

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.



talk" initiative is about adults breaking the silence and lending children a voice. The Assembly supports this campaign through parliamentary activities.

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



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

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



Convention). This Convention has been ratified by all 46 Council of Europe member States and Tunisia.

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



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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 46 national parliaments.

The 612 women and men who make up the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (<https://pace.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 700 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. 15542](#) | [Resolution 2455](#) | 2022

Fighting vaccine-preventable diseases through quality services and anti-vaccine myth-busting

[Doc. 15524](#) | [Recommendation 2234](#) | [Resolution 2442](#) | 2022

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

[Doc. 15494](#) | [Recommendation 2225](#) | [Resolution 2429](#) | 2022

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

[Doc. 15436](#) | [Recommendation 2219](#) | [Resolution 2415](#) | 2022 - Inaction on climate change – a violation of children's rights

[Doc. 15435](#) | [Recommendation 2218](#) | [Resolution 2414](#) | 2022

The right to be heard: child participation, a foundation for democratic societies

[Doc. 15405](#) | [Recommendation 2216](#) | [Resolution 2410](#) | 2021

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

[Doc. 15311](#) | [Recommendation 2206](#) | [Resolution 2385](#) | 2021 - Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children's rights

[Doc. 15173](#) | [Recommendation 2196](#) | [Resolution 2366](#) | 2021 - Impact of labour migration on left-behind children

[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. 15294](#) | [Resolution 2378](#) | 2021

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

[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. 15548](#) | [Resolution 2449](#) | 2022

Protection and alternative care for unaccompanied and separated migrant and refugee children

[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 15517](#) - Strengthening palliative care for children

[Doc 15513](#) - Safeguarding future rights for future generations

[Doc. 15484](#) - Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour

[Doc. 15390](#) - Child abuse in Europe: addressing, compensation and prevention

[Doc. 15383](#) - Right of the child to protection while using internet

[Doc. 15269](#) - Preventing addictive behaviours in children

[Doc. 15223](#) - Taking into consideration the impact of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic on the mental health of minors and young adults

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

[Doc. 15222](#) - Youth and the media