



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

01 EDITION
2022

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ENOC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENOC/EU PARLIAMENT OPEN LETTER

ENOC Chair and the Vice-President of the European Parliament/Coordinator on Children's Rights, Ewa Kopacz, co-signed an Open Letter for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, and children in institutional care fleeing from Ukraine to the EU. ENOC called on the European Commission and EU Member States to cooperate with the Ukrainian authorities and relevant international and non-governmental organisations to immediately establish a mandatory screening, registration and monitoring system for unaccompanied and separated children and children from institutional care in Ukraine. Read the original letter [here](#).

ENOC STATEMENT

ENOC issued a [Statement](#) expressing its deepest concerns regarding the safety and well-being of children trapped in the outbreak of the devastating war in Ukraine. ENOC reiterated its support and solidarity to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in its role to protect and promote the human rights of children and young people. Among others, ENOC called on:

- Russia to immediately halt its invasion to protect the lives, safety and well-being of children. While both Russia and Ukraine have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is impossible for the Ukrainian Government to protect the rights of its child citizens under conditions of war;
- All parties involved to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches safely and quickly children and families in need. ENOC and individual ENOC members will cooperate with relevant international organisations to provide support and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine's most vulnerable children and young people.

NEW COE STRATEGY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

On the 7th-8th of April, the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe launched the new Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) "[Children's Rights in Action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation](#)". The [high-level launching conference](#) for the new strategy saw a proactive engagement from the part of various ENOC members. In particular, ENOC Chair - Theoni Koufonikolakou - moderated the "deep dive conversation" on *Ensuring children's access to quality mental health services* and spoke at the High-level plenary session "Member states and international organisations / INGOs".

EU PARLIAMENT

On 21st of April, the EU Parliament held an extraordinary EMPL/JURI Committees meeting on "Exchange of views on the risk of illegal adoption concerning Ukrainian children from institutional care fleeing from war". ENOC Chair was invited to intervene and her speech, as well as the whole meeting, can be accessed [here](#).

EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COORDINATOR

On Tuesday 15 March 2022, the EP Coordinator on Children's Rights presented her [annual report 2021](#) to the Committee on Legal Affairs. The report provides a summary of the main activities undertaken by the Coordinator in 2021 together with the work programme for 2022.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children published "[Implementation Guidance: a strategy to eliminate violent punishment of children](#)" - [available in eight languages!](#). By the awareness that law reform alone will not eliminate violent punishment, this Implementation Guidance describes five broad steps in moving from prohibition to elimination of corporal punishment and the building of non-violent childhoods.

MISSING CHILDREN EUROPE

Missing Children Europe launched a new [web page](#) dedicated to missing Ukrainian children. The website provides information on how to report a missing Ukrainian child across Europe, posters of Ukrainian children currently reported missing as well as resources to support missing children and their families fleeing Ukraine.



EU COMMISSION

The EU Commission opened a [call for evidence](#) to feed into the upcoming [EU Care strategy](#). Eurochild and other actors which have long been advocating on the matter, made their contributions to the call. Read Eurochild '[First Years, First Priority position](#)', published in response to the call for evidence.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On the 9th of March, the UN Human Rights Council held its annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child addressing the issue of family reunification and organising a panel discussion on family reunification in the context of migration. It also continued its interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. To read the speeches of the panel, click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATES!

▶ **Online**
ENOC/UNICEF/UNCRC
COMMITTEE LAUNCH
EVENT ON THE CRIA
SYNTHESIS REPORT
(1st June, 13.30-15.00
CET)

▶ **Warsaw**
ENOC SPRING
SEMINAR
(8th - 10th June)

▶ **Bilbao**
ENYA Forum
(28th-30th June)

▶ **Reykjavik**
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
(19th-21st September)

UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

ARMENIA

At the end of his 6 years term, the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, Arman Tatoyan, summarised the activities carried out in relation to the protection of child's rights in a [video](#) available with English subtitles.

ESTONIA

Check the Chancellor of Justice of Estonia [Annual Report 2021](#) (available in English).

FINLAND

In February, the Ombudsman for Children in Finland published the following [report](#) to the Parliament. Submitted every 4 years, the report aims to inform the Parliament on how the rights of the child are upheld and implemented in Finland, and which are the current children's rights related challenges in the country.

GREECE

On the 12th of April, the UNICEF Greece Country Office and the Greek Ombudsman presented the report "The Impact of COVID-19 Restrictive Measures on the Rights of the Child" (available in Greek [here](#)). The research showed that restrictive measures to contain the pandemic created a series of challenges that significantly affected the lives of children specially in the fields of education, mental health and domestic violence.



ITALY

In November 2021, the Italian Independent Authority for children and adolescents dedicated the World Children's Day to promote children's rights to participation, organising an institutional meeting and the launch of the ["Manifesto" on Children's Participation](#).

LATVIA

With the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia will be entrusted with the functioning of a national preventive mechanism or a system of regular visits to institutions where people are or might be deprived of liberty (i.e., orphanages, nursing homes, psychoneurological hospitals).

SLOVENIA

The Ombudsman of Slovenia, Peter Svetina, published its Second Annual Report available [here](#).

UNITED KINGDOM

The Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Equalities, invited the Children's Commissioner for England to undertake an [independent review into family life](#) in the UK to understand more about how children, parents, the wider family, and community feel about family life today.

WELCOME TO THE NEW COMERS!



Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan,
the new Human Rights
Defender of the
Republic of Armenia



Ms. Antoniette Vassallo,
the new Children's
Commissioner for Malta



Ms. Rocio Sifuentes, the
new Children's
Commissioner for Wales

PUBLICATIONS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

CSO/IOs

Anchored by new data analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on children, UNICEF published "[Preventing a lost decade: Urgent action to reverse the devastating impact of COVID-19 on children and young people](#)", a report on how the COVID-19 represents the most devastating global crisis for children in UNICEF 75-year history, putting years of progress in education, vaccinations, and equality at risk.

Building on its earlier research, FRA published '[Guardianship systems for unaccompanied children in the EU](#)', a report which looks at key developments in the area since 2014 and suggests how to address challenges and improve the diverse guardianship systems in the EU.

The Child Circle KIND Europe published the briefing paper "[Note on Unaccompanied Children Fleeing From Ukraine](#)". The briefing paper is intended to provide EU stakeholders with an overview of the different circumstances in which unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine might arrive in Europe and an outline of the different rules that will apply to their situations. It describes the procedural difficulties they may encounter and sets out critical areas for action.

The European Network for Statelessness published a 2nd Advocacy Briefing – "[BRIEFING: Update on access to protection for stateless refugees from Ukraine](#)" providing updated information and recommendations on access to protection for stateless refugees from Ukraine, including under the EU Temporary Protection Directive (TPD).

ACADEMIA

[THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN FAMILY LAW DISPUTES](#)

In family law proceedings, such as divorce, children are afforded the right to express their views and these must be considered seriously during the deliberation by the decision-maker. This book examines the international and European human rights frameworks through the lens of the child's right to participate. AUTHOR(S): [Charlotte Mol](#); SERIES: [European Family Law](#) VOLUME: 52

[CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE](#)

This book is a collection of contributions examining children's access to justice within selected jurisdictions and various areas of law. It explores children's participation in judicial and non-judicial procedures in practice and discusses various obstacles to participation.

EDITOR(S): [Mona Paré](#), [Marielle Bruning](#), [Thierry Moreau](#), [Caroline Siffrein-Blanc](#)
book | published | 1st edition | April 2022 | xviii + 258 pp.

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ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. The content of this publication 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.

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FROM THE
ACADEMIA**

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