



ENOC 26th Annual Conference
Reykjavik, Iceland

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

19th – 20th September 2022 - ENOC Annual Conference

21st 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'¹

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 21st 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.

¹ UN International Children's Emergency Fund – UNICEF, 2015.

Day 1

19th 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

13.00-13.45 Presentation of ENOC's Synthesis Report on Climate Justice

Speaker:

- Laura Lundy, Professor at Queen's University, Belfast and University College Cork

**13.45-15.00 What rights are at stake from children's perspective:
ENYA delegates to present their main findings**

15.00-15.30 Coffee Break

15.30-16.45 Workshops on Climate Justice

- "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"

16.45-17.15 Feedback from Workshops

17.30 City Walk

Day 2

20th 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 and ad-hoc statement

19.30

Conference dinner at Iðnó Culture House



Government of Iceland

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