SEI ARRIVATO IN ITALIA!

YOU'VE ARRIVED IN ITALY!



Edited by

CIR
CONSIGLIO ITALIANO PER I RIFUGIATI ONLUS

With the support of

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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Plurilingual informative brochure for unaccompanied and separated children who arrived in Italy, elaborated under the framework of the project "Strengthening guardianship system in Sicily and legal information at the northeast border" carried out by the Italian Council for Refugees in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

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WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN ITALY...

If you have fled from your country or you were in danger in your country of origin or in the countries you have travelled through, you can ask for protection in Italy. Tell the people in uniform (members of the Police Forces) immediately.

If you are less than 18 years old, if you were born in a country outside the European Union and you are in Italy without your parents or another adult member of your family, for Italian law you are an unaccompanied foreign child and you have the right to be protected. You cannot be rejected or expelled and you can stay in Italy legally at least until you become of age (18 years old).

When you arrive in Italy you could be stopped by people in uniform (members of the Police Forces). If you are not stopped, approach them and speak to them as soon as possible. Do not be afraid. Tell them immediately that you are less than 18 years old and ask them for help. They are there to listen to you and to help you.

The people in uniform will ask you your first name and your surname, how old you are and where you were born. It is important that you tell them the truth. In Italy, it is a criminal offence to lie to people in uniform and you can be punished even if you are under age. If you do not understand what the people in uniform say or write, ask them for more information with the help of an interpreter/ cultural mediator who speaks your language and make sure with his or her help that your data are written correctly.

If you have documents, show them to the people in uniform immediately. If you have a passport, it might be withheld but they must give you a copy. Ask for the full name of the person who withholds the document, as well as the place and date, to be indicated on the copy.

If you are 14 years old or more, they will take photographs of you and your fingerprints. If you are less than 14 years old the people in uniform are not allowed to take your fingerprints.

After identifying you, the people in uniform will take you to a reception centre for children and youngsters.

If you are incorrectly identified as a person of at least 18 years of age and you are taken to a reception centre for adults, tell the operators of the centre immediately: they will help you to be identified correctly and to be transferred to a reception centre for under-age people.



If you are 18 years old or more and you have been incorrectly identified as an under-age person and taken to a reception centre for children, tell the operators of the centre who will explain your rights and your duties to you and the consequences of the correction of your identity data. **Remember that declaring false data is a crime and will be punished.**



Adults and under-age people have different needs and living together in the same centre can cause problems for both of them.



IF IT IS NECESSARY TO CHECK THAT YOU ARE UNDER-AGE...

If you have no documents and the people in uniform (members of the Police Forces) are not convinced that you are less than 18 years old:

- You can ask them to have your documents sent from your country or from the embassy of your country. If you do not want your embassy to be contacted because you are afraid, tell the members of the Police Forces immediately and they will not contact the embassy.

- The people in uniform may ask the judicial authority to check your age.

The people in uniform must explain to you, with an interpreter/cultural mediator, how the judicial authority checks your age.

The judicial authority, with your consent, can order your age to be checked. Speak about this with the operators of the reception centre and with your guardian!

When your age is checked you have the right to be accompanied, according to law, by the person in charge of the reception centre to which you have been taken, or by your guardian (see below for the description of the role of guardian), but you may also be left alone. In any case, an interpreter/cultural mediator must always be with you to explain what the procedure consists of. If no one has explained it to you, ask what they are going to do and why.

You have the right to have a copy of the result of the examination in a language that you understand.

If, after the examination, it is found that you are under-age, you can continue to stay in a reception centre for unaccompanied foreign children.

However, if it is found that you are at least 18 years old, you can apply to one of the organisations that deal with foreign adults and, if you think that the result of the check is incorrect, you can appeal against the decision with the assistance of a lawyer.



RECEPTION CENTRE FOR UNDER-AGE PEOPLE... WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE CENTRE...

You might be transferred from a first reception centre to another for unaccompanied foreign children located somewhere else, after a few hours or a few days.

When you arrive at the reception centre, the operators with a cultural mediator will inform you of your rights and duties in Italy and they will ask you questions about yourself, your family, your life in your country of origin, the reasons for leaving your family and your country and about your journey from your home.
You must not be frightened by all these questions. The people who will take care of you need to get to know you and to understand how they can help you.

The operators of the centre will take photographs of you and then they will take you to the Police Headquarters, who will identify you again, take your fingerprints and give you a stay permit.

The stay permit is a document that indicates your identity. You must always keep it with you, or at least a copy of the permit, and you must show it to anyone in uniform if they ask to see it.
The stay permit proves that you have the right to stay in Italy and it gives you access to a series of services such as the issue of a tax number and medical care, and to enroll in Italian language courses and/or professional training courses and to take part in sports activities, etc.

At the reception centre you may be given pocket money. Pocket money varies from one centre to another. Pocket money is not a right.
It is a contribution and a tool for instruction and integration.

To have a mobile phone is not a right. You will be able to contact your family members by the instruments of the reception centre. In some cases the use of your mobile phone may be controlled or limited for your protection. A mobile phone is a useful tool, but sometimes it can be dangerous and it can even become a risk for your safety.

If you have problems or are afraid of someone, speak to someone that you trust. Do not be afraid to speak. The operators of the centre and your guardian are there to listen to you and to help you.
Everything you tell the operators is private and will remain confidential.

Remember that in Italy, men and women have the same rights. In Italy no one can deny your rights because you are female.

Be patient: it is a long process!



WHAT IS A GUARDIAN?

If you are less than 18 years old and you are in Italy without your parents or another adult member of your family to look after you and to help you to take the best decisions for you, the Juvenile Court will choose a guardian for you.
Your guardian is an adult who is independent from the reception centre. He/she will represent you, accompany you and help you in some situations contemplated by law, and he/she will sign certain documents for you, for example in the case of the identity check and/or medical examinations and/or medical treatment, enrollment in a school, the procedure for international protection, etc.
Your guardian will come to the reception centre to get to know you and you will meet him/her again whenever necessary.
You are not obliged to always keep in contact with your guardian.
It may take time for the Juvenile Court to appoint a guardian for you. Until a guardian is appointed for you, the person in charge of the centre will be your temporary guardian.



THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

If you are in contact with your family members, you can speak to them to tell them that you are well, and you can speak to them regularly with the help of the operators of the centre. If you are not in contact with your family, but you know how to contact your relatives, ask the operators of the centre to help you to contact them.

If you are not in contact with your family members for any reason, for example because you were separated from them during the journey, tell the people in uniform or the operators of the reception centre immediately and they will help you to find your family.

If you have family members (mother, father, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin) who could look after you in Italy or in another European country and if you want to join them, the operators will explain how you can join them safely and they will help you to do so.



WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

You have the right to be informed and to participate in all the health, administrative and judicial procedures regarding you.

If you are not well, tell the operators of the reception centre. You have the right to immediately receive the medical/psychological treatment you need. In Italy there are male and female doctors. You can ask to be examined by a doctor of your same gender. An interpreter/cultural mediator who speaks your language should be present during the medical examination to explain to you what is happening if necessary.

You have the right to be informed on your rights by the operators and by a cultural mediator.

You have the right to be heard and to express your opinion

on your life project in Italy. However, this does not mean that all your requests and expectations can be satisfied.



You have the right to have your culture, your language and your religion respected.



You have the right to go to school to learn the Italian language and to attend professional training courses that will help you find a job when you reach the age of 18. However, the choice of training courses depends on those available in the area in the period following your arrival, and on your knowledge of the Italian language as well as your educational level.



Remember that if you do not speak Italian well, you always have the right to ask for an interpreter/cultural mediator who will help you to understand what is happening and who will translate for you.



NOT ONLY RIGHTS, BUT ALSO DUTIES...

It is your duty to respect the laws and rules of Italy, your host country.
In Italy people who are at least 14 years old are directly responsible for any criminal offences they commit. A criminal offence is an action that is forbidden by Italian law, and if you commit a criminal offence you will be punished under the Italian criminal code. The purpose of the punishment is to re-educate you, which means to make you understand the seriousness of your bad behaviour so that you will not repeat it.
If you commit a criminal offence, it may have a negative effect on your right to obtain or to renew your stay permit.

It is your duty to respect the rules of the reception centre and to respect the people who are helping you. Rules are necessary to live together peacefully with all the people at the centre, and they are also tools to help you to become an adult person and to live in an independent and responsible way when you leave the reception centre.



In Italy everyone must go to school until they are 16 years old! In any case, it is your duty to attend the Italian language courses and the other training courses that are proposed to you.



It is your duty to respect the culture, the language and the religion of all persons.



THE POSSIBLE LEGAL PATHWAYS...

In order to choose the most adequate legal pathway according to your situation, it is fundamental that you collaborate when presenting your personal and family history to the operators and to the people in uniform (members of the Police Forces)

Stay permit for under-age persons and its conversion

Just because you have arrived in Italy as an under-age person, you have the right to a stay permit for "under-age persons".

In Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, a stay permit for under-age persons does not give you the possibility to work.

When you reach the age of 18, you may obtain a stay permit for study/work/future employment.

It is your right to receive information on how to convert your under-age stay permit and what documents are necessary, and to be helped by the operators of the reception centre to carry out the conversion procedure.

ATTENTION: if you do not request the issue of new

document within 60 days from reaching the age of 18, your presence in Italy will be irregular and you will not be able to remain here.

Access to the international protection procedure

If you have left your country of origin and you cannot return, or do not want to return, because you are afraid of being persecuted, or you risk being punished and cruelly mistreated either physically and/or emotionally because of your culture, language and/or religion or because you express your political opinion, and the authorities of your country do not offer you protection, or because you risk losing your life because of a situation of indiscriminate violence in your country, you have the right to apply for international protection.

Ask the operators for more information on this topic. They will explain the procedure for applying for international protection to you, and your guardian will accompany you to the Police Headquarters to apply for international protection.

Access to the procedure for recognition as a stateless person

If you cannot have identity documents in the country in which you were born and/or lived and no country recognises you as its citizen, you are a stateless person and you have the right to be recognised as such and to be granted adequate protection.

Ask the operators for information and they will explain to you what it means to be stateless, and the procedure for obtaining recognition of your stateless condition and they will accompany you, together with your guardian, to

carry out the procedures, with the assistance of a lawyer, if necessary.



Access to social protection

ATTENTION: if there are people who have exploited you, or who intend to exploit you, who threaten to harm you or your family and who want to force you to do things that you do not want to do, such as for example: to be a prostitute, to sell drugs, to steal, to beg, to wash car windscreens at traffic lights, or to work in the agricultural sector for long hours and very low pay, there are qualified people in Italy who can help you.
Speak to a person you trust or call the toll free number 800 290 290. You will be given the help you need.



Assisted voluntary return

If you think you have made a big mistake in leaving your family and your country and you want to go back, ask the operators of the centre and they will give you the information you need to return home safely.



USEFUL E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS that you can call at any moment, also if you are alone, in case of need or emergency...

The Carabinieri (law enforcement)	**112**	Child emergency	**114**
The Police	**113**	Medical emergency	**118**

...or even to obtain more information and possible assistance

Anti-human trafficking toll free number	**800 290 290**
ARCI (cultural and social association) toll free number for Asylum Seekers and Beneficiaries of International Protection	**800 905 570**
ARCI toll free number calling from mobile phone via Lycamobile	**+39 351 137 6335**
JUMA Refugees Map Service	https://www.jumamap.com/
Anti-racial discrimination toll free number	**800 901 010**
UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Regional Office for Southern Europe	**+39 06 802121** itaro@unhcr.org
Italian Council for Refugees - CIR	**+39 06 69200114** cir@cir-onlus.org
CIR Gorizia	gorizia@cir-onlus.org
CIR Catania	catania@cir-onlus.org
The Regional Authority of Friuli Venezia Giulia for the Protection of Children's and Adolescents' Rights	by appointment: **+30 04 81386261** cr.organi.garanzia@regione.fvg.it
The Regional Authority of Sicily for the Protection of Children's and Adolescents' Rights	garanteinfanziasicilia@gmail.com


SOS





"FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER LEAVING HOME I FELT SAFE, AND THIS IS SOMETHING I WILL NEVER FORGET"

Oumer, 16 years old, *Guinea Conakry*

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