



UNIONE FORENSE  
PER LA TUTELA DEI DIRITTI UMANI

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

**UFTDU, Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti umani**

28 October 2016



## **Statement of continued support to the United Nations Global compact**

I am pleased to confirm you that our association, Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti umani, reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

The Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti umani (“UFTDU”) is an association of lawyers, founded on 2nd March 1968, with the aim to spread the knowledge of national and international rules on human rights protection. The aim is also to promote the actual and effective observance of those rights at the judicial, administrative and legislative level by aligning its strategies and operations with Global Compact’s 10 Global Ten Principles on human rights.

In order to achieve its goals, UFTDU has identified, throughout the years, four strategic areas of action: education and training, advocacy, project management, and mediation.

Avv. Prof. Antonio Giulio Lana

President

28 October 2016

UFTDU has well-established relations with international organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the European Union and the O.S.C.E., and has participated in numerous institutional activities (surveys, election monitoring, etc.).

- ✚ It has been admitted as an affiliate member of the Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, participating, since then, to many activities.



- ✚ The UFTDU joined the IDHAE, Institute for Human Rights of European lawyers and became part of its board of directors.



- ✚ The UFTDU has contributed to the creation of the Italian Council for Refugees (CIR) - for many years, a technical body of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - and it is part of both the direction and the bureau.



# Description of actions and measurement of outcomes

## PROJECTS

The UFTDU is engaged in realisation of projects in the field of human rights funded by national and international bodies. Especially, the activities promoted by the association, concern the promotion and protection of human rights, identification and selection of instruments useful for sharing information and resources and the establishment and coordination of national and international partnership. Moreover, the purpose is to build and adopt the strategies necessary for an effective and coordinated human rights advocacy.

## PROJECT “MEDIAZIONI DI QUARTIERE”



Partnership with | Fondazione il Faro di Susanna Agnelli and Azienda speciale Asset della Camera di Commercio.

**Co-financing partners** | Fondo europeo per l'integrazione di cittadini di Paesi terzi - Ministero dell'Interno - Dipartimento per le Libertà Civili e l'Immigrazione – Camera di Commercio di Roma.

**Aims** | To promote the use of mediation as an alternative dispute resolution of conflicts generated by cultural differences and miscellaneous ethnic and religious background.

The project has the aim to identify issues that represent real barriers to social integration, through aggregation and cultural events aimed at improving social cohesion. Moreover, this project provides the dissemination of guidelines and best practices, established in response to the experience of the door listening and mediation service.

**Project description** | The project includes the following activities: a service of territorial listening door and employment assistance, legal and mediation, both aimed at identifying issues that represent real barriers to social integration. In addition, the project has included the organisation of four workshop with the relevant stakeholders regarding waste management, activities on violence against women, employment orientation and self-entrepreneurship, inclusive education. The output of these workshops were the dissemination of guidelines and best practises, established in response to the results of the exchanges, with all the stakeholders, as well as to the experience of the door listening and mediation services.

**PROJECT: DEM-A-R: «DEMOCRATIE - AVENIR – RACINES, POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DE LA DEMOCRATIE ET LA DEFENSE DES DROITS FONDAMENTAUX EN ALGERIE».**

**Partnership with** | CISP - Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, Ligue Algérienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH), Etoile culturelle d'Akbou (E.C.A), Centre Information et de Documentation sur l'Enfant et la Femme (CIDDEF).

**Co-financing partner** | Commissione Europea.

**Aim** | Contribute to create a culture of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Algeria, giving support to the action of human rights lawyers. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society and stakeholders working to promote and defend human rights and democratic reform in Algeria.



**Project description** | The "Dem-AR" project aims to provide alternatives strategies to consolidate the knowledge and commitment to the defence of human rights. In this regard, the project aims to: increase and implement the commitment and capabilities of young scholars in the protection of human rights (through the realization of a film on women's rights and violence, 2,000 alternative reports, 3 summer school set in 3 different areas). To support the knowledge and participation of adolescents in the defence of human rights and strengthen the skills of lawyers in terms of defence of human rights in working place (creating training courses).

### **THIRD INTERVENTION TO AN AFFAIRE IN FRONT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS: ENVIROMENTAL POLLUTION CASE (ILVA FACTORY)**

The UFTDU participated as a third party intervener in the proceedings *Smaltini v. Italy*, application no. 43961/09 in front of the European Court of Human Rights, with the submission of an intervention *amicus curiae*.

In his memory, the UFTDU stressed that the right to life, protected under Article 2 ECHR, does not concerns only deaths caused directly by the actions of State agents, but also establishes an obligation for the High Contracting Parties of the Convention to adopt appropriate measures to safeguard the lives of those living within their jurisdiction. In our view, the case of ILVA demonstrated the failure of the Italian authorities to comply with the obligation to respect the precautionary principle, recognised as a cornerstone of international environmental law and as well to protect the right to life and to live in a safe environment, granted by the ECHR. Moreover, failing to accurately assess the harmfulness of the dangerous activities undertaken by the ILVA factories and the blatant foreseeability of the risks to life for the citizens living in the neighbourhood of the plant area, Italy has also failed to take preventive appropriate measures to avoid the damage for the citizens of Taranto, in general, and the death of the applicant, in this relevant case.

### **SHADOW REPORT ACTIVITY**

The UFTDU regularly participates in supervision procedures held by the United Nations Committees, in order to ensure that Italy fully respects the obligations undertaken under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Further, since 2005, the UFTDU took part in the examination of the periodic report sent by the Italian Government with regard to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of racial discrimination, the Convention on the elimination of

discrimination against women and the Convention on the rights of the child. The Association attend the public sessions of the UN Committees, introducing the alternative report that provide an overview on the Italian situation regarding the respect of fundamental rights and the status of implementation of the above Conventions.

- In October-November 2014, the UFTDU has submitted an alternative report for the Universal Periodic Review of Italy (with the monitoring mechanism of the international convention of civil and political rights), regarding immigration issue and the right to asylum seekers, focusing, particularly, on rejections at sea of migrants from Libya.
- In September 2016, the UFTDU has drawn up an alternative report (or "Shadow Report") in view of the fact that Italy, in December 2016, will be examined during the 91<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The report, drafted by a team of experts, take into account the concluding observations made by the CERD Committee during the last Italy's examination session.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The commitment of the association, in accordance with its statutory objectives, is achieved through the activities of the Centre for Training and Research, which organizes specialized courses, round tables, national and international conferences, promotion and dissemination of events regarding the promotion of human rights, in order to spread the message and knowledge of human rights and related instruments of protection.

## **CORSO DI SPECIALIZZAZIONE SULLA TUTELA EUROPEA DEI DIRITTI UMANI | ROMA.**

The UFTDU annually organises the specialization course on human rights protection, useful tool for legal practitioners and scholars. The course is focused mainly on the study of the European system under the European Convention on Human Rights, and gives to participants the opportunity to deepen, with contributions from leading experts in the field, the code law of the European Court of Human Rights relating to some of the rights guaranteed by the Convention and the impact that it has in Italian law. Moreover, it will be also examined the relationship between the Strasbourg Court and the Court of Luxembourg in the light of the Lisbon Treaty (1 December 2009), which assigned binding legal force to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of European Union.



## **CORSO DI SPECIALIZZAZIONE SULLA CONVENZIONE EUROPEA DEI DIRITTI UMANI: MODULI MONOTEMATICI | ROMA**

The UFTDU organizes the specialization course on the European Convention on Human Rights, useful tool and update for lawyers, judges, practicing lawyers and graduates in law, legal practitioners, representatives of NGOs , officials public administration and all those who wish to achieve a specialization in the ECHR fields for the exercise of the profession, participation in contests or access to international organizations engaged in human rights protection. The development of the course rises from the awareness of the increasingly significant role that the ECHR is taking over the years. Hence, the need to form an inner judge who is the primary guarantor of the Convention, as well as a lawyer who is able to use this extraordinary instrument for the protection of the fundamental rights of its clients.





## **CONFERENCES**

To promote the Global Compact's Ten Principles, especially in the context of human rights, the UFTDU annually organizes conferences with the aim to address and analyse specific and relevant issues. The conferences become an opportunity for debate and discuss the various aspects concerning the protection of human rights and, moreover, the intervention of legal experts is useful to deepen all the controversial topics. In addition, these conferences contribute to create an environment where participants and experts can share and exchange ideas about the human rights topics, In particular in the field of: forced and compulsory labour; child labour; discrimination in respect of employment; freedom of association; environmental challenges, encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.