



## Libraries friendly to girls, boys and adolescents

The Florence municipal libraries have embarked on the process of participating in the programme of the Italian Committee for UNICEF – Onlus Foundation, aimed at conferring the title of “**Libraries friendly to girls, boys and adolescents.**” The programme is intended for libraries that wish to contribute, through their mandate and professional expertise, to promoting and strengthening the rights of minors in Italy.

This initiative is part of the broader programme “**Italy, friend of girls, boys and adolescents,**” which seeks to build networks among institutions and local communities to ensure the full implementation of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989 and ratified by Italy on 27 May 1991.

Libraries play a key role in this framework. Through their spaces and activities, they support the growth and education of younger generations, foster curiosity and a love of learning, promote skills and inclusion, and help ensure equal opportunities for all girls, boys and adolescents.

The programme sets out **seven core steps** to obtain recognition:

1. Library policies promoting the rights of children and adolescents
2. Staff training
3. Equity of access
4. Welcoming environments and quality relationships
5. Active listening to young users
6. Support for positive interaction between children and parents
7. Collaboration with schools and local organisations, with a focus on the **Nurturing Care** framework

To ensure high-quality relationships with minors—who represent a constant and significant presence in libraries—staff have received specific training on children’s rights and on the “Libraries friendly to girls, boys and adolescents” programme.

The libraries provide dedicated spaces designed as welcoming reference points for families, from early childhood to adolescence. They organise **free meetings and workshops** in collaboration with reading and cultural professionals, associations and local organisations, with the aim of promoting library services and encouraging regular

attendance. The **educational offer** also includes free learning programmes for schools at all levels.

In addition, the Florence municipal libraries offer an extensive collection of books and other materials available for consultation and free loan, contributing to the education, inclusion and psycho-physical well-being of girls, boys and adolescents.

Through the “Friendly Libraries” programme, the Florence municipal libraries reinforce their role as welcoming, inclusive institutions attentive to the rights of younger generations. They continue to develop projects and initiatives that promote knowledge, creativity and participation, strengthening their function as reference centres for families and young people, with services and activities designed to grow together in full respect of the rights of all.