

Research on Italy

Including the following 5 indicators, total length around 2-3 pages
For the use of (digital) references, try to stick to APA 7
At the end list 3 Key Take-Aways

Indicator 1- **Existence of national policy documents on Human Rights:**

In 2018, The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) elected Italy as one of the 18 States responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights around the globe (UN, 2018). From 2019 to 2021 Italy is committed to encourage the advancement of human rights both at the national and international level. Italian actions to protect human rights are characterized by a particular attention to some priority issues (MAECI, 2020):

- 1) **Fight against all forms of discrimination-** Since 2011, Italy is part of the Global Equality Fund (GEF), an international cooperation platform to promote the exchange of information and good practices regarding the rights of LGBTI people.
- 2) **Universal moratorium on executions and death penalty-** In December 2018, Italy voted in favour of a resolution for a moratorium on the death penalty, adopted by the UN General Assembly.
- 3) **Promotion of women and girls' rights-** At national level, in December 2016, Italy ratified the third National Action Plan for the implementation of Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The Plan covers the 2016-2020 period and was elaborated with the participation of civil society movements.
- 4) **Protection and promotion of children's rights-** At the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in Geneva (9-12 December 2019), Italy expressed its commitment to guarantee UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000).
- 5) **Protection of freedom of religion, belief and the rights of members of religious minorities-** In 2013, Italy has adhered to the "EU Guidelines on the freedom of religion or belief".
- 6) **Fight against trafficking of human beings-** Italy is part of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the so-called Warsaw Convention of 2005 (Council of Europe, 2005).
- 7) **Promotion of the rights of people with disabilities-** Italy is a member of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (UN, 2006).
- 8) **Protection of cultural heritage-** In March 2017, Italy, together with France, promoted a Security Council Resolution to protect cultural heritage and fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural goods.
- 9) **Protection of human rights defenders-** Italy promotes the enforcement of EU (2016) and OSCE (2014) guidelines to promote and protect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all communities.

In addition, the Italian Government has implemented a series of initiatives and policy documents to encourage a more comprehensive education on human rights among students and young citizens. In 2018, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), in collaboration with The Ministry of Public Education (MIUR), encouraged educators to spread knowledge on the principles listed in the 'Responsibility to Protect (R2P) (MAECI, 2020). R2P implies a political commitment, endorsed by all member states of the United Nations in 2005, to protect freedom and fundamental rights (United Nations, 2020). It also highlights States' responsibility to establish and implement international principles to protect their citizens. From September 2020, education on civic and human rights will be compulsory for children aged between 3 and 18 years old. Starting from next academic year, law n° 29 of 2019 will be applied to sensitize children and adolescents to respect others and the environment (Tomasello, 2020). These activities will be customized

according to the students' age and they emphasize the necessity to consciously educate young generations on human rights, from a very early age and in a long-term perspective.

Indicator 2: Development of human rights policies in the past (if possible with future outlook):

The Constitution of the Italian Republic was enacted in January 1948. This document lists 139 articles which also aims at promoting and supporting human rights. Article 2 specifically focuses on "the inviolable rights of the person, both as an individual and in the social groups where human personality is expressed" (Senato Della Repubblica, 1947 p. 5). Additionally, The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) was ratified by Italy on October 26 1955.

Nowadays, the ECHR still plays an important role within the Italian landscape. For instance, Italy has recurrently been accused of violation of several clauses from the European Court of Human Rights in terms of migration, asylum policies and access to asylum procedure. In this regard, Amnesty International Italy (2019) has reported several measures implemented by the Italian Government to prevent people, rescued near the Italian coast, from disembarking in the country. For instance, under Giuseppe Conte's first political mandate, Law Decree 113/2018, abolished the humanitarian protection status to at least 24,000 people (Amnesty International Italy, 2019). These people have been deprived of their legal status and this limited their access to medical care, housing, social services, education and work, leaving them in a condition of vulnerability to exploitation and abuse (Amnesty International Italy, 2019).

The European Court of Human Rights has also highlighted violations of women's rights within the Italian context (ECHR, 2020). Articles 5 and 8 particularly defend the right to liberty and security within the family household (ECHR, 2020). According to The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Covid-19 has posed great challenges upon women who are victims of gender-based violence, due to the obligation of spending a lot of time in their houses with violent partners or relatives. During lockdown (March-May 2020) there were 5,031 calls to report on these issues, 73% more than in between March and May of 2019 (ISTAT, 2020). This outlines the need to implement specific policies to support and protect women.

Another violation relates to several cases of torture and violent treatments Italian policemen have exercised over prisoners. Article 13 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic punishes any kind of physical or moral violence against people who are subject to freedom restrictions (Senato Della Repubblica, 1947). However, several newspapers reported aggressive episodes against prisoners to placate protests and riots within Italian prisons after Covid-19 outbreak (Repubblica, 2020).

Indicator 3: Pro and Contra Voices for human rights policies (names organizations or industries):

Despite the wide array of policies and legal frameworks to promote human rights and guarantee their implementation, difficulties and controversies still persist in Italy. In addition, due to Covid-19 outbreak and its fast spread among Italian regions, the risks of leaving the most vulnerable populations behind have increased.

Immigrants and refugees have repeatedly been targeted by Italian right wing parties. Federal Secretary of Lega Nord, Matteo Salvini has recurrently stoked anti-immigrant fears, through the use of hegemonic slogans, such as "Italians first" (Coman, 2018). In November 2019, the Sardines movement (Italian: movimento delle sardine), also known as Sardines against Salvini (sardine contro Salvini), was founded as a grassroots political movement to protest against the right-wing predominance in the country and organise a series of peaceful demonstrations against Salvini's political rhetoric.

This movement has recently presented the idea of implementing a 'solidarity loan' to support those who have been strongly affected by the economic crisis, the current pandemic has triggered

(Venturi, 2020). According to this plan, everyone should donate 1% of their assets, based on income, to support all workers who would remain outside of institutional aids and subsidies, including undeclared workers, irregular migrants and a flood of people who will go into liquidity crisis. This would represent a first step to decrease inequalities and provide more individuals with the possibility to rise up.

The necessity to safeguard human rights during this crisis is an opportunity and, most importantly, an obligation. According to GreenPeace Italy, it is important to remind Italy of its responsibility, in terms of respect of human rights (Martone, 2020). The Italian Government must ensure, as also mentioned by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and UN Special Rapporteurs, that every measure taken to manage and counter the emergency is based in respect and promotion of human rights (Martone, 2020).

Indicator 4: **Application to sporting organizations:**

The use of sport as an instrument to promote human rights is gaining more recognition in Italy. Civil society movements and NGOs have implemented a wide array of initiatives which move in this direction. Amnesty International Italy, in collaboration with Sport4Society (<http://www.sport4society.org/>), has launched a contest to reward symbolic or concrete gestures in favor of human rights within the sport environment. Everyone can freely share a positive case study about an athlete, a team or a sport group that became an advocate for human rights and a promoter of sport's positive values.

Filippide Italy (<http://progettofilippide.com/>) is a project which aims at including children and adolescents with mild and severe cognitive disabilities in sport activities and competitions. The association's goal is to demonstrate how sport can become a functional tool for people with mental disabilities, to increase their confidence, improve their independence and support their social integration. Young athletes are assisted by educators, sport specialists and volunteers in order to share moments, experiences and improve their interpersonal skills.

These examples outline the crucial role of non-governmental organizations for the implementation of conscious and responsible sport programmes. There is however a lack in terms of policies and legal frameworks which specifically support the correlation between sport and human rights. Unlike other European constitutions, The Constitution of the Italian Republic, in its original text, does not explicitly deal with sports. Only in 2003, law 280/2003, in its first Article, recognized the role of sport and its jurisdictional autonomy (Sandulli, 2018). The question on how political institutions should responsibly support sport organizations remains open and calls for specific interventions to support the relationship between sport and human rights at the institutional level.

Indicator 5: **Additional relevant information**

Impactful story: Aboubakar Soumahoro is an Italian trade-unionist with Ivorian origins. In May 2020, he went on a hunger strike and chained himself to Villa Pamphili in Rome where Italian politicians were reunited to discuss economic issues, during the current pandemic. Aboubakar, through the campaign 'I am not invisible' (Italian: 'non sono invisibile') advocates for the protection of refugees and migrants, the support of workers who were impacted by Covid-19 outbreak and the end of exploitation towards migrant workers in the agricultural sector. His powerful message is a call to action for everyone to increase inclusion and equality at the national and international level. (<https://www.theafricareport.com/28771/aboubakar-soumahoro-the-ivorian-trade-unionist-shaking-up-italy/>).

Key Take-Aways:

1. Italy has implemented several policies and legal actions to promote human rights both at the national and international level. However, violations of human rights still persist within the Italian landscape and they call for more specific and flexible interventions to protect the 'so-called vulnerable populations'.
2. Covid-19 has increased past issues or raised new ones in terms of human rights. Several non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International and GreenPeace Italy, have raised their voices to protect human rights and raise awareness on the contemporary challenges.
3. In Italy, there is need for structured, systematic and institutional interventions to support the charities and organizations which persistently encourage the use of sport as a tool to implement and support human rights.

References:

- Amnesty International, (2019, October 1). *Al via la seconda edizione del premio "Sport e diritti umani"*. Amnesty International Italia. <https://www.amnesty.it/al-via-la-seconda-edizione-del-premio-sport-e-diritti-umani/>
- Amnesty International, (2019-2020). *Rapporto 2019-2020: Italia*. Amnesty International Italia. <https://www.amnesty.it/rapporti-annuali/rapporto-2019-2020/europa-e-asia-centrale/italia/>
- Coman, J. (2018, 1 December). *'Italians first': how the populist right became Italy's dominant force*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/01/italians-first-matteo-salvini-the-league-rise-rightwing-populism>
- Council of The European Union (2013, 24 June). *EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief*. EU. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137585.pdf
- Council of Europe (2005, 16 May). *Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*. EU. https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/cets_197.docx.pdf
- Death Penalty Information Center (2018, 18 December). *A Record 120 Nations Adopt UN Death-Penalty Moratorium Resolution*. DPIC. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/a-record-120-nations-adopt-un-death-penalty-moratorium-resolution>
- Della Repubblica, S. (1947). *Constitution of the Italian republic*. Senato Della Repubblica. https://www.senato.it/documenti/repository/istituzione/costituzione_inglese.pdf
- European Union, (2016, 21 June). *EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders*. EU. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/3958/EU%20Guidelines%20on%20Human%20Rights%20Defenders
- European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), (2020, February). *Italy*. ECHR. https://echr.coe.int/Documents/CP_Italy_ENG.pdf
- Liguori, M. & Mencocco, F. (2020, 14 April). *Coronavirus nel carcere di Caserta, i detenuti: «Massacrati in cella»*. Il Mattino. https://www.ilmattino.it/caserta/detenuti_massacrati_carcere-5168837.html
- Marrone, A. (2020, 10 February). *Una strategia per le missioni internazionali: Riconoscere il rischio e agire di conseguenza*. Istituto Affari Internazionali. <https://www.affarinternazionali.it/2020/02/militari-estero-riconoscere-rischio/>
- Martone, F. (2020, 7 April). *Covid19: Stato di emergenza e rispetto dei diritti umani*. GreenPeace Italia. <https://www.greenpeace.org/italy/storia/7222/covid19-stato-di-emergenza-e-rispetto-dei-diritti-umani/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), (2020). *Italy and Human Rights*. MAECI. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/politica_estera/temi_globali/diritti_umani/litalia_e_i_diritti_umani.html
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), (2020). *The international Humanitarian Law*. MAECI. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/temi_globali/diritti_umani/il_diritto_internazionale_umanitario.html
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), (2014, 10 June). *Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders*. OSCE. <https://www.osce.org/odihr/guidelines-on-the-protection-of-human-rights-defenders>
- Sandulli, P. (2018). *Costituzione e sport*. Coni. https://www.coni.it/images/rivistadiritto sportivo/dottrina/Piero_Sandulli_-_Sport_e_Costituzione_PDF.pdf
- The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), (2020, 1 March- 16 April). *Violenza di genere al tempo del covid-19: le chiamate al numero verde 1522*. ISTAT. <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/242841>

Tomasello, M. R. (2020, 25 June). *L'educazione civica in classe obbligatoria già dai tre anni*. La Stampa. <https://www.lastampa.it/cronaca/2020/06/25/news/l-educazione-civica-in-classe-obbligatoria-gia-dai-tre-anni-1.39006035>

UNESCO, (2017, 24 March). *UN Security Council adopts historic resolution for the protection of heritage*. UNESCO. <https://en.unesco.org/news/security-council-adopts-historic-resolution-protection-heritage>

United Nations, (1989). *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. UN. <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>

United Nations, (2000, 25 May). *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*. UN. <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/tools-for-action/optional-protocol/>

United Nations, General Assembly (2006). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs Disability. December 2006, New York.

United Nations, (2018, 12 October). *General Assembly Elects 18 Member States to Human Rights Council, Allowing Vote by 3 Member States in Article 19 Exemption over Financial Dues*. UN. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12077.doc.htm>

United Nations, (2020). *Responsibility to Protect*. UN. <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/about-responsibility-to-protect.shtml>

US Department of State, (2019, 18 March). *Global Equality Fund*. United States Government. <https://www.state.gov/global-equality-fund/>

Venturi, I. (2020, 6 April). *Coronavirus, le Sardine propongono il prestito di solidarietà*. la Repubblica. https://bologna.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/06/news/coronavirus_le_sardine_propongono_il_prestito_di_solidarieta_-_253288520/