



2026 - 2028

**ITALY FOR THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
Human Rights for Peace



CANDIDATURE OF ITALY TO  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 2026-2028

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**FOR PEACE**


**AND DEVELOPMENT**

Italy is proud to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for 2026–2028.

The protection and promotion of human rights constitute one of the main priorities of Italy's foreign policy, based on the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of human rights.

Italy will continue with determination to promote a constructive and inclusive approach to Human Rights, focusing on ownership by local actors and on cooperation with civil society organizations.

Situations of conflict and instability, poverty, underdevelopment have negatively impacted the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide, exacerbating pre-existing forms of discrimination and situations of vulnerability. Against this background, Italy will continue to support the efforts of the Human Rights Council.



Italy is committed to promoting and protecting Human Rights: civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. As a member of the HRC, it will continue constructively to work to:

- streamline Human Rights promotion and protection in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and in long-term peaceful conflict settlement;
- further improve the effectiveness of the UPR process;
- support the Special Procedures and Interactive Dialogues in the HRC;
- prevent and combat international crimes and impunity;
- support a prompt response to serious Human Rights violations;
- promote Human Rights education and awareness-raising campaigns;
- ensure that, even under exceptional circumstances human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully respected, with special regard for the most vulnerable categories;
- enhance the role and participation of civil society.





# FIGHT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

**Discrimination is a threat to the full enjoyment of Human Rights.** Italy is strongly engaged in combatting racism, xenophobia, intolerance and all forms of violence and discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation. Italy will work to further prevent and combat the dissemination of hate speech, both on- and offline.



# WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Ensuring women's rights and increasing the focus on **women's meaningful participation** at all levels of society is essential to making our societies more prosperous, inclusive and resilient. Italy will thus:

- do more to empower women and girls and to advance their enjoyment of Human Rights **in line with the 2030 Agenda**;
- continue to work to prevent and combat violence **against women in all its forms**;
- continue its strong engagement in international campaigns for the **eradication of female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage**, and in supporting international initiatives for the **prevention of sexual violence in conflict and emergency situations**.

Italy attaches great importance to the full implementation of the **"Women, Peace and Security" Agenda**.







# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Italy prioritizes **the rights of children, especially those in situations of vulnerability**, such as children at risk of poverty and social exclusion, children victims of all forms of violence and exploitation, including in the digital environment, and children in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

Italy will continue to **prevent and combat child pornography, sexual abuse and trafficking** and take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for serious violations.

Italy actively supports international initiatives aimed at **preventing and combatting the involvement of children in armed conflict**. Italy will **continue to promote education for all children, adolescents and young people, including in conflict situations**, enabling them to become agents of positive change.



**ENGAGEMENT**

**AGAINST**

**THE DEATH PENALTY**

The establishment of a universal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition, is one of Italy's top priorities. Italy actively supports the adoption of the biennial resolution of the UN General Assembly, by raising awareness among third countries and promoting initiatives with civil society organizations and partner countries. Italy will strengthen its efforts, encouraging national debates on the possibility of moving away from capital punishment.





# FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF AND PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

Italy is devoted to promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including media freedom, and the rights of journalists.

Italy is working to enhance international action for the protection and promotion of freedom of religion or belief and the rights of persons belonging to all religious minorities. We support initiatives aimed at promoting pluralism, inclusion, tolerance, as well as interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as we consider them pivotal to preventing Human Rights violations.

Italy is also an active member of the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Italy promotes development cooperation programs to support religious and ethnic communities that are victims of sectarian violence.



# THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

The preservation of cultural and religious heritage, which is firmly linked to the promotion of **freedom of religion or belief**, is an important tool for safeguarding the historical and cultural identity of persons belonging to ethnic and religious groups and minorities, and therefore for the enjoyment of cultural rights.

Cultural heritage is the bedrock of civilization, a testament to human history and identity. The right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage is a human right, guaranteed by international law. The protection of cultural and religious heritage is key not only to protecting the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, but also to **fostering peace and stability**.

Italy will continue to promote **inclusivity, tolerance, respect for diversity and to protect cultural heritage**.





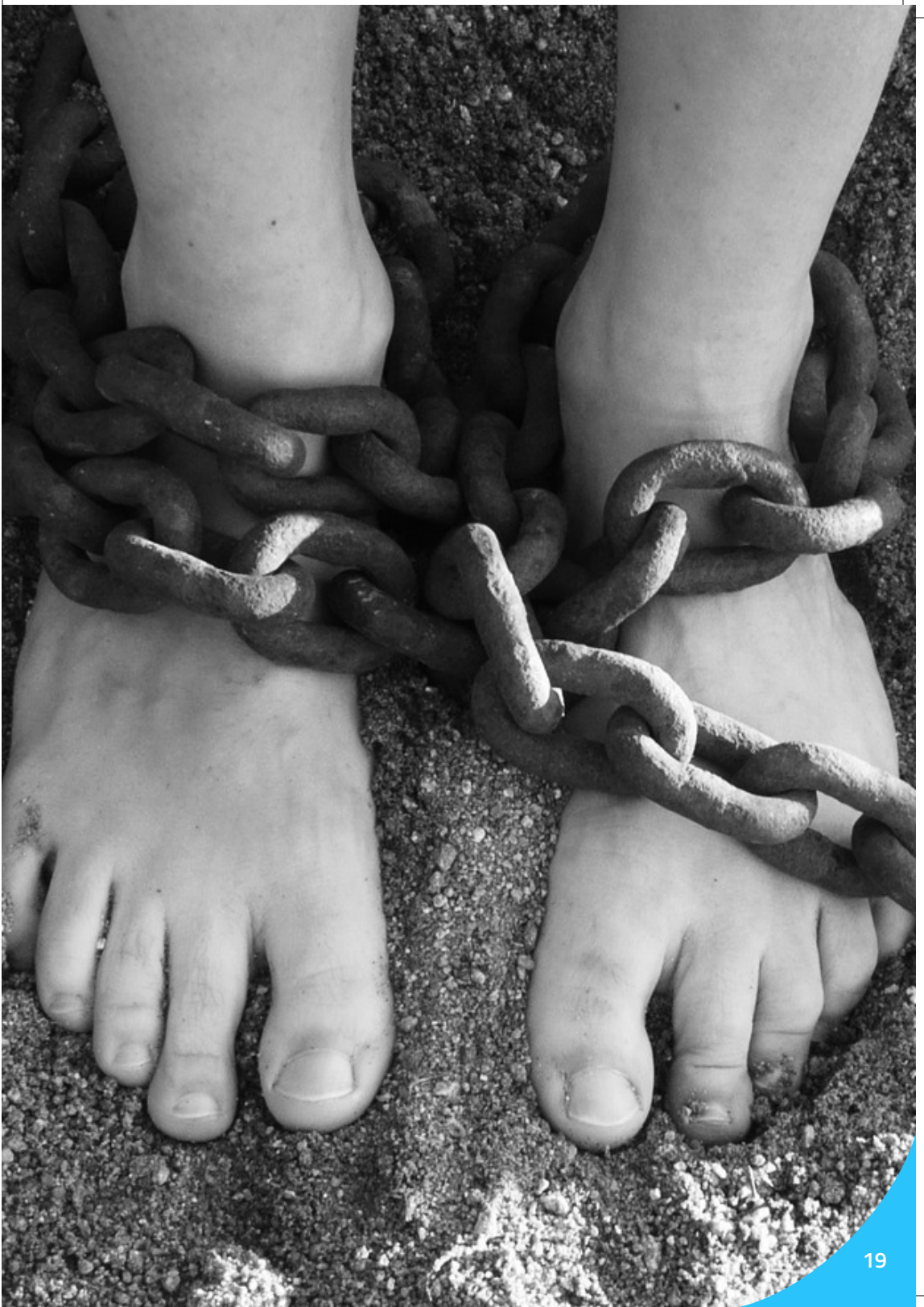


# FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that abuses people's fundamental rights and dignity, involving the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people for the sole purpose of economic gain.

According to Italy, a victim-centered, human rights-oriented, gender and child-sensitive approach is key in fighting this very serious crime.

Italy will continue to vehemently fight human trafficking, protect the victims at both the national and international levels, paying particular attention to those in a situation of vulnerability, such as women and children, including unaccompanied minors.





# THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY

Italy is fully committed to protecting and promoting the **rights of vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities and older persons.**

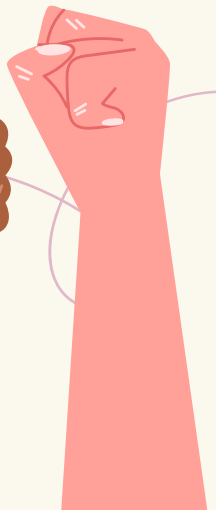
Italy will:

- Further promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including by supporting the widest possible accession to and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Promote a multidimensional assessment of disability aimed at the development of an individual, personalized and participatory life project;
- Develop and implement awareness-raising programs to increase understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities;
- Further promote initiatives at the international, regional and national levels to concretely uphold the rights of older persons;

FREEDOM

HUMAN  
RIGHTS

EQUALITY



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Italy recognizes the contribution that a vibrant civil society can give to democracy, stability and prosperity.

**Human Rights defenders are key players in promoting Human Rights.**

Italy is committed to ensuring the rights of Human Rights defenders and will continue to actively support them **against all forms of reprisal.**



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