



Human Rights Office

Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice. -IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Geneva, 20 September 2012

21ST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW POLAND

Statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

(Thank you for giving us the floor).

Madame President,

IIMA welcomes the acceptance by Poland of recommendations n. 90.39, 90.51, 90.111, and 90.119 concerning **illegal migrants**. However, we remain concerned about the current situation of illegal migrants in the country and we regret that Poland did not accept the recommendation of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

The **children of illegal migrants** are those who suffer the most from this situation. In particular, while noting with satisfaction the acceptance of recommendations 90.99 and 90.120 as well as the measures undertaken by Poland in the last few years to ensure birth registration, we note that children of illegal migrants have not fully benefitted from such measures.

With regard to the **right to education**, we report that a low number of illegal migrant children are enrolled in school and the high cost of teaching materials creates a serious burden for families. Furthermore, since these children are usually out of the educational system, they live abandoned, mostly on the streets where they easily become victims of sexual exploitation or trade. Being “illegal” makes it even more difficult for them to ask for official help.

Concerning the **right to health**, we note that the urgent issue of alcohol and drug addiction has not been raised in the national report of Poland. However, addictive habits among children and youth are very common and this phenomenon is remarkably increasing.

Therefore, we recommend Poland to:

- Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and carry out campaigns to promote understanding of migration issues;
- Continue its efforts to assure birth registration and full access to education for all children.
- Adopt preventive measures to combat drug and alcohol addictions among the youth.