

## ENOC NEWS

### ENOC – Ad-hoc Statement on Protecting Children on the Move at EU Borders (December 2024)

ENOC has voiced serious concerns about the impact of the [EU Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) on children arriving at Europe's borders. Ongoing violations of children's rights, such as violence, pushbacks, and arbitrary detention, continue to breach international standards.

Adopted in April 2024, the EU Pact introduces measures like accelerated border procedures and broader application of the "safe third country" concept. These changes may impact protections for children, especially unaccompanied minors, threatening their best interests. Migration policies must put children's dignity, rights, and well-being at the forefront.

#### States should

- Provide medical and psychological care for children affected by trauma.
- Ensure all decisions prioritise the best interests of the child.
- Protect children's right to life, safety, and development by ending pushbacks and arbitrary detention.
- Allow children to apply for asylum and ensure fair individual case assessments.
- Strengthen independent human rights monitoring at borders.

Find out  
more here!



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## ENOC - Extraordinary General Assembly

On 13 December 2024, ENOC held an extraordinary General Assembly to discuss a proposal to adjust membership fees for the first time since 2013.

Elina Pekkarinen, ENOC Chair outlined the need for an increase to address rising operational costs and funding requirements, ensuring the network can sustain its activities and commitments.

This adjustment aims to secure funding for essential programs, including the Spring Seminar, Annual Conference, and training for the ENYA Project, while supporting ENOC's co-funding agreements with the European Commission.

The revised membership fee will apply as of 2025.

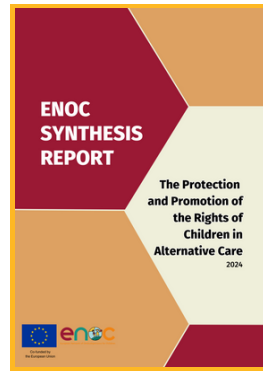


## ENOC Publications - Reports on Children's Rights

ENOC has recently released several key publications this year:

- Synthesis Report on *"Protecting & Promoting the Rights of Children in Alternative Care"*

This report, by Tarja Pösö (Prof. Emerita, Univ. of Tampere) and Terhi Tuukkane (Senior Researcher at the Office of the Ombudsman for Children in Finland), examines children's rights in alternative care across Europe, based on a survey from 34 jurisdictions in 33 countries. It highlights challenges in implementation, care quality, and best practices observed by Children's Ombudspersons.



[Read the full Synthesis Report here](#)

- ENOC 28th Annual Conference Report

The report provides an overview of the presentations, discussions, and activities that took place at the ENOC 28th Annual Conference in Helsinki last September. It also sheds light on the key challenges addressed during the event.

[Read the Annual Conference Report here](#)

- ENOC ad-hoc statement on *"The protection of the rights of children affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine"*

During its 28th Annual Assembly, the ENOC General Assembly endorsed the Ad-hoc statement on children in Ukraine. This ENOC's third statement on the issue urges prioritization of children's safety and well-being and calling for an end to the severe violations against all children.



[Read the Ad-hoc Statement here](#)



**SAVE THE DATES !**



**Geneva**  
**UNCRC 98th session**  
13 - 31 January 2025



**International Day of Education**  
24 January 2025



**Online**  
**ENOC Bureau Meeting**  
30 January 2025



**International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**  
6 February 2025

## Eurochild Report - Children's Realities in Europe

Eurochild's latest report, "Children's Realities in Europe: Progress & Gaps", gathers insights from 57 members across 31 countries, and provides an overview of children's realities in these countries.

It identifies promising practices, and offers recommendations for EU and national policymakers to better address children's needs, while spotlighting ongoing challenges in areas such as climate change, mental health, digital safety, and poverty.

Read the report [HERE](#).



## CoE - Mapping Study on the Rights of the Child and IA

The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), in collaboration with the Alan Turing Institute, has published a mapping study examining how children's rights are addressed in the context of AI (artificial intelligence) across member states.

The study highlights the dual role of AI in offering opportunities, such as enhancing education, health, and safety, and posing significant risks to children's rights, safety, and protection.

Find out more [HERE](#).

## ENOC Secretariat - Meeting with the Child Friendly Justice European Network

Polina Atanasova, ENOC Principal Coordinator and Clara Bataller, Assistant Coordinator, participated in a meeting with young people, part of the Child Justice Caravane, organised by the Child Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN) in Strasbourg, last November.

The CFJ-EN, a network advocating for justice systems that prioritises children's rights and needs organises every year a Child Justice Caravan as a means to participate to the empowerment and capacity-building of children and young people from European countries with experience in the justice system.



The ENOC representatives met 6 Young Justice Transformers, accompanied by two associations from Bulgaria and Romania. Polina and Clara presented ENOC and listened the key messages Young People wanted to share concerning the Youth justice system.

Find more info [HERE](#).

# EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

## CoE - International Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November)

[The Council of Europe's 2024 #EndChildSexualAbuseDay](#) focused on "Emerging technologies: threats and opportunities for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse." While technologies like AI (artificial intelligence) or VR (virtual reality) are being misused for offences such as grooming and exploitation, they also present tools for prevention, including automated detection of illegal content.

This year's theme highlights the importance of raising awareness, learning from survivors, and promoting strong public policies to enhance prevention and protection efforts through tools like automated detection of illegal content. By promoting awareness and encouraging innovative solutions, the Council of Europe aimed to inspire stronger policies and actions, informed by the lived experiences of victims, survivors, and experts.

## European Parliament - Hearing on Public Health Challenges for Children and Young People

On 20 November 2024, the EP Subcommittee on Public Health held a hearing on public health challenges impacting children and young people.

The Vice President and EP Coordinator on Children's Rights Ewa Kopacz emphasised the importance of the right to health, as outlined in the UNCRC, and highlighted rising concerns such as child obesity, excessive screen time, and mental health struggles. Experts shared insights on addressing these issues, promoting healthier lifestyles, and tackling rare diseases.



Watch the public hearing



## UNICEF report - Highlighting Progress in Transition to Family-Based Care

UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, in collaboration with Coram International at Coram's Children's Legal Centre, has launched a Multi-Country Programme Evaluation on the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.

Covering 2009–2022, the evaluation examines reforms across the region, including in five ENOC member states: Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia, as well as Northern Macedonia and Tajikistan. The report highlights achievements, challenges, and lessons learned to strengthen child protection systems and ensure children grow up in safe, nurturing environments.

Read the report [HERE](#).

# UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

## SCOTLAND / UK - Investigation launched into Police's Use of Force against Children

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has launched an investigation into the use of force by Police Scotland against children. Recent data from the Scottish Police Authority reveals that children are more than twice as likely as adults to experience such measures.

The investigation aims to analyse Police Scotland's data and publish recommendations to ensure children are treated with dignity and care.

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



## EP - Intergroup on Children's Rights Re-established (2024-2029)

The European Parliament has approved 28 Intergroups for the current term, with the Intergroup on Children's Rights receiving the highest combined votes from various groups, including Renew Europe.

This Intergroup aims to promote a paradigm shift, recognising children as both vulnerable individuals and valuable contributors to society, while addressing challenges like young refugees, mental health, and climate action.

Find out more [HERE](#).



## UN - Commemorating 35 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child have issued a joint statement commemorating the 35th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

They reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding children's rights and call for collective action to ensure every child can thrive in dignity and safety.

Read the joint statement [HERE](#).



## LUXEMBOURG - Publication of 2024 Annual Report

The Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents (OkaJu) has released its 2024 Annual Report, shedding light on the pressing challenges facing children's rights in Luxembourg.

The report explores key areas such as mental health, the integrated child protection system, violence and digital-related harm, as well as child poverty and social exclusion.

Find the report [HERE](#) (in French).



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**ENOC Secretariat**  
Council of Europe «Agora Building»  
Office n° B5 07V  
67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
Web: [www.enoc.eu](http://www.enoc.eu)  
Tel: +33 3 90 21 54 88  
e-mail: [secretariat@enoc.eu](mailto: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](mailto:secretariat@enoc.eu)

## FRANCE – Publication of 2024 Annual Report on Environmental Impact on Children

The Children's Rights Defender in France has published its 2024 Report, focusing on how environmental degradation affects children's rights. The report emphasises that children are particularly vulnerable to environmental risks, which jeopardise their access to essential resources and their right to health, education, and dignity.

The report outlines 20 recommendations aimed at ensuring children's right to a healthy environment.

Read the full report [HERE](#) and the synthesis [HERE](#) (in French).



## CROATIA – New Generation of Young Advisors

In September 2024, a new generation of young advisers to the Ombudsman for Children in Croatia was elected following a tender published in May. Twenty-five young advisers will serve a three-year term within the Network of Young Advisers (NYA), while sixteen will hold a two-year term with the Youth Forum 16+ (YF 16+).

They will act as counsellors, associates, and ambassadors for the Ombudsman for Children in Croatia, and will have the opportunity to suggest topics for discussions and monitoring, participate in key events, and contribute to the advancement of children's rights and well-being in Croatia.

Find out more about [HERE](#) (in English).



## BASQUE COUNTRY/ SPAIN - Research Study on Sexist Attitudes Among Youth

The Office of the Ombudsman of the Basque Country (Ararteko) published its latest research study, titled "Sexist Attitudes Among the Youth and Adolescents in the Basque Country." The study explores sexist attitudes among young people in the region of the Basque Country/Spain. The findings have provided valuable insights into this issue and served as a foundation for developing recommendations aimed at improving public policies to address and reduce such attitudes effectively.

Find the study [HERE](#) (in English).



**Happy holidays from Polina and Clara at the ENOC Secretariat!**

