

Italy: Istanbul Convention: a "road map" to interpret the solutions to violence.

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Also member of DiRe, Donne in Rete, an Italian ONG that now has the consultative status with ECOSOC at the UN

The Council of Europe Convention entered into force on August 1st, 2014. One might think that women will be less at risk of suffering violence, those who are already victims will be more protected, Justice will be quicker in having to do with these cases and more certain, children more aware of the risks that undermine in misogynous and odd relationships and who abuses, the stalkers and rapists finally change register, they will help and will stop to rape and kill women.

But **gender-based violence isn't a fairy tale**, for centuries exists and persists. It was never cleared with the entry into force of a rule, or by introducing only partly effective policy with counter-action and prevention, although prudent from international organizations. An evidence is that if in 2014 still we need a Convention that's so well articulated to remind us what and how many areas on which operate for a true structural change in contrast to gender-based violence, this means that even if the road is built, still must be traveled (Baldry, 2014). To date, has Italy all the cards in good standing, is ready? Last year ratified the Convention, has hastily put together rules on so-called femicide (Law 119/2013) in order to respond to some of the articles ratified in the Convention, putting in a broader Decree-Law 93/13 containing rules on the protection of order and public security, Civil Protection and for the extension of the compulsory administration of provinces. Sure, has respected what is required in some of the articles ratified in the Convention, on the other has yet to engage: the society, the Government, everyone.

But let's see the positive and examine, in accordance with the Convention, what is done, what is being done and what routes should be still undertaken to satisfy the provisions of the Convention **to engage gender-based violence in a really structural way** and not sporadic and limited or based on emotional waves of the moment or trends.

I have tried to draft a 'road-map', here below presented. Of all the articles of the Convention who wish to prevent violence, protect victims, prosecute offenders and control what is happen, we pause now on what are the services required by the Convention and whether, what we have, is enough so that the much desired and required by law the national anti-violence plan, which was to be ready in January 2014, expects its drafting, we hope to be done taking into account of the important work of inter-ministerial tables to which even the voluntary sector and civil society have taken part, and of the professionalism that is involved many years in this issues.

The work of the groups was the result of a comparison of who for years taking care these issues, and then ten-year work of who goes about gender-based violence (*DiRe*, www.direcontrolaviolenza.it). Another crucial node is on expected resources and who target. It seems that the Government has delegated to Regions the management of the resources. But the same Convention says Governments must identify and support the activities of NGOs, non-governmental organization, our anti-violence centers, whose have like statutory mandate the contrast and the prevention of gender-based violence, rather than trying to do number indicating

services that don't have experience, peculiarity and professionalism to promise an efficient allocation of resources. **You don't become experts on these issues in a few months**, reading a book or taking part in a course; it takes professionalism, experience in case management and relations with the institutions.

A Government that takes care about spending public money efficiently knows that should give them to whom these results to reduce gender-based violence, to save the lives, to prevent it, can promise them, otherwise it will be like throwing them in the wind. It are scattered and often lost.

The road-map which I propose lists services offered, needs and who are the beneficiaries of these services.

Italian Road Map on services provided by Istanbul Convention

SERVICE required by the CoE Convention	Services	Functioning	Room of improvements	Target and beneficiaries
Telephone helplines (art. 24)	<p><i>There are two types of hotlines that need to be taken into consideration.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Emergency hotline available 24-hours, 7 days.. A free of charge telephone number easy to remember and to dial that a victim or anyone needing information can dial 24h to provide crisis support, first-hand information on what to do, where to go to get help, legal advice, shelter.</i> - <i>A 24h number in each shelters/antiviolence counseling center that victims in need or the police or the hospital can contact to provide support or in most at risk cases shelter for those victims in need.</i> 	<p>The number 1522 of the Department for equal opportunities where you raise information on anti-violence centers. Even the individual phone anti-violence Centers can responds to victims ' questions, but if the center based only on voluntary work, hours are reduced</p>	<p>Continue to sponsor the number 1522 as well as local centers to have a constant availability.</p>	<p>Victims, volunteers, operators</p>
Immediate police [law enforcement] protection (art 50.1)	<p><i>Special police units with specialized personnel for the investigation stage, interviewing as well as for immediate intervention. Dedicated courts, magistrates specifically dealing with these cases</i></p>	<p>All police forces Italy, the State Police before, from 1996 and the carabinieri afterwards have established specialized units for dealing with cases of violence against women and children through training paths constants. By 10 years at central level (DCPC and DAC) and in the last 2 years the Higher Education Institutions of State Police and even the were and are equipping for the training on gender-based violence. It is estimated that on this subject were formed at least 5000 units. Also the Carabinieri, the other police forces, have developed training protocols. The subject of gender-based violence is the subject of</p>	<p>Training and updating must be constants without requiring the spending review and there is a risk of seeing extinct specialized stages units. Development of strategies to recognize the risk factors for a better protection of victims and the application of new legislative provisions. Significant improvements were introduced with the 119/2013 but must convert into operation. Systematize between law enforcement and the judiciary on the risk assessment method to enhance the female staff in strategic offices to management such cases.</p>	<p>Law enforcement agency, women victims of violence, victims</p>

		<p>professional update in some central police stations and on central format. Virtuous examples in some central police stations also for the first 113 intervention relating to “quarrels in the family”.</p>		
<p>Specialist support service: Health care for treatment of injuries (art 20.2)</p>	<p><i>In addition to general services open for the public at large, specialist support service financed by the government / run by NGOs that are exclusively for victims of GBV and DV</i></p>	<p>In Milan there is the first-aid clinic SVS SVD, whose model has expanded into various territorial realities. It was created the Code Pink women's Difference, first at the general hospital Umberto I of Rome and rapidly spread throughout Italy, so a woman victim of violence follows a dedicated path both in terms of both social and psychological doctor.</p>	<p>In all hospitals and those that serve as fitting, this procedure also should be inserted in order to the investigation. Training for socio-health workers.</p>	<p>Socio-health workers, victims of domestic violence</p>
<p>Post-rape care (art 25)</p>	<p><i>Health treatment as immediate intervention for treating any injuries. Specific immediate forensic examination procedure and kits to collect evidence. Short and long-term counseling. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Therapy, debriefing.</i></p>	<p>Available in some territorial realities h24, with availability of facilities and qualified personnel. Post-trauma counselling service offered by some specific anti-violence centres for cases of sexual violence.</p>	<p>Dissemination the process throughout the national territory, inserting it in the Emergency Protocol. Specialized centres for cases of rape. Strengthening of anti-violence centres. Family support service</p>	<p>Victims of sexual violence and Domestic abuse</p>
<p>Counseling (art 20.1)</p>	<p><i>Psycho-social support service for helping victims understand what they need to live a life free from violence and what they can do. Legal and psychological counseling</i></p>	<p>This is the work that the anti-violence centers adhering to "DiRe" safeguard, the only ones that meet these criteria to make them efficient and effective in the treatment of cases of gender-based violence. Activity of welcome of women victims of violence. Take on responsibility of women victims of violence. Social secretariat of information.</p>	<p>Existing anti-violence centres should be strengthened (e.g. promise structured and constant financial support) and promise constant aperture not based only on voluntary work. Create new where don't exist.</p>	<p>Female victims of male violence</p>

<p>Shelter and alternative safe housing (art 20.1 and 23)</p>	<p><i>A shelter is intended appropriate, easy accessible places where victims can find immediate protection and accommodation 24h. In these dedicated services/places the various problems these victims face must be addressed</i></p>	<p>These are the current anti-violence centres with hospitality, managed by non-profit associations with only female staff accessible 24 HR/7days. Their distribution on the Italian territory isn't homogeneous. Turn over to avoid the burn out. Anti-violence centres despite having a cost to the State produce a savings due to high social cost of violence</p>	<p>Anti-violence centres h24/7 days must be vouch for, at last, in every provincial capital. The anti-violence workers are able to provide immediate information about the choices that the woman is forced to do and put it in a position to choose</p>	<p>Women victims and their children</p>
<p>Legal aid (art 20.1 and 57)</p>	<p><i>Civil, penal and administrative and related to immigration, legal consultancy and legal assistance free of charge or under some facilitating condition for all victims of gender based violence and domestic violence. This is so that victims who have already suffered material, physical and psychological damages do not have to suffer extra financial burden.</i></p>	<p>Free legal aid with Law 119/2013 has been extended to any victim of gender-based violence so requests regardless of income.</p>	<p>Free legal support should be in all legal sectors and for all degrees of judgment and streamlined procedure.</p>	<p>Victims and their families (sometimes also target them to violence)</p>
<p>Prevention and treatment services (art. 16)</p>	<p><i>Prevention can be primary (for those who have not yet been involved in violence); secondary prevention to prevent revictimization; Tertiary prevention to avoid damage from the violence and PTSD. Prevention should be done in schools and via media campaigns for increasing general awareness. Treatment for offenders within the correctional system and in the community for released offenders.</i></p>	<p>School activities were made in different regions but always restricted to the funds and management priorities (e.g. Foundation Solidea, province of Rome) and DiRe network centres. There are numerous campaigns published by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the anti-violence centers for raising awareness on the issue of violence. The treatment of the guilty is an initial form on the Italian territory with some interesting experiences. In prisons by the CIPM Association, and by other centers. "Maschile Plurale" and Foundation Solidea also have an experimental service for taking on responsibility of men who have problems with violence in relationships. Interesting monitoring of the Association "Le Nove". Experimentation of DAP with the Department of</p>	<p>Activation of the Ministry of education for the development of systematic prevention strategies throughout the territory. Interventions on school curricula for a non-sexist culture. Higher education, at the central level. Would require an assessment of the impact, the effectiveness of the interventions made by a longitudinal monitoring.</p>	<p>Children, adolescents, women victims of violence and authors</p>

		psychology of SUN and Racis, CC.		
Data collection and research (art. 11)	<i>A dedicated survey with a representative sample of women interviewed with the CATI method (using the WHO questionnaire)</i> <i>A national database with reported cases of violence against women and domestic violence</i>	Istat in 2007 began the first survey focused on violence against women and interviewed 25,000 women. In 2014 is expected to be the end of the second dedicated survey. “DiRe” in taking on responsibility of around 14000 cases per year, develop statistics which are based on data entries; given the wealth of such data, they could complete official data, being often women who don’t have turn to institutions, whose element would be submerged.	The survey every five years must be included in the national plan. Support for university research to better study the mechanisms of violence, risk factors and strategy of effective risk management, for the development of effective law incisive tools.	Adult Italian population (female)

Note: the term ' victim ' is used in the sense of this Convention, understood as the person to whom is addressed the violence.