

## **UPR of Italy**

**9 February 2010**

### **Statement by Norway**

Norway appreciates the role played by Italy in furthering the international human rights agenda, in particular the leadership assumed in the work towards the abolishment of the death penalty.

The active participation of civil society is essential to a meaningful UPR process. We recommend that Italy establish an effective and inclusive process to follow-up on UPR recommendations.

Norway attaches particular importance to the rights of the child. We recommend the adoption of a plan of action for children, including regarding poverty, detention and asylum issues. We recommend the establishment of an ombudsperson for children according to the Paris Principles.

We note the worrying tendency of racist motivated violence. Hostility against migrants, in particular Romanians, Roma and Sinti, has been sparked in part by several high profile crimes allegedly attributed to foreigners or Roma. We recommend that the Government strongly condemns the attacks on migrants, Roma and other ethnic minorities, that they be investigated fully by the police and that those responsible are brought to justice.

We also recommend that the Government condemn all racist and xenophobic statements, especially by public and elected officials, and make clear that racist discourse has no place in Italian society.

We have registered concern about the rising intolerance towards lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people in Italy and calls for more effective investigations and preventive measures. During the autumn of 2009 several homophobic attacks have been reported in Rome and other Italian cities, even though there are no official statistics on hate crimes targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We appreciate the newly launched campaign against homophobia. We recommend further campaigns to change homophobic attitudes in the society. We further recommend adequate protection of LGBT people, not only through police forces on the streets, but legally via anti-discrimination law.

In a classification of freedom of press from 2008, by Reporters sans Frontières, Italy fell to 49<sup>th</sup> place. Importantly, the RSF monitoring takes into account all aspects of freedom of expression such as: police interventions, censorship and threats, legislation and restrictions, threats against journalists from criminals, or killings and arrests. We recommend further measures to prevent and protect journalists from threats by criminal groups.