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NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF OMBUDSPERSONS FOR CHILDREN



ENOC NEWS

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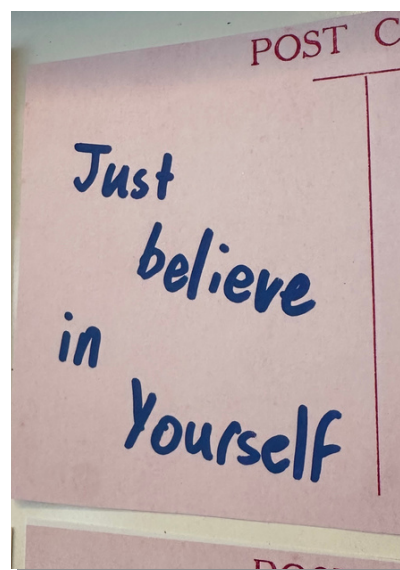
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ACTIVITIES

ENYA FORUM 2026

ENYA 2026 focused on the **rights of LGBTQIA+ children and young people**. Young people from across Europe took part in the project. They shared their experiences, discussed common challenges and developed recommendations to strengthen the protection of their rights.

The ENYA Forum 2026 took place in **Dublin**, Ireland, on **1 and 2 July 2026**.

Hosted by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) and the Ombudsman for Children's Office in Ireland (OCO), the Forum provided a space for Young Advisors to **exchange views, reflect on the work carried out at national and regional level, and agree on common recommendations**.



SAVE THE DATE



ENOC 30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Barcelona, Spain
30 September- 1
October 2026



ENOC 30th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Barcelona, Spain
2 October 2026



OCO EVENT "Children's rights at the heart of Europe: Dialogue with the ENOC"

Dublin, Ireland
4 – 5 November
2026



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S RIGHT DAY

20 November
2026

The ENYA 2026 project involved more than 240 young people from 12 countries and regions.

[Find out more here.](#)



ENYA REPORT 2026

The ENYA 2026 report outlines the work of **the ENYA Coordination and Management team in implementing the project, including safeguarding and ethical aspects.** The report includes **feedback from in-country activities involving young people** and from the ENYA Forum in Dublin. It also includes the ENYA **recommendations developed by the Young Advisors and highlights their experiences, perspectives and expectations** regarding the rights of LGBTQIA+ children and young people.

Through their active participation, the Young Advisors contributed directly to [ENOC's policy work](#) addressing the rights of LGBTQIA+ children and young people and ensured that their insights and experiences were reflected in the Network's policy and advocacy work.

[Read the report here \(in English\).](#)

EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

EUROPEAN UNION - Agreement on stronger criminal-law rules against child sexual abuse

The EU has taken further steps to **strengthen the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation**, both online and offline. In July 2026, the Council gave final approval to a temporary regulation allowing online service providers to resume the voluntary detection, reporting and removal of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) from their platforms.

This development comes alongside a provisional agreement reached by the Council and the EP in June 2026 to strengthen EU criminal-law rules on child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. The new framework will expand the offences covered, increase penalties, strengthen the prosecution of perpetrators and improve support for victims.

[Find out more here.](#)

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - New nomination

Professor Aoife Nolan, an expert in human and children's rights from Ireland, has been elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for the 2027–2031 term. Congratulations!

FRA & EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS - Publication of joint factsheet on cross-border child abduction

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Court of Human Rights published **a joint factsheet on cross-border child abduction**. It brings together relevant CJEU and ECtHR case law, covering key issues including the best interests of the child, family life, return procedures and safeguards against harm.

[Read it here.](#)

**Council of Europe –
Follow up on
Thematic dialogue
on social media and
children's mental
health**

Following the thematic dialogue on “Social Media and Children’s Mental Health” held by the Council of Europe on 2-4 June 2026, the event presentations, photos and recording are now available online.

[Find out more here.](#)

**UNICEF - Children are adopting AI technologies
more than three times faster than adults**

Ahead of the [first Global Dialogue on AI Governance](#), UNICEF has drawn attention to the **rapid use of AI among children and the urgent need to ensure that their rights** are protected in the development and governance of these new technologies.

Drawing on new data from 10 countries, UNICEF estimates that at least 20 million children have already used AI, with children adopting AI technologies at rates **more than three times faster than adults**.

At the same time, UNICEF warns that the rules and safeguards governing AI are struggling to keep pace with children's use of the technology.

While AI can create new opportunities for children to learn, play and be creative, its impact on children's cognitive development, emotional well-being and exposure to harm is still emerging.

Children surveyed reported concerns about AI being used for scams and misinformation, while one in four feared that their images or videos could be manipulated into sexually explicit deepfakes.

[Find out more here.](#)

MISSING CHILDREN EUROPE - Data gaps highlights on missing children

Missing Children Europe published its 2025 Figures & Trends report, providing the only annual EU-wide dataset on missing children based on cases reported through the 116 000 missing children hotline network. Recording 7 881 cases involving children across 22 European countries, the report highlights **significant vulnerabilities among missing children**:

- Around one in four children had experienced violence or abuse before or during their disappearance
- 58% of cases involved children running away from home.

Data gaps are particularly concerning for missing migrant children and cases involving online grooming, which may remain largely invisible because of fragmented reporting and inconsistent identification practices across countries.

[Find out more here.](#)

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS – New dedicated resource on children's rights

The European Court of Human Rights has a **dedicated “Rights of the child” section** on its [ECHR Knowledge Sharing \(ECHR-KS\) platform](#), bringing together the Court's case-law and resources on children's rights.

The section includes a Case-Law Guide on the rights of the child, **updated with relevant judgments**, as well as thematic resources covering issues such as contact rights, the child's right to be heard, representation of children before the Court and surrogacy.

[Access the ECHR “Rights of the child” resource.](#)

UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

POLAND - Renewed call to strengthen children's right to physical health

The Ombudsperson for Children in Poland renewed her appeal to the Ministry of Education concerning children's right to physical health. The appeal follows earlier requests to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sport and Tourism, and calls for action to implement recommendations on children's physical health.

The Ombudsperson referred explicitly to the ENOC Position Statement, ENYA recommendations and the [ENOC Synthesis Report on Children's Right to Physical Health](#), adopted as part of ENOC's 2025 thematic work.

[Read out more \(in Polish\).](#)

ITALY - Protecting unaccompanied migrant children in Ceuta

In August 2026, Italy's Authority for Children and Adolescents (AGIA) called for the immediate protection of unaccompanied migrant children arriving in Ceuta, warning of

Welcome !

Alina Jakavonienė took office as the new Ombudsperson for Children's Rights in **Lithuania**. Welcome!

We extend our warm wishes to her predecessor, **Edita Žiobienė**, for her tireless dedication to children's rights in her capacity as Ombudsperson for Children's Rights in Lithuania, and for her enormous contribution to ENOC as a former ENOC Chair (2015-2016) and long-term Bureau member! We wish her every success in her new professional chapter!

of exploitation and sexual abuse. It stressed the need for safe reception and stronger integration systems, and announced a forthcoming report on Italy's reception system for unaccompanied migrant children.

[Find out more \(in Italian\).](#)

GEORGIA - 2025 Annual Report

The Public Defender of Georgia presented its 2025 Annual Report on Human Rights and Freedoms to Parliament. It highlights persistent challenges affecting children's rights, including child poverty, violence against children, and gaps in identifying and responding to violations. It calls for stronger legal safeguards and more effective implementation to protect children in vulnerable situations.

[Read the report here \(in English\).](#)



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