



*Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII*

## **PRE-SESSION ON UPR-ROMANIA-Geneva, 30th November 2012**

Statement by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (on behalf of the NGOs' coalition, ACPG23, Ass. Points-Coeur, Franciscan International, COATNET)

### **1. HIV/AIDS**

Romania is one of the few countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe with a significant number of people affected by HIV/AIDS. According to the National Report of the HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Department, at the end of 2011, a cumulative total of 17,435 cases of HIV and AIDS infection had been recorded, while 10,903 persons were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2011. The majority of these cases were diagnosed when the concerned persons were under the age of 14. At present, the majority of the people living with HIV in Romania are adults, with the most prominent group being composed of people in their twenties. A relatively low number of children are now infected and the incidence of HIV/AIDS has been stable from 2004.

#### Challenges

While we commend the positive actions taken by the Government of Romania in the fight against HIV/AIDS, we note that research and intervention, in particular for vulnerable groups and adolescents, should be strengthened. We highlight, in particular, the difficulty to insert children living with HIV / AIDS in schools, with some reported cases of children required to undergo HIV testing before actually starting school. This practice is discriminatory and detrimental to the rights of all these children.

#### ***This coalition of NGOs recommends the Government of Romania to:***

***a) Improve its policy and programmatic responses to prevent HIV/AIDS, especially by strengthening its commitment to ensure universal access to prevention, treatment, care, and effective interventions for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly for school-age children;***

***b) Raise awareness to fight against all forms of discrimination against people living with H I V / A I D S, chiefly addressing the communities in rural areas***

### **2. THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### Context

This coalition of NGOs praises Romania for having ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011; however, it recognizes that further efforts are necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention in the national legislation. We acknowledge a

widespread sense of stigma still associated with persons with disabilities and this causes their isolation and/or abandonment. This is particularly evident in the school context. Notwithstanding the fact that since 2000 the government of Romania has made efforts to transfer children with disabilities from special schools to mainstream schools, the latter are yet not adequately equipped to receive, assist, and implement programs which suit the needs of children with disabilities.

Furthermore, while the Government has approved the national strategy for the protection, integration and social inclusion of the persons with disabilities for the period 2006-2013<sup>14</sup>, disabled adults still face challenges when looking for employments and are often institutionalized.

***This coalition of NGOs recommends the Government of Romania to:***

***a) Ensure the effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, through the provision of measures aiming at the elimination of impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers which hinder the full, effective, and equal participation of people with disabilities to the society***