

Children's rights campaigns in the Parliamentary Assembly



18 November: European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children can happen anywhere. It can be inflicted by someone in the child's circle of trust or even a complete stranger and can cause lifelong damage to the child's physical and mental health. To prevent these crimes, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted the pioneering Lanzarote Convention – a unique legally-binding instrument that obliges Parties to criminalise all forms of sexual abuse of children and spells out the ways to fight it. In 2015, the Council of Europe decided to set up the first European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Its objectives are to raise public awareness, open discussion and support the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention. Every year, the Assembly marks **18 November** by holding parliamentary debates and events.



In 2017, the Council of Europe launched its "[Start to talk](#)" call for action to stop child sexual abuse in sport. By joining this call, governments, sports clubs, associations and federations, as well as athletes and coaches, pledge to take concrete measures to prevent and respond to abuse. The "Start to talk" initiative is about adults breaking the silence and lending children a voice. The Assembly supports this campaign through parliamentary activities.



The [Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children \(2015-2019\)](#), has worked to raise awareness of this issue in Europe and to encourage States to adopt alternatives to detention that fulfil the best interests of the child and allow children to remain with their family members and/or guardians in non-custodial, community-based contexts while their immigration status is being resolved. Due to the dramatic increase in the number of cases of children confined in detention facilities for migrants in recent years, the Council of Europe decided (in January 2015) to join the Global Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children – launched during

the 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in 2012.



The [Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign](#) to fight sexual violence against children was in place from **2010-2016**. The association of national parliamentarians with this Campaign to stop sexual violence against children was very successful in promoting the signature, ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote

Convention). To date, this Convention has been ratified by 45 Council of Europe member States, with the remaining two being signatories to the Convention.



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Children's rights Reference Texts

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe has its permanent headquarters in Strasbourg, France. By statute, it has two constituent organs: The Committee of Ministers, composed of the ministers of foreign affairs of the member states, and the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), comprising delegations for the 47 national parliaments.

The 648 women and men who make up the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (<http://assembly.coe.int>) come together four times a year to debate topical issues and common challenges, to request action from Europe's governments, and to hold those governments accountable for their acts. They speak on behalf of 830 million Europeans whom they represent on any subject they choose, and Europe's governments – represented in the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers – are obliged to reply to them. They are greater Europe's democratic conscience.

This leaflet provides an overview of the Assembly's texts and campaigns on children's rights.

Parliamentary Assembly Reports, Recommendations and Resolutions

1) Adopted texts

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

[Doc. 15177](#) | [Resolution 2352](#) | 2020

Supporting people with autism and their families

[Doc. 15109](#) | [Recommendation 2175](#) | [Resolution 2330](#) | 2020

Addressing sexual violence against children: stepping up action and co-operation in Europe

[Doc. 15055](#) | [Recommendation 2169](#) | [Resolution 2321](#) | 2020

International obligations concerning the repatriation of children from war and conflict zones

[Doc. 14894](#) | [Recommendation 2159](#) | [Resolution 2294](#) | 2019

Ending violence against children: a Council of Europe contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

[Doc. 14835](#) | [Recommendation 2156](#) | 2019

Anonymous donation of sperm and oocytes: balancing the rights of parents, donors and children

[Doc. 14829](#) | [Resolution 2284](#) | 2019

Addressing the health needs of adolescents in Europe

[Doc. 14583](#) | [Resolution 2236](#) | 2018

The treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli justice system

[Doc. 14568](#) | [Resolution 2232](#) | 2018

Striking a balance between the best interest of the child and the need to keep families together

[Doc. 14461](#) | [Resolution 2204](#) | 2018

Protecting children affected by armed conflicts

[Doc. 14435](#) | [Resolution 2194](#) | 2017

Cross-border parental responsibility conflicts

[Doc. 14194](#) | [Resolution 2139](#) | 2016

Ensuring access to health care for all children in Europe

[Doc. 14080](#) | [Recommendation 2092](#) | [Resolution 2119](#) | 2016

Fighting the over-sexualisation of children

[Doc. 14010](#) | [Resolution 2103](#) | 2016

Preventing the radicalisation of children and young people by fighting the root causes

[Doc. 13511](#) | [Resolution 2010](#) | 2014

Child-friendly juvenile justice: from rhetoric to reality

[Doc. 13458](#) | [Recommendation 2044](#) | [Resolution 1995](#) | 2014

Ending child poverty in Europe

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

[Doc. 14448](#) | [Resolution 2314](#) | 2019

Media education in the new media environment

[Doc. 15000](#) | [Recommendation 2167](#) | [Resolution 2313](#) | 2019

Role of education in the digital era: from “digital natives” to “digital citizens”

[Doc. 13934](#) | [Resolution 2097](#) | 2015

Access to school and education for all children

[Doc. 13155](#) | [Resolution 1930](#) | [Recommendation 2014](#) | 2013

Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

[Doc. 14574](#) | [Resolution 2233](#) | 2018

Forced marriage in Europe

[Doc. 14499](#) | [Resolution 2207](#) | 2018

Gender equality and child maintenance

[Doc. 14337](#) | [Resolution 2177](#) | 2017

Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public space

[Doc. 14284](#) | [Resolution 2159](#) | 2017

Protecting refugee women and girls from gender-based violence

[Doc. 14260](#) | [Recommendation 2101](#) | [Resolution 2163](#) | 2017

The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities

[Doc. 14135](#) | [Resolution 2135](#) | 2016

Female genital mutilation in Europe

[Doc. 13158](#) | [Resolution 1927](#) | 2013

Ending discrimination against Roma children

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

[Doc. 15133](#) | [Recommendation 2190](#) | [Resolution 2354](#) | 2020

Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated migrant children

[Doc. 14417](#) | [Recommendation 2172](#) | [Resolution 2324](#) | 2020

Missing refugee and migrant children in Europe

[Doc. 14905](#) | [Recommendation 2160](#) | [Resolution 2295](#) | 2019

Stop violence against, and exploitation of, migrant children

[Doc. 14626](#) | [Recommendation 2141](#) | [Resolution 2243](#) | 2018

Family reunification of refugees and migrants in the Council of Europe member States

[Doc. 14524](#) | [Resolution 2220](#) | 2018

Integration, empowerment and protection of migrant children through compulsory education

[Doc. 14434](#) | [Recommendation 2117](#) | [Resolution 2195](#) | 2017

Child-friendly age assessment for unaccompanied migrant children

[Doc. 14142](#) | [Resolution 2136](#) | 2016

Harmonising the protection of unaccompanied minors in Europe

[Doc. 13985](#) | [Resolution 2099](#) | 2016

The need to eradicate statelessness of children

[Doc. 13597](#) | [Recommendation 2020](#) | [Resolution 2056](#) | 2014

The alternatives to immigration detention of children

2) Texts in preparation

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

[Doc. 15125](#)

Impact of COVID-19 on children's rights

[Doc. 15107](#)

Eradicating extreme child poverty in Europe: an international obligation and a moral duty

[Doc. 15077](#)

For an assessment of the means and provisions to combat children's exposure to pornographic content

[Doc. 14947](#)

Inaction on climate change – a violation of children's rights

[Doc. 14946](#)

Best interests of the child and policies to ensure a work-life balance

[Doc. 14890](#)

Vaccine hesitancy: a major public health issue

[Doc. 14806](#)

Giving a voice to every child: promoting child participation as a foundation for democratic societies

[Doc. 14537](#)

Impact of labour migration on left-behind children

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

[Doc. 14494](#)

Strengthening the role of young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

[Doc. 15112](#)

Alternative care for unaccompanied and separated migrant children