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Building a Europe for and with children

March 2018

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME

NEWS FROM THE LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

4th meeting of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)

The Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) of the Council of Europe held its 4th meeting on 21-23 March 2018 in Strasbourg.

Set up in March 2016 by the [Committee of Ministers](#), this Committee is the main body guiding intergovernmental work in the children's rights field and according to the current Council of Europe [Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#).

It gathers, twice a year, ministerial representatives and ombudspersons from member States and observer States, as well as representatives of other Council of Europe bodies, international organisations (including the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, UNICEF, UNHCR and others) and civil society.

At its 4th meeting, the CAHENF was updated on recent and current standard-setting activities for which the Drafting Group of Specialists on Children and the Digital Environment (CAHENF-IT) and the Drafting Group of Experts on Children's Rights and Safeguards in the context of migration (CAHENF-Safeguards) had provided major input. In particular the activities of the CAHENF-IT had been conclusive and the

adoption of the draft Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil children's rights in the digital environment by the Committee of Ministers was expected for June 2018.

Regarding children's rights and safeguards in the context of migration, the Committee held exchanges of views with two guest speakers: Ms Velina Todorova, member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child, and Ms Afshan Khan, new Regional Director of UNICEF Europe and Central Asia.

Further exchanges were held on the issues of child-rights budgeting, child participation and relevant Council of Europe tools, as well as the most recent activities and key findings by the [Lanzarote Committee](#). Preparations were made for the Mid-Term evaluation conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child to be held in June 2019 in Paris and the upcoming activities envisaged for the new Group of experts on responses to violence against children (CAHENF-VAC) which would hold its first meeting on 17-18 May 2018 in Strasbourg.



Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

In a [report](#) adopted on 31 January 2018, the Lanzarote Committee analyses the strategies used by 26 State Parties to protect children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust (extended family and persons close to the child who exercise influence over the child).

In the context of the refugee crisis, the Lanzarote Committee decided on an [urgent monitoring round](#) after it was invited by the Hungarian authorities to visit the transit zones of Röszke and Tompa where children aged 14 to 18 years old are held. The visit took place in July 2017. The Lanzarote Committee adopted on 31 January 2018 a series of recommendations to the Hungarian authorities on the basis of a report prepared by the members of its delegation who visited the transit zones. It took note of the first measures taken by the Hungarian authorities further to this visit and set 31 January 2019 as a deadline to be informed by the Hungarian authorities on steps taken to follow-up on the Lanzarote Committee's recommendations.





Third Edition of the European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

The 3rd edition of the European Day took place on 18 November 2017 and focused on the specific theme of "The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)". A series of tutorials on digital parenting and a brochure were released on this occasion.

Activities by our partners are showcased on the [dedicated webpage of the European Day](#).



Launch of new Web-page: Child-friendly information for children in migration and life projects

Under the [Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children](#), the Children's Rights Division has been continuing its work on child-friendly information for children in migration and life projects for the integration of unaccompanied children. A new webpage has been launched where you can find information about the progress of the on-going activities including the [conference report](#) of the roundtable on child-friendly information which took place in Strasbourg in November 2017 and multi-media resources about children's views on the information they receive along their journey. The webpage can be found [here](#).

What do migrant children think about information?

Following consultation workshops with over 80 children on the move in 5 member States, the Children's Rights Division has produced a video to communicate children's views and recommendations about the information and procedures they experienced in Europe. The video is available [here](#).



Kick-off meeting of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Barnahus/Children's House"

On 19-20 March 2018, a kick-off meeting of the EU and Council of Europe joint project "Barnahus/Children's House" took place in Ljubljana. Participants discussed the adaptation of the Barnahus response model for child victims and witnesses of sexual exploitation and abuse in Slovenia, taking into account the existing institutional and legal framework and any related necessary reforms as well as lessons learnt from other European countries. To learn more, click [here](#).

Eurochild Advocacy Toolkit: New publication aimed at promoting child participation, edited with Council of Europe support

The purpose of the [Toolkit](#) is to engage children and young people in advocating for children's right to participate in decision-making processes; thus promoting child participation at different administrative levels and in various contexts.

The kit includes tools and methods meant to empower children to contribute to change in public decision-making. It is intended to be used by NGOs working with children and young people, but may also be useful for government officials at national, regional and local level, who want to engage with children and young people.



Council of Europe joins forces with Safer Internet Day 2018

The Council of Europe is a [Safer Internet Day \(SID\)](#) supporter and a close collaborator in protecting children's rights in the digital environment.

This year's Safer Internet Day, entitled "Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you", invited everyone, children and adults, to join in and engage with others in a respectful way in order to ensure a better digital experience.

In celebrating the day on 6 February, the Council of Europe contributed by highlighting the release of its newest resources, namely the revised and updated [Internet Literacy Handbook](#), and the [Digital Parenting Guide](#) and its accompanying [video tutorials](#), as well as drawing attention once again to the children's game '[Through the Wild Web Woods](#)'.

UPDATE FROM THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TEAM

We are happy to announce the arrival of Ms Maren Lambrecht-Feigl in the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe.

Maren is the new Co-Secretary to the CAHENF and is also responsible for coordinating the Violence Against Children group, child participation, and the promotion of the IT Guidelines to name a few.

Previously, Maren has worked in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

Please join us in welcoming Maren into our team.

Commissioner for Human Rights' Annual Activity Report for 2017

Protection of children's rights constitute one of the Commissioner's main concerns, and in his extensive work on the issue he has laid particular emphasis on school segregation and immigration detention of children alongside other very sensitive issues, such as the needs and rights of children on the move and of vulnerable children; the children's right to equal treatment and to education; their right to a nationality; the de-institutionalisation of children; domestic violence, and the rights of Roma children.

In his annual report, the Commissioner stressed the need to effectively address these issues, which constitute the most widespread side-effects of austerity policies. Taking appropriate measures would promote sustainability of the European human rights system, and help young people to see themselves as Europeans with a stake in the system.



Commissioner for Human Rights 1st Quarterly Activity Report 2018

Inclusive education, as an effective vehicle for overcoming a number of restraining situations for a great number of students, such as segregation between ethnic communities, Roma children and children with disabilities as well as support to unaccompanied migrant children and the abolition of the detention of migrant minors constitute issues of focal interest in the Commissioner of Human Rights Activity Report for the first quarter of 2018.

In the Commissioner's last days in office, we want to thank him for his solid dedication to children's rights over the past years.

Commissioner Nils Muižnieks will be succeeded by Mrs Dunja Milatović, who was elected by the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) on 24 January 2018. She will take up her duties on 2 April 2018.



High-level round table and final events of the project "Combating violence against women and children in Ukraine"

The Council of Europe project "Combating violence against women and children in Ukraine" organised its final meetings and workshops on 23-25 January 2018 in Kyiv.

Towards a Roadmap for piloting Barnahus in Ukraine

On 23 January a high-level round table was organised in Kyiv to strengthen the state response to child sexual exploitation and abuse. The aim was to agree on the next steps leading towards a Roadmap for piloting Barnahus or a similar child-friendly interdisciplinary multiagency response model in Ukraine. Findings and recommendations of the Feasibility assessment commissioned by the Council of Europe were discussed by key policy and decision-makers.

Kick-off meeting of the HELP courses "Child-friendly Justice" and "Violence against Women and Domestic Violence"

The launch of the national adaptations of the HELP courses on Child-friendly Justice and Violence against Women/Domestic Violence was organised jointly with the National School of Justice of Ukraine and the National Academy of Prosecution of Ukraine in Kyiv on 24 January. Master trainers trained by the project for both courses in October 2017 and more than 70 trainees of the first on-line training attended the kick-off meeting.

Final meeting of the Project Steering Committee

The project "Combating violence against women and children in Ukraine" came to an end in February 2018. On 25 January key project achievements and lessons learnt were discussed in the final project steering committee meeting. This also enabled feedback to be gained from and endorsement by steering committee members of the orientations of a Phase II project on combating violence against children.

HIGHLIGHTS



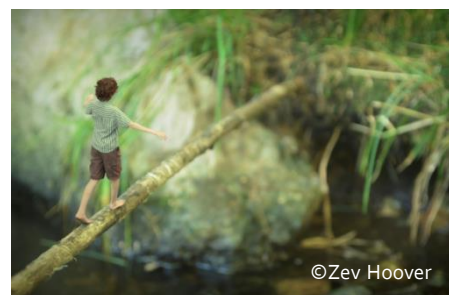
Arabic version available of the Guide for Parliamentarians

The Council of Europe has published a guide to equip parliamentarians to visit children held in immigration detention. Parliamentarians, as policy makers, have the power to bring immigration detention of children to an end. It is vital for them to be informed about the effects of immigration detention on children, to become effective advocates to end this practice.

Packed with practical tips and checklists this guide will enable parliamentarians to conduct visits, to interview detained children and detention staff, undertake effective follow-up to their visit and ultimately become advocates to end immigration detention of children.

This guide was developed for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children, in co-operation with Defence for Children International.

Access the Arabic version of the Guide [here](#).





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