

**ENOC**

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children



# **Offline/Online: A Child's World**

## **Children's Rights in the Digital Environment**

### **ENOC 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**

### **Belfast**

### **Northern Ireland**

**25 - 26 September 2019 - ENOC Annual Conference**  
**27 September 2019 - ENOC Annual General Assembly**

Hilton Hotel  
4 Lanyon Place, Belfast



This Conference is co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020)

## Offline/Online: A Child's World

### Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

It is estimated that a third of internet users across the world are children and young people under the age of 18. As with the physical world the online world offers many opportunities and challenges for children. Technology has fundamentally changed the lives of children and young people across the world. The digital environment has allowed children to communicate, to play, learn and to explore but it has posed risks and potential harms that we must address.

Human and children's rights apply in all environments and have to take account of the fact that children often move between the offline and online world seamlessly. In recognition of this, the Council of Europe has published guidelines to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of children in the digital environment (CM/Rec (2018)7) and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is currently developing a General Comment on this issue.

In the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Annual Conference of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children will explore the realities of children's lives in the digital world and address how the full realisation of children's rights can be progressed in the digital environment. As independent children's rights institutions, children's ombudspersons and commissioners have a unique role to play in the protection and promotion of children's rights in every aspect of their lives. The conference will provide the opportunities for young people, children's rights advocates, government, NGOs, regulators and decision makers from across Europe to come together to explore the issues.



## Day 1 – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

9.00-9.30

### Registration and Refreshments

#### Conference Opening Addresses

**Moderator:** Koulla Yiasouma, ENOC Chair–elect, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

#### 9.30-9.45 – Welcome Address

- Geneviève Avenard ENOC Chair, Children’s Defender France

#### 9:45-10.40 – Welcome to Northern Ireland

- Koulla Yiasouma and Madeleine McKnight, NICCY Youth Panel Member
- David Sterling, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service

#### 10:40-11.00 - UNCRC at 30 – Being a Human Rights Defender

- Tara-Grace Connolly, Coordinator at Our Future Our Choice Northern Ireland

11.00-11.30

### Break and Refreshments

#### Participation – Children and Young People’s Voices

**Moderator:** Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, Ireland

#### 11.30-12.00 – ENYA Introducing the Theme

#### 12.00-13.00 – Panel Session

- **Wyred** - An H2020 EU wide Project empowering Children and Young People to engage as leaders, researchers and influencers of the online space - Mairead McMullen and Mary O’Reilly, Early Years and Paul Butler, Partners for Youth Empowerment (PYE)
- **Children with Additional Needs** – Queen’s University Belfast
- **Discussion**

13.00-14.00

### Lunch



14.00-17:00

**Afternoon Session****Participation – Ensuring Children Can Enjoy Their Rights in the Digital Environment****Moderator:** Sally Holland – Children’s Commissioner for Wales**14.00-14.20 – Council of Europe Guidelines** on Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment

- Regina Jensdottir, Head of Council of Europe Children’s Rights Division

14.30-16:00

**Workshop Sessions****Workshops** (in parallel):**Parents Chair:** Maria Rossidou, Office of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights, Cyprus

- **Digital Parenting** – Rhea Verheul, Ombudsperson for Children’s Office, The Netherlands
- **Age of Consent** – Karen McAuley, Ombudsman for Children’s Office, Ireland
- **Parental Use of Digital Technology** – Donna Kernaghan, Barnardo’s Northern Ireland

**Education Chair:** Mairead McCafferty, Chief Executive, NICCY

- **Digital Competency** – Rhian Evans, Office of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales
- **Digital Skills** – Daniel Toda Castán, Office of the Ombudsman for the Basque Country/Spain
- **Supporting Children** – Andres Aru, Office of the Chancellor of Justice, Estonia

**Regulation Chair:** Stéphanie Carrère – Office of the Children’s Defender, France

- **Challenges of Enforcement** – Kjersti Botnan Larsen, The Norwegian Ombudsman for Children’s Office
- **Statutory Code of Business** – Søren Gade Hansen, Office of the National Council for Children, Denmark
- **Cybercrime Strategy** – Nataša Jović, Office of the Protector of Citizens, Serbia



**Protection Chair:** Eduard Israyelyan, Human Rights Defender's Office, Armenia

- **'Bee Secure'** – René Schlechter, Chair of the Ombuds-Committee for the Rights of the Child, Luxembourg
- **Northern Ireland Online Safety Strategy** – Eilís McDaniel, Director of Family & Children's Policy, Department for Health, Northern Ireland

16.00-17:00

**Plenary Session**

**16:00-17.00 – Plenary Session:** Feedback and Discussion

**17:00 – Day 1 Close**

*Social Evening Programme & Gala Dinner*

*18:30 – Midnight*

*Titanic Belfast*

Buses Pick Ups at **18.15pm** from Hilton Hotel to Titanic Belfast and leaving Titanic Belfast from **23.30pm** to Hilton Hotel.



## Day 2 - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

9.00-9.30

### Refreshments

#### **Protection: How do we Protect Children and where does the Responsibility Lie?**

**Moderator:** Margrite Kalverboer, Ombudsman for Children, The Netherlands

**9:30-10.00 – Keynote:** ‘Pity, Protection, Participation and Proxies: A Child Rights Approach’

- Professor Laura Lundy, Co-Director Centre for Children's Rights, Queen's University Belfast

**10:00-11.00 – Panel Session:**

- ‘**The Online World - the New Child Protection Frontier**’ - Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Chairman of the Adoption Authority of Ireland
- ‘**Safeguarding the Health & Development of Children**’ - Dr Sarah Starkey, Neuroscientist, Independent Neuroscience and Environmental Health Research
- ‘**Roles and Responsibilities**’ - John Carr, Author and Consultant on Internet Safety and Security

**Q & A**

11.00-11.30

### Break and Refreshments

#### **Protection and Participation – Child Rights Compliant Laws and Practices**

**Moderator:** Salvör Nordal, Ombudsman for Children, Iceland

**11:30- 12.00 – Keynote: Age Appropriate Code**

- Anne Longfield OBE, Children's Commissioner for England

**Q & A**

**12:00-13:15 – ENYA Session**

13.15-14.00

### Lunch



14.00-16:00

**Afternoon Session****Provision – Holding to account – European mechanisms****Moderator:** Geneviève Avenard – ENOC Chair, Children’s Defender, France**14:00 – Keynote**

- Emilio Puccio, Coordinator of the EP Intergroup on Children’s Rights

**14:20 – Oversight and Regulatory Mechanisms**

- “Children’s rights in the work of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights” - Françoise Kempf - Advisor, Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Protecting children’s rights in the online world: an overview of European Commission’s initiatives - Valeria Setti, European Commission Coordinator for the rights of the child

**Q & A****15:00-15.45 – A year in the life of Ombuds and Commissioners for Children**

- ENOC Members’ Updates

**15:45 – Formal Close of Conference – ENYA**

15.45-16:00

**Break and Refreshments****16:00 – 17:00 Members only****Initial Discussion on ENOC Position Statements:**

- ‘Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment’
- ‘Ending Detention of Children for Immigration Purposes’
- Update by the Working Group on ENOC Statutes



**Day 3 - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**ENOC 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**  
**Belfast Hilton Hotel**  
**[ENOC Members Only]**

9.30-10.00

**Refreshments****Moderator: Geneviève Avenard, ENOC Chair, Children's Defender France****10.00-10.30** - Opening of Annual General Assembly**10.30-10.45** - Election of new ENOC Bureau**Moderator: Koulla Yiasouma ENOC Chair, NI Commissioner for Children and Young People****10.45-11.00** - Presentation of ENOC Annual Activities**11.00-11.15** - Presentation of ENOC Annual Accounts**11.15-12.00** - Endorsement of ENOC Position Statements**12.00-12.45** - Priorities of the Network for the Next Year**12.45-13.00** - Close of ENOC 23rd General Assembly

13.00

**Lunch**