

Newsletter

ENOC News & Announcements

ENOC 21st Annual Conference on “Comprehensive Relationship and Sexuality Education: implementing the right of children to be informed” and 21st General Assembly: follow-up

The ENOC 21st Annual Conference and General Assembly took place on 19, 20 and 21 September in Helsinki, Finland. The event was kindly hosted by the Finnish Ombudsman for Children’s Office. The Conference brought together over 100 participants, among which, Ombudspersons for Children and advisors, representatives of the Council of Europe, the Fundamental Rights Agency, NGOs and experts. General presentations from several participants and National practices on the Conference theme were followed by a presentation of ENYA activities and the screening of the ENYA video on “The Road to RIO: Exploring and empowering youth identity and relationships”.

The Annual Conference was followed by the 21st Annual General Assembly meeting of ENOC which took place on 21 September 2017. The General Assembly, led by **Ms. Edita Ziobiene**, Lithuania’s Ombudsman for Children’s Rights, Chair of ENOC in 2016-2017 and **Mr. Tuomas Kurttila**, Ombudsman for Children in Finland and Chair of ENOC in 2017-2018, elected the new Bureau, discussed ENOC business, approved ENOC accounts and adopted position Statement on Comprehensive Relationship and Sexuality Education. The Ombudsman for Children of France, **Ms. Geneviève Avenard**, has been elected Chair-elect and will therefore take over the chairmanship of ENOC at the next General Assembly (autumn 2018) for the period 2018-2019; **Dr. Niall Muldoon** (Ombudsman for Children, Ireland) has been elected at the position of Secretary for 2017-2018 and the Deputy Ombudsman for Children Rights in Serbia, **Ms. Gordana Stevanovic**, has been elected at the position of Treasurer for the period 2017-2018. A brainstorming session on ENOC’s future activities took place at the end of the General Assembly. ENOC members agreed on the issue of ‘Children’s mental health’ as a priority theme of ENOC for 2018.

Full Conference information (agenda, list of participants, speeches, workshop presentations etc.) available [here](#)

ENYA 2017 film “The Road to RIO” available [here](#)

ENOC Position Statement on CRSE, available in English [here](#) and ENYA recommendations available [here](#)

Regional Meeting of Children’s Ombudspersons on “Safeguarding and protecting the rights of children on the move in Europe: The Challenge of Social Inclusion” to be held in Athens, Greece, on 13-14 November 2017

All ENOC members and invited observers who have registered to the Regional meeting including the Working Group on Children on the Move are invited to fill-in the questionnaire that was sent to them.

If you have any questions please contact the [ENOC Secretariat](#) or the [event host](#) (the Deputy Ombudsman for Children’s Rights, Greece)



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ENOC activities in 2018

The ENOC working theme for 2018 will be around the issue of “**Children’s mental health**”. Work on the priority theme will progress at Ombudspersons for Children’s level (ENOC) with the creation of a Working Group on the theme, and at ENYA level through a new child participation project.

An ENOC Seminar and an ENYA Forum are tentatively scheduled to take place in Spring 2018, if the necessary funding for all the above activities is secured. Further details to follow...

UNICEF 2016 Annual Report released

The 2016 [UNICEF Annual Report](#) is now available.

This report details the results achieved by UNICEF for and with children worldwide in 2016. It covers the organization's programme work, humanitarian action, partnerships and advocacy efforts in all strategic sectors, with an emphasis on reaching every child and accelerating progress for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged girls and boys. The report also highlights UNICEF's innovations, its efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and the stories of individual children and families directly affected by UNICEF's work in the course of its 70th anniversary year.

Booklets on corporal punishment

The Global Initiative and Save the Children Sweden are delighted to present a new series of three booklets which provide answers to the questions that arise when we think about prohibiting all corporal punishment of children.

These booklets should give parents and carers, government officials, education professionals and others the confidence to support and pursue legal reform and move a step closer to realising children's right to protection from all forms of violence in all settings.

The first booklet dispels common misperceptions about the reasons for a legal ban and its impact on families; the second booklet aims to answer these questions in a way that is accessible to children and young people; and the final booklet answers questions that relate specifically to prohibiting corporal punishment in schools, and clarifies the key issues involved for educators and learners.

The booklets are available to download now in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#). They will also shortly be available in Arabic, Albanian, Bengali, Chinese, Portuguese and Thai.

ENOC letter on Brexit and its impact on Children's rights

A letter co-signed by ENOC Chair, Mr. Tuomas Kurttila and the four UK Commissioners for Children and the Ombudsman for Children in Ireland, on the lack of regard to the voice and position of children and their fundamental human rights in the current negotiations on the terms of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, is about to be distributed to the relevant European stakeholders. ENOC members will be informed of further developments

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

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the governments of the Member States on the protection of children in migration

Conclusions on the protection of children in migration were adopted by the Council of the European Union on 8 June 2017, emphasizing that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions or decisions concerning children and in assessing the appropriateness of all durable solutions; resettlement, integration or return depending on their specific situation and needs. The Council invites Member States to implement actions building on the recommendations presented in the [Communication](#) adopted by the European Commission on 12 April 2017 (see last ENOC Newsletter issue 2017/2)

The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe released a Position paper on school segregation

The paper first provides an overview of school segregation in Council of Europe member states, as well as its main causes. It then reviews the risks that separate education entails and outlines the key principles that should underpin any policy to eradicate segregation and promote inclusive education. Finally, the report sets forth twelve recommendations to develop more inclusive education policies, in particular through improved anti-discrimination legislation, school desegregation strategies and better regulation of school admissions. You can find the report [here](#)

Debate and guided visit of exhibition on children's rights in time of war 10- 24 October 2017 in Strasbourg

The Council of Europe Staff Association and its partners, the Maison de l'Europe Strasbourg-Alsace, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are joining together to encourage debate among scholars, politicians, academics and representatives of civil society inspired by the very moving exhibition of drawings by children who are victims of war. Entitled "Deflagrations", the exhibition depicts vividly the violence they have experienced. It is important to protect historic documents such as these drawings, to understanding what they are saying to us and at the same time to raise awareness of the current situation and of human rights.

Three lectures and debates, on children's rights and access to education in time of war, are organised at the Council of Europe during the plenary sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament

Calls for expression of interest from the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe

ENOC Secretariat sent to all ENOC members two calls for expression of interest from Ombudspersons for Children: first, to participate in a roundtable on child friendly information for children in migration, organised in the framework of the [Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children](#). The roundtable will take place in Strasbourg on 29-30 November 2017.

Then, the second call is to participate in a training organised in the framework of the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children (phase II): "Monitoring places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures". The training will be held in Strasbourg on 20 November 2017. If you need more details, don't hesitate to contact ENOC Secretariat or the [Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe](#)

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was held in New York last week (10 October 2017)

Four special mandate holders addressed the Committee from various spheres of the international legal machinery dedicated to children's rights, two of them making an unprecedented joint presentation. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, presented a report along with Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Their thematic study addressed children's vulnerabilities to exploitation as they fled armed conflict, natural disaster and humanitarian crisis, and underscored that children were entitled to specific rights in terms of care, recovery and reintegration. Find more [here](#)

2nd monitoring round of the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)

The [questionnaire](#) for this monitoring round seeks information on the situation in Parties with respect more specifically the protection of children against the criminal exploitation of child self-generated sexual content (in particular sexually explicit images and videos). The deadline for the Parties to reply is 25th October, 2017. [Ombudspersons offices](#) may also submit replies to the monitoring questionnaire by the same date. They may however also comment/complement Parties' replies at the latest within two months from the publication of a given Party's reply on the website of the [Lanzarote Committee](#)

Updates from ENOC members

✓ 25 years after Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Ombudsman for Children, **Dr Niall Muldoon** is reflecting on children's rights in Ireland and highlighting the thousands of vulnerable children whose rights are still being violated. Find more about this [here](#)

✓ The Children's Commissioner for Wales, **Prof. Sally Holland**, published her Annual Report & Accounts 16|17, a copy of which you can download [here](#). The annual report and accounts cover main areas of work undertaken by the Commissioner's office over the last 12 months to champion and support children and young people across Wales

✓ During a series of inspections in Northern Greece, from 17 to 19 July 2017, the Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights in Greece, **Mr. George Moschos**, was faced with unacceptable detention conditions of unaccompanied minors in Northern Greece, as a significant number of them are subject to unfavourable conditions of deprivation of liberty. Find more [here](#)

Upcoming Events

❖ The Lanzarote Conference (24-25 October) and Lanzarote Committee (25-27 October) will be held in [Strasbourg](#) at the Council of Europe: Ms. Leda Kouroumba, Cypriot Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights, will represent ENOC to this event

❖ The 11th European Forum on the rights of the child will take place in Brussels on 7-8 November, and to the side event on 6 and 7 November. The theme of this year's Forum is Children deprived of their liberty and alternatives to detention. Registration is open until Wednesday **25 October at 18:00**. Please let ENOC Secretariat know [directly](#) if you register to this event by email and also use [this link](#) to register

❖ The Regional Meeting of Children's Ombudspersons will be held in Athens on 13-14 November

❖ A roundtable of the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe on child friendly information for children in migration will be held in Strasbourg on 29-30 November, and a training on "Monitoring places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures", in Strasbourg on 20 November

❖ The EU First European Education Summit will be held in Brussels on 25 January 2018. Further details to follow...

If you have any suggestions, please send the details to secretariat@ombudsnet.org (Re: ENOC Newsletter).

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European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

Council of Europe
"Agora" Building
Office n°B5 07V
67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Tel. +33 3 90 21 54 88
E-mail:
secretariat@ombudsnet.org

Find us on the Web:
www.enoc.eu

*ENOC is financially supported
by the
European Commission*

