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 fulfill 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 all 47 Council of Europe member States.

Children’s rights campaigns in the Parliamentary Assembly

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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.
1) Adopted texts

**Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

- [Doc. 15019 | Recommendation 2175 | Resolution 2303](#) | 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. 14989 | Recommendation 2195 | Resolution 2341](#) | 2020
  - 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. 14568 | Resolution 2232](#) | 2018
  - The treatment of Palestinian minors in the Israeli justice system

- [Doc. 14461 | Recommendation 2104](#) | 2018
  - Sticking a balance between the best interest of the child and the need to keep families together

- [Doc. 14489 | Resolution 2194](#) | 2017
  - Protecting children affected by armed conflicts

- [Doc. 14485 | Resolution 2194](#) | 2017
  - Cross-border parental responsibility conflicts

- [Doc. 14194 | Resolution 2139](#) | 2016
  - Ensuring access to health care for all children in Europe

- [Doc. 14189 | Recommendation 2092 | Resolution 2118](#) | 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 2103](#) | 2014
  - Child-friendly juvenile justice: from rhetoric to reality

- [Doc. 13459 | Recommendation 2044 | Resolution 1995](#) | 2014
  - Ending child poverty in Europe

**Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**

- [Doc. 15094 | Resolution 2379](#) | 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. 15090 | 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

2) Texts in preparation

**Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**

- [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](#)
- [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 | Listening to children: child participation, a foundation for democratic societies](#)

**Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**

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

**Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons**

- [Doc. 15112 | Alternative care for unaccompanied and separated migrant children](#)