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THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME

Building a Europe for and with children

October 2017

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROJECTS

10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

On 24-25 October 2017 the Lanzarote Committee will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. A [conference "Ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children: Towards a world of trust"](#) will take place in Strasbourg to mark the occasion.



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

The [3rd edition of the European Day](#) on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse will take place on 18 November.

The 2017 edition focuses on the specific theme of "The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)".

Activities around this theme will be showcased on [our webpage](#). Feel free to send us links in order to encourage exchanges between children and parents, and among parliamentarians, educators and other professionals who face the challenges of this technological development.

The Children's Rights Division started implementing two new projects in Ukraine and Georgia to strengthen protection of children against all forms of violence, in line with the Council of Europe and international standards. In Ukraine, the project's objectives include inter alia the development of a multidisciplinary strategy to respond effectively and in a sustainable manner to violence against children, and the provision of support to strengthen institutional and operational capacities of competent authorities, including law enforcement, to successfully handle and adjudicate cases of violence against children, whether victims, witnesses or perpetrators. In Georgia, the project will provide support to develop an integrated strategy for the protection of children from all forms of violence, to improve and strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks and related institutional and operational capacities to prevent and combat violence against children, in particular sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as the introduction of a legal ban on corporal punishment of children and positive parenting programmes. These co-operation projects are carried out in 2017 and respectively 2018, in line with the priorities laid out in the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2015-2017](#) and the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2016-2019](#).





Age Assessment Report

On 20 September 2017, the report "[Age assessment: Council of Europe member states' policies, procedures and practices respectful of children's rights in the context of migration](#)" was published. The aim of the report is to provide a factual overview of the current situation in the member states and support the Council of Europe's work in developing guidelines on age assessment which respect children's rights in the context of migration.



New Guide for Parliamentarians: Visiting places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures

On 11 October, the Council of Europe launched a guide "[Visiting Places Where Children are Deprived of their Liberty as a Result of Immigration Procedures](#)", 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](#).

A training workshop for Parliamentarians and Ombudspersons to complement the implementation of the guide will be held on 20 November 2017.

Roundtable: Empowering children in migration through child-friendly information

The Children's Rights Division is organising a roundtable "*Empowering children in migration through child-friendly information*" which will take place on 29-30 November 2017 in Strasbourg, France. The roundtable will be a small-scale working meeting of practitioners to discuss good and promising practices or examples and make recommendations about communication methods or tools used to inform children in migration about access to their rights and as well as relevant procedures. Participants will also discuss how to implement the recommendations made by child participants gathered through child consultations.



A call for concerted efforts to fight child sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine

Since the official launch in June 2017 of the Council of Europe project "Combating violence against women and children in Ukraine" a number of activities have been implemented to raise awareness and build the capacity of professionals, authorities and civil society organisations (CSOs) on child-friendly practices, prevention and protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse.

A capacity building workshop "Action against child sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine" gathering over 60 CSOs working on child rights and internet safety was organized in Kiev on 5th – 6th October 2017

to train CSOs on the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ("the Lanzarote Convention") and awareness raising strategies. As a result, CSOs were encouraged and equipped with skills to contribute towards the ongoing 2nd monitoring round of the Lanzarote Committee on protecting children from ICT-facilitated sexual abuse and to mark the European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse.

With the objective to adapt the HELP course on child-friendly justice into the Ukrainian legal order and launch it by the end of 2017, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was organised on 13-15th of September 2017 in Kiev in collaboration with the National School of Judges of Ukraine and the National Academy of Prosecution of Ukraine. The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) is the only pan-European network of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. Ukraine will be the first country to adapt and launch the HELP curriculum and course on child-friendly justice. In the first instance, the project will support pilot e-learning training for selected groups of judges and prosecutors. The aim is to reach a wider group of legal professionals, including lawyers, civil society organisations and relevant authorities in the long term. Promising practices in Ukraine will be shared and their replication promoted in other countries.

The Council of Europe project "Combating violence against women and children in Ukraine" is implemented in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine (2015-2017). It aims at supporting Ukrainian authorities, professionals and civil society to prevent and combat violence against women and children in line with European and international standards. With regard to preventing and protecting children from violence, the project seeks to promote the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, of which Ukraine is a party since 2012. For more information about the project click [here](#).

Other Council of Europe bodies focusing on the Rights of the Child



Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Position Paper on combating school segregation through inclusive education

"The right to education is a fundamental human right. Yet, many European countries still deny thousands of children, including children with disabilities, Roma children and refugee or migrant children, equal access to it by keeping them in segregated schools. This is a violation of children's human rights with far-reaching negative consequences for our societies. Member states have an obligation to secure the right of every child to quality education without discrimination", said the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, while releasing a [paper on tackling school segregation](#) through inclusive education.

The paper first provides an overview of school segregation in Council of Europe member states, as well as its main causes. It then reviews the risks that separate education entails and outlines the key principles that should underpin any policy to eradicate segregation and promote inclusive education. Finally, the report sets forth twelve recommendations to develop more

inclusive education policies, in particular through improved anti-discrimination legislation, school desegregation strategies and better regulation of school admissions.

"School segregation harms children's learning opportunities and is a clear injustice against minority and other vulnerable groups of people, which also perpetuates their marginalisation", says the Commissioner. "States should adopt a combination of strong anti-discrimination measures and policies that promote more inclusive education systems where all children learn together. This is not a utopian project, but an achievable goal that can ensure more equal treatment of all children and, in the long term, improve social cohesion", says Commissioner Muižnieks. Read the position paper [here](#).

2nd Quarterly Activity Report 2017

On 13 September 2017, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, presented his [2nd Quarterly Activity Report](#) to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly. In his [report](#), the Commissioner calls for action needed to tackle the need to improve the identification and protection of the most vulnerable among migrants, including asylum seekers, and to apply a gender- and child-sensitive approach in all decisions and measures taken in the field of migration and asylum. He calls on authorities to stop detaining migrant children arriving at international airports since children, with or without their families, do not belong in detention.

The Commissioner also urges national authorities to end the practice of placing minors with behavioural problems in "socialisation centres" and instead work towards their full rehabilitation either in their own families or in a family-like environment. Stressing that professionals working with and for children should receive continuous and adequate training to enable them to carry out their functions effectively, the Commissioner also recommended mandatory reporting by all relevant professionals of any incidents of alleged violence against children. He encourages national authorities to develop a coordinated and effective strategy against

violence and for the promotion of positive and non-violent forms of child-rearing. Concrete measures should be taken to ensure that justice is child-friendly and quality psychological services are available for children, including in the context of domestic violence-related judicial proceedings. Read the full report [here](#).

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Council of Europe is looking for:

- Examples of good or promising practice of communication methods or tools used to inform children in migration about access to their rights and procedures;
- Examples of methodology for developing child-friendly tools.

Send your contribution to children@coe.int
www.coe.int/children more information on children and migration
[@children_coe](https://twitter.com/children_coe)






Examples of good or promising practices

Under the [Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children](#), the Children's Rights Division will begin work on a guide about child-friendly information on access to rights and procedures for children in migration. This guide will be published in 2018.

Child-friendly information must be understood as including any method of communication that is adapted to the age and maturity of the child, given in a language which they can understand and which is gender and culture sensitive. The Children's Rights Division is looking for examples of good or promising practice of communication methods or tools used to inform children in migration about access to their rights and procedures. **Please send any examples you would like to share to: children@coe.int**

Information and news from other actors in Europe protecting and promoting the Rights of the Child



FRA: Child-friendly justice: the child's perspective

Children involved in court proceedings often feel scared, ignored, and ill-informed, as a new report from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) shows. By asking children across different EU Member States about their experiences and views, this ground-breaking report shows how far we still have to go to make our justice systems child-friendly.

Read the report [here](#).



World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe joins the Council of Europe Conference of INGOs

We are pleased to announce that World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe has joined the Council of Europe Conference of INGOs.



European project: My Lawyer, My Rights

Every child in conflict with the law needs a specialised lawyer. Children in conflict with the law have a lot to share... and also about their lawyer. The European project "My Lawyer, My Rights" gathered testimonies from children in conflict with the law in the 6 EU partner-countries of the project in order to raise awareness about the role of the lawyer for children among all the professionals of the juvenile justice system and the policy makers of the EU Member States. You will find more information about the project [here](#).



University of Geneva MOOC 'Children's human rights: Interdisciplinary introduction'

The University of Geneva is happy to announce that the MOOC 'Children's human rights: Interdisciplinary introduction' is available on [Coursera](#).

Founded in 1559, the University of Geneva (UNIGE) is one of Europe's leading universities. Devoted to research, education and dialogue, the UNIGE shares the international calling of its host city, Geneva, a centre of international and multicultural activities with a venerable cosmopolitan tradition.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MEMBER STATES



Malta: The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society - Study on Internet use

The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (Malta) released a research study investigated the prevalence of problematic Internet use among 13-16 year-olds in Malta and Gozo, with special attention to this age cohort's engagement with Internet for entertainment. A total of 869 students participated in this study between November 2016 and January 2017, by submitting their response to the quantitative Problematic Internet Entertainment Use Scale for Adolescents (PIEUSA). The PIEUSA was previously used in similar studies in Spain and Britain.

For the full report click [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Survey

Please help us to improve our websites by taking this [short survey](#).

This survey is voluntary and all responses provided are anonymous and will be treated confidentially. [Take the survey](#). Thank you!



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