

# Newsletter



## ENOC News & Announcements

### New ENOC website now online!

The ENOC website changed domain and host. The website underwent important changes and now has a totally new look. New sections have been created and more space is available for information related to ENOC's annual activities and child participation projects. While content upload to some sections is still in progress, up to date information on ENOC and its activities is already accessible.

ENOC members are kindly invited to notify the ENOC Secretariat of any inaccuracy they may have noticed on the website. ENOC members are also encouraged to send materials and updates of their activities, initiatives and all relevant information that would help the network to develop its online information sharing resources.

Check out the new ENOC website here: [www.enoc.eu](http://www.enoc.eu)

### ENOC films "Austerity Bites: Children's Voices" now online!

32 short films; two minutes each; reflecting in a creative way the stories of 34 children and young people from Belgium, England, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Scotland on the aspects of the austerity crisis that are affecting their lives and the realisation of their rights. The 32 films were combined to form a unique maze-like, multi-screen exhibition shown for the first time to ENOC members and other participants during the ENOC 2014 Annual Conference in Edinburgh. A second full exhibition was organized from 6 to 16 December 2014 in Brussels at the initiative of the two Belgium Commissioners for Children's Rights (French and Flemish community). ENOC members from Greece and Italy also used the materials to promote the films at national level.

The 32 films, a short video of the exhibition in Edinburgh, a brochure and photos from the exhibition in Brussels are available and can be downloaded at: [http://enoc.eu/?page\\_id=475](http://enoc.eu/?page_id=475)

### ENOC 2014 Annual Conference: follow-up

A detailed report from the conference in Edinburgh is now available on the ENOC website at: [http://enoc.eu/?page\\_id=402#](http://enoc.eu/?page_id=402#)

All the presentations from the conference will soon be uploaded and therefore available for download from the new ENOC website.

The ENOC position statement "Children and Austerity" is also online at: [http://enoc.eu/?page\\_id=186](http://enoc.eu/?page_id=186). If any ENOC member has translated the statement into their national language, please do send a copy to the ENOC Secretariat for upload on the website.

### Ombudspersons for Children ongoing consultation on the next Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child

ENOC members, as key actors in protecting and promoting children's rights at national and regional level, are being requested and promoting children's rights at national and regional level, are being requested to provide relevant input via a questionnaire to be completed by **28 February 2015**, in preparation of the next CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child. ENOC members can access the questionnaire here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ENOC>

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### ENOC Training Seminar for Child Participation Coordinators 9-10 March 2015 Brussels

In the context of the "Let's talk young, let's talk about violence!" child participation project, a one day training seminar for designated project coordinators from ENOC members will take place on **9-10 March 2015 in Brussels**. The seminar will be co-organised and hosted by the Belgium General Delegate for Children's Rights (French community). The aim of the seminar is to train coordinators on the methodology to be used for the project to progress. Training materials such as a tutorial video and brochures will also be provided.

## UN General Assembly official request for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

In December 2014, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) officially requested a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty be carried out. In its child rights resolution, the UNGA explicitly invited the commission of “an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty”. This marked the success of the campaign calling for such study and the commencement of its implementation. ENOC has expressed support for the campaign and members will be important sources of information for the study. More information under: <http://www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info/>

## UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 12 “Children of the Recession: The impact of the economic crisis on child well-being in rich countries”

The report shows that 2.6 million children have sunk below the poverty line in the world’s most wealthy countries during the recession. The new figures bring the total number of children in the developed world living in poverty to an estimated 76.5 million. Europe is the continent that has suffered the most increase in child poverty during the crisis: the largest increase has been in southern European countries- Greece, Italy and Spain-as well as in Croatia, and the three Baltic States. Iceland, Ireland and Luxembourg have also been hit hard by the recession. You may wish to consult the full report here: <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/733>

## UNICEF report: Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children

The report sheds light on the prevalence of different forms of violence against children, with global figures and data from 190 countries. Where relevant, data is disaggregated by age and sex, to provide insights into risk and protective factors.

Download the report here: [http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_74865.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74865.html)

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

## European Council’s conclusions on promoting young people’s access to rights

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Council of the EU adopted conclusions promoting young people’s access to rights in order to foster their autonomy and participation in civil society. The conclusions call the EU and member states to promote measures to support young people’s autonomy and well-being, to tackle and prevent all forms of discrimination and to invest in raising awareness among young people of their rights and how to assert them. There is also a focus on campaigns and educational programmes aimed at raising awareness of human rights and how young people can fully enjoy such rights, especially those young people with fewer opportunities. The full text is available at: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/146207.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/146207.pdf)

## European Parliament’s resolution on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCRC

To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCRC, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution calling for children to be placed at the heart of the EU’s internal and external policies and to ensure the full implementation of the convention in order to guarantee respect of the rights of every child everywhere. The resolution called on the new European Commission to propose an ambitious and comprehensive child rights strategy and action plan for the next five years and to mainstream children’s rights through its different policies and services. The EP expressed the will to establish an Intergroup on children’s rights and well-being at the EP, an initiative that has already been endorsed with a first meeting having taken place in January 2015.

The full text of the resolution is available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/european-parliament-resolution-25th-anniversary-un-convention-rights-child\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/european-parliament-resolution-25th-anniversary-un-convention-rights-child_en)

## Protecting Children’s Rights: Europe should do more!

The Council of Europe’s (CoE) Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, published a special Human Rights Comment to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCRC. While recognizing the substantial progress made in CoE member states since 1989 in order to ensure compliance with obligations under the UNCRC, the Commissioner identified four challenges regarding children’s rights in Europe: detention of migrant children on the sole basis of their migration status or of that of their parents; a large number of Roma children and children with disabilities are still barred from education in mainstream schools throughout Europe; the persisting and self-perpetuating problem of statelessness among children in Europe; and last but not least, the extremely high level of child poverty rates in the CoE membership. Full text of the Comment is available at: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/protecting-children-s-rights-europe-should-do-more!>

## CPT highlights standards for juveniles in detention

The Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has recently published its 24<sup>th</sup> annual report covering the period August 2013-December 2014. A special section of the report sets out the updated standards which the CPT uses when assessing the situation of juveniles who are deprived of their liberty under criminal legislation. You can find those standards and relevant recommendations on page 49-59 of the report: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/annual/CPT-Report-2013-2014.pdf>

## PACE resolution on banning the detention of migrant children

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution calling on CoE member states to introduce and enforce laws banning the detention of children for immigration reasons. The Assembly re-affirmed that detention of migrant children is “a clear and unequivocal child rights violation”, even though the practice is growing in Europe with tens of thousands of migrant children ending up in detention each year. The resolution and a report on the issue are available at: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/News-View-EN.asp?newsid=5245&cat=8>

## FRA published initial data from its mapping national child protection systems project

FRA has made available some data from its mapping of national child protection systems (NCPS) in the 28 member states. The aim of the mapping is to

show how NCPS work, and to identify common challenges and promising practices. The data covers the key components of national child protection systems. This includes information on national law and policies, as well as the structures, actors, resources, functions and monitoring of NCPS.

The data is available at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/comparative-data/child-protection>

### New report on corporal punishment and juvenile justice

The Global Initiative and Save the Children published a new report “*Cruel, inhuman and degrading: ending corporal punishment in penal systems for children*”. The report identifies states in which corporal punishment of children remains lawful in penal systems and immediate opportunities for achieving prohibition of these practices, and describes national and international advocacy for abolition. The report is available here: <http://endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/pdfs/reports/Juvenile%20Justice%20Report%202015%20ingles.pdf>

## Updates from ENOC members

ENOC welcomes the appointment of new and the re-appointment of the following Ombudsman and Commissioners for Children:

- ✚ **Dr. Niall Muldoon:** Ombudsman for Children of Ireland;
- ✚ **Ms. Koulla Yiasouma:** Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. Ms. Yiasouma will take up post on 2 March 2015;
- ✚ **Ms. Anne Longfield:** Children’s Commissioner for England. Ms. Longfield will take up the post on 2 March 2015;
- ✚ **Ms. Leda Kouroumba,** Commissioner for Children’s Rights of Cyprus, has been re-appointed for another six years term;
- ✚ **Mr. Bruno Vanobbergen,** Children’s Rights Commissioner, Flemish community, Belgium, has been re-appointed for another six year term.

ENOC looks forward to a fruitful collaboration with the new appointed Commissioners.

- ✓ A number of ENOC members (Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Slovenia, Wales, etc.) shared with us information on different initiatives carried out by Ombudspersons for Children’s Offices in their respective countries to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNCRC. Initiatives range from pedagogical calendars created from students’ artworks, designed as a brief guide to the Convention and creatively describing the role of the Ombudsman for Children (Croatia); an exhibition on “how much do we know about the UNCRC and how much do we respect it” (Croatia); a number of activities bringing together children from different ages to raise awareness of the UNCRC rights but also to encourage them to make use of their rights (Malta); thematic events such as “Whatever hurts it (the child), it hurts us” in the context of the ongoing CoE “One in Five” campaign on combating sexual exploitation and abuse (Cyprus); Conferences such as “Children are Citizens!” dedicated to Janusz Korczak (Greece) or on “Participation of Children and Young Adults” (Slovenia); to the development of a multi -platform strategy-branded #RightsRoad89-with two main strands: direct engagement and online (Wales).

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ **2 March 2015:** Council of Europe Conference “*The CPT at 25: taking stock and moving forward*”, Strasbourg, France
- ❖ **5 March 2015:** EU Public Conference “*Closing a protection gap for European Children on the move!*”, organised by Terre des Hommes and Nathalie Griesbeck, MEP; Brussels
- ❖ **9-10 March 2015:** ENOC training Seminar for ENYA Coordinators, Brussels
- ❖ **12 March 2015:** Annual Day on the Rights of the Child at the Human Rights Council “*Towards better investment in the rights of the child*”, Geneva, Switzerland

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](mailto:secretariat@ombudsnet.org) (Re: ENOC Newsletter).

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