

Newsletter

❖ ENOC News & Announcements

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Upcoming Events:

24 September 2019:
CoE side event to the ENOC Annual Conference, "Engaging with Council of Europe Human Rights Mechanisms relevant to the rights of the child".

25-27 September 2019:
ENOC 23rd Annual Conference "Offline/Online – A Child's World Children's Rights In The Digital Environment" and General Assembly meeting, Belfast.



ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020). The content of this newsletter represents only the views of ENOC and is its sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



ENYA Brussels Forum

The **ENYA 2019 "Let's talk young, let's talk about children's rights in the digital environment!"** aims at looking what the challenges and advantages of the digital environment are for children's rights, and how they are addressed in the different countries, through the eyes of children and young people involved. Young people from 18 countries/regions took part in the project. At the final stage of countries' activities, two elected young representatives per country/region, accompanied by ENYA Coordinators, participated in **the ENYA Forum on 25-26 June 2019 in Brussels, Belgium**. 37 young people, 18 ENYA Coordinators, the ENOC Secretariat and several Ombudspersons and Commissioners for Children met over the two days event. Country/region teams had the opportunity to present the outcome of their activities, and discussed and agreed common recommendations on children's rights in the digital environment. They also participated in creative workshops to issue a video about their hopes and fears in the digital world. You can watch the video [here](#).

One young participant per country/region (who participated in the Brussels Forum) will attend the **ENOC 23rd Annual Conference on Children's rights in the digital environment** taking place in **Belfast, Northern Ireland on 25-27 September 2019**, where they will present their common recommendations and the outcomes of ENYA annual activities. Conference participants will have the opportunity to interact with the ENYA group, and learn more about their findings on the Conference theme. The ENYA recommendations will be reflected in the ENOC position statement on children's rights in the digital environment and promoted as a separate deliverable.

ENOC Chair met with Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, former European Parliament Coordinator on Children's Rights, in Brussels

To conclude her mandate as the [EP Coordinator on Children's Rights](#), former MEP Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, founder and co-chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights, organised a meeting on 25 June 2019 in Brussels with several child rights champions, including Geneviève Avenard, ENOC Chair and Children's Defender, France. Ms. Corazza Bildt presented her activity report and recommendations for the next mandate inviting the new EP to continue to put children's rights at the heart of EU policies and legislation. She thanked ENOC for its support and expertise throughout the year, and expressed her firm hope for the EP to further develop collaboration with ENOC.

❖ Update on European and International activities in the CR field

Call for expressions of interest for the next Council of Europe Conference on 13-14 November 2019 in Strasbourg

The Council of Europe invites representatives of Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children, NGOs, professional networks, private companies, or academic networks working on children's rights who would like to attend its conference to respond to its call for expression of interest. The conference, held in the framework of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in **Strasbourg/France on 13-14 November 2019**, will mark the **30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** and undertake the **Mid-Term Evaluation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)**. If you are interested, please send [the response form](#) to children@coe.int by **31 August 2019**. Find more information [here](#).

Eurochild Campaign for an EU Commissioner for Children

On 26 June 2019 Eurochild launched a campaign for a **European Commissioner for Children** in the next mandate of the European Commission 2019-2024. The purpose is to bring visibility to the fact that there is no high-level political appointee representing the interests of children in all EU affairs. They use the Children vs Fish comparison to highlight how children are invisible in the EU political agenda, while there is a Commissioner for Fisheries. You can sign the **petition** [here](#).

New theme of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2020 Day of General discussion

The Committee on the Rights of the Child holds a Day of General Discussion (DGD) in Geneva every two years, focused on a specific article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child or a related subject. These meetings are an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the contents and implications of the UNCRC. The Committee announced in June that the topic of the DGD to be held in **September 2020** is Children in **alternative Care**. Find more information [here](#).

New rules and guarantees in criminal proceedings now apply across the European Union

On 11 June 2019, **the EU directive on special safeguards for children** started to apply. It is the last in a set of six EU directives guaranteeing procedural rights for people across the EU, completing the full set of rights. Every year in the EU, over 1 million children face criminal justice proceedings. Children are vulnerable and need special protection at all stages of the proceedings. With the new rules applying as of today, children should be assisted by a lawyer and detained separately from adults if sent to prison. Privacy must be respected and questioning should be audio-visually recorded or recorded in another appropriate manner.

In addition to these new rights for children, **the directive guaranteeing access to legal aid** started to apply on 5 May 2019. If suspected or accused, people have the right to legal aid, that is, financial support for example if they do not have the resources to cover the costs of the proceedings. The EU rules define clear criteria to grant legal aid. Decisions concerning legal aid must be taken timely and diligently, and people must be informed in writing if their application is rejected in full or in part. Find more information [here](#).

Publications:

Report of the 12th European Forum on the rights of the child

The 12th European Forum on the Rights of the Child "Where we are and where we want to go", took place on 2-3 April 2019 in Brussels and brought together more than 280 participants. The backdrop to this Forum was the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UNCRC, and the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter). Read the full report [here](#).

New FRA publication: 10 ways to protect children deprived of parental care and combat child trafficking within the EU

Almost one quarter of trafficked victims registered in the EU are children. EU child victims are twice the number of non EU child victims, with girls especially targeted. The new [guide](#) published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on 13 June 2019 suggests 10 ways to protect children moving across EU Member States without parental care : detect, identify and refer children who need protection, appoint a guardian, hear the child, assess the child's best interests, coordinate all actors within Member States, address protection needs, establish jurisdiction and transnational cooperation, support judicial proceedings.

❖ Update on ENOC member institutions' activities

England: Children's Commissioner's 2019 Stability Index

The Children's Commissioner for England has published its 2019 Stability Index, an annual measure of the stability of the lives of children in care in England. The Index, launched in 2017, shines a light on the number of times children in care move home placement, school or social worker, provides data that allows stability to be monitored over time, and ultimately drive improvements in stability for children in care. This Index shows how the profile and needs of children in care has changed over the last five years, driven by a growing share of older children and teenage care entrants who have more complex needs and potentially more expensive living arrangements.

Read the Index [here](#).

Greece: Annual Report on the Rights of Children on the Move

The Greek Ombudsman published its 2018 report on the Rights of children on the move on 1 July 2019. During 2018, the Children's Rights Department of the Ombudsman's Office has been monitoring the situation of children on the move and conducted, together with UNICEF staff, 30 visits/site inspections in places where children on the move are located across Greece. The report outlines the main activities and outcomes, the institutional interventions that have taken place in 2018 and the main observations and remarks of the Ombudspersons regarding the situation of children on the move in the past year.

Read the executive summary in English [here](#). Read the full report in Greek [here](#).

Belgium (FR): Visit of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights to a refugee camp in Syria

Bernard De Vos, Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Belgium-French Speaking community was in Al-Hol, a refugee camp in North-East Syria in June 2019, to meet Belgian children born in former ISIS territories and retained in the camp. 80% of these children are below 6. In an open letter published on 3 June 2019, he denounced the situation of Belgian children in Syria and the living conditions in the camps, and urged the Belgian government to repatriate them.

Read the open letter (in French) [here](#).

Moldova: the People's Advocate (Ombudsman) Report on the observance of human rights and freedoms

The People's Advocate (Ombudsman) published a report on the observance of human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Moldova in 2018. This report gives insight into the daily work of the Ombudsman Institution in the Republic of Moldova, especially regarding children's rights. Chapter 2 is dedicated to the observance of the rights of the child in the Republic of Moldova in 2018, with the aim of presenting the People's Advocate's opinion on the rights of the child on the current child rights protection system and the issues to be improved in the future.

Read the full report [here](#).

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment for Children - New materials track progress in schools

The Global Initiative issued a short [briefing](#) tracking progress in prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment in schools worldwide. It highlights the states where corporal punishment remains lawful in some or all schools, sets out the key elements of making prohibition a reality and showcases programmes developed around the world to end violence in schools. It goes along with an [interactive map](#) showing the legality of corporal punishment in schools.

UNICEF NHRI Tools

After a successful series of Global Webinars based on National Human Rights Institutions, UNICEF published a series of tools, to support NHRIs in their work to promote and protect the rights of the child, and to provide concrete and detailed guidance on what it means to implement a child rights approach in their daily work:

- [Presentation of the toolkit and Child Rights Approach](#)
- [Child-friendly complaint mechanisms](#)
- [Children's participation in the work of NHRIs](#)
- [Promotion and outreach with and for children](#)

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

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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@enoc.eu (Re: ENOC Newsletter).