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NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF OMBUDSPERSONS FOR CHILDREN



ENOC NEWS

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ACTIVITIES

ENOC 30th Annual Conference

The ENOC **30h Annual Conference on "Safeguarding and Advancing the Rights of LGBTQIA+ Children and Young People in Contemporary Europe"** took place on 30 September–1 October 2026 in Barcelona, Spain.

This key event in ENOC's annual calendar brought **together Ombudspersons and Commissioners for Children** from across Europe and beyond, **11 ENYA Young Advisors** and representatives from **European and local governmental and nongovernmental organisations**, alongside stakeholders and experts in the children's rights area.

Hosted by ENOC Chair-elect Aida C. Rodríguez, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Catalonia (Spain), the conference featured key contributions from ENOC Chair, Vasile Coroi, Nevena Vuckovic Sahovic, former member of the UNCRC, and representatives of:

- the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division
- European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Council of Europe's SOGIECS
- IGLYO

Find out more [HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATE

 **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

 **INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
DAY**
12 December
2026



ENOC 30th Annual Conference - group photo

ENOC 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the aftermath of the ENOC Annual Conference, ENOC held its 30th General Assembly on 2nd October 2026 in Barcelona. ENOC members endorsed the 2026 policy statement, the Network's accounts for 2025, discussed relevant internal business and **elected the new Bureau 2026- 2027** as follows:

- ENOC Chair: Aida C. Rodríguez Giménez (Catalonia/Spain)
- ENOC Chair-elect: Irine Chikhladze (Georgia)
- ENOC Past-Chair: Vasile Coroi (Moldova)
- Secretary: Chris Quinn (Northern Ireland/UK)
- Treasurer: Rocio Cifuentes (Wales/UK)
- Ordinary member: Charel Schmit (Luxembourg)
- Ordinary member: Elena Perikleous (Cyprus)

Find out more about the new Bureau [HERE](#).

ENOC Position Policy Statement

"Safeguarding and Advancing the Rights of LGBTQIA+ Children and Young People"

The ENOC 2026 policy position statement **"Safeguarding and Advancing the Rights of LGBTQIA+ Children and Young People"** was endorsed by the ENOC 30th General Assembly on 2nd October 2026 in Barcelona.

This position statement is informed by the findings of an ENOC-wide research conducted on behalf of ENOC by Pr. Angelina Sánchez Marti and Ingrid Agud Morell (Autonomous University of Barcelona) and by the views and recommendations of Young People involved in the ENYA 2026 Project. It contains **100+ policy recommendations addressed to international, European and local law, policy and decision-makers.**

The research, to which 29 ENOC member institutions contributed, covers key areas such as education, health, participation, family and the juvenile justice system.

Read the full text of the [ENOC Position statement](#).



ENOC Bureau Open Letter on intercountry adoption of Ukrainian children temporarily relocated to other European countries

The ENOC Bureau has issued an Open Letter in September 2026 raising serious concerns about intercountry adoption cases of Ukrainian children temporarily relocated to other European countries following the Russian Federation's armed aggression against Ukraine.

The letter reminds competent national and European authorities of international children's rights standards and safeguards in the context of intercountry adoption, and of the EU framework aimed at **preserving the rights of Ukrainian children during temporary relocation in the EU.**

The ENOC Bureau called on European, national and regional authorities to:

- Ensure a coordinated European response to the signalled risks of intercountry adoption of Ukrainian children in the country of their temporary relocation;
- Suspend intercountry adoption procedures where a child's legal status and adoptability have not been clearly and finally assessed and established;
- Strengthen cooperation with the competent Ukrainian authorities;
- Strengthen registration and monitoring mechanisms for evacuated children;
- Protect children's family relationships, including sibling relationships;
- Guarantee that children's views are heard and taken into account in all procedures affecting them.

Read the [Open letter](#).

EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

Council of Europe – Guidance on preventing sexual violence by children

The Council of Europe is developing new guidance to help member states prevent sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour by children.

The forthcoming Guidance Note will focus on:

- prevention
- early intervention
- child-centred support
- appropriate responses

while safeguarding the rights and best interests of all children involved.

[Find out more here.](#)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - EU KIDS Act

On 17 September 2026, the European Commission proposed the EU KIDS Act, a new initiative aimed at strengthening children's safety and protection online, by addressing online risks and encouraging digital services to take greater responsibility for the impact of their products on younger users.

The proposal aims to :

- **Introduce age-based access to social media**
- **Stronger safety-by-design requirements for online services used by children**
- **Privacy-preserving age verification**
- **Greater responsibility for online platforms, strengthening expectations for digital services to identify and address risks affecting children's safety and well-being**

The [proposal](#) will now be examined by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - Resolution adopted on the impact of social media on young people

On 17 September 2026, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution on the impact of social media and the online environment on young people](#).

The **resolution calls for a coordinated European approach to protect and empower young people online**, including through safer digital services by design, greater Drawing on engagement with all 22 local authorities, the report identifies examples of good practices but also highlights inconsistencies, resource constraints and barriers faced by marginalised children. It calls for more meaningful, inclusive and accountable participation.

UNICEF report - Through Children's Eyes

UNICEF published a [new report examining how digital technologies enable sexual abuse and exploitation of children](#).

It calls for stronger action by governments, technology companies and other stakeholders to prevent abuse, improve reporting and support services, and ensure that digital environments are safer for children.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION & UNICEF - Toolkit to promote children's health and well-being

On 9 October 2026, UNICEF and the European Commission launched a [new Prevention Toolkit to help policymakers strengthen policies promoting children's health and well-being](#).

The toolkit brings together evidence, practical guidance and examples of promising practices to support policymakers at European, national and local levels throughout the policy-making process, from identifying challenges to implementing and monitoring solutions.

Find out more [HERE](#).

ECHR - New safeguards for children involved in proceedings

On 25 September 2026, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) announced amendments to its Rules of Court allowing it, in certain circumstances, to request the appointment of an independent representative for a child applicant and, exceptionally, for a child involved as a third party in proceedings.

The amendments aim to strengthen procedural safeguards for children before the Court and ensure that their best interests are considered throughout the proceedings. They will help ensure that children's views are heard, that they receive relevant information, and that their rights and needs are taken into account. The amendments do not change the Court's existing case-law on the representation of children. The new rules will enter into force on 25 March 2027.

[Find out more](#).

UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

WALES/UK - Report on children's participation in decision-making

The Children's Commissioner for Wales published a new report called "Participation in Wales: From Principles to Practice", examining how local authorities enable children and young people to influence decisions affecting their lives.

[Read out more.](#)

NORTHERN IRELAND/UK - New report on children from asylum-seeking and refugee backgrounds

NICCY published [Rights Without Borders](#), examining whether children and young people from asylum-seeking and refugee backgrounds in Northern Ireland receive the protection, support and opportunities to which they are entitled.

It highlights barriers including delays in accessing education and healthcare, unsuitable accommodation, poverty, racism and isolation, while placing children's own experiences at the centre of its findings.

Welcome!

Isavella Pikrou has taken office as the new Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Rights in Greece. A warm welcome to her new role!

We would also like to thank her predecessor, **Theoni Koufonikolakou**, for her dedication to children's rights in her capacity as Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Rights in Greece, and for her enthusiasm and incredible contribution to ENOC during her three-year term in the Bureau and as a former ENOC Chair (2020-2021).

We wish them both every success in their new professional chapter!



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