



Policy Recommendations

Italy



Recommendations.

1. National

1.1 National Government Ministries

- “Establish a national system for collecting epidemiological data disaggregated by age, sex, type of violence, and geographic context regarding child abuse, maltreatment, and exploitation, including children's exposure to domestic violence. In Italy, there is still a lack of systematic data capable of effectively guiding intervention policies”.
- “Adopt a new multi-year National Action Plan on Violence Against Women providing for targeted measures and dedicated funding for the protection of children who are victims of witnessed violence and for children orphaned as a result of femicide, ensuring continuity with previous action plans and establishing minimum regional standards for care, support, and case management.”

1.2 Police & Justice System

Introduce an explicit statutory requirement to treat domestic violence as a decisive consideration in all decisions concerning child custody and contact arrangements. Judges should receive specialized training to conduct systematic screening in separation and divorce proceedings where allegations or reports of violence have been raised, ensuring that children exposed to domestic violence are recognized as victims in their own right.

1.3 Police & Justice System

Remove the legal requirement for the consent of both parents as a precondition for a child's access to psychological support, thereby preventing an abusive parent from obstructing the child's therapeutic care. Introduce measures to ensure the continuity of specialized support services for child victims throughout and beyond judicial proceedings.

2. Regional:

2.1 Child Protection Services

Establish multidisciplinary and interagency centers dedicated to child victims and witnesses (based on the Barnahus/Child Advocacy Centre model), where children can be interviewed, undergo forensic examinations, and receive all necessary therapeutic services in a single setting, thereby avoiding the need to repeatedly recount their experiences to multiple professionals across different system

3. Local

3.1 Child Protection Services

Improve multidisciplinary case management and referral pathways. Increase access to child-friendly support services and therapeutic interventions. Strengthen collaboration among schools, health services, child protection services and anti-violence centres.

CHILD highlight 1. It is the most cross-cutting theme. The responses repeatedly highlight the need to protect the child from further trauma caused by the system itself (repeated interviews, fragmented procedures, stereotypes, lack of coordination among services). The adoption of standardized protocols, dedicated multidisciplinary centers, and methods of hearing the child that minimize exposure to potentially retraumatizing experiences is emphasized.

CHILD highlight. request for mandatory, multidisciplinary, and continuous training for all professionals involved, accompanied by the definition of common procedures and operational models. Stakeholders emphasize that greater consistency in practices, network-based work, and the dissemination of specialized skills would enable more effective, equitable, and coherent care across the entire national territory.