

"GIU' LE MANI DAI BAMBINI®"

CAMPAGNA NAZIONALE PER LA DIFESA DEL DIRITTO ALLA SALUTE DEI BAMBINI



Giù le Mani dai Bambini (Don't Touch the Children) is a social and information Campaign developed in Italy aimed at awakening the general public and instructing specialized practitioners, teachers and parents about a delicate present issue such as that of the administration to psychiatric drugs and amphetamines to minors and children specifically. The Campaign is no-profit, non-political and non-confessional.

Since the beginning of 80's was re-stated the existence of a supposed mental illness of childhood, a disease that seemed to involve children and that basically consisted they – the children labeled as "ill" – were distracted, careless and too lively. The "illness" was inserted in the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual), the textbook for psychiatric illnesses diagnosis with the name of Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Because of the extreme superficiality of the diagnosis such a disease – that is diagnosed not by clinical examination but with questionnaires whose reliability has been strongly questioned – was thus spread as an epidemic, along with other children behavioural diseases. In US alone children under treatment with psychiatric drugs were 150.000 in 1970, half a million in 1985, one million in 1990, 8 million in 2003, 11 million at the end of 2004: much of the entire scholastic population of that nation seems to be affected by those "syndromes" that moreover often continue to lack of a precise clinical definition.

It was believed to be an entirely "American" problem, but also in the nearby France 12% of the scholastic population uses (and often abuses) psychiatric drugs and in Italy – despite a few prudential statements – school screening have already been performed and the first pilot centers for drug administration to children have been opened. Alternative therapies to the strictly pharmacological one are often ignored or rarely adopted, although they might often guarantee an effective solution to the problem. Easier solutions, such as that of the "miracle pill" that seemingly solves every disease, are privileged.

It's evident a superficial approach to such a delicate problem generated strong debate among the scientific community and in other contexts. The real purpose of such a "disease" – according to many medical doctors – is to sell pharmaceutical drugs and to put on therapy million of very young patients.

"Don't Touch the Children" is not intended, anyway, as a crusade against any multinational pharmaceutical company or specific drugs, but an initiative aimed at guaranteeing – with the cooperation of specialists – a really informed consensus from families, inviting every part involved in this issue to a more prudential therapeutical approach to behavioural manifestations in modern childhood and youth. The only purpose of this initiative is to put children and their families at the center of attention, and moreover to promote training and information activities for professionals, often in close cooperation with their professional associations. The Campaign, promoted by private and public institutions and representing, through the 170 supporting associations, more than 9 million Italians, has a qualified permanent scientific committee composed by 32 famous academic people and an active network of about 250.000 medical doctors, pediatricians, psychologists, pedagogists, psychiatrists, pharmacists and neuropsychiatrists all over the country.

Other than an articulate series of information activities all over the country, "Don't Touch the Children" also manages the Web portal www.donttouchthechildren.org, the most visited Website on this subject in Italy, with more than 18 million contacts in 36 months online. "Don't Touch the Children" is also supported by well known people in the show business, from the late Ray Charles – who subscribed to the initiative before dying – to Beppe Grillo, from Linus of Radio DJ to Renzo Arbore, from Angelo Branduardi to Don Mazzi, and many others.

For more information and to find out how you might help us, consult the Website www.donttouchthechildren.org or write to info@giulemanidaibambini.org. Thanks!

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