



LAPSIASIAVALTUUTETTU
OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN

**ENOC 28th Annual Conference
2024 – Helsinki, Finland**

Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Children in Alternative Care

18th – 19th September 2024 - ENOC Annual Conference
20th September 2024 - ENOC Annual General Assembly

Conference Venue: Hotel Kämp
Pohjoisesplanadi 29
Helsinki, Finland



Co-funded by
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“Every child and young person should live in a supportive, protective and caring environment that promotes their full potential”

(64/142. Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, General Assembly, United Nations, 2010)

Although there is a growing global awareness about the significance of developing and implementing family-oriented policies and initiatives that aim to tackle the root causes of separation and empower families to fulfil their caregiving responsibilities, millions of children in Europe and worldwide continue to grow up deprived of parental care and separated from their families.

Despite a strong international and European framework and commitments to protect and promote the rights of children in alternative care, children without parental care or at risk of losing it, still experience violations of their human rights on a regular basis. Isolation from families and communities may deprive them of necessary care, leading to a lack of suitable support for their individual needs, instability in relationships, and an increased risk of falling victim to violence and abuse.

This year's ENOC Annual Conference will focus on the level of implementation of international and regional standards in the child

alternative care framework and the critical role played by Ombudspersons for Children to independently report and redress violations of children's rights in the context of alternative care.

The event will conclude ENOC's annual activities on the topic, which involve collaborative work from experts, ENOC members, and the young people participating in the European Network of Young Advisors (ENYA). Insights from these activities will be presented at the Conference and reflected in the related ENOC policy statement, subject to endorsement by the General Assembly.

On the same occasion, the ENOC-wide research conducted on the matter provides findings for ENOC members to examine and discover measures to strengthen the rights of children in alternative care. The meaningful participation of children with care lived experience is a key element in addressing shortcomings in the different care systems and this is fully reflected in this year's ENYA activities.

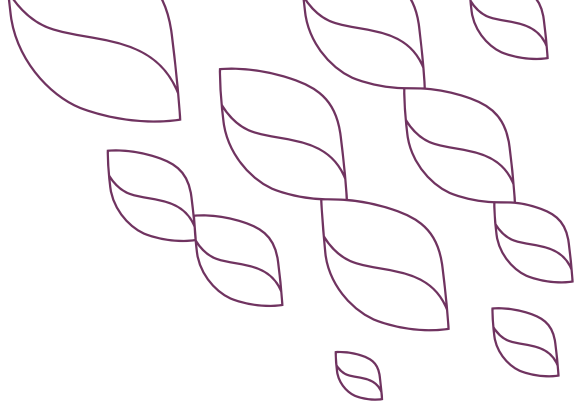
The expectations of ENYA Young Advisors will complement the research findings, as they will share their policy recommendations adopted during the ENYA Forum in July 2024. Key questions to be addressed include: What are the key challenges and barriers faced by children in alternative care in accessing their rights? What role can ICRIIs play in monitoring and safeguarding them? How can the voices and experiences of children in alternative care be amplified and taken into account in policy and decision-making processes?

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 and other relevant stakeholders are expected to actively participate in the event and to contribute to the Conference theme with their experience.



Day 1

18 September 2024



8.30-9.00 Registration

9.00-9.40 Welcoming & Opening Session

Moderator:

Elina Pekkarinen, ENOC Chair-Elect, Ombudsman for Children, Finland, and Conference host

Speakers:

- Caroline Vrijens, ENOC Chair, Children's Rights Commissioner, Flanders/Belgium
- Johanna Suurpää, Permanent Secretary, Head of Department Democracy and Public Law, Ministry of Justice, Finland
- Sirpa Rautio, Director, EU Fundamental Rights Agency

9.40-10.20 Session 1: Setting the scene

Speakers:

- Ann Skelton, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (video message)
- Katrin Uerpmann, Secretary of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)
- Marta Tarragona Fenosa, Legal and Policy Officer, member of the European Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child's team, Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, European Commission
- Questions and discussion on session 1

10.20-10.50 Coffee Break

10.50-11.40 Session 2: Standing by children in vulnerable situations

Speakers:

- Regina De Dominicis, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia & Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe (video message)
- Helena Inkinen, Development manager, Pesäpuu ry (Finnish NGO)
- Questions and discussion on session 2

11.40-12.40 Lunch

12.40-14.00 ENYA 2024

14.00-14.15 Group Photo

14.15-14.45 Coffee Break

14.45-16.15 Workshops: Updates from ENOC members

- Group 1: Moderated by Caroline Vrijens, ENOC Chair
- Group 2: Moderated by Solayman Laqdim, ENOC Treasurer
- Group 3: Moderated by Andres Aru, ENOC Secretary
- Group 4: Moderated by Salvör Nordal, ENOC Past-Chair

16.15 Closing of the day

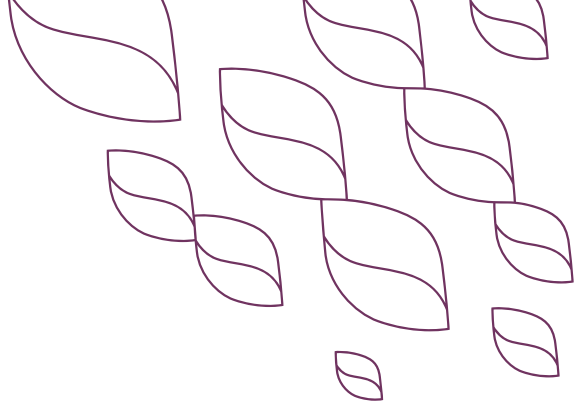
Elina Pekkarinen, ENOC Chair-Elect, Ombudsman for Children in Finland, and Conference host

19.00 Dinner

Restaurant 10. Kerros, Asema-aukio 2 (Original Sokos Hotel Vaakuna)

Day 2

19 September 2024



8.30-9.00 **Arrival of participants**

9.00-9.05 **Opening of Day 2**

Elina Pekkarinen, ENOC Chair-Elect,
Ombudsman for Children, Finland, and Conference host

9.05-9.50 **Session 3: Results and conclusions of the ENOC
survey on the Rights of Children in Alternative Care**

Speakers:

- Tarja Pösö, Professor Emerita,
University of Tampere (FIN) and University of Bergen (NO)
- Terhi Tuukkanen, Senior researcher,
Office of the Ombudsman for Children, Finland

9.50-10.20 **Coffee Break**

10.20-11.50 **ENYA Recommendations on the Rights of Children
in Alternative Care**

Speakers:

- ENYA delegates
- Andrej Peter, ENYA 2024 General Coordinator (Slovakia)

11.50-12.50 Lunch

12.50–13.30 Quality and monitoring of alternative care

Speakers:

- Jenni Repo, Doctoral researcher,
University of Tampere (research on the quality of alternative care)
- Kirsti Kurki-Suonio, Presenting councilor,
Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Finland
- Questions and discussion on session 3

13.30–15.30 Field visits

- The Helsinki Mother and Child Home Association
- Kaisaniemi Primary School focused on music and dance

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

Conference closure

16.00-17.00 General Assembly pre-session (Only for ENOC members)

Discussion on ENOC's position statement

18.00-19.00 Reception hosted by the City of Helsinki

Old Court House, Aleksanterinkatu 20

Supported by

The logo for the City of Helsinki, featuring the word "Helsinki" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a white rounded rectangle with a black border. The rectangle has a small notch at the bottom center.

Day 3

20 September 2024

ENOC 28th Annual General Assembly



10.00-11.30 ENOC 28th Annual General Assembly

- Presentation of ENOC annual activities
- Presentation and approval of ENOC annual accounts
- Election of the new Bureau 2024-2025
- Amendment of the ENOC Child Protection Policy and appointment of a CP focal point

11.30-11.45 Coffee & Refreshments

11.45-13.00 ENOC 28th Annual General Assembly

- Endorsement of ENOC position statement on Alternative Care
- Endorsement of ENOC ad-hoc position statement
- Vote on an application for membership
- Appointment of the ENYA 2025 coordination office
- Brainstorming on ENOC 2026 annual focus
- Any other issue raised by members

13.00-14.00 Lunch

End





This event is
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