# Council of Europe contribution for the 48<sup>th</sup> UPR session (Jan- Feb 2025) regarding Italy

# 

### Prevention of torture (CPT)

Report on the ad hoc visit to Italy carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 12 March to 22 March 2019.

CPT Report



Government response



Publication news flash: Council of Europe anti-torture Committee publishes report on Italy, focusing on prison establishments - CPT (coe.int)

Report on the periodic visit to Italy carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 28 March to 08 Avril 2022.

CPT Report



Government response



Publication news flash: Council of Europe anti-torture Committee carries out 12-day visit to Italy - CPT (coe.int)

Ad hoc visit carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 02 April to 12 April 2024.

Publication news flash: Council of Europe anti-torture Committee (CPT) carries out a visit to Italy - CPT (coe.int)

### Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

On 14 December 2023, Commissioner Dunja Mijatović published her <u>report</u> following a visit that she had carried out to Italy from 19 to 23 June 2023. The report focused on the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and on women's rights and gender equality. It also addressed certain issues concerning freedom of expression, the national human rights framework, including the legal protection of LGBTI people, and the rights of children.



Stressing the need for Europe-wide action to end the loss of life in the Mediterranean, the Commissioner urged the Italian authorities to ensure adequate search and rescue capacity and to repeal policies and end practices which hinder and criminalise NGOs' life-saving activities at sea. She further reiterated her call on the Italian authorities to suspend co-operation with the Libyan government on interceptions at sea and to make any co-operation with third countries in the field of migration conditional on comprehensive human rights safeguards. The Commissioner warned, in addition, of the lack of adequate human rights safeguards in the Memorandum of Understanding concluded with Albania and recommended that the Italian authorities prioritise improving the domestic asylum and reception systems.

As regards women's rights and gender equality, the Commissioner noted a marked contrast between the legal framework and the inequalities, discrimination and violence faced by women and girls. To close this gap, she recommended that the authorities reduce regional disparities, combat sexism and gender stereotypes and improve support services for victims of gender-based violence. She stressed the need to address women's disadvantaged position in employment, urged the authorities to ensure women's and girls' unhindered access to sexual and reproductive health services, including abortion care and contraception, encouraged amendments to criminal law to base sexual violence offences, including rape, on the notion of freely given consent, and called for increased efforts to prevent gender-based violence and secondary victimisation and for stronger institutional co-operation with women's rights NGOs.

Finally, the Commissioner recommended the decriminalisation of defamation, the establishment of a national human rights institution, and the broadening of legislation against discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech to cover the rights of LGBTI people. Taking note of developments which affected the registration of birth certificates of children born through surrogacy or following assisted reproduction technology abroad, the Commissioner recalled that in all measures concerning children the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.

On 2 February 2023, the Commissioner published a <u>letter</u> addressed to the Minister of the Interior of Italy, calling on the government to consider withdrawing or revising the Decree Law No. 1/2023, the provisions of which could hamper NGO search and rescue operations and be at variance with Italy's human rights obligations. She also noted that NGO vessels have been assigned distant ports to disembark persons rescued at sea and that this practice, paired with the Decree's provisions, risked depriving people in distress of life-saving assistance. In addition, the Commissioner reiterated her call on the Italian authorities to suspend co-operation with the Libyan government on interceptions at sea. Finally, she requested further information about

allegations of returns of persons from Italy to Greece on private ships and recalled that carrying out individual assessments of the protection needs of each person arriving at the border remained a crucial safeguard against refoulement.



On 21 February 2020, the Commissioner published a <u>letter</u> addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, in which she called on the government to suspend co-operation activities with the Libyan Coast Guard that result in the return of persons intercepted at sea to Libya. Furthermore, in the context of the discussions concerning amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between Italy and Libya, she emphasised the need to introduce key safeguards to guarantee respect for human rights in any migration co-operation with third countries. In this respect, she underlined the need to assess the risks to the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers of any migration co-operation activities, to develop strategies to mitigate those risks, to devise independent monitoring mechanisms, and to establish an effective system of redress.



### Fight against racism and intolerance (ECRI)

ECRI visit to Italy and ongoing preparation of ECRI sixth-cycle report on Italy (news item)

### Protection of minorities

### Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention adopted the Fifth Opinion on Italy on 5 October 2022.



Resolution CM/ResCMN(2023)4 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection on National Minorities by Italy was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2023 at the 1462nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies



European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Italy has signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on 26 June 2000, but has not ratified it.

### Action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA)

GRETA evaluation report (3<sup>nd</sup> evaluation round)



GRETA\_Italy.pdf

Press release

### Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO)

Italy ratified the Istanbul Convention 10 September 2013. The GREVIO baseline evaluation report, the Committee of the Parties Recommendations and the Committee of the Parties Conclusions in respect of the implementation of the Recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties in respect of Italy were published, respectively, on 13 January 2020, 4 February 2020 and 1 June 2023. The Italian authorities are required to report back on the measures taken to further implement the Recommendations addressed to its authorities by 2 June 2025. The latter reporting obligation will mark the closing of the baseline evaluation procedure in respect of Italy. The first thematic evaluation round, entitled "Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice" is currently underway in respect of Italy and was initiated through the sending of the relevant Questionnaire to the party.









GREVIO\_Italy.pdf

020\_2\_ltaly\_.pdf

020\_2\_Italy.pdf

GREVIO\_IC-CP\_Inf\_2 GREVIO\_IC-CP\_Inf\_2 GREVIO\_Questionnai re.pdf

### Protection of children against sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention)

Italy ratified the Lanzarote Convention on 3 January 2013, and it entered into force in its respect on 1 May 2013.

In 2022-2023, the Council of Europe, together with ECPAT International, prepared Country Overviews for several State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention. The Country Overview for Italy can be found here.

2<sup>nd</sup> thematic monitoring round: Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)

The second monitoring round was carried out between October 2017 and March 2022 and was dedicated to "Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)", with a focus on "Addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos". It led to the adoption of an <u>implementation report</u> on 10 March 2022. The information submitted by Italy in the context of the 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring round is available <u>here</u>.





The recommendations requiring **Italy**<sup>1</sup> to take steps to implement the Lanzarote Convention effectively in the context of this monitoring round are as follows:



### Fight against corruption (GRECO)

Italy was evaluated in 2023 under the Fifth Evaluation Round on "Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies". The corresponding 5th Round Evaluation Report was adopted by GRECO Plenary in 2024 and awaits authorisation from the authorities for publication.

Concerning the Fourth Evaluation Round on "Prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors" the 4th Round Second Addendum to the Second Compliance Report was published in 2024 and terminated the compliance procedure in respect of Italy.



### Execution of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights



Social and Economic Rights (ECSR)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A compliance procedure to assess the follow-up given by Italy to these recommendations will be launched in October 2024.

## Venice Commission

There is no recent opinion on Italy.