



Risks faced by unaccompanied children in the Italian criminal justice system

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This project is co-funded by
the European Union's Rights,
Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)



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Khalid's story

17 year old

From Egypt

Area with widespread violence

Poor economic background

Little education



Chapter 1. Arrival in Italy

- System's failure to provide child-friendly reception
- No residence permit
- Life on the street with fellow nationals, no money
- Knowledge/awareness of Italian laws
- Violent background in country of origin
 - Crimes against property (robberies, theft)

Chapter 2. Arrest and trial

Lawyer: ex officio, language barriers

- poor defence

Trial: guilty plea

- No access to juvenile probation

Judgment becomes immediately final

- No provisional release
- Legal obstacles to permit of stay

Chapter 3. Detention

Failure to understand own situation, rebellion

- ☐ More crimes

Language barrier with prison guards

- ☐ Disciplinary offences

No visits by family or friends, family pressures

- ☐ Sense of failure, loss of hope
- ☐ attempted suicide

Chapter 4. Alternatives to detention

No family or friends in the outside world

- No house detention

Social services overworked, underfunded

- Difficulties in drafting projects
- Limited access to probation

Chapter 5. Release

Difficulties in obtaining permit of stay from inside prison

- No permit of stay when released (no ID documents, no work/housing contract, police checks)

Opportunities for children

- Art. 18(6) Immigration Law: special permit for juvenile offenders
- Juvenile rehabilitation

Domande aperte

- 1) Nel vostro paese affrontate gli stessi problemi?
- 2) Come si potrebbe migliorare la situazione?



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