

6. WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU HAVE FLED YOUR COUNTRY OF BIRTH BECAUSE YOUR LIFE WAS IN DANGER?

- If you have left your country because of war or armed conflict, or because you have been persecuted on account of your race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social or ethnic group, political opinion, or sexual orientation; if you have a reasonable and well-founded fear that your life is in danger or that you will be exposed to serious harm should you return to your country, **you are entitled to apply for international protection**.
- **You have the right to ask for help in your own language** to tell your story and explain why you left your country. You can apply for international protection to the public authorities upon your arrival in Italy or following your transfer to a reception centre. The authorities will then listen to your personal situation and assess your need for international protection.
- If you arrived in Italy with your family (your mother, father, brother and/or sister) and fled because a member of your family was persecuted for the reasons for which you may also be persecuted, **you are entitled to apply for international protection**.



7. WHAT CAN YOU DO IF A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ITALY OR EUROPE?

- If one of your relatives, including one or both of your parents, your brother or sister, an uncle or aunt, live in Italy or in Europe, **you have the right to live with them** if you wish and if it is in your best interests: there is a legal procedure to safely reunite with them, without having to pay and without relying on people who might put you at risk in doing so.
- **If you are interested in the family reunification procedure**, inform the reception centre and your guardian. They will be able to explain how it works.
- **The family reunification procedure takes time** for the public authorities to listen to your wishes and ascertain the family bond to know whether your relatives can safely take care of you: whether they have a home, an ID and a job.
- **You can join your family member in another European country** even if you have done your paperwork in Italy or have already applied for international protection in Italy.
- **If you have a family member in Italy or Europe, you can also decide not to live with them** but to follow the reception procedure while maintaining contact with them.

CHILDREN AND THEIR RIGHTS



BEST INTERESTS OF THE MINOR

LIFE AND HEALTH

PARTICIPATION, LISTENING AND INFORMATION

FAMILY UNITY

SCHOOL

LEARN A TRADE

PLAY

RESIDENCE PERMIT

RECEPTION CENTER

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



IF YOU NEED INFORMATION IN YOUR LANGUAGE OR HELP YOU CAN CONTACT THE SAVE THE CHILDREN HELPLINE



- ✓ The Helpline is a **toll-free number** you can call if you are in trouble and need support or information.
- ✓ You can ask to speak in your own language.
- ✓ You can call **Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

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Save the Children

11. GLOSSARY

- **Reception centre** is the name of the place where you live. It can be temporary or permanent, i.e. the house where you will live and start studying, meet friends, and learn how the protection system works.
- The reception centres employ **staff/educators** who help the boys/girls to organise, manage and regulate their community life and personal development.
- **Cultural mediator** is a person who knows your language and culture. This figure can help you get your bearings, understand what is happening and tell you what you may need.
- **Voluntary guardian**: if you are in Italy without your parents, or a responsible adult, the Juvenile Court appoints an adult as soon as possible to act as your guardian, to support you in making the best choices for your present and future and to represent you legally.
- **Psychologist** is a professional who can help you find the words to understand what you feel with your heart and in your body and what you think with your head.

- **School** is the place where you can start learning Italian, study general subjects and then decide whether to continue with your studies or job training. This is the place where you can meet friends and learn how Italian society works.
- **The forces of law and order**, including the Police and Carabinieri, are responsible for monitoring and guaranteeing the security of society and respect for civic rules. They deal with your legal status in Italy, issuing or renewing your residence permit.
- **Social Services Office**: a public office, staffed by social workers, in charge of guiding and directing, together with you, your guardian and the reception centre, your development in Italy.
- **Juvenile court**: a public authority to supervise and ensure that every choice and decision concerning you is always made in your best interests.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



1. IF YOU ARE UNDER 18 YOU ARE A MINOR

- You have the right to live and be protected in Italy.
- You have the right not to be deported or sent back to your country against your will.
- You have the right to express yourself, to be heard and to be involved in any decision that affects you.
- You are entitled to receive a minor or family permit, an essential document that allows you to legally reside in Italy and exercise your rights as a minor.
- If you are travelling without parents or family members, you are entitled to have a voluntary guardian appointed to support you in your development in Italy, helping you to make choices for your present and future.



- You have the right to live in a safe place and to be transferred to a care facility where other minors live, where you can sleep, rest, eat, be cared for if you are ill, receive a residence permit, go to school and understand how to continue your studies and/or enter the labour market in Italy.
- If you are over 16, you may be transferred to a care facility where adults also live: your rights as a minor must in any case be respected.
- If you are travelling with a relative, you have the right to be transferred to a dedicated family facility and to start a welcome and inclusion programme appropriate to your age and needs.
- You have the right to live with your family or to maintain contact with them. If one or both of your parents, your brother or sister, or other members of your family live in Italy or in Europe, inform the staff at the reception centre, as you may receive assistance in re-establishing or maintaining contact with them and safely rejoining them, should you wish to do so.



2. HOW CAN YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS BE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED?

Personal details are your name, surname, place and date of birth.

Italian and European law stipulates that all persons arriving from non-European countries must be identified upon entry into Europe. Don't worry, this is a normal procedure.

- When the police ask you for your name, surname, date of birth and nationality, state it clearly and check that everything is spelled correctly.
- If you have a document, don't be afraid to show it. It is very useful.
- If you are together with a relative, declare how you are related to each other
- Together with your data, the police will take a photograph of your face and your fingerprints will be registered.
- Your personal data will be officially registered by the Italian State and will be useful for the start of your development in Italy
- If you are under 18, you are entitled to apply for international protection in any European country, even if the police have registered your fingerprints on your first entry into Italy.



3. HOW CAN YOU PROVE YOUR AGE?

- If you think a mistake has been made while registering your data, you are entitled to report this immediately.
- It is important to know that under Italian law it is an offence to declare a false name, surname, date of birth and nationality. Showing false documents is an offence and you could be reported.
- If you have been registered as an adult (18 years of age or older), the easiest and safest way to prove your age is to present an identity document (passport, ID card) to the public authorities.
- If you do not think it will expose you and your family to risks, you can receive help in contacting the consular authorities in your country to obtain a document proving your age.
- If you are unable to show identification and the public authority or the reception centre, after asking you for your personal details and listening to you, does not consider you to be a minor, it may request that an assessment of your age be carried out. In the course of this procedure you can meet with a social worker, a doctor, and a psychologist. In all interviews and consultations during this procedure, you are entitled to be accompanied by a cultural-linguistic mediator and guardian.

4. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TURN 18?

- When you turn 18 you can continue to legally reside in Italy and safely pursue your path in life.
- Before you turn 18, find out and discuss with your guardian and staff at the reception centre where you live what you need to do to continue your development in Italy.
- Find out what kind of document you can have **after the age of 18** and what procedures you need to follow.
- Ask for information on where you will be able to live and how to continue the inclusion process **once you have turned 18**. Ask about administrative continuation, i.e. the possibility of being supported until the age of 21 to continue studying and/or training to become self-employed.

5. WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU FEEL IN DANGER AND AFRAID?

- Your will, safety and protection are fundamental.
- You are entitled to ask for help. Try to explain and your fears may be listened to.
- Crossing borders between European countries without authorisation can put your life at great risk. You may be exposed to many risks, including abuse and/or violence.
- Be cautious about trusting anyone who tells you this is easy and can be done without any problems.
- Living on the street puts you in danger and you may meet people who want to take advantage of your vulnerable situation.
- If you have been tricked into coming to Italy, if you have been brought here against your will, if you or your family have been threatened and you feel endangered, if someone is controlling you or forcing you to do something against your will, if someone wants to take you to another European country but you do not want to, and if you are afraid, you

have the right to ask for help and to receive help and protection.

- If you have suffered abuse or violence or if you do not fully understand what has happened but do not like your situation, you have the right to ask for help and to receive help and protection.
- If you live in a centre, ask the centre staff where you live or your guardian for help.
- If you are on the street, ask the police for help. They can help you.
- If in doubt call Save the Children.

