

## ***BPW Europe Project*** ***In synergy with BPW International***

***In the context of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals n. 4 Quality Education - n.5 Gender Equality***

### ***The New Charter of the Girl's Rights*** ***Educate to gender equality and to fight violence***

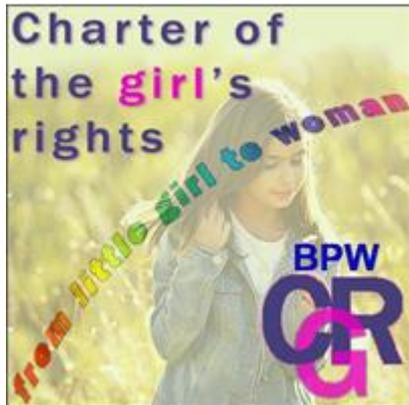
**Goal:** BPW Europe wants to export to Europe and around the world, the best practice realized by BPW Italy to spread knowledge of the Charter of the girl's rights and the values contained in it.

**Step by step:**

**2017 – 2018** - BPW ITALY Clubs are asked to spread in their community the knowledge of the New Charter of the Girl's Rights, adopted in Zurich at the BPW Europe Conference in 2016 and also to ask for its adoption by Municipalities.

**2018 – 2019** - Clubs are asked to involve nursery and primary schools in order to spread the knowledge of the Charter and values contained in it among children through reflection games having the same children as protagonists.

**Future years:** exporting BPW ITALY project in Europe and around the world through the European Working Group and the International Task force "Charter for the Girl's Rights".



## The new Charter of the Girl's Rights

### The Resolution approved in Zurich by BPW Europe Presidents' meeting - 30 September 2016

The original drafting of the Charter for Little Girl's Rights was submitted and approved during the 1997 European Congress in Reykjavik, after a seminar coordinated by Janice Brancroft on "The future of a child in Europe".

This charter is a unique work in the history of gender culture, written by BPW Europe, following the dramatic condition of women, presented in Beijing at the World Conference on Women in 1995.

1. Inspired by the UN Convention on the Child Rights of 1989, in contrast to this Convention, which equalizes the two genders but also integrating it, the Charter for Little Girl's Rights sets them apart in terms of characteristics and needs, having regard to the different physical and emotional features.

After about 20 years, the original Charter for Little Girl's Rights needs to be updated, considering the supervening laws all over the world: what in the past was only a hope, now it is a right!

The Charter must be read as a fundamental introduction to the assertion and protection of women's rights from their birth. The little girl must be helped, protected since birth and educated so that she can grow in full awareness of her rights and duties, against any form of discrimination.

Many BPW Federations and Clubs are very active in this field, and they have been able to obtain the adoption of this Charter, in an updated drafting, by the local Institutions.

But, in order to be operative, this updated Charter must be approved by the European Presidents meeting, as per European Guidelines.

The new **Charter of the Girl's Rights, annexed to this Resolution, as an integral part**, was approved unanimously by the European Presidents meeting held in Zurich on September 30, 2016; so all the agreements, already reached in accordance with the new text, are valid and operative.

The European Coordination Committee will induce all BPW European Federations and Clubs to disclose this Charter, mainly in the Countries involved in the women refugees issue.



## The new Charter of the Girl's Rights

Each girl and adolescent has the right:

### Article 1

To be protected and treated justly by family, school, employers - also in relation to parenting needs - by health and social services and by community.

### Article 2

To be safeguarded against any form of physical or psychological violence, exploitation, sexual abuse and the constriction of cultural practices which could disturb her psychological and physical equilibrium.

### Article 3

To benefit from the correct sharing of all possible social resources and have specific provided support in case of disability.

### Article 4

To be treated with all the rights accorded to people by law and social organizations.

### Article 5

To be educated in economic and political subjects which will enable her to become a knowledgeable citizen.

### Article 6

To be informed and educated about everything related to health, including sex and the reproductive aspects, with particular regard to gender-focused medicine which aims at her specific needs during childhood and adolescence.

### Article 7

To benefit from positive support of family, school, health and social services in order to be able to face the physical and emotional changes occurring during puberty

### Article 8

To be included in official statistics in which data must be reported separately according to gender and age

### Article 9

Not to be targeted or used as an instrument in publicity in defense of tobacco, alcohol, harmful substances in general or any other campaign which could give her a negative image or offend her dignity.

## **The best practice of BPW Italy, step by step: a model to be exported to Europe and around the world.**

The goal: to promote a culture of respect of the other person, in our case a little girl, future woman, in order to prevent any form of violence or prejudice.

### **First Step**

The Italian BPW President has formed a dedicated working group with seven members (one for each Italian BPW District) and a National Chair, to cover the whole territory.

### **Second Step**

Each member of the working group asked each Club (307 in Italy) to appoint a Member of contact.

### **Third Step**

The Chair sent the guidelines to the Members of the working group asking for:

- carry out information and dissemination of the contents of the Charter in the Clubs;
- make contact with the competent Department of each Region and each Municipality to promote its adoption, highlighting its principles;
- create synergies with other Associations that pursue similar goals, like UNICEF, Terre des Hommes, where present;
- create synergies with schools, students and their families.

### **Forth Step**

To realize projects with the students of primary and secondary schools. For instance:

- The Puppet Theatre
- The goose game of respect for girl
- Other projects freely chosen on the Respect value.

## First Operational phase

### The actions.

The Clubs contacted the municipal and regional Bodies in order to introduce the Charter and promote its adoption by Municipalities and Regions involved, focusing on the universal principles and values contained in it.

The members took awareness that this Charter lays the basics of a good and constructive man-woman relationship, characterized by mutual respect; it lays the basics for granting the right to gender equality and supporting the overcoming of gender stereotypes that are the cause of any form of physical and psychological violence.

The synergy with the Regional authorities and, dropdown, with Municipal authorities, has helped and will go on helping not only to promote the Charter in the territory but also to carry out integrated initiatives with Institutional Bodies, with a particular attention to the world of school and young people as well as to carry out training actions for families.

Another effective action has been to create synergies with other Associations pursuing similar goals, like *Terres des Hommes* Foundation (which adopted the New Charter) UNICEF and so on.

### The results.

In Italy, at now, more than:

- six hundred Municipalities
- eight Regions
- two Universities

have adopted the NEW Charter of the girl's rights, supporting the schools to realize their projects on this issue.

## Second Operational phase

### "FROM THE NEW CHARTER OF THE GIRL'S RIGHTS TO A COMMUNITY DEFENDING THEM"

#### INTRODUCTION

With the two following work proposals, we would like to take in the world of nursery, primary and secondary schools a path aimed at the disclosure of the New Charter of the Girl's Rights.

The goal of the New Charter is the education to affectivity, people respect, rights awareness, promotion of substantive gender equality, highlighting differences among little girls and little boys, overcoming stereotypes limiting the freedom of thought and action in adulthood.

In this perspective, the school represents the first and basic place where we could act to "Educate to respect: for gender equality and prevention of gender violence and any form of discrimination".

#### GOALS/RESULTS EXPECTED

The project intends to promote the full self-awareness of own gender already during the first years of school attendance in order to guarantee equal opportunities among men and women in accordance with the following goals:

- Contrasting prejudices and stereotypes connected to male and female roles.
- Preventing discrimination phenomena that often contribute to school failure and abandonment.
- Comparing experiences of male and female roles "PLAYING WITH STEREOTYPES".
- Promoting and enhancing the culture of differences and equal opportunities in the world of school.

Educate to gender equality means to contribute to change attitudes and mindset through the development of educational tools and positive actions as well as enhance the personal awareness of teachers and families in relation to specific characteristics connected to gender.

#### METHODOLOGY

The methodological – didactic approach at the heart of the path is that one of teaching by sharing ideas, questions, solutions proposed and materials used and produced and it is carried out arranging pupils in small groups. An active, interactive and participative methodology providing group works, open dialogues, role games, individual and group work, free creativity works will be used.

#### CONTEXT

Nursery and primary schools pupils and their parents.

## FIRST PROPOSAL OF WORK - THE PUPPET LAB

A Puppet Lab will be done. It will be addressed to pupils while teachers and experts will interact actively and constantly. Puppets are an educational, communicative and often therapeutic tool, they are intended as “transitional objects”; by making and animating them, it is possible to get a dialogue and an actual participation.

The Puppet Lab sets itself:

- To make puppets;
- To dramatize a text;
- An interactive deep examination of some key concepts that are very significant when we talk about gender, discriminations and respect of differences.

The goal of the Lab is to:

- Involve children through interaction games, creativity, communication and improvisation;
- Develop the manipulation and mastery of different materials both in a functional and expressive way;
- Strengthen the expressive and creative abilities of the individual within a group and of the group itself.

**Result.** At the conclusion of this lab, a text will be performed using the puppets made. This moment will allow the participants to learn the verbal and sign codes used by puppet masters for their performances.

At the end of the performance, there will be a short debate with Psychologists and teachers followed by the attendance certificates delivery.

## SECOND PROPOSAL OF WORK: MAKE A GAME ABOUT LITTLE GIRL RESPECT

We will realize a special Game about Little Girl Respect addressed to pupils while teachers and experts will interact actively and constantly.

The lab allows:

To draw the game route on a big cardstock. Each square will have to contain a sentence about respect or the lack of respect, sentences about which children will have to think and express their opinions, proposals and suggestions.

Reflections about respect will concern:

- little boys with regards to little girls;
- little girls with regards to other little girls;
- respect in general;
- special squares will contain the nine articles of the New Charter of the Girl's Rights;

Along the route, according to the behavior more or less respectful provided in the game square, prizes or penalties will be provided (move forward, go back).

The child arriving at a special square will have to read and explain the content of that square, obtaining therefore a special route prize (move much forward!).

The goal of the Game about Little Girl Respect is to:

- Involve children by obtaining their proposals and suggestions about the subject, in the set-up phase of the game route.
- Create moments of interaction, creativity, communication and improvisation;
- Strengthen the expressive and creative abilities of the individual within a group and of the group itself.

### **Result.**

At the end of the realization of the Game about Little Girl Respect, the School and the Club promoting the project, supported by municipal Administrations that have adopted the New Charter of the Girl's Rights, will be able to:

- Print on solid paperboard the game realized that will be distributed to children, families and members of Club that promotes the project. On the back of the paperboard will be printed the Club logo, the emblem of the Municipality, the name of the School having realized the project.
- Recreate the Game about Little Girl Respect in a city square or another place open to the public, using giant squares especially realized, awarding a special prize to the winner and small recognitions and attendance certificates to all the children having taken part to the game.
- Special referees will be the Mayor of the Municipality, the President of BPW Club, the "oldest" little boy/little girl of the school.
- The event will provide the involvement of the parents, teachers and public in general.

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### **Operational phase in the future**

The goal for future years is:

- Exporting the educational model about the Charter for the Girl's Rights, tested in Italy with excellent results, to affiliated BPW countries in Europe and around the world; this, through the dedicated BPW Europe working group and the International Taskforce recently formed.
- Involving European and International Institutions on "The new Charter of the Girl's Rights".
- Increasing the Respect for the Girl all over the world.



## More than 600 Municipalities, 8 Regions and 2 Universities adopted the New Charter of the Girl's Rights



## The New Charter in the Schools



## The Italian BPW Delegation at the Senate of Italian Republic

***“Nothing great has been done in the world  
without the contribution of passion.”  
Georg Hegel***

**Pinella Bombaci**  
**Regional Coordinator BPW Europe**  
**Chair International taskforce “New Charter of the Girl’s Rights”**