



child rights connect
formerly the ngo group for the crc

CASE STUDY 6

Italy Annual Report

Concluding Observations Follow-up Case Studies: To promote a cyclical approach to engaging in the reporting process of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) and encourage NGOs to use the Committee's recommendations to the fullest in their advocacy work, Child Rights Connect has put together a series of case studies on follow-up activities conducted by NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions. For more examples of follow-up activities, please visit www.childrightsconnect.org.

ORGANISATION:

Gruppo di Lavoro per la Convenzione sui Diritti dell'Infanzia e dell'Adolescenza (Gruppo CRC)

ABSTRACT:

The coalition, Gruppo CRC, produces an annual follow-up report on priority issues identified and highlighted in the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

OBJECTIVE:

A systematic and comprehensive analysis of the child rights situation in Italy to contribute to, and campaign for, changes in policies and practices, as well as legal reforms, in order to make a real improvement to the status of all children in Italy.

TIMELINE:

2000 – On-going

PROCESS:

PHASE 1: SET PRIORITIES

Goal: To choose the main topics to focus on in the report.

- Select issues considered to be a priority in order to obtain the most extensive data possible on a subject.

→ **TIP:** Use the concluding observations and the expertise of coalition members to set priorities.

PHASE 2: DRAFT REPORT

Goal: To collect information from coalition members to prepare the report.

- Prepare guidelines for monitoring the CRC for members of the coalition.
- Put together a template for NGOs to fill out and describe the issues to be analysed.
- Agree upon including new themes during plenary session of the coalition.
- Create working groups (one for each theme) composed of NGOs working on the same issue and identify a group leader.
- Working groups prepare draft paragraphs by email with concrete recommendations.
- Submit final paragraphs to the report coordinator who assembles the report.
- Approval of draft report by coalition members.

→ **TIP:** Work together regularly to understand each other's approaches better. This will assist in finding compromise and obtaining the strongest possible message as a network.

PHASE 3: LAUNCH REPORT

Goal: To launch the report in order to ensure its wide distribution at national level.

- Distribute the report both in hard copy and electronically.
- Organise a public launch to present the results of the report.
- Present the report to Parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Ombudsman.
- Ensure that all national and governmental institutions receive a copy of the report.
- Provide local authorities with copies of the report.
- Provide all members of the coalition and UNICEF with copies of the report so that they can distribute them to their local offices.

→ **TIP:** Participate in children's rights events organised by the government and use this opportunity to distribute the report and add civil society's point of view to the discussions at the event.

PHASE 4: USE REPORT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Goal: To seek opportunities where information from the annual report may be relevant.

- Individual NGOs can use relevant sections of the report to lobby government to make changes.
- Submit relevant paragraphs of the annual report to other international human rights bodies such as other treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council.

→ **TIP:** Prepare the annual report in the national language to have the broadest impact nationally, but submit abstracts or summaries in English to international bodies.

OUTCOME:

Produced five annual follow-up reports on the monitoring of the CRC in Italy. Each report has covered more issues as the breadth and depth of the coalition has expanded.

IMPACT:

The report is an opportunity to expose the shortcomings of the Italian system and to undertake an ongoing and constructive debate with public stakeholders that are in charge of children's rights and responsible for the implementation of the rights enshrined in the CRC. The report is seen as a useful reference tool for parliamentarians and officials.

CHALLENGES:

STRONG RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Although the ultimate goal is the implementation of the recommendations into national law and policies, most of the recommendations have not been followed-up by the government. Strong relations with governmental bodies are crucial and need to be built, which at times can be challenging, especially due to the high turnover of government officials.

GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS

The coalition is dominated by NGOs located in the north of Italy, which makes it difficult to obtain data from the south of the country. Some big NGOs have branches or projects throughout Italy, but the amount and quality of information obtained is not consistent.

STRUCTURE OF THE COALITION

The democratic structure of the coalition prevents it from lobbying the government on specific issues. Individual NGOs use the annual report, however, to support their advocacy and lobbying work on specific issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STEPS:

MEDIA COVERAGE

Try to get media coverage and public attention in order to make the content of the report and the coalition more visible throughout the country.

INCREASED REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Develop web-based tools to make content and data from the report more readily available.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Arianna Saulini

T: +39 6 4807001

E: info@gruppocrc.net

W: <http://www.gruppocrc.net>