



I AM PART OF ITALY TOO!

Campaign for Citizenship and Voting Rights for People of Foreign Origin

MANIFESTO

According to the Italian Caritas/Migrantes Foundation Dossier on January 2010, the number of people of foreign origin living in Italy today is about five million, the 8% of the total population. About one fifth are children, boys and girls. They were for the most part born in this country, and only at the age of 18 can they request Italian citizenship. Their parents come from distant countries, which the children have often not even visited. They and their families find themselves faced with continual barriers. Insurmountable and unjustified limitations, which create inequality, injustice and persecution.

Article 3 of our Constitution establishes the principle of equality for all, and the State undertakes to remove obstacles which impede this. But as regards millions of foreigners this principle is unheeded.

We, men and women, who consider equality a fundamental value of every democracy and the decision of people of foreign origin to become Italian citizens a choice to be welcomed and supported, are convinced that the battle for recognition of the rights of each individual is vital for the future of our country.

We must all take on the responsibility, and work towards the goal of a more open, welcoming and civilized Italy.

For this reason we undertake:

1. To promote equality between persons of foreign origin and Italians in all areas.
2. To take action at all levels to see that the obstacles which block full equality between Italians and foreigners are removed, and the conditions for the concrete introduction of this change are established.
3. To promote the participation and protagonism of migrants in all social, work and cultural areas. We are in fact convinced that the exercise of citizenship means above all the possibility of participating in the life and choices of the community of which one is part.
4. To set in motion action which leads to the presentation in Parliament of two law proposals of social initiative:
 - a proposal for reform of the regulations on citizenship, updating the concepts of nation and nationality on the basis of belonging to a community through study, work and life.
 - a proposal which recognizes that migrants have the right to vote in local electoral consultations, as a valid instrument of social and political responsibility.





To support these proposals, we recall that the European Convention on Nationality of 1997 already requested Member States to facilitate the acquisition of citizenship for "people born in the territory and residing there legally and habitually".

We feel the urgency of bringing the subject of citizenship once again to public attention and the centre of political debate. To do this, we intend to collect signatures and programme events and initiatives to activate organizations and individuals to support a transversal and unified movement on the theme of right of citizenship.

We therefore appeal to institutions, political and social forces, to the work and cultural environment, to all who live in Italy, to participate in constructing a joint future of justice and equality in which each individual who is born and lives in our country can be considered to all effects an Italian citizen.

The committee

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