percentage of foreign minors taken in charge by social services due to mistreatment was in fact little more than double that of Italian children, with 20 mistreated foreign children per thousand, against 8.3 per thousand of Italians.²

It is also known that, despite the increase in complaints and interventions, this phenomenon has a large grey area that escapes official statistics and that seems to be even more difficult to highlight where foreign families live situations of marginality and / or irregularities. The literature has long indicated both the existence of a positive – although not necessary – correlation between economic poverty and the risk of mistreatment, and the multidimensionality of the phenomenon, which is affected, among other things, by factors such as the activation of the extra-family support network and the social environment in which the family lives. Immigrant families are more vulnerable as they often have a lack of knowledge of the Italian system of guaranteeing the rights of the child and a culture of his rights different and in some cases less attentive to those considered secondary (right to play, to listen, to participate). In addition, children with a migrant background have high

¹ The national survey on the maltreatment of children and adolescents in Italy. Results and perspectives, Authority for Childhood and Adolescence – Cismai –Terre des Hommes Foundation Italy, 2021.

² National survey on the maltreatment of children and adolescents in Italy. Results and perspectives, Authority for Childhood and Adolescence – Cismai –Terre des Hommes Foundation Italy, 2015.

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levels of early school leaving, performance gaps and are often victims of discriminatory attitudes by peers. In this context of complexity, services are required to guarantee the right of every child, whatever their legal status or nationality, to be protected from forms of violence and mistreatment, but they are not always equipped with the necessary skills to detect, decode and deal with critical situations in multicultural contexts.

The aim of the conference is to trace the **theoretical framework and the concrete challenges of combating violence against foreign minors at national and European level, through the comparison between experiences and practices.**

The event aims first of all to define the national context, starting from the **survey** promoted by the **National Guarantor for Childhood and Adolescence** in collaboration with **Terre des Homes and CISMAI**: the attempt to quantify the epidemiological dimension of child maltreatment in Italy, in fact, responds to a need felt not only by our country but internationally.

In this context, it is essential to ask ourselves about the various challenges linked to this phenomenon: on the one hand the essential duty to protect minors regardless of their origin or legal status, on the other the complexity of moving in multicultural contexts, which need to abandon stereotypes and prejudices, thus opening up to the world of the possibilities offered by the encounter with cultural diversity.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

21st June 2023

ONLINE 9:00 – 13:20

- 9:00 – 9:15 **Registration**
- Chair** - *Mariella De Santis*, Social Work Methodologist, Policy Officer, Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration Integration Fund Authority, Ministry of the Interior
- 9:15 – 10:00 **Institutional greetings**
- *Maria Forte*, Prefetto, Central Director for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration Integration Fund Authority, Ministry of the Interior
 - *Magnus Ovilius*, Head of Sector, Forecasting, Preparedness and Policy Monitoring, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
 - *Isabela Atanasiu*, Policy Officer, Asylum, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
- 10:00 – 10:15 **National survey on the maltreatment of children and adolescents in Italy. Results and Prospects**
Carla Garlatti, National Authority for Children and Adolescents
- 10:15 – 10:30 **From the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to dedicated protection actions**
Nicola dell'Arciprete, Italian UNICEF Regional Office Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia
- 10:30 – 10:45 **The multilevel approach of the Social Service between emergency and system interventions**
Barbara Rosina, Vice president of the National Order of Social Workers (CNOAS)
- 10:45 – 11:00 **The contribution of the new generations to the prevention of violence against foreign minors**
Simohamed Kaabour, President of the National Coordination of the New Italian Generations (CoNNGI)
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 11:35 **The eloquent violence: young migrants in a time of chaos**

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Roberto Beneduce, Professor of Medical and Psychological Anthropology and Cultural Anthropology at the Department of Culture, Politics and Society, University of Turin

11:35 – 12:30

Panel “Territorial networks and innovative interventions to combat violence against foreign minors”

1. Prevention/reporting

Maria Grazia Foschino Barbaro - Rapporteur for the AMIF Working Group 'Prevention and reporting of violence against foreign minors'

2. Training

Silvana Mordeglia - Rapporteur for the AMIF Working Group 'Training of operators'

3. Taking charge/community approach

Raffaele Bracalenti - Rapporteur for the AMIF Working Group 'Taking in charge of foreign minors victims of violence and the community approach'

12:30 – 13:00

Experiences in Europe

- *Sofia Figueiredo*, Akto - Human Rights and Democracy, General Director – **Portugal**
- Second experience (TBC)

13:00 – 13:20

Conclusion

Maria Assunta Rosa, Viceprefetto Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration Integration Fund Authority, Ministry of the Interior

Simultaneous translation from English to Italian and from Italian to English will be made available.