



TOGETHER, FOR A BETTER TODAY.



## THE INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING IN POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN ITALY

**On the 17th of July 2020, Italian legislation (Law no. 77/20)** was introduced establishing training in Palliative Care as a mandatory component of **postgraduate specialization in medical schools**. Furthermore, the decree stipulated the institution of compulsory training in Children's Palliative Care for the specialisation course in Paediatric Medicine. The Health Minister, Roberto Speranza, declared: **"Medical professionals in Italy will be increasingly prepared to assist patients and their families with dignity and compassion at all times."**

This important attainment is the highest recognition of the sustained and resolute campaign of palliative care advocates over several decades. This ground-breaking directive will increment the preparation of clinicians in complex issue such as the management of incurable illness and end-of-life care delivery. The introduction of mandatory Paediatric Palliative Care training for the specialization in Paediatrics Medicine endorses the Maruzza Foundation's longstanding position regarding the unique needs of children with serious/incurable illness who require child-specific palliative care programs tailored to their individual needs and delivered by skilled care teams coordinated by the child's paediatrician or the family's GP.

[Full text of the legislation](#)

# A casa è più meglio!

La rete territoriale di cure palliative pediatriche e l'assistenza domiciliare consentono ai bambini malati e alle loro famiglie una migliore qualità di vita.

Questo è un loro diritto.

**FIRMA LA PETIZIONE**



## #ACASAÈPIÙMEGLIO. OUR PETITION IN FAVOUR OF THE RIGHT TO HOME CARE

At the end of May this year, ten years after the introduction of legislation regulating palliative care services in Italy, the Maruzza Foundation launched an important petition directed at the Minister of Health and the Presidents of the Regional Health Authorities requesting them to uphold the right of children with serious illness to be treated within their local communities permitting them to maintain a normal family life and continue their regular activities.

In fact, Law 38/2010 stipulated the development of regional children's palliative care networks throughout the country, however, a broad disregard for this directive has led to a severe lack of dedicated services in some regions. In Italy there are approximately 30,000 babies children and young adults affected by serious illnesses with palliative care needs, which are best delivered in the home setting or in a local dedicated facility.

The World Health Organization defined palliative care as "an ethical responsibility and a moral imperative of health systems" adding, however, that, **"access to palliative care and systems relief is very rare in a number of countries. As a result, millions of the world's vulnerable children suffer unnecessarily each year"**.

During the current Healthcare emergency this right can no longer be ignored.

[We invite everyone to sign and share our petition.](#)



### PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE AND COVID19: A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS BY DR FRANCA BENINI

*"It is estimated that worldwide there are more than 20 million children who are eligible for paediatric palliative care: a number that is slowly yet, inexorably, increasing. With the advent of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, how do these children and families live?"*

So begin the reflections by the Maruzza Foundation's Scientific Director, **Dr. Franca Benini**, Director of the Veneto Regional Centre for Paediatric Palliative Care and Pain Management at the University Hospital in Padua.

[Read the edited article in English](#)



### THE 5TH MARUZZA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE - ROMA, 25th -28th OCTOBER 2021

The 5th International Congress on Children's Palliative Care organised by the Maruzza Foundation will be held in **Rome from the 25th-28th of October 2021**. The Congress Program, which foresees pre-congress workshops, keynote lectures, plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations, provides numerous opportunities for networking with international experts and for professional development in key issues linked to children's palliative care delivery.

[Discover the preliminary](#)

[program, the Invited Speakers, the main theme and topics of this edition.](#)

If you are involved in research projects, you can submit an abstract that will be presented during the congress to an international audience of colleagues from around the world.

[Submit an abstract](#)



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