



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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Founded in 2014, the **Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD)** is a network of civil society organisations that protect and expand the rights and liberties of all, through a combination of advocacy, narrative change, public education and legal action.

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A Message from our President

In 2024, CILD celebrates its first decade of existence and activity. Ten years after the birth of the Coalition, challenges related to the defence and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as were set out in our founding manifesto, still have great relevance, proving the validity of the intuition that led CILD's founders, in 2014, to create a network of the many civil society organisations that have been a part of CILD ever since.

The past year has seen us renew our commitment to rights on many fronts, in an extremely critical European and national context with the continuation of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the rise of populism, nationalism and authoritarian tendencies in Europe, and threats to the rule of law in the Italian context.

In the national context our concerns remain high with respect to the Italian government's policies on security, the related shrinkage of civic space and

compression of spaces for democratic participation, freedom of demonstration and freedom of the press. These sit alongside institutional reform projects, such as that on 'differentiated autonomy', which risk exorbitantly exacerbating inequalities in the country and marginalising and excluding ever larger segments of the population from the enjoyment of fundamental rights, such as that to health.

Within this framework and these circumstances, the challenges faced by CILD during the year were defined, and our advocacy, denunciation, communication and strategic litigation work developed, resulting in the numerous initiatives, activities and projects described in this report.

Throughout the year, our attention to national and European policies on the governance of migration flows and the field of international protection remained very high, committing us to continue and strengthen our work to promote a more inclusive society and fairer asylum and migration policies.

In this area, first of all, the now-consolidated work of information and communication on the theme of migration continues, aimed at dismantling skewed narratives, disinformation, prejudices and stereotypes by promoting evidence-based and fairer themes, as promoted within the Open Migration platform.

Equally significant and valuable were the project initiatives carried out together with our partners during the year, such as the project on Family Reunification, which provided pro bono legal assistance and has enabled 76 cases to be resolved, the CUSP project for assistance to unaccompanied young migrants, the CIPBRA project for the protection of Afghan and other vulnerable refugees, and the SCUDI: School of Human Rights project, for the promotion of strategic litigation on immigration law and which gave rise to an international network for the protection of NGOs providing sea rescue.

2024 saw us particularly committed to continuing significant work on administrative detention, monitoring and public denunciation of human rights

violations within CPRs and opening an important front for the promotion of strategic litigation in this area, which will continue to be a decisive area of intervention and action for the Coalition in the year to come.

Equally strategic is the issue of access to Italian citizenship for people of foreign origin who are resident in Italy, and their children, born and raised in Italy. The commitment to reform the current Italian law on citizenship and ensure their full legal inclusion, alongside and in support of the movements of the 'Italians without citizenship' movement, has been renewed throughout the year and will be strengthened in 2025.



Laura Liberto
CILD PRESIDENT

A Message from the Executive Directors

As Executive Directors of the Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), it is our privilege to present the Annual Report for 2024. This year was an important one, marking 10 years since CILD was created and embarked on its important work. CILD's longevity is and has been a testament to the resilience of civil society organisations in Italy despite significant challenges, and also to the progress we have been able to ensure in important areas of civil and human rights in Italy and beyond, despite confronting challenges in the political and funding landscape both in Italy and across Europe.

In 2024 we continued to navigate the shifting political landscape and reinforced our commitment to defending human rights and civil liberties in Italy and beyond through a mixture of legal assistance projects, advocacy initiatives, capacity building and uplifting of voices, both of activists and organisations.

Despite the challenges posed by an increasingly challenging regulatory environment (including in the areas of migration, freedom of expression and attacks on CSOs) and the concerning rise of the regional profile of the Meloni government, CILD and our dedicated member organisations have continued to deliver impactful advocacy, education, and legal initiatives.

This year, our work expanded across multiple fronts, and as we cross the 10-year threshold as an organisation, we achieved many critical milestones that underscore our mission. CILD's team was also delighted to work even more closely alongside member organisations and new regional partners across several collaborative CERV initiatives.

Our SUNI and UCRI initiatives assisting Ukrainian asylum seekers, delivered alongside member organisation Progetto Diritti, assisted more than 1200 vulnerable people to secure their conditions in Italy after fleeing the Russian invasion. Our CIPBRA initiative, which aids Afghan refugees, has now responded to over 418 legal assistance requests, and directly helped more than 320 individuals, over 50% of whom are children. We also created the SCUDI Sea Rescue Legal Knowledge Network alongside our partner firm Cittadinanzattiva.

Our work on administrative detention is increasingly putting a spotlight on the conditions in the Centres of Permanence for Repatriation, also becoming one of the factors that led to the creation of a commission of enquiry in the Municipality of Rome, with the aim of achieving the closure of the centre in this city. These outcomes reflect the power of strategic collaboration with partner law firms and civil society organisations.

In research and policy, our participation in the Horizon 2020 HumMingBird project advanced the understanding of migration

trends and came to a close, while our work on DignityFIRM ramped up, addressing systemic challenges faced by migrant workers. A co-authored commentary in The Lancet was a shining example of our ability to bring our grassroots insights to international academic and policy spheres.

The shrinking of civic space and the criminalisation of humanitarian work remain ongoing challenges, exemplified by continual issues by decrees such as the Piantedosi decree. New security decrees aimed at NGOs and restrictive measures on migration highlighted the need for vigilant advocacy. In response, CILD strengthened its focus on collaborative litigation and policy advocacy, as evidenced by our involvement in class action litigation defending the rights of migrant workers and strategic involvement in the SCUDI project, which aims to equip human rights defenders with tools to challenge administrative failures and discriminatory approaches to humanitarian issues effectively.

This year CILD also continued to bring to light the systemic issues and human rights contraventions in Italy's detention system, including in Italy's new MOU with Albania and related new detention centres on Albanian shores. Our report, "Chiusi in Gabbia," revealed inhumane conditions and systemic abuses, prompting necessary public and parliamentary scrutiny. We capped off 2024 with a joint complaint to the Public Prosecutor's Office of Potenza,

denouncing the deplorable detention conditions at the CPR of Palazzo San Gervasio.

We are particularly proud of our efforts to cultivate a new generation of rights advocates. Collaborations with Roma Tre University to deliver learning about human rights organisations and this kind of work continued and our initiatives like Spotlight and #PasstheMic elevated diverse voices and perspectives regarding human rights issues.

None of this progress would have been possible without the unwavering support of our team, member organisations, donors, and partners. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to create an Italy that is fairer, more inclusive, and more just. Together, we will continue to champion the rights of all.

With gratitude and resolve,



Fabi Fugazza
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CILD



Andrea Oleandri
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CILD



About Us

The Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD) is an Italian non-governmental organisation founded in 2014 and composed of associations and foundations working to defend and promote rights and liberties for all. CILD and its member organisations create impact by combining advocacy, narrative change, public education and legal action.

CILD was born from the core belief that civil rights and liberties are intimately connected, interdependent and indivisible. In the face of persisting cultural, political and social circumstances which threatened the fabric of civil liberties and rights in Italy, several Italian civil society organisations decided to come together to create the Coalition, to enable greater impact through unity. We continue to work together a decade later, to confront persistent challenges to civil and human rights in Italy and Europe.



OUR MANIFESTO

At CILD we believe that respect of freedom and civil rights is fundamental to a rich and functioning society and that true freedom is accessible to no one, if not accessible to everyone.

We believe that promoting and protecting rights and liberties for all makes for a stronger, more prosperous and egalitarian society. We believe that even though we are all different, we all deserve to be free. And what does it mean to be free? Freedom is self-determination. Freedom is the ability to create and live your true identity. Freedom is knowledge and awareness. Freedom is integration and acceptance. Freedom is having your interests and wellbeing count for something to those with immense power. Freedom is equality, equity, and safety.

In Italy, we went through a long period in which certain kinds of detrimental language, practices and policy choices prevailed, based on an undercurrent of misinformation, divisive political agendas and fear. It was difficult to watch these circumstances unfold but the events also allowed us to put the fragility and importance of civil freedoms and human rights into perspective.

This is why CILD exists. Our Coalition, made up of passionate and engaged Italian civil society organisations, is united with a vision to create an Italy which is more open, more transparent, fairer, and more inclusive.

Our Coalition works across four pillars in order to activate change, as outlined below.

ADVOCACY

We support proposals for legislative and policy change which will ensure greater protection of, and access to, human and civil rights. We push for better and more diverse representation; including helping new voices enter relevant discourse in support of positive change. This includes, but is not limited to, voices, proposals and discourse surrounding the fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia, pushing for fair and humane migration and refugee policy, combatting the shrinking of civic space, and collaborating for more equal and equitable access to health.

CAPACITY-BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We uplift the next generation of voices and assist others to advocate for themselves and the important causes they represent. We seek to amplify the voices of those with lived experience and assist individuals, each other, and nonprofit organisations to achieve better and greater reach with their messages of positive change.

NARRATIVE CHANGE AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

We disseminate knowledge of rights accessible by citizens, and train people in facilitating narrative change, in order to assist vulnerable individuals and groups in accessing their rights and advocating for themselves.

ASSISTANCE

We provide access to support and advice (including legal advice and support) to those confronting emergencies and human/civil rights abuses and we build networks and collaborative projects to ensure that many at imminent risk of having their rights violated can access high quality and reliable support.

We stand by the rights and liberties afforded to all by the Italian Constitution and international law. We are committed to fighting against overt and covert abuses and violations of these invaluable instruments.

We are collaborative. We may be a Coalition but, in saying that, none of our “parts” lose their own organisational identity. On the contrary; the many associations that make up CILD make this vision of a more open and respectful society richer.

We look forward to continuing to elevate the societal knowledge base regarding rights and emboldening the civil identity of citizens and Italy.

Our Board



LAURA LIBERTO | President

Laura is CILD’s President as of July 2024 and, since 2012, she has been the National Coordinator of the Justice for Rights network Cittadinanzattiva. A criminal and immigration lawyer, she has been working for several years in the nonprofit world on the promotion of human rights and citizenship, protection of children’s rights and societal inclusion of Roma communities.



ARTURO SALERNI | Member

Arturo is the immediate past President of CILD and a lawyer who works in the fields of criminal, administrative and international law for the protection of human rights. He works within rights-based organisation Progetto Diritti, where he works for the legal protection of society’s most disadvantaged groups. He was also President of Europa Levante for the rights of Kurdish people, and President of the Azienda Farmasociosanitaria di Roma Capitale-Farmacap. He is currently President of the Truth and Justice Committee for the New Desaparecidos and was one of the founders of Antigone, an association which deals with criminal law and penitentiary matters.



GRAZIA NALETTO | Member

A political science graduate, she coordinates Lunaria’s activities on migration and the fight against racism. The fight against inequality is at the heart of her studies and her social and political engagement. She was president of Lunaria from 2010 to 2018 and co-spokesperson of the Sbilanciamoci! Campaign from 2013 to 2018.



ENZO CUCCO | Independent member

Born in Salerno in 1960 and a lifelong resident of Turin. Activist for LGBTI rights since 1976 has been part of FUORI!, serving as its editor-in-chief. Founder of the Sandro Penna Foundation in 1980 and anti AIDS activist since 1982, among the founders of the Aids Solidarity Group and the Aids Italy Forum. Today he is among the founders and a member of the board of the radical association Certi Diritti. Contact person for the Center against Discrimination of the Piedmont Region.



SUSANNA MARIETTI | Member

Susanna is the Executive Director of Italian association Antigone, which works for the promotion of human rights in the criminal justice system. She is a member of the General Assembly of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).

Her publications include books and articles on penal and prison issues as well as on contemporary philosophical topics. She runs a blog on criminal justice hosted by Italian newspaper Il Fatto Quotidiano. Alongside Patrizio Gonnella, she authors and hosts weekly Italian radio program Jailhouse Rock which discusses topical prison-related matters. Susanna is President of Atletico Diritti, a sports club, which involves detained and migrant athletes in sporting competitions.



GABRIELE PIAZZONI | Member

Since 2018 Gabriele has held the position of General Secretary of Arcigay, of which he has been an activist since 2007, having also held the position of President of the Arcigay Territorial Committee of Cremona since 2010. Since the same year, he has been a member of the National Council of the Association. He was also a legislative consultant and parliamentary assistant during the 17th Letta and Renzi legislatures (from 2013 to 2015). Passionate about civil rights, he has worked with several organisations in this arena and since 2009 has been President of the cooperative Linfa srl, which provides event organisation, publishing, printing, graphics and advertising services.



LEONARDO FIORENTINI | Member

A webmaster by profession, he has been working on drug policies since the birth of the Fuoriluogo website, of which he became Director in 2014. He is one of the editors of the White Paper on drugs, which every year takes stock of the consequences of substance-related policies in Italy. He is National Secretary of Forum Droghe, which he represents at the UN, and a founding member of the Società della Ragione. From 2014 to 2019 he was a municipal councillor in Ferrara, where he had previously also held the role of councillor and District President. In 2018 he contributed some of his views to the book *La cannabis fa bene alla politica*. In 2021 he published, alongside Officina di Hank, the book *L’Onda Verde. La fine della Guerra alla Droga*. He is also the author of the podcast *l’Onda Verde* and editor of the Fuoriluogo podcast

Our Member Organisations

24 Marzo

A Buon Diritto

Antigone

Arci APS

Arcigay

Arco

Associazione 21 Luglio

Associazione Naga

**Associazione Studi Giuridici
Immigrazione (ASGI)**

**Associazione Radicale
Certi Diritti**

Bambini Senza Sbarre

**Consiglio Italiano per
i Rifugiati (CIR)**

CittadinanzAttiva

Cittadini Del Mondo

Forum Droghe

Magen David Keshet Italia (Mdki)

Lunaria

On The Road

Progetto Diritti

Rete Lenford

Società Della Ragione

Strali

**Unione Forense per la Tutela
dei Diritti Umani**



OUR WORK

Immigration and Asylum

Immigration detention and its alternatives

In 2024, we continued our work supporting people detained within, or at risk of being detained within, administrative detention in Italy, providing insight about what happens inside the immigration detention centres (*Centri di Permanenza per il Rimpatrio – CPRs*), and advocating on rights contraventions in detention and non-coercive alternatives to the detention of migrant people.

We continued our monitoring work inside CPR facilities, also thanks to the launch of the Universal Civil Service project in collaboration with Antigone in May, powered by six passionate volunteers. The shared project, which is still ongoing, focuses on monitoring places where deprivation of freedom occurs, including CPRs. In June, at the Cristallo Hall of the Hotel Nazionale in Rome, we held our **Health in CPR Facilities** event in collaboration with CILD member organisation Progetto Diritti and the International Detention Coalition (IDC), as part of the EPIM project on alternatives to migrant detention. We brought together a roundtable of various stakeholders working in health protection and the compatibility of health with detention in CPRs, including doctors, civil society actors, ombudspersons, and political institutions.

The event engaged both national and international stakeholders on the topic, including freedom from torture.

In November, we published the *Chiusi in Gabbia – viaggio nell’inferno del CPR di Ponte Galeria* report (*Closed in a Cage – a journey into the inferno of the CPR of Ponte Galeria*), focusing on the CPR in Rome. In this new report we analysed the conditions and the human rights violations that often occur within the CPR of Ponte Galeria. The report is the result of information gathered through FOI requests addressed to all relevant institutions and through in-person inspections that CILD representatives carried out alongside other stakeholders at the Centre itself. During inspections we were able to see the inhuman detention conditions up close and by getting access to the critical events register and ascertaining its gaps and the risk of tampering, we were able to see the health records of the detainees and the bill of purchased drugs. From this we were able to see clear abuse in the purchase and administration of psychotropic medications. Finally, in December, as part of our monitoring activities, we filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Potenza to denounce the deplorable detention conditions at the CPR of Palazzo San Gervasio. Throughout the year we also participated in meetings and debates on administrative detention and we are hopeful that 2025 will be a time of progress for alternatives to detention.



CILD’s complaint on the conditions of the CPR of Palazzo San Gervasio

Late in 2024 CILD filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Potenza focused on the deplorable conditions within the Palazzo San Gervasio CPR, alongside MP Rachele Scarpa, after our visit to the administrative detention centre on 16th December.

The delegation was able to acquire the health records of some detainees, which showed clear abuse in the administration of psychotropic drugs; dispensed without medical diagnosis or prescription. We uncovered the unacceptable condition of a Moroccan boy, who was completely catatonic, who had had his dosage of psychotropic drugs quadrupled within a few days without any medical rationale and without any monitoring of the devastating effects the drugs were having on his psychophysical health.

Finally, the delegation acquired the register of critical events, which appeared to be totally inadequate and open to tampering. Following this inspection, on the morning of 17 December, lawyer

Federica Borlizzi, on behalf of CILD, and MP Rachele Scarpa personally filed a complaint with the Potenza Public Prosecutor’s Office. The complaint detailed observations accrued during the inspection visit carried out on 10 August and monitoring activities in the last six months of the year, with numerous reports of critical incidents in which authorities had failed to take proper charge and carry out the necessary control activities to ensure the safety of all.

Our delegation, led by Federica Borlizzi, was particularly shocked to witness, during our visit, drugs being illegitimately administered by OSS personnel, including psychotropic drugs.

CILD will continue, alongside Member of Parliament Scarpa and others, to bring to light human rights contraventions within all Italian CPRs. The CPR system is full of unimaginable human rights abuses, violence and death, and is a completely ineffective and expensive use of Italian taxpayer funds.

Closed in a Cage A journey into the inferno of the CPR of Ponte Galeria

In November, we presented the report *Chiusi in Gabbia: viaggio nell'inferno del CPR di Ponte Galeria* (Closed in a Cage – a journey into the inferno of the CPR of Ponte Galeria) at the Sassoli Hall of Palazzo Valentini in Rome to expose the detention conditions and systematic rights violations in the immigration detention centre of Ponte Galeria in Rome. The report is based on information gathered through specific generalised civic access requests addressed to all relevant institutions (Police Headquarters, the Prefecture, the Local Health Authority), as well as inspection activities conducted at the Roman centre. The findings of the report include poor detention conditions, the abuse of psychiatric drugs, controversies regarding the company in charge of the management of the CPR, and scarce services offered within the facility in violation of the tender contract. Moreover, the CPR in Ponte Galeria stands out due to being the only CPR in Italy with 5 places set aside for the detention of migrant women.



CILD called on civil society and the municipality of Rome to actively work towards the immediate closure of the female section of the CPR in particular and all administrative detention facilities in Italy, empowering competent organisations and authorities to take responsibility over the needs of the migrant people currently detained. In detail, CILD called for:

- > **The closure of the Ponte Galeria CPR;**
- > **The continuance of thematic hearings on the closure of the Ponte Galeria by the CPR Municipal Commission on the closure of Ponte Galeria;**
- > **Monitoring activities in shelters for unaccompanied minors;**
- > **Activation of proper support desks in prisons;**
- > **Taking responsibility for individuals released from Ponte Galeria's CPR; and**
- > **The immediate emptying of the female section of Ponte Galeria's CPR.**

Buchi Neri (Black Holes) newsletter

'Black Holes' is a website by CILD completely dedicated to the topic of administrative detention. Through in-depth analyses and interviews with experts in the field, the site seeks to answer many questions that stakeholders often have regarding detention conditions within the CPR detention system.

Through our monthly newsletter, which attracts a 56.4% open rate, we collect the most relevant news regarding immigration detention in Italy, Europe and the world to keep our readers up to date.



Predicting future migration patterns

Via our work within the Horizon 2020 HumMingBird project – funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme – we aimed to improve the mapping and understanding of changing migration flows. The research does this by analysing patterns, motivations and new geographies, and testing new methods to forecast emerging and future trends. Migration has become a matter of significant social, political and broader public concern. It has, therefore, gradually become a matter of high priority on the agendas of national and EU authorities. Well-informed, evidence-based migration policies should be based on reliable evidence, beginning with a thorough understanding of existing data as well as the demographic, economic, environmental and political drivers of migration. There is a need for tools to forecast migration flows to minimise shocks and tensions and therein lies the impetus for HumMingBird.

In 2024 CILD's work on the project concluded as the project came to an end, with wide dissemination of findings from the project. Furthermore, through our Open migration website, we contributed to publicising research work carried out within the project.



Dignity for migrant workers in farm-to-fork labour markets



DignityFIRM is our second Horizon 2020 project – funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme – and it aims to improve conditions for migrant workers experiencing (multiple) irregularities in five selected European Union member states and two associated countries. The project also aims to promote dignity for these workers through safe and healthy working conditions. Labour markets from FARM (agriculture and food processing) to FORK (hospitality and delivery services)

offer the most evident example of how important migrant workers are for communities. Through comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research and a context-specific approach, we seek to better understand the challenges involved and the subsequent findings will inform the development of tools and strategies to bridge the gap between policy aspirations and realities of migrant workers experiencing irregularity. We will propose group sensitive policy measures towards upholding migrant workers’ access to rights and services, simultaneously addressing the wellbeing of communities receiving them. This large collaborative project started in April 2023, and CILD is coordinating the strategic communication aspect of the project, including managing the social presence of the project (the visual identity, [website](#), and [FB](#), [Bluesky](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#)), and dissemination of the results. CILD also hosted and led a DignityFIRM lab on Narrative Change opportunities within the project.

In 2024, through the collaboration between CILD, academics and medical experts in health and migration, we also managed to publish a commentary in The Lancet, one of the most relevant journals in the medical field. In this article, in collaboration with the colleagues from the Horizon DignityFIRM project, we focused on the exclusion or limited access of migrants to universal health care systems.



OPENMIGRATION

Founded in 2015, Open Migration is an open, horizontal information project which entirely discusses issues of migration. Using skills, data and knowledge, it aims to contribute to shaping opinions and views on migration, breaking down prejudices and stereotypes used by the media and some political forces when discussing this issue.

In 2024 we published 40 in-depth articles and editorials – some of which are also available in English – keeping our audience updated both on the main developments in migration policy and consequences of Italian and international political activity regarding people on the move. As far as Italian policies are concerned, we mainly focused on the developments of the so-called “Decreto Flussi” and migrant workers’ rights, as well as sea rescues and the continuous criminalisation of humanitarian NGOs by the Italian Government. As for European policies and the EU’s approach towards migration, we mainly dealt with the condition of migrant workers in EU Member States, and the pushbacks carried out by the Tunisian government against sub-saharan African migrants under EU supervision.

Our editorial efforts, which constantly sought to contrast the dominant rhetoric sold in the mass media, have continued to reap rewards: over 107 thousand users read our articles directly on the Open Migration website in 2024 and Open Migration has now surpassed 4 million readers since launch.

Through our weekly newsletter we collect the most relevant news regarding immigration detention in Italy, Europe and the world in order to keep our readers up to date.

We published 40 in-depth articles on topical migration issues



over
107,782
readers
in 2024



over
4 million
readers
since launch

Strengthening the citizenship movement

In September, a referendum was held to change the citizenship law. CILD supported efforts to collect signatures through communication and visibility for the designated signature collection process, which ended up achieving the needed target of 500,000 signatures.

In the preceding months, together with Cittadinanzattiva and the Italians Without Citizenship movement, CILD worked on relaunching the ‘Objective: Citizenship’ campaign, aiming to engage with Italian mayors to assist in the dissemination of awareness of the requirements for obtaining citizenship in Italy. The aim was, and is, to avoid as much as possible those who are eligible missing out because they don’t apply in time. We will continue to work on this in 2025.

Finally, as part of our ACCESS project, we are working on creating messages that can foster a cultural and social change in the approach of citizens to this issue and the narratives that surround it.

The Rule 39 Pro Bono Initiative

In 2024 CILD wound down its role as host of the two-time award-winning Rule 39 Pro Bono Initiative, which in 2023 won two international awards (the [PILnet Global Partnership Award](#) and the [LawWorks Best International Pro Bono Award](#)), and received a Highly Commended in the Innovative Lawyers in Supporting Refugees category at the Financial Times Innovative Lawyer awards. We are proud of the growth of the initiative since its inception and proud to see a new entity created to carry it forward more internationally. Now under the auspices of Pro Iura, the initiative continues its mission, led by Dr. Daria Sartori and Muriel Vicqu  ry.

Family Reunification

In 2024, alongside Orrick and Herbert Smith Freehills, we continued our Family Reunification project, led by Loredana Leo, which provides pro bono legal assistance to non-EU citizens who wish to apply for residence permits for family reunification purposes. This year we took on 14 new cases, bringing the total cases taken on by the project to 76. This is fairly significant as within this area of law, cases are notoriously lengthy.



Within our Family Reunification project, in 2024 a court case was won on a subject that could be considered fairly experimental in terms of Italian jurisprudence. In this case, the Court of Tivoli authorised the issuance of a travel document to a refugee minor specifically without the consent of her father, because the father was found to be an agent of persecution as a perpetrator of family violence. This case is one of the few sentences in Italy that clearly affirm this principle and possibility for foreign minors who are seeking documents without the consent of a parent.

CUSP

The CUSP project, which commenced in 2024 as a means to assist with overwhelming demand for legal assistance of unaccompanied migrant youth who have aged out of state care in Italy, is a small youth legal assistance project run by CILD and led by Loredana Leo. CUSP confronts the needs of unaccompanied migrant minors who came to Italy for critically-needed medical care inaccessible in their home countries or after being in state care as children, aged out of care and are now faced with complex legal or regulatory challenges to their stability in Italy.

There is a tremendous and urgent need in this area for legal representation that goes beyond mere advice, and more need than there is assistance available in Italy, hence CILD’s running of this small, time-limited initiative to assist with some of that overflowing demand.

The pro bono assistance provided includes providing legal assistance to the very young adults, helping with:

- > Conversion of residence permits (and therefore stabilisation in Italy) at the age of majority in the light of the recent amendments to l.50/2023;
- > Application for international protection and legal reception upon reaching the age of 18 (generally, new adults are forced to leave reception immediately after reaching the age of majority);
- > Possible request for administrative continuation (possibility of requesting that the minor continue the integration process in Italy even after reaching the age of majority);
- > Possible issues related to the reception of minors together with adults (new changes proposed by the government); and
- > Age verification and related procedures.

In 2024 this initiative assisted 8 teenagers struggling to obtain regularity in Italy in the few months it has been running so far, including one teenager who had been left on the streets by the reception centre he had been residing in as an unaccompanied minor in a foreign country. The teen had managed to find charitable



accommodation, but needed to submit a request for a residence permit; something he was ill-equipped to confront on his own, and for which he had no documents. He therefore risked remaining without a residence permit if not supported by CUSP. With a long extrajudicial effort by the project involving liaison with the Police Headquarters and the general management, the project managed to get him a residence permit, which allows him to remain peacefully in Italy.

Italian Pro Bono Collaboration for Afghan Refugees (CIPBRA)



In 2024 work continued in the Italian Pro Bono Collaboration for Afghan Refugees (CIPBRA project); an initiative hosted by CILD with the support of Orrick, Dentons, Hogan Lovells and Linklaters, and led by lawyer Loredana Leo with the support of Vittoria Garosci.

This collaborative initiative focuses on the security and protection of vulnerable Afghan refugees seeking sanctuary in Italy, after the continued fallout that the effects of the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in August 2021 and the resumption of power by the Taliban has caused. The Taliban’s return to power has continued to have a dramatic impact on the civilian population, with thousands of civilians killed and thousands more wounded, most of whom are women and children. IOM Afghanistan has numbered the people affected by the crisis at over 3.6 million and ACLED – the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) – has recorded over 1,000 incidents of violence

targeting civilians by the Taliban since the group returned to power.

CILD continues to receive requests from Afghan nationals who need legal assistance to be granted sanctuary in Italy, the majority of which are from people who would be considered particularly at risk (women and human rights activists), and other nationals facing similar circumstances.

These asylum-seekers, where eligible, are assisted by our CIPBRA initiative. Some will be looking to reunify with family members but all will be hoping for the humanitarian assistance and care they should be afforded. In the almost three years since CIPBRA commenced, the initiative has responded to 418 legal assistance requests, provided over 2600 hours of pro bono legal assistance, to vulnerable adults in urgent need of protection, family reunification and resettlement and thus far, over 322 Afghan asylum-seekers in perilous conditions have been assisted, 45% of which were children.

Aside from the above outcomes, over the last year the CIPBRA project has enjoyed a number of promising developments:

- > In a case regarding a family divided by the confusion and panic of the initial evacuation in Afghanistan following the resumption of power by the Taliban, two adult children who had been minors at application, and would have been ineligible as adults, were able to be granted visas due to their being minors at the time of the request – an important case to cement eligibility of applicants despite processing delays; and
- > A precautionary ruling in which the Court of Rome was handed down, ordering the Questura in Rome to issue permits for family reasons in favour of a young mother, who had already entered Italy, and her baby daughter born in the meantime. The Questura complied and the two should

receive their permits shortly. This is a very important precedent as it’s the first time an Italian Court ordered another public authority to proceed with the issue of a permit to stay, thus implicitly disapproving of the lack of action of the latter.

Aside from the legal work undertaken through CIPBRA, we often undertake advocacy work about migration issues affecting migrants attempting to flee Afghanistan and surrounding areas of danger. For example, in 2024, CILD’s Co-Executive Director Fabi Fugazza and President Laura Liberto wrote to UNHCR representatives about our concerns involving Italian embassies abroad engaging in a pattern of non-compliance with international norms to cooperate in ascertaining family links in case of reunification of family members of persons granted international protection. In a context whereby vulnerable people’s lives and rights are at stake, we invited the UNHCR to intervene to ensure that the Italian Embassies and the Italian State refrain from obstructing the ability of vulnerable migrants to access their right to family reunification. We hope that this practice will cease and that vulnerable applicants will get the assistance from our embassies abroad that they are entitled to.

CIPBRA 2.5 YEARS OF IMPACT



68 Firm Volunteer lawyers have provided

2600 HOURS OF PRO BONO ASSISTANCE

to vulnerable adults in urgent need of protection, family reunification and resettlement.



CLOSED 30 CASES, RESULTING IN THE ISSUANCE OF 78 VISAS

for the safe resettlement of refugees and asylum-seekers in Italy.



Helped

322 AFGHAN REFUGEES

and asylum-seekers in dangerous conditions, largely through help with processes for family reunification and humanitarian visas. On average, about 45% of those helped have been children.



RESPONDED TO 418 LEGAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

including making referrals and assisting 3 other organisations with their queries around humanitarian visas or family reunification.

SCUDI – School of human rights: strategic litigation to protect migrants’ rights

In March 2024, we launched, alongside CILD member organisation Cittadinanzattiva, **SCUDI – School of human rights**: strategic litigation to protect migrants’ rights; an innovative project funded by the European Commission’s CERV program. Funded by the European Commission under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV), SCUDI aims to train lawyers, activists and create European networks to enforce the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, opposing discriminatory policies.

In recent years, discriminatory policies and practices have been consolidated in Italy, generating inequalities and exclusion of migrants with a greater impact on the most vulnerable, such as minors and women. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the redress mechanisms provided for by EU law are poorly known and applied, despite the fact that there are many areas of application for the protection of migrants’ rights.

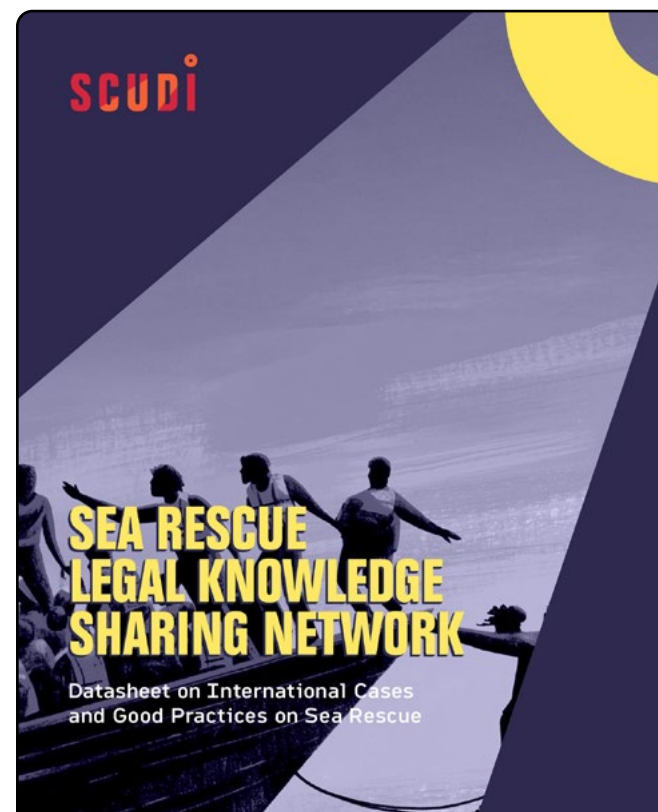


The SCUDI project aims to overcome this situation of systematic violation of rights through an empowerment and capacity-building action addressed to civil society organisations (CSOs) engaged in the

defence of migrants’ rights. The main activities of the SCUDI project include the development of a public knowledge platform to enhance legal skills, the training of 70 legal and activist staff to create human rights networks, and the creation of a European network for legal support to NGOs engaged in sea rescues. The key objectives are to improve dispute resolution capacities, raise awareness about EU rights and promote cooperation and synergies between human rights defenders.

On 2 October 2024, a **Conference on European Sea Rescue State of Art**, organised by CILD and Cittadinanzattiva in the framework of the project was held in the heart of Rome. The conference brought together NGOs and professionals involved in sea rescue operations from all over Europe and involved an audience of lawyers, journalists, university students and activists to discuss the current challenges in disputes over the rescue of migrants at sea and possible ways forward to enforce the law to protect asylum seekers and people on the move in European waters.

The event included a large panel discussion involving some of the members of the SCUDI **European Strategic Litigation Group of CSOs on Sea Rescue** with the aim of identifying actions and strategic plans to strengthen collaboration on this critical issue. Additionally, we produced in December a **Datasheet on International Cases and Good Practices on Sea Rescue**.



Support for Ukrainian Nationals in Italy

Over 150,000 Ukrainian refugees arrived in Italy after Ukraine was invaded by Russia in early 2022. Shortly after this invasion, the EU decided to implement Directive number 55 of 2001 providing temporary protection to Ukrainian refugees fleeing war. Subsequently, Italy introduced a Prime Ministerial Decree which provided Ukrainian citizens access to protection and shelter.

To assist with the many needs of incoming Ukrainian refugees, including unaccompanied minors and other particularly vulnerable groups, CILD commenced the SUNI and UCRI projects, alongside Progetto Diritti, the Association of Ukrainian Women in Italy, and other partners, designed to provide assistance (including legal assistance) and accessible information to Ukrainian nationals. This assistance spans guardianship, family unity and reunification, education, benefits, and immigration and is delivered primarily in Rome, Naples, and Sicily. Outcomes so far have included that Ukrainian nationals (including minors) have been able to access critical family cohesion, social benefits and stability, as well as access to critical services and education, which may not have been possible otherwise.

The people we assist are overwhelmingly women (88%), many of whom are single mothers, aged between 25 and 55, with minor dependent children. Between late 2022 and mid-2024, the SUNI/UCRI initiatives served well over 1200 people, including over 500 children. The EU Justice and Home Affairs Council extended the temporary protection for people who fled Ukraine after the Russian invasion, to 4 March 2025.

Irregularity concerns

A client approached SUNI project staff concerned that her application for regularisation from a position of being in undeclared work had been rejected. She had worked as a domestic helper, but her employers had not paid her contributions correctly and so the application had been rejected. The client disclosed that she had been in Italy for a long time and did not intend to return to Ukraine because of the war. Her son was also fighting in the Ukrainian army.

Access to temporary protection was not possible in this case given her presence in Italy before the outbreak of the war, and an application for special protection at the police headquarters would have been difficult and very time-consuming due to the new Cutro Decree. Project staff therefore suggested to the lady that she apply for international protection because of the danger of serious harm from the armed conflict situation she could incur if returned. Her now-pending application for asylum will allow her to stabilise her position in Italy and in her employment and allow her to access several social services.

OUR WORK

Rule of Law and Civic Space



Safeguarding Freedom of Expression Project

We were thrilled in 2024 to continue our cooperation with the European Implementation Network (EIN) and StraLi in safeguarding freedom of expression in Italy, through supporting the effective implementation of relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against Italy regarding freedom of expression, and advocating for reforms to protect free speech in Italy.

Violations of the right to free speech have become central to the crisis of democratic backsliding in European States. We witness the healthy functioning of democracies being undermined, and sometimes

curtailed, by a combination of factors, depending on the jurisdiction, such as draconian defamation laws silencing journalists through court proceedings, the undermining of free debate through excessive ownership of media outlets by the State or its affiliates, and even widespread violence against reporters. To address these pressing issues, the ECtHR has already issued about 300 leading judgments that identify violations of the right to free speech. However, alarmingly, 50% of the leading free speech judgments handed down by the ECtHR in the last 10 years are still pending implementation.

In 2024, CILD and StraLi finalised and submitted joint Art. 9 submissions to the Committee of Ministers to bring to the attention of the Council of Europe the failure of Italy to comply with two ECtHR judgments: *Ricci v. Italy* and *Associazione*

Politica Nazionale Lista Marco Pannella v. Italy.

The former concerned the protection of press freedom against the use of prison sentences in cases of unlawful disclosure of confidential information, and the latter concerned pluralism of information, in particular concerning public service broadcasting.

In those submissions we acknowledged the issues still open with respect to the two judgments and stressed how freedom of expression and information and pluralism is still, and has been, severely compromised in Italy.

We hope that our submissions will have the intended impact and that the judgments will be enforced, as all ECtHR judgments should be. CILD and StraLi will also continue to utilise all available opportunities to advocate for the protection of freedom of expression and pluralism in Italy.

Additionally, on the topic in 2024, CILD Co-executive Director Andrea Oleandri spoke to the EU Observer about CILD's involvement in Liberties Media Freedom Report 2024 highlighting the state of journalism in Italy, saying: "The conclusions of the report are not positive ... there's increasing political control over the national public broadcaster RAI: a certain degree of political influence is nothing new, (and) the concentration of media ownership in the hands of fewer and fewer people is becoming more evident."

Democracy at the Crossroads: Mapping Rights and Liberties in Italy

On International Human Rights Day in 2024, CILD released a report entitled ***Democracy at the Crossroads: Mapping Rights and Liberties in Italy***.

Two years into Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government, this report provides an in-depth analysis of troubling trends that are undermining fundamental rights and freedoms in Italy. It examines the impact of recent political and legislative changes on democratic values enshrined in the Italian Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

From freedom of assembly to press independence, from migrant rights to judicial autonomy, the findings reveal alarming trends that require immediate attention from both national and international stakeholders.

As Italy stands at a critical crossroads, this report aims to inform political debate and advocate for measures that strengthen, rather than weaken, democratic safeguards.

Key findings included:

> **Threatened freedom of the press and media: Journalists under attack**

The report reveals a worsening crisis for press freedom and media pluralism in Italy. It highlights the rise in SLAPPs, primarily by political figures targeting critics, making Italy the European leader in such cases. Journalists face growing physical and online threats, while media ownership concentration and political interference in public broadcasting further erode pluralism and editorial independence.

> **Criminalisation of vulnerable groups**

Over the last two years, a strong criminalisation policy has been pursued to tackle dissent and

target vulnerable groups. Ad hoc legislative measures included restrictive asylum laws and stringent measures against NGOs conducting sea rescue operations, disproportionately affecting migrants and refugees. Moreover, punitive measures affect detainees, impacting overcrowding in Italian prisons. Penalties and sanctions have been increased, targeting in particular activists and protesters, as mirrored in Bill No. 1660, which is currently under examination by the Senate.

> **Attacks on Women's and LGBTQIA+ Rights**

The report reveals government policies that reinforce a traditional family model, marginalising non-traditional families and hindering the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ individuals. The dominant political rhetoric delegitimizes efforts for gender equality and same-sex couples' rights. Access to abortion remains fraught with obstacles and surrogacy recently became a "universal crime".

> **Poverty and Social Inequality**

A worsening of social inequalities and poverty was documented in Italy during 2024, attributed in part to the government's economic policies and cuts to welfare. Data highlights a significant increase in absolute poverty, disproportionately affecting large families, minors, and the elderly. Structural measures to address rising living costs have been insufficient, while essential public services continue to erode, exacerbating hardships for the most vulnerable groups.

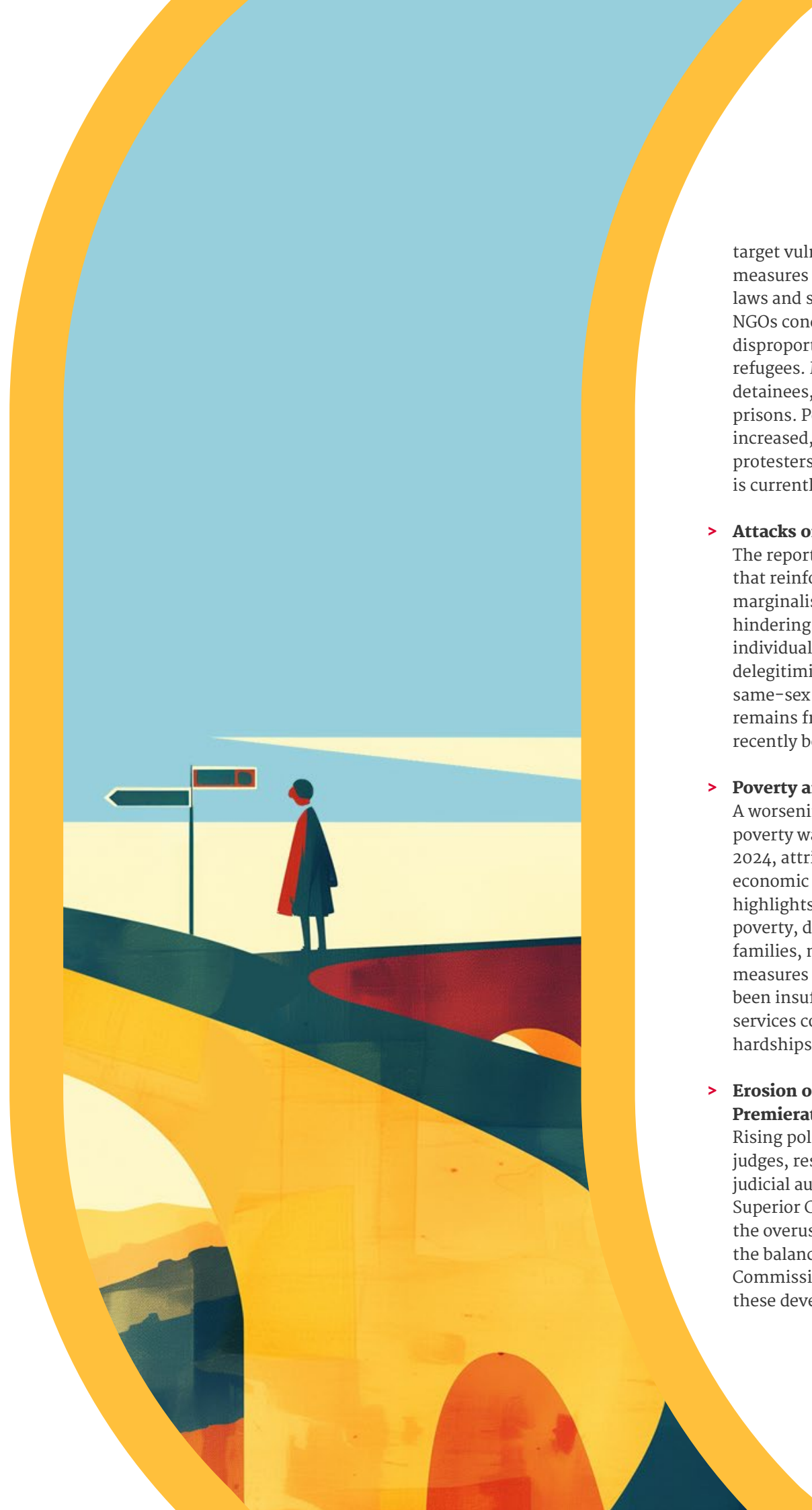
> **Erosion of Judicial Independence and the Premierato Reform**

Rising political pressure is suffered by judges, resulting in a concerning threat to judicial autonomy. Proposed reforms to the Superior Council of the Judiciary, alongside the overuse of legislative decrees, undermine the balance of power. The European Commission has expressed concerns that these developments could severely damage

the credibility and independence of Italy's judicial system, with potentially harmful consequences for the rule of law. The report further analyses the government's proposal to introduce a premier system, which would significantly alter Italy's institutional framework, highlighting its risks to the balance of power and the weakening of representative democracy.

As Italy faces a critical crossroads, CILD calls for immediate action to safeguard the freedoms and democratic principles that are under threat.

The full report is available [here](#).



Our Narrative Lab

The Narrative Lab is a project that intersects with all the work CILD does. Indeed, we are convinced that in every topic there is a need for strategic storytelling and narrative change. With this in mind, in 2024, activities focused on a few specific projects: DignityFIRM, a part of which is dedicated to changing narratives in talking about migrant workers in Europe; and ACCESS specifically dedicated to changing narratives with respect to issues of citizenship and civic space. These projects are further detailed below in this Annual Report. Initiatives such as #PassTheMicand Spotlight also continued and are elaborated below.

#PasstheMic and Spotlight

Within public debate we need a wide array of voices to be heard and ensure that new faces, who know how to best advocate about the issues that involve them, are involved in discourse. Aside from our Narrative Lab and Media Academy, CILD is also working on this through our #PasstheMic project, which consists of “passing the microphone” to activists, writers, experts, and marginalised communities – inviting them to speak about topics which concern their communities live on our platforms. This year we mainly focused on the right to citizenship and the upcoming *Referendum Cittadinanza*.

As for Spotlight, this project consists of interviewing CILD’s partners so that our readers can get to know the activists, experts and advocates that work with us, and also emerging voices, who also work on these important issues. During 2024 we carried out interviews with Elena Radaelli (president of ARCO association), Laura Liberto (President of CILD and Director of CittadinanzAttiva) and Patrizio Gonnella (CILD’s Legal Director).



CILD at the UPR Pre-Session in Geneva



In November, CILD participated in the pre-session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), hosted by UPR Info. Held in Geneva from November 19 to 22, this event provided civil society organisations an opportunity to report observations on their country’s human rights status to the delegations responsible for making recommendations.

Alongside CILD, participants included Amnesty International – Italy, Fondazione Pangea, the International Alliance of Inhabitants, the Italian National Committee for UNICEF, and the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) of Sardinia.

Before the permanent delegations, CILD spoke on key human rights concerns in Italy, evaluating the progression in the implementation of recommendations received in 2019. Among the issues raised in its written contribution submitted in July – prepared in collaboration with Associazione Antigone, Associazione 21 luglio, Cittadinanzattiva, and Lunaria – in the pre-session, CILD focused on three main matters of concern: migration and administrative detention; the criminalisation of civil society and shrinking civic space; and freedom of expression and media.

CILD urged the delegations present at the pre-session to advocate for the improved protection of human rights in Italy, particularly:

- > Establishing a human rights-based reception system for migrants;
- > Progressively dismantling migrant detention;
- > Suspending migration management agreements with Albania and Libya;
- > Halting the criminalisation of civil society and the approval of Bill No. 1660;
- > Establishing a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI);
- > Protecting the right to protest and freedom of expression.

It was a valuable opportunity to engage in dialogue with international delegations and highlight critical human rights challenges in Italy ahead of the official UPR session in January 2025.

CILD’s statement is available [here](#).

The Liberties Rule of Law Report

In the interest of providing useful information to the European Commission – but also in the interest of producing an independent source of analysis for journalists, researchers and others interested in the state of democracy in the EU – in 2024 CILD participated in the drafting of a report on the Rule of Law alongside Liberties.

Our work, which focused on the Italian context, combined with commentary also from 36 other organisations from 19 EU states, resulted in the most detailed analysis on the Rule of Law carried out by a network of NGOs in Europe to date.

The **Liberties Rule of Law Report 2024** offers a detailed analysis of the state of the rule of law in Italy, covering key areas such as **judicial independence, anti-corruption framework, media freedom, checks and balances, and civil society space**.

The picture that emerges for Italy is one of a gradual attack on the rule of law by the government led by Giorgia Meloni, particularly in relation to **media freedom and pluralism**. This includes **attacks and assaults on journalists, government influence over public broadcasting (RAI)**, the so-called “Gag Law,” a high number of legal actions against journalists initiated by public officials (notably the case of journalist Roberto Saviano), as well as the frequent use of **SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against public participation)**, which primarily target investigative journalism. Online hate speech and broader attempts to censor members of the press or otherwise restrict freedom of expression are also major concerns in the country. “The situation in Italy is deeply worrying. On the one hand, there is a contraction of television pluralism, with increasing media concentration in the hands of a few entrepreneurs, some closely tied to politics, as well as persistent political control over RAI despite repeated warnings. On the other hand, the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) continues as a tool to intimidate journalists, as well as civil society organizations conducting independent investigations, creating a significant risk of severely restricting press freedom,” stated Andrea Oleandri, CILD’s Co-Executive Director.

For 2025 we have set ourselves an even more ambitious goal, namely to cover as many areas in Italy as possible and to do it involving CILD member organisations, who deal with these issues systematically throughout the year.



OUR WORK

Equality and anti-discrimination

LITIS – Enhancing the Knowledge and Skills of Legal Professionals and Other Stakeholders in using strategic litigation to enforce the rights of persons with disabilities



In the LITIS project, CILD focuses on leveraging strategic litigation to strengthen the protection of rights for persons with disabilities, addressing multiple and intersectional discrimination. CILD's efforts will include organising task force meetings and training in Italy for legal professionals, NGOs, and equality bodies, aimed at improving their ability to utilise European and international legal

frameworks. The coalition will also contribute to creating practical resources such as a handbook and case-law compendium to guide stakeholders in advancing justice through strategic litigation. Through these activities, CILD will support enhanced access to justice and the promotion of equal rights.

During the initial months of the LITIS project, CILD concentrated on developing resources and establishing strategic partnerships to support the use of strategic litigation for the rights of persons with disabilities. CILD played an instrumental role in conducting task force meetings, enabling Italian legal professionals and rights defenders to exchange knowledge on addressing multiple and intersectional discrimination. The coalition also began compiling case-law summaries and collaborating on the handbook that highlights strategic litigation methodologies. Training programs for legal professionals were planned and promoted, while initial dissemination efforts began, focusing on raising awareness about the project objectives among stakeholders and broader audiences.

CEPOV – Addressing the gap in multidisciplinary cooperation to enhance the protection of victims' rights

CILD is currently working alongside Association Pro Refugiu, the University of Bucharest, the University of Roma Tre, Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers and SOLOWDY in the CEPOV project, aimed at enhancing the protection of victims' rights through improved multidisciplinary cooperation in Romania, Italy, Sweden and Germany. CILD is currently organising and facilitating task force meetings and national roundtables in Italy to empower professionals in the legal, social, and health sectors with the knowledge and tools needed to adopt a victim-centered approach. Into 2025 we will also assist in developing making available to the public a model to enhance stakeholder collaboration, focusing on victim identification, referral, and assistance, as well as secure use of digital technologies. Dissemination activities led by CILD will ensure widespread awareness, targeting at least 100,000 individuals across the EU.

In the first months of the CEPOV project, CILD initiated critical activities to set the foundation for strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation for victim protection. The coalition contributed to the establishment of the project's governance framework by participating in planning and coordination meetings with other project partners. CILD organised initial task force meetings in Italy, engaging legal, social, and health professionals to identify existing gaps and best practices for victim-centered support. Efforts were also made to draft preliminary sections of the roadmap model, focusing on enhancing national cooperation strategies.





ACCESS – Assisting Evidence-based Communication and Campaigning Strategies to enable Safe Civic Space in Europe

Within the ACCESS project, CILD is committed to defending civic space by improving strategic communication among civil society organisations (CSOs) in Italy. The coalition will focus on providing training and communication guidance to local NGOs on issues such as migration and rights to citizenship. Additionally, CILD will contribute to the development and dissemination of messaging guides to promote positive narratives and counteract populist trends. By supporting the creation of the EU-wide Civic Space Action Hub, CILD will facilitate collaboration, advocacy, and capacity-building for CSOs across Europe, aiming to fortify democracy and the rule of law.

In the first months of the ACCESS project, CILD's efforts were focused on building capacity for civic space protection through strategic communication.

We worked to collect sentiment on Facebook, monitoring hundreds of posts and comments, on the topics of citizenship and civic space, collaborating on a report that will be useful for the next steps.



Human Rights: Theories, Practices, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Protection Mechanisms – a postgraduate course held by Roma Tre University in collaboration with CILD

In 2024, as part of our initiatives to strengthen the civic space by supporting emerging civil society leaders, the third edition of the postgraduate course on “Human Rights: Theories, Practices, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Protection Mechanisms” was held, born out of a collaboration between CILD and Roma Tre University. This course was included in the suite of postgraduate training offered by their Department of Law, under the direction of Patrizio Gonnella.

The third edition of the course took place in January, February, and March 2024 and was attended by a cohort of 35 students, who were offered a

multidisciplinary (philosophical, sociological, juridical, historical) view of human rights. In fact, in addition to delving into the general theory of human rights and protection mechanisms at international and national level, the role, functions and operational methods of non-governmental organisations was analysed, including through reference to practical field experience. The course featured lecturers and experts from all the major Italian and foreign non-governmental organisations.

The course looks at the training needs of those who intend to work, or are already actively engaged in various capacities within NGOs, associations, institutions, national and international organisations (whether governmental or non-governmental) or those who are engaged in the field of human rights and civil liberties. More and more young people, both Italian and foreign, intend to specialise in a field that combines skills and civil passion. It is therefore a question of training a ruling class of experts committed to the field of human rights and civil liberties. On this front, a closer and more strategic collaboration between the academic world and organised civil society is the element that can make the difference in contributing to the growth within this sector of a ruling class capable of making a greater impact in society, in the media and towards institutions. On the course website www.corsodirittiumani.it interested persons can download the [course e-book](#) which contains some of the contributions of the lecturers who took part.

Our Team

ANDREA OLEANDRI | Co-Executive Director

Andrea has worked for CILD since 2014, and as a journalist has previous experience in the media industry, working with several mastheads. He is also the Co-Director of CILD's Narrative Lab. He was previously also on the staff of the Mayor of the Municipality of Pomezia. Since 2014, he has also held the role of Press Officer and Social Media Manager for Antigone. In 2023 he began collaborating with the newspaper Lavalibera.

FABI FUGAZZA | Co-Executive Director and Legal Expert

Fabi is a lawyer and organisational management expert with extensive experience in human and civil rights. She is currently Chief Operating Officer & Legal Expert at the Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), teaches law, public policy and human rights at Western Sydney University and is the Lead Scientific Advisor for the NYU European Public Interest Clinic (Paris). Fabi is a member of the Global Strategic Litigation Council and has worked within non-profit organisations for over 15 years, including within the National Justice Project and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. Fabi holds undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications across law, marketing and management. At CILD Fabi leads strategy and development, works on CILD's EU projects and leads all collaborative pro bono legal projects on behalf of CILD (including CIPBRA, SUNI/UCRI, CUSP and the Family Reunification Project).

PATRIZIO GONNELLA | Legal Director

Patrizio is a Professor of Sociology and Philosophy of Law at Roma Tre University. He is also the President of Antigone and has written numerous essays and books on criminal justice, human rights and rights and conditions in prisons. From 2014 to 2019 he was President of CILD and is one of the most ardent supporters of CILD's upcoming Centre for Constitutional Rights.

VALENTINA MUGLIA | Program Officer

Valentina is currently CILD's Program Officer, she has served as Project and Operations Assistant for CILD since 2020. She graduated with honours in law from the University of Roma Tre, before working in human rights she did activism within student organisations and political networks in the city of Rome.

ANDREA COLOMBO | Visual Designer

Since 2019 Andrea has worked with CILD, having more than a decade of experience in communications and design with other NGOs. Over the last few years, Andrea has developed CILD's Brand Identity, Editorial Design and multiple digital communication projects for CILD including Amarsi un po' (where he edited, among other things, the project videos) and "Buchi Neri (black holes) - A journey into detention without charge in Italy".

FEDERICA BORLIZZI | Researcher and Legal Collaborator

Federica is a Doctoral student in the "Sociology of Law" at the Department of Law of "Rome Tre" University and her focus is the risks arising from the administrative aspects of criminal law, with particular reference to the field of "urban security" and "prevention measures". At CILD, she is Editor of the Buchi Neri (Black Holes) report and is a contributor for the "Buchi Neri" (Black Holes) newsletter.

OIZA QUEENS DAY OBASUYI | Program Assistant

Oiza is currently a PhD Student at the University of Bologna. She works as a content creator for CILD's Open Migration, Buchi Neri (Black Holes) and DignityFIRM projects and carries out research and support activities for projects in the areas of immigration, asylum, citizenship, anti-discrimination, migrant workers' rights, administrative detention and inclusion. She is the author of the book Corpi Estranei - "Stranger Bodies" (People, 2020), which focuses on the deconstruction of systemic racism in Italy. She has written many articles in which she mainly discussed human rights, migration and systemic racism.

IRENE PALLA | Project coordinator & Researcher

Anthropologist, at CILD she deals with the formulation and coordination of projects. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Bologna, an associate researcher at IDEHPUCP and a member of various national and international research groups. She is involved in research, training and advocacy on issues of migrations, political violence, human rights and inclusion in Italy, Peru, Spain, Morocco and Ghana, where she worked for NGOs, think tanks, foundations, ministries, places of memory and several institutions of the Third Sector.

ELISA LEONI | Administrative Officer

Elisa graduated in Social Design for Innovation, Sustainability and Gender Inclusion at La Sapienza University of Rome, where her thesis work focused on investigating the human experience in Rome from a gender perspective. She has been a member of the CILD staff since September 2024, where she holds the role of Administrative Officer, supporting the team especially at administrative and office management level.

SARA GHERARDI | Research Fellow

Sara holds a Master's degree in Advanced European and Global Studies from the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, International Relations, and Human Rights from the University of Padua. Her academic work has centered on critical issues of migration and human rights, with a thesis analysing European and Italian policies on the administrative detention of migrants, as well as earlier research into human trafficking and severe exploitation of migrant women. In July 2024 Sara joined CILD as an intern and now holds a research fellowship, which focuses on civil rights and migration policies.

ANDREA MENAPACE | Co-founder and senior advisor

Andrea was the co-founder and first executive director of CILD. He now advises the board on strategy and policy matters and is senior researcher. He is now a consultant at Lucent, a UK-based strategy consultancy. Consistently active in the field of human rights, he began his career as a humanitarian worker before becoming a consultant and researcher for governments as well as non-governmental and international organisations. He is a member of the Council of Europe's expert committee on NGO law.

Acknowledgements

CILD would like to acknowledge and thank those below for their tireless support and contribution to the achievement of our goals. Our work would not be possible without the generous efforts and resources afforded by the people and organisations noted.
We look forward to continuing to make an impact with your support.

Many thanks to:



Our donors, who have funded our critically-needed work including Open Society Foundations, Oak Foundation, Civitates, Social Change Initiative, European Programme for Integration and Migration, Fred Foundation, and IRC.



Our volunteers and interns, who gave their time and expertise to enrich our organisation.



Our partner law firms who have worked with us on our various pro bono collaborative projects.



Other organisations, professionals and experts in the sector which have provided in-kind support and have stood alongside us, working with us to deliver great outcomes.



Our Board who continues to guide us.



Our amazing team, who take on every case and every project with tenacity, diligence and unparalleled passion.



Our members, who have consistently been a driving force in promoting the themes and campaigns that our organisation has supported.



Together we stand

**FOR THE
RIGHTS
OF ALL**

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CILD | Italian Coalition
 for Civil Liberties and Rights

Phone || **+39 064506850**

Email || **info@cild.eu**

Mail || **Via Monti di Pietralata 16, 00157, Rome**



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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CILD - ITALIAN COALITION FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS
via Monti di Pietralata, 16 - 00157 ROME - cild.eu - info@cild.eu