



Minutes of the

## 31st Italian PROBONO Roundtable

Held in Rome on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019,

In the offices of Studio Jacobacci – Studio Dike

Dear All,

Please find here below a summary of the RT in heading (see attached agenda):

**1. Attendees:** 44 (see attached LoPs).

**2. Introduction**

G. Carotenuto, Co-founder and President of Pro Bono Italia ("PBI"), welcomed the attendees, summarising PBI's history and achievements, as well as ongoing projects and upcoming events (see attached presentation). With today's RT, he proudly introduced a new formula, which consists of a panel of NGOs/agencies, clearinghouses, and law firms focusing on a particular subject, introduced by an expert in the field. Today, the panel's topic is children's rights related current and future challenges.

M.F. Quattrone, Studio Dike's founding partner, joined Giovanni in welcoming the participants and briefly described her firm's current pro bono and CSR activities, among which the ongoing projects with Fondazione con il Cuore ("FC"), founded by S. Ceccacci Librandi, and #Zerobullismo, founded by L. Simoni.

C. Scapicchio, Jacobacci & Associati's managing partner Rome office, joined Giovanni and Maria Francesca in welcoming the participants. She proudly announced that her law firm is a new PBI's member and will actively collaborate to the association's projects.

**3. Agencies'/NGOs' presentations**

Sport Senza Frontiere Onlus ("SSF"). S. Palmieri, representative of the Rome office, introduced the NGO with a brief video. SSF's mission is education, social integration and well-being through sport. SSF designs and organises free sport plans for underprivileged children and teenagers monitored by qualified staff and in co-operation with a solidarity network of partners and sport associations. Its goals are: social inclusion and integration, healthcare and correct life style promotion, the contrast to early withdrawal from school, the prevention of youth dissatisfaction phenomena and promotion of legality, community welfare – spreading the sense of hospitality with mutual respect and training

and job placement for involved personnel. They are seeking for legal assistance for child protection policy and related contracts (see attached video and presentation).

UNHCR Italia. E. Guida presented the agency's activities focusing on the statelessness. They organize training course for lawyers to teach how to manage statelessness' proceedings. Through <https://tavoloapolidia.org/> they coordinate advocacy activities and discuss operational proposals aimed at improving the protection of stateless persons and resolving statelessness cases in Italy. R. Viviani, judicial engagements' expert, introduced his activity within the agency and specified that they are seeking for lawyers who commit and cooperate with UNHCR Italia on single cases, as well as on training sessions.

Fondazione con il Cuore ("FC"). Its mission is to fight against cancer through scientific research with three main goals: support research, centrality of the person and transparency. M.F. Quattrone replaced the FC's founder, by clarifying that the foundation is seeking legal assistance in order to manage relationships with public administration, as well as universities (see attached presentation).

#### **4. Panel on children's rights**

M.F. Quattrone read a message to the RT's attendees from the Italian Independent Authority for Children and Adolescents, F. Albano (see attached message).

J. Moyersoer, trainer and children's rights expert, welcomed the NGOs and agencies to the panel focusing on present and future challenges of the protection of children's rights. J. Moyersoer talked about the recent regulatory evolution that brought to the introduction of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ("CRC"). CRC is a human rights treaty, which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. CRC defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is reached earlier under national legislation. CRC's topics are fight discrimination, preventing statelessness, disability, health and health services, education, leisure and cultural activities and some of these topics are common in panel's NGOs/agencies, as well as education, health, migrants and digital even if CRC doesn't make recommendations (see attached presentation).

Medici Senza Frontiere ("MSF"). F. Dumont, communications director, presented MSF's access campaign whose goal is to bring down barriers that keep people from getting the treatment they need to stay alive and healthy (in particular, vaccines and the humanitarian mechanism around them). F. Dumont talked also about Lesbos' project aimed at helping women and children that are trapped on the Greek island in horrendous conditions. MSF's clinic established therein has about 100 child consultations each day (see attached presentation).

Operation Smile Italia Onlus ("OSI"). A. Corrias, executive director, introduced the association whose mission is to heal children's facial defects at birth and one of their main issues because sometimes children and their families are left alone after the operation. A. Corrias also explained the importance of social inclusion and the right to health.

PILnet. Z. Székely, program officer, presented PILnet' webinar program directed to NGOs/agencies with the goal to help them in GDPR's matter.

Save the Children ("StC"). S. Taviani, policy&law programme coordinator, introduced the association, which this year celebrated one hundred years of activity in protecting the rights of children and adolescents. Main current actions include migrants, domestic violence (direct and indirect) and children's protection. According to S. Taviani, it is important to merge a legal program with advocacy actions. StC avails itself of the strict collaboration with three legal clinics (at Universities of Bari, Rome 3, and Turin). On Wednesday, 20th November StC will release a new publication on monitoring CRC, which follows the previously issued "ATLANTE DELL'INFANZIA".

UNHCR Italia. R. Viviani, judicial engagement expert, presented the agency's report on refugees (in particular, unaccompanied minors). Priority in Italy is to implement the so-called Zampa's Law and promote family's reunification. E. Guida, statelessness expert, explained the issues regarding childhood statelessness. He also mentioned a recently issued report on the impact of statelessness on minors (see attached presentation).

UNIAMO. A. Scopinaro, chair-woman, presented the association whose mission is to improve the quality of life through promoting and protecting the basic rights of those living with a rare disease, in bioethics, health and social policies. UNIAMO mainly acts in two ways: i) empowerment of people with rare disease/families, and ii) networking activities with institutions and other stakeholders. A. Scopinaro pointed out that they are seeking for legal assistance on protection of patients' rights and legal training (see attached presentation).

UNICEF. I. Mei, child protection specialist, presented UNICEF's humanitarian operations in Italy. According to him, it is important to implement Law no. 47/2017 and encourage some recommendations such as access to information - including legal information - on unaccompanied minors, relief and rescue operations in the central Mediterranean and landing operations.

#Zerobullismo. L. Simoni, co-founder, presented the project, which was born from a video contest. He said that nowadays we live in the social network's era. Therefore, it is crucial that children use digital devices with adequate support and protection. To that end, legal awareness and a culture of legality must be actively promoted.

J. Moyersoer then summarised the panel's main contents, by pointing out:

- i) seeking for adequate assistance and services' quality in favour of the children must be a priority;
- ii) legal assistance must be intended also as access to information; and
- iii) networking is a winning strategy. Hence, bringing together professionals engaged in several files is the key to succeed in enhancing children's protection.

## **5. Italy Pro Bono Day – 2019 edition**

G. Carotenuto presented the second annual Italy Pro Bono Day ("IPBD"), which will take place in Milan on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, from 10 am to 6 pm, hosted by Ashurst, in Piazza San Fedele no. 2, within the ambit of the inaugural European Pro Bono Week. The latter initiative is being organised collaboratively by a number of law firms that are a part of the European Pro Bono Initiative, as well as pro bono clearinghouses and organisations. There will be events held in over 10 cities across that week and events will focus on the delivery of pro bono to NGOs, discussion panels on pro bono opportunities and challenges, and celebrations of pro bono development in each city/country. The IPBD's program includes free legal training sessions for NGOs in the morning, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Italian Pro Bono Roundtable at lunchtime and a seminar on pro bono practices for individuals in the early afternoon, followed by a celebration event. Leaflet is already on-line on PBI's website. RSPV to [italyprobonoday@probonoitalia.org](mailto:italyprobonoday@probonoitalia.org). As part of PBI's engagement to identify NGOs' legal needs, to be addressed during IPBD's morning sessions, Giovanni invited NGOs/agencies to participate to PILnet /Pro Bono Italia's survey at <https://forms.gle/4jNsJZMFYi5id3mq9>.

## **6. Next Italian Pro Bono Roundtable**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will be held within the IPBD, on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (from 1 to 2:30 pm), hosted by Ashurst, Piazza San Fedele, 2 – Milan.