



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

WAVE Network and European Info Centre against Violence
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ITALY

Basic Information

Population: 60,782,668

Female Population: 31,298,104

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1957

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 41.1, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/italy>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2011:

Violence against women

26. The Committee welcomes the adoption of Act No. 11/2009, which introduced a crime of stalking and mandatory detention for perpetrators of acts of sexual violence, the national action plan to combat violence against women and stalking and the first comprehensive research on physical, sexual and psychological violence against women, developed by the National Statistics Institute. However, it remains concerned about the high prevalence of violence against women and girls and the persistence of sociocultural attitudes condoning domestic violence, as well as by the lack of data on violence against immigrant, Roma and Sinti women and girls. The Committee is further concerned about the high number of women murdered by their partner or ex-partner (femicide), which may indicate a failure of the State party's authorities to adequately protect the women victims from their partners or ex-partners.

27. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women and the views adopted by the Committee under the Optional Protocol procedures, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society, including through addressing the specific needs of women made vulnerable by particular circumstances, such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection, including expulsion of the perpetrator from the home, a guarantee that they can stay in secure and well-funded shelters, in all

parts of the country, and that they have access to free legal aid, psychosocial counselling and adequate redress, including compensation;

(c) Ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement officials and professionals in the judiciary, health care, social work and education are systematically and fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls;

(d) Enhance the system of appropriate data collection on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, protection measures, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, and conduct appropriate surveys to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by women belonging to disadvantaged groups, such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities;

(e) Further pursue, in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's and other civil society organizations, awareness-raising campaigns through the media and public education programmes to make violence against women socially unacceptable, and disseminate information on available measures to prevent acts of violence against women among the general public;

(f) Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, in a timely manner

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Italy, addressing all forms of violence against women. The helpline is called [Antiviolenza Donna](#) (Anti-violence Women) (1522). Operating 24/7 and free of charge, it was opened in 2006 and is run by the women's NGO [Telefono Rosa](#). The management of the helpline is opened to public tender by the Ministry of Equal Opportunity every three years; in 2013, Telefono Rosa took over running the helpline from the network "Arianna", funded by the women's NGO [Le Onde di Palermo](#). Fully funded by the state, the helpline provides multi-lingual support.

¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

In 2014, the national women's helpline received 41,897 calls, including 90% (or about 37,700 calls) from women.

Other helplines for victims

There are several additional national helplines for victims of crime in Italy. The general victims' helpline (113) connects callers to the Italian police. The national trafficking helpline 'Green Line' (800 290 290) exists since 2000; operating 24/7 and free of charge, it is run by the state. [Telefono Azzuro](#) runs several Children's helplines, including a free helpline for children (1 96 96), a helpline for teens and adults (199 15 15 15) and the Childhood Emergency Hotline (114). In addition, domestic violence helplines are available in several cities Italy, reachable through the number (140); free of charge, but not available 24/7, ten of these helplines are run by the state and 130 others are run by NGOs. In 2014, these domestic violence helplines received about 15,000 calls.

Women's Shelters

There are 66 women's shelters in Italy, with at least 627 shelter places available at 45 shelters. Six shelters are run by municipalities/local authorities, and the remaining shelters are run by independent women's organisations, and one is run by a faith-based organisation (Caritas Milano). At least 22 shelters provide 24/7 access and 30 run a 24/7 information and support helpline. Women may stay at shelters between three and six months. Most shelters provide direct access, however in recent years an increasing number of shelters have had to establish conditions for access – residence in the area/district/region, access through social service referral only, access for women with children only, among others – imposed by public institutions providing funding. All shelters are free of charge, however many NGO-run shelters would only be able to accept women if a governmental agency agrees to cover her hospitality costs; women with a certain level of income are often asked to cover part of their daily costs to the shelters. Over the last three years, three women's shelters had to close due to lack of funding; the last women's shelter was opened in 2014 by the NGO Demetra in the city of Lugo di Romagna.

In 2014, 681 women and 721 children were accommodated at 45 women's shelters that are part of the national network *Associazione Nazionale Donne in Rete contro la violenza - D.i.R.e.*

In addition, there are three shelters for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women, migrant and asylum seeking women in the cities of Reggio Emilia, Imola and Modena, one shelter for girls and young women victims of forced marriage, and 12 shelters for victims of trafficking.

Women's Centres

There are 140 women's centres providing non-residential support to women survivors of any kind of violence in Italy; 113 of these centres are run by NGOs, 19 are run by the state, and 8 are run by faith-based organisations. While the exact number of such services is not known, there are several women's centres for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women, as well as centres for women victims of trafficking. All the women's centres provide information and advice, counselling, advocacy and practical support with access to social rights (i.e. housing, income, health care) and legal advice. Some

only provide specialist support for children and family support, and cooperate with programmes for perpetrators of violence against women.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Italy, called *Associazione Nazionale Donne in Rete contro la violenza - D.i.R.e.* The network includes 73 members, all women's organisations running women's shelters and anti-violence centres in Italy. Formed in 2008 and based in Rome, the network conduct activities in the areas of public awareness, lobbying and advocacy, training, research and networking. In 2014, the network received EUR 66,747 in funding from various private donors and foundations for specific projects, and EUR 20,000 in membership fees.

Policy & Funding

The *Extraordinary Action Plan against gender and sexual violence in accordance with art.5 par. 1 Law Decree 14 August 2013 n.93 converted with amendments into Law 15 October 2013 n.119* (Piano di Azione Straordinario contro la violenza sessuale e di genere ai sensi dell'art 5 comma 1 D.L. 14 Agosto 2013 n. 93 convertito con modifiche nella legge del 15 Ottobre 2013 n 119) was launched in 2015 and covers a three-year period. The Plan addresses rape and sexual assault only marginally, and it does not provide for adequate financing of existing services or to create new services in the many regions where these are inexistent. While forced and early marriage is mentioned in the Plan, no particular measures are included. Conceived as an extraordinary measure provided for in a law decree addressing other subjects, the Plan generally fails to address the structural characteristics of violence against women and gender-based violence. Measures and interventions included in the Plan do not consider women's shelters and anti-violence centres as key actors in providing specialist support to survivors of violence, with a gender perspective.

The Department for Equal Opportunities – Presidency of the Council of Ministers – acts as coordinating body for the implementation of policies on VAW. This body has in practice little effectiveness, largely due to the failure of the President of the Council of Ministers to appoint a Minister with decision-making power. There is currently no national monitoring body entrusted with the evaluation of national strategies on VAW in Italy, and women's organisations are rarely invited to conduct such evaluation. Nonetheless, in 2014, a coalition of Italian women's NGOs (among which D.i.R.e.) submitted a Shadow Report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action covering 2009-2014, and including review of national strategies on VAW.

In 2014, funding for governmental activities to combat VAW equalled EUR 7 million, while very little funding was provided for NGOs activities through local regional governments; detailed information on funding for NGOs activities is not available, due to the budget being decentralized. State funding for women's organisations providing support is exclusively project-based.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The national women's network, along with most of the women's shelters and centres, and the national women's helpline conduct activities in the field of prevention, awareness-raising and

campaigning; besides the national women's helpline (1522), none of them received funding to carry out these activities in 2014.

Training

Most of the women's shelters and centres conduct trainings with a number of target groups: police, judiciary, civil servants, health professionals, psychologists, social workers, education professionals, media, and others.