



ENOC 26th Annual Conference  
Reykjavik, Iceland

# Shaping the Future: Children's Rights in a Climate Crisis

*19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - ENOC Annual Conference*

*21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 - ENOC Annual General Assembly*

**Conference Venue:**

**HARPA Conference & Concert Hall**

## Climate Justice & Children's Rights

*'[T]here may be no greater, growing threat facing the world's children – and their children – than climate change'<sup>1</sup>*

This year's ENOC Annual Conference will address the topic of Climate Justice from a children's rights perspective and will be the concluding event of ENOC's annual activities on access to climate justice. The urgency of addressing the topic of Climate Justice from a children's rights perspective stands from the disproportionate and devastating impact of environmental harm on children now and on their children in the future.

The Annual Conference will thoroughly address the main findings of ENOC's research on Climate Justice along with other contributions related to the conference theme. Over the year, ENOC members on one side, and the young people participating in the European Network of Young Advisors (ENYA), on the other, have worked intensively on the conference theme in order to provide valuable insights related to different aspects of Climate Justice. Among others, they have gathered information on existing and/or missing justice mechanisms (i.e., prevention, complaints, reparation, compensation mechanisms) that enable or prevent children and adults to enjoy a wide array of rights related to the environment. They also provided useful inputs and suggestions regarding children's engagement in climate activism, climate actions to mitigate environmental impact and child participation in environmental policy and decision-making. Remarkably, they stressed the pivotal role of human rights education, including the right to a healthy environment, as a way of empowering children to stand up for their rights.

ENYA young advisors will play an active role during the Conference by contributing and facilitating different plenary or workshop sessions. They will also present their policy recommendations on Climate Justice which will be reflected in ENOC's 2022 position statement on Climate Justice and Children's Rights to be endorsed by the ENOC General Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

Ombudspersons and Commissioners for Children from across Europe and beyond, representatives of key European and International Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations, governmental authorities, professionals, experts, climate activists, and other stakeholders operating in the children's rights field are expected to take part in the event.

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<sup>1</sup> UN International Children's Emergency Fund – UNICEF, 2015.

# Day 1

19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

9.00-9.30

**Registration and Refreshments**

**Moderator: Salvör Nordal, Ombudsman for Children, Iceland, and Conference host**

9.30-10.15

**Opening Session**

**Speakers:**

- Theoni Koufonikolakou, ENOC Chair, Deputy Ombudswoman for Children 's Rights, Greece
- Salvör Nordal, ENOC Chair Elect, Ombudsman for Children, Iceland
- Zuria Arzua Cebolla, ENYA 2022 General Coordinator, Ombudsman's Office, Basque Country, and ENYA representatives

10.15 – 11.00

**UNCRC and the Preparation of General Comment No.26**

**Speakers (on-line):**

- Philip Jaffé, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Jonas Schubert, expert, Terres des Hommes

**11.00-11.15**

***Coffee Break***

11.15-12.00

**Iceland's Strategy on Climate Change**

**Speakers:**

- Svandís Svavarsdóttir, Minister of Food, Fisheries and Agriculture of Iceland
- Panel with representatives of Young Advisory Groups from Iceland

**12.00-13.00**

***Lunch***

**Moderator: Theoni Koufonikolakou, ENOC Chair, Deputy Ombudswoman for Children's Rights, Greece**

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| 13.00-13.45 | <b>Presentation of ENOC's Synthesis Report on Climate Justice</b> |
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**Speakers:**

- Laura Lundy, Professor at Queen's University, Belfast and University College Cork
- Aoife Daly, Lecturer in Law, University College Cork

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| 13.45-15.00 | <p><b>What rights are at stake from children's perspective:</b></p> <p><b>ENYA delegates to present their main findings</b></p> |
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| 15.00-15.30 | Coffee Break |
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| 15.30-16.45 | <b>Workshops on Climate Justice</b> |
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- .... “Human Rights Education”
- .... “The Right to Seek, Receive and Impart Information, and Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly”
- .... “The Right of Children to Access Justice Mechanisms”
- .... “Ombudspersons upholding Children’s rights during Climate Crisis”

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| 16.45-17.15 | <b>Feedback from Workshops</b> |
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17.30 City Walk

## Day 2

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

9.00 – 9.30

Refreshments

**Moderator: Bruce Adamson, ENOC past-Chair, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland**

9.30 – 10.00

**Children's rights from the lenses of European organisations**

### Speakers:

- *Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child: Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations*, Regína Jensdóttir, Head of the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division
- Charlotte Altenhöner-Dion, Advisor on children's rights to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

10.00 – 10.45

**Children as Human Rights Defenders**

- Panel session with the participation of Professor Laura Lundy (Queen's University, Belfast and University College Cork), young activists and ENYA young advisors

**10.45 – 11.00**

**Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.15

**Empowering children through education**

### Speakers:

- Sævar Helgi Bragason, Science educator
- Sigurlaug Arnardóttir, Landvernd, Iceland Environment Association
- Young reporters for the Environment
- Jökull Jónsson, Musician and Climate justice activist

**12.15 – 13.15**

***Lunch***

**Moderator: Caroline Vrijens, ENOC Treasurer, Children's Rights Commissioner, Belgium (Flanders)**

**13.15 – 14.15**

**ENYA Recommendations on Climate Justice**

**14.15 – 14.30**

**Cooperation with other NHRIs/ICRIs or Networks**

**Speakers:**

- Claudia Kittel, Head of the CRC Monitoring Mechanism, German Institute for Human Rights
- Leo Ratledge, Co-Director, Child Rights International Network

**14.30 – 14.45**

***Coffee break***

**14.45 – 16.00**

**Updates from ENOC Members**

**16.00 – 16.15**

**CONFERENCE CLOSE**



**General Assembly pre-session (only for ENOC members)**

**16.15 – 17.00**

**Discussion on ENOC's Position Statement on Climate Justice**

**19.30**

***Conference dinner at Iðnó Culture House***



**Government of Iceland**

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