

2

**Item.6, Italy UPR**

**Organization for Defending Victims of Violence**

**Mr. President,**

Reports have appeared over the recent years regarding cases of xenophobic and intolerant attitudes, as well as acts of discrimination against migrants and minorities in Italy. As Italy has accentuated in her last UPR session, the stigmatization of minorities has always been a source of concern. Although Italy claims that the establishment of the National Office for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee for the Protection of Foreign Minors, alongside with its 2006 National Action Plan against Racism shows it's seriousness in these regards, but my organization expresses concerns on the continued xenophobic and intolerant attitudes against migrants and minorities, and also regarding reported instances of hate speech against foreign nationals, Arabs, Muslims and Roma. We also express our deep concern on the role of the media in associating Muslims with extremism and terrorism.

**Mr. President;**

To rectify this situation, my organization asks Italy:

1. To eliminate all forms of discrimination against religious minorities, the Roma community, and migrants, and ensure equal opportunities for their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including education, health and housing and to ensure that they are not the subject of discrimination, especially via the media.
2. To take administrative and legal measures against perpetrators of racially motivated acts, targeting the Roma, Sinti, migrants and Muslims.
3. To ratify the optional protocol to the convention against torture, in order to permit the subcommittee for prevention to conduct visits to places of detention, including reclusion centers for migrants and asylum-seekers, as well as those with the populations originating in national minorities in order to help the government improve conditions in these centers.

**Thank You**