

The first would make it an offence for anyone in Ireland to organize travel abroad for child sex tourism; the second would extend the application of national criminal law to acts by Irish citizens involving foreign children abroad.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, para. 37) notes that sexual abuse of children has received increasing media attention, especially in connection with allegations of sexual abuse of children by orphanage staff and members of the Roman Catholic clergy. The report notes that, in at least three cases, the clergy have pleaded guilty and several other cases remain pending.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV.B)

The report notes that the use of laws against loitering and curb crawling in Ireland increases the danger of violence against prostitutes, since they have less time to assess potential risks and negotiate safe sex. Further, the report notes that such policies relegate prostitution to the private sphere where violence and abuse can be officially discounted.

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ITALY

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Italy has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 18 January 1967; ratified: 15 September 1978.

Italy's third periodic report was due 30 June 1996.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 18 January 1967; ratified: 15 September 1978.

Italy's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/103/ADD.4) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; Italy's fifth periodic report is due 31 December 2000.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 5 of article 9; paragraph 4 of article 12; paragraphs 3 and 5 of article 14; paragraph 1 of article 15; paragraph 3 of article 19; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Signed 30 April 1976; ratified: 15 September 1978.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Signed: 13 February 1990; ratified 14 February 1995.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 13 March 1968; ratified: 5 January 1976.

Italy's 10th periodic report was due 4 February 1995; the 11th periodic report was due 4 February 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs (a) and (b) of article 4; article 6.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 10 June 1985.

Italy's fourth periodic report is due 10 July 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: General reservation on signature.

Italy's second and third periodic reports were submitted as one document (CEDAW/C/ITA/2) which was considered by the Committee at its July 1997 session.

The Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/1997/II/L.1/Add.6; C/1997/II/L.1/Add.6) welcomed the establishment of the Ministry of Equal Opportunities as a coordinating ministry and expressed appreciation of the efforts of that office related to gender mainstreaming in the legal, institutional and social aspects of life in Italy. The Committee commended the 7 March 1997 Directive of the Prime Minister to focus on gender issues across a wide spectrum of activities.

The Committee noted efforts to enact legislation against discrimination and welcomed the introduction of the draft Domestic Violence Act into the Parliament, viewing the Act as complementary to the 1996 Violence Act. The Committee also welcomed: the gender-sensitization and awareness-raising efforts of the government aimed at the elimination of xenophobia and racism; the promotion of the role of women as peacekeepers in different parts of the world; the commitment made, and the steps taken to confront acts of violence against women allegedly perpetrated by Italian soldiers during peacekeeping missions; efforts by the Ministry of Equal Opportunities to ensure gender mainstreaming in the planned welfare reform by moving the focus from the "male breadwinner regime" to respond better to the needs of the elderly, particularly women; the gains made by women in education and occupational fields, significantly enhancing women's economic independence and contributing to their de facto equality in many respects; and, efforts by the government to promote entrepreneurship among women through provision of credit and via monitoring and coordination of the activities of different public and private agencies in that field. The Committee acknowledged the progressive and humane provisions of Italy's immigration law, and expressed appreciation for those provisions in immigration legislation that were protective of the human rights of immigrant women.

Referring to factors impeding full implementation of the Convention and achieving de facto equality in Italian society, the Committee noted the persistence of significant cultural, social and economic differences and inequalities that exist between the north and south and the feminization of poverty, indicated by data showing that over 60 per cent of families headed by women live under the poverty line.

Among the principal subjects of concern, the Committee noted: the inadequacy of efforts to combat stereotypes through education and other public means; lack of a substantial initiative to rid textbooks and teaching materials of stereotypes and/or make women and their contributions to history and society more visible and apparent; the persistence of patriarchal norms and stereotypes in Italian society and the relative lack of attention to this area in government policies and by governmental officials; the fact that the government's attitudes and actions aimed at "utilizing women's own resources" potentially reinforced and glorified stereotypical roles of women, and impeded the realization of de facto equality; the limited presence of women in politics and decision-making positions and the decline in political participation in recent years; the fact that the government's opinion that the adoption of numerical goals and quotas was