

ENOC NEWS

ENOC 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The [ENOC 29th Annual Conference](#) on "Protecting and Promoting Children's Right to Physical Health" took place on 17-18 September 2025 in Bucharest, Romania.

The event gathered Ombudspersons for Children, ENYA Young Advisors, and experts from across Europe and beyond. Co-hosted by ENOC Chair-elect Vasile Coroi (The People's Advocate for the Right of the Child, Moldova) and the Romanian Ombudsperson's Office, the conference featured key



contributions from ENOC Chair Elina Pekkarinen, Mariana Ianachevici (member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), and representatives of the Council of Europe, WHO, UNICEF, and the European Academy of Paediatrics.

ENOC 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the aftermath of the ENOC Annual Conference, ENOC held its 29th General Assembly on 19 September 2025 in Bucharest. ENOC members endorsed the 2025 policy statement, the Network's accounts for 2024, discussed relevant internal business and elected the [new Bureau 2025-2026](#) as follows:

- ENOC Chair - Vasile Coroi (Moldova)
- ENOC Chair-elect: Aida C. Rodríguez Gímenez (Catalonia/Spain)
- ENOC Past-Chair: Elina Pekkarinen (Finland)
- Secretary : Chris Quinn (Northern Ireland/UK)
- Treasurer : Niall Muldoon (Ireland)
- Ordinary member : Caroline Vrijens (Belgium/Flanders)
- Ordinary member : Andres Aru (Estonia)



IN THIS ISSUE:

ENOC News **P. 1**

EU and
International **P.3**
Activities

ENOC members' **P. 6**
activities

ENOC members also approved Azerbaijan's application for a status upgrade from associate to full member. Congratulations !

More on [ENOC members](#).

enya FORUM 2025

As part of ENOC's 2025 child participation project on children's right to physical health, the [ENYA Forum 2025](#) brought together **24 young people** from 13 European countries/regions in Jezerčica, Croatia, on 1 and 2 July 2025.

Hosted by the Croatian Ombudsperson for Children, Helenca Pirnat Dragičević, and ENYA Coordinator Danijela Žagar, the Forum enabled children to **share experiences** and **agree on common recommendations** to **strengthen the protection and promotion of their right to health**.

The 26 Young Advisors represented:

- Spain (Basque Country, Catalonia, Andalusia)
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Iceland
- Italy
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Slovakia
- UK (Northern Ireland, Scotland)



enya REPORT 2025

The ENYA 2025 [report provides an overview of the work carried out by young project participants on children's right to physical health](#) at the national/regional level and at the ENYA Forum.

It highlights the **policy recommendations drawn** from ENYA's 2025 activities, reflecting **participating children and young people's experiences, perspectives and expectations** with regards to the protection and promotion of their right to **physical health**.

This year, the ENYA Project involved more than **230 Young Advisors**.



SAVE THE DATES !



**International Day
for the Prevention of and
Healing from Child Sexual
Exploitation, Abuse and
Violence**
18 November 2025



Strasbourg
**Launch event of the CoE
Recommendations on the
protection of the rights and
best interests of the child
in parental separation and
in care proceedings**
19 November 2025



International Children's Day
20 November 2025



Brussels
**7th meeting of the EU
Network for children's
rights**
25 November 2025



Human Rights Day
10 December 2025

FOCUS ON

Children in Gaza



• ENOC ad-hoc Statement on Children in Gaza

In August 2025, ENOC adopted an ad-hoc position statement titled **"Children in Gaza must be protected at all costs and their rights restored. An Urgent Call to Uphold International Law."**

The statement condemns ongoing violations of children's rights in Gaza, and **ENOC urges** the European Union, United Nations, and all governments **to ensure an immediate ceasefire, safe humanitarian access, and the full protection of children's rights.**

• ENOC Open Letter on Family Reunification for Children in Gaza

In September 2025, ENOC issued an **open letter** to European Union leaders **urging the enforcement of family reunification decisions issued by EU member states and involving children trapped in Gaza.**

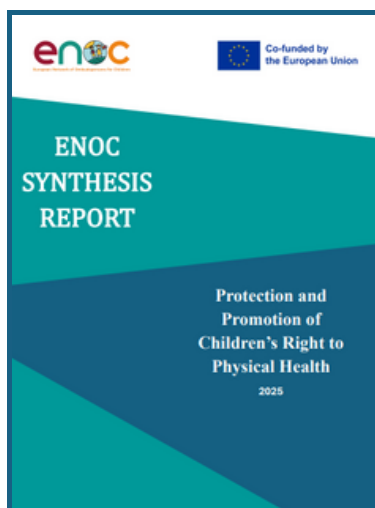
The letter calls on the EU and its Member States to coordinate urgent action for the **safe evacuation and reunification of affected children and their families**, in line with international and European child rights obligations.

ENOC SYNTEHSIS REPORT AND POSITION STATEMENT

The **ENOC 2025 policy position statement**, "**Protecting and Promoting Children's Right to Physical Health**" was endorsed by the ENOC 29th General Assembly.

This position statement **is informed by the findings of a related** research conducted by Rodica Gramma (Associate Professor at the SUMPh "Nicolae Testemitanu" University of Moldova) on behalf of ENOC, and by the views of Young People involved in ENYA 2025 project.

The findings of the ENOC research to which **27 ENOC member institutions contributed**, are collated in a **Synthesis Report**. The latter provides an overview of the **different child healthcare systems across Europe**, includes statistical data on children's health, and information on prevention and health promotion (covering nutrition, sports, hygiene, sexual and reproductive health).



EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - Children's Voices on Cyberbullying

The European Commission is currently **developing an EU Action Plan to prevent and address cyberbullying**, informed by the views of over 6 000 young people aged 12-17 across all EU countries.

- **1 in 4 have experienced cyberbullying** themselves, and 1 in 2 know someone treated badly online.
- Most said it made them feel sad, hurt, or lonely.
- They mainly **turn to parents (62%) or friends (41%) for help.**



**CoE - 18 November :
marking the End Child
Sexual Abuse Day (2025
Edition)**

This year's Council of Europe **End Child Sexual Abuse Day** focuses on strengthening protection through evidence-based policymaking. The theme **highlights the importance of reliable data to better understand, prevent, and respond** to child sexual exploitation and abuse under the Lanzarote Convention.

[More info.](#)



**CoE- New Report on
Protecting Children from
Sexual Abuse**

The **Lanzarote Committee** published a [new report on protecting children from sexual abuse within the "circle of trust."](#)

Covering 48 states, it **highlights progress since 2015** and urges stronger legal safeguards against abuse by people in positions of trust or within families.

The Committee **calls on all states to close remaining gaps** to ensure every child is safe in all environments.

They are calling for:

- Accountability from social media platforms
- Simpler reporting tools and stronger laws
- Education, counselling, and positive online behaviour

They also want schools to have clear rules, teach about cyberbullying, and provide psychological support to those affected.

[More info.](#)



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION - 15th European Forum on the
Rights of the Child**

On 23-24 June 2025, the 15th European Forum on the Rights of the Child took place in Brussels under the theme **"Championing Children's Rights: Building Fair and Resilient Societies."**

During the opening session, young people from the EU Children's Participation Platform presented their "Call to Action", developed by **80 child and young people participants** at the Platform's General Assembly. They also took part in discussions with EU representatives and a panel on climate change and intergenerational fairness, which included European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport Glenn Micallef.

[More info](#) and [replay](#).



**OSCE - First International Forum of Central Asian Commissioners
for Children's Rights**

On 12-13 September 2025, ENOC Chair Elina Pekkarinen (Ombudsperson for Children in Finland), together with other ENOC members (a representative from the Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children's Office and the Ombudsperson for Children, Croatia), took part in the [first International Forum of Central Asian Commissioners for Children's Rights](#), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with the support of UNICEF and the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe).

The two-day event gathered Commissioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to strengthen regional cooperation on children's rights.



The Forum aimed to foster dialogue, share good practices, and develop common approaches to address cross-border challenges affecting children, while enhancing the capacity of ombudsperson institutions in the region.



UNCRC - France Violates Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has found France **responsible for grave and systematic violations of the rights of unaccompanied migrant children**. Many are reportedly left homeless and without access to food, healthcare, or education, in conditions described as “degrading” and “contrary to human dignity.”

The Committee criticised unreliable age assessment procedures that often result in **minors being treated as adults** and excluded from protection, as well as the detention of children in border facilities. It concluded that France breached several rights under the Convention, including **protection, health, education, and an adequate standard of living**.

The Committee urged France to presume minority in all doubtful cases and to ensure all unaccompanied children have access to shelter, food, and care. France has since reported new measures to strengthen child protection.

[More info](#) and [reports](#).



UNICEF Europe and Central Asia - Regional Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

On 13-14 October 2025, ENOC Chair Vasile Coroi participated in the [Regional Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children](#) in Bucharest, co-hosted by the Government of Romania, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia and the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children.

The event gathered ministers, experts, and children from 35 countries **to renew commitments and share progress in eliminating all forms of violence against children**. In his closing remarks, the ENOC Chair highlighted the **vital role of independent institutions** in ensuring accountability and amplifying children’s voices in policymaking.



UNICEF E-learning - Using Data to End Harmful Practices

UNICEF has launched a **new e-learning course to strengthen the use of data in tackling child marriage and female genital mutilation**, in line with SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) target 5.3 “[Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#)”.



Eurochild Report – How Children Feel

Eurochild’s **first report on children’s mental health** gathers the views of children from :

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Estonia
- Malta

highlighting their experiences, challenges, and suggestions for change.

Despite rising awareness, children’s perspectives remain underrepresented in policy-making.

The report **calls for decision-makers to act on these insights** to create more child-centred mental health support.

[Read the report](#).



WHO - New Report on Corporal Punishment of Children

A new WHO report warns that **corporal punishment** remains widespread and seriously harms **children’s health and development**, causing not only physical injuries but also lasting biological and neurological effects.

[Read the report](#).



OCO/Ireland - Publication of the Keeper of Rights

In November 2025, the Ombudsman for Children in Ireland launched the Keeper of Rights, a **book created by Irish children** about **the role of the Ombudsman for Children's office**, to explore **what children's rights really mean**.

Order your FREE copy now by emailing
communications@oco.ie

The course helps practitioners **identify data needs, interpret and use key indicators**, and apply findings to raise awareness and influence decisions. It is aimed at professionals working in government, civil society, UN agencies, and other organisations addressing harmful practices.

[More about the e-learning course.](#)

UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

NORTHERN IRELAND/UK - Report on Equal Protection

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has published a new report in October 2025 **"Closing the Legal Gap: Learning from Europe - Strengthening the Case for Equal Protection from Assault in Northern Ireland"**.

The report highlights the urgent need for legislative reform to ensure that **all children receive the same legal protection from assault** as adults. It also incorporates **feedback from ENOC members** that helped inform its development.

[Read the report.](#)



Welcome !

Three new Ombudspersons have recently taken office in the following ENOC member countries:

- Velislava Deltcheva, Ombudsman, Bulgaria
- Elena Perikleous, Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights, Cyprus
- Karina Palkova, Ombudsman, Latvia

We extend a warm welcome to them as they took on this important role for the children and young people in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Latvia!



ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. The content of this publication represents only the views of ENOC and is its sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

ENOC Secretariat

Council of Europe «Agora Building»
Office n° B5 07V
67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Web: www.enoc.eu
Tel: +33 3 90 21 54 88
e-mail: secretariat@enoc.eu

If you have any suggestions or if you would like to include any information or upcoming events in our newsletter, please send the details to secretariat@enoc.eu