

Good news from Italy---- proposed legislation, as described in the July 2017 Chronicle, is withdrawn by Italian Government.

I have the pleasure to inform IAYFJM members that the Italian Minister of Justice, Andrea Orlando, after lobbying and further consideration agreed to remove the part of the proposed civil process Law No 2284 that provided for the abolition of Youth Courts and of the Youth Public Prosecutors and the transfer of their functions into specialized sections established at the Adult Courts. The reform has been withdrawn.

You will remember that the proposed changes were criticised by all the specialised professionals working in the Italian juvenile justice system (ordinary and juvenile judges, professional and honorary judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, social workers, psychologists, educators, and I apologise if I forgot someone).

Only a couple of lawyers' associations - mainly focused on civil family matters rather than on criminal, civil and administrative juvenile matters - with the endorsement of the Forensic National Council, pushed to the very end to allow for the change.

I think it was a great example of advocacy and lobbying teamwork, which saw many organisations in the front line, including the Italian Association of Youth and Family Magistrates (AIMMF) led by its President, Francesco Micela. AIMMF affiliated to IAYFJM.

The petition against the change was launched by Paolo Tartaglione on the website [change.org](https://www.change.org/p/vincenzomario-dascola-senato-it-let-s-stop-the-abolition-of-the-youth-courts-in-italy), available in English at the following webpage: <https://www.change.org/p/vincenzomario-dascola-senato-it-let-s-stop-the-abolition-of-the-youth-courts-in-italy> and has exceeded 26.200 subscriptions in just over a year.

Furthermore, an Appeal was signed by over 300 Italian personalities representing culture, justice and the economy. signature within just a few days of its launch.

I would like to thank very much all those who contributed to the final decision of the Italian Minister of Justice, by signing the petition, the Appeal or by sending a letter to Andrea Orlando and to the President of the Italian Senate. And, of course, IAYFJM which sent a statement expressing concern about the proposed change and signed the Appeal

Kind regards,

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