

Newsletter



ENOC News & Announcements

Unacceptable safety risks for children on the move

The ENOC Task Force on Children on the Move released its first fact finding [report](#) on 25 January 2016. The report's main findings and recommendations were introduced to the media by the ENOC Chair, Mr. Marc Dullaert, and the Ombudsman for Children of Sweden, Mr. Fredrik Malmberg, main authors of the report. The report provides information from the Ombudspersons for Children's Offices, members of the Task Force, and a number of recommendations to relevant national and European authorities

The ENOC Chair had further opportunity to present the report to the EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Ms. Vera Jourova and at a special meeting of the Platform on rights of migrants and asylum-seekers organized by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) together with the Council of Europe and the European Networks of National Human Rights Institutions and of Equality Bodies. A press release and an open letter have accompanied the report's release, all available at: <http://enoc.eu/?p=1419>

The report's findings have also been illustrated in a short [video](#) on YouTube, made available by the Sweden Ombudsman for Children's Office.

Launch of ENOC's 2016 activities

ENYA 2016 edition: Six ENOC members have already confirmed interest to participate in the 2016 edition of ENYA addressing the issue of equal opportunities for children and young people in education. There is still space for four more institutions to join the project. The first stage of the project, involving intensive country work, will run in March and April 2016. It is expected that a professional filming company will join the project and pay country visits from April to June to assist young participants in the creation of a video or other creative materials reflecting their views and proposals. After assessment of the submitted offers, the successful filming company will be nominated in March 2016.

ENOC: In March 2016, the ENOC Bureau will contract an external expert advisor to support ENOC to draft a position statement on Equal Opportunities for Children and Young People in education. Between March and May, the expert will work, guided by the ENOC Bureau, on the elaboration of a first draft to be discussed in detail at the ENOC Spring Seminar to take place at end of May 2016.

ENOC at the European Conference "Children's Rights Behind Bars"

"*Children's Rights Behind Bars*" is a project aimed at improving the implementation of international juvenile justice standards to protect the rights and needs of children deprived of liberty. The final European Conference ending the project, "*Human Rights of children deprived of liberty-Improving monitoring mechanisms*" (15 February 2016, Brussels) launched the first [European Practical Guide](#). The guide is dedicated to monitoring places of deprivation of liberty for children, providing a child specific approach and methodology guidelines to support professionals. A number of ENOC members from Belgium, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, and the Netherlands participated in the Conference. The Ombudsman for Children's Rights of Belgium (French community) made a presentation in the session addressing national monitoring mechanisms. See more information on the project here: <http://www.childrensrightsbehindbars.eu/>

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Open call to host the ENOC 2016 Spring Seminar

This is an open call for ENOC members (based in EU countries) willing to host the ENOC 2016 Spring Seminar, tentatively scheduled to take place at end of May 2016.

This is a small scale working seminar (20-25 participants) aimed at discussing and defining the terms of the future ENOC statement on *Equal Opportunities For Children and Young people in Education*. The Seminar should last for one and a half days and the host institution would not bear any costs related to the organization of the meeting. For more details and for expressions of interest, please contact the [ENOC Secretariat](#)

UNICEF report “For every child, a fair chance: The promise of equity”

The [report](#) was launched on Universal Children’s Day. The report makes the case for UNICEF’s commitment to give a fair chance in life to every child - especially the most disadvantaged - in order to break intergenerational cycles of inequity and poverty, and realize universal child rights in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the same vein, UNICEF launched the global [#FightUnfair](#) Campaign which aims to engage a community of advocates and to empower them to speak out about the most unfair situations that children face today.

UNICEF report on the impact of climate change on children

[Unless We Act Now: The Impact of Climate Change on Children](#) documents with data and analysis what the climate crisis means for the world’s children. Clear scientific consensus indicates that climate change will increase the frequency of droughts, floods and severe weather. These threats pose grave risks for everyone. But children, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, will bear the brunt of the effects. The report calls for prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable in adaptation efforts, reducing inequities among children so all have a fair chance to recover from climate-related disasters, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. A [press release](#) and an [executive summary](#) of the report are also available.

Understanding how Europe protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation

[Missing Children Europe](#), [ECPAT](#) and [ENASCO](#) launched a [joint report](#) examining the transposition of the [EU Directive](#) on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography by 27 EU Member States. Studies suggest that between 10-20% of children in Europe are sexually assaulted during their childhood. This phenomenon is not decreasing and certain forms of sexual violence are becoming a matter of growing concern. The Internet has made it easier to “groom” children or to produce and distribute child sexual exploitation material. Children portrayed in pornography are getting younger and the images are becoming more graphic and more violent.

ENOC Chair presented the first report of the ENOC Task Force on Children on the Move at a FRA meeting

On 15-16 February 2016, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) hosted the meeting of the FRA-Council of Europe (CoE)-European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)-European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) Platform on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers. Participants discussed how National Human Rights bodies can step up their efforts further in tackling the challenges around migration in their countries. Specific emphasis was placed on inclusion and integration of migrants, non-discrimination, and on how to look at the specific needs of children. The ENOC Chair, Marc Dullaert, was invited to participate in the meeting and to present the findings of the recently published “*Safety and Fundamental Rights at stake for children on the move*” [report](#) of the ENOC Task Force on Children on the Move.

Update on European & International activities in the children’s rights field

The European Parliament adopted the long awaited resolution on child poverty

On November 24th 2015 the European Parliament (EP) adopted the “*Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty*” [resolution](#) urging EU Member States to boost their efforts in order to reduce the alarming levels of increased child poverty across Europe. The EP stated that one in four children is at risk of poverty in Europe, the lowest child poverty rates being noted in Bulgaria and Romania. The EP insisted that a greater political visibility should be given to fighting child poverty at the highest EU political level in order to meet the Europe 2020 strategy target of reducing the number of people affected by poverty by at least 20 million by 2020.

FRA published a report on “Violence against children with disabilities”

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released its [report](#) “*Violence against children with disabilities: legislation, policies, and programmes in the European Union*” on 2 December 2015. The report points to the vulnerabilities children with disabilities face resulting from social isolation, stigmatisation and their greater reliance on care and support. The report also indicates the areas of intervention by the EU and its Member States to ensure better protection of children with disabilities. These include the creation of an integrated approach to child protection; countering isolation and separation; ensuring enhanced and coordinated support; promoting child focused prevention and child participation.

European Social Committee’s 2015 conclusions on rights related to children, families and migrants

On 27 January 2015, the European Social Committee published its [annual Conclusions](#) for 2015 on state compliance with the European Social Charter as regards rights related to children, families and migrants. The 762 conclusions show 277 violations of the European Social Charter (ESC) across 31 CoE member states. Children are affected in many ways by the announced violations; the rights of children and young persons to protection (Article 7) and the rights of children and young persons to social, legal and economic protection (Article 16) are among the most violated by state parties to the ESC.

Council of Europe 1st implementation report of the Lanzarote Convention adopted

On 7 December 2015 the Council of Europe published the first implementation [report](#) on how children in Europe are legally protected against sexual abuse in the circle of trust. The report covers 26 European countries and assesses their criminal law framework and judicial procedures related to the protection of children from sexual abuse in the circle of trust. It specifically looks at: criminalization of sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust; collection of data; best interests of the child and child friendly criminal proceedings; corporate liability with respect to such cases. For more information on the Lanzarote Convention and Committee: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/lanzarote-convention>

Updates from ENOC members

- ✓ ENOC welcomes Ms. Pauline Miceli, the **new Commissioner for Children, Malta**, who succeeds Ms. Helen D'Amato. Ms. Miceli's appointment is for a period of three years and became effective on 5 January 2016.
- ✓ The **Four UK Children's Commissioners** (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) launched a [joint call](#) on the UK Government to provide refuge to more than 3,000 children stranded across Europe and in the camps at Calais (France). Deaths are reported daily as children lives are lost through the journeys they are forced to take with little or no protection whatsoever. Those who survive are often separated from their parents placing them at greater risk of trafficking and harm. The children in camps in Calais are living in intolerable conditions, causing them further trauma after the horrifying experiences they have endured in their home countries and through the journey to unknown destinations.
- ✓ The **Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights** published a [summary report](#) in English on the observance of human rights and citizens' rights and freedoms in Ukraine and to some extent in the autonomous republic of Crimea. The Commissioner reported on the state of protection of the rights of the child in connection with the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine but also on more specific children's rights such as the right to live in a family environment, the right to protection from violence and abuse, the rights of refugee and asylum seeking children, the rights of orphans and children deprived of parental care being in conflict with the law.
- ✓ The **Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland** launched his children and young people's report. The report, uses text, audio and pictures to communicate key achievements over the past year. [Our Year](#), which is based on the Commissioner's [annual report](#) for 2014/2015, explores topics such as: [Flushed with Success?](#) campaign to improve school toilets, the Commissioner's office's work creating a [Golden Rules symbols resource](#) and the [Golden Road video](#) exploring a case study of the Golden Rules for Participation in action.
- ✓ In early December 2015, the **Children's Commissioner for Wales** released the findings of a survey on school journeys in Wales. The "school journeys" [report](#) is based on a survey undertaken with nearly 1000 primary school pupils by the Commissioner and a sustainable transport charity company. The main findings of the report calls for children from across Wales to have better and safer routes to school and to have a voice in decisions about routes within their communities. The Commissioner has called on local decision makers to rise to the challenge and listen to children within their communities when developing routes. A child friendly version of the report is available [here](#).

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **5-6 April 2016:** Council of Europe High Level Conference on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, Sofia, Bulgaria
- ❖ **March 2016:** start of ENYA 2016 activities
- ❖ **End of May 2016:** ENOC working seminar on Equal Opportunities for All Children and Young People in Education, location: tbc

If you have any suggestions or if you would like to include any information or upcoming events in our newsletter please send the details to secretariat@ombudsnet.org (Re: ENOC Newsletter).

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European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

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