



Building a Europe
for and with children



***“Hear our Voice:
upholding the rights and best interests of the child
in parental separation and care proceedings”***

Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on the protection of the
rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings
and care proceedings



Launch Event

19 November 2025

Strasbourg,
Palais de l'Europe, Room 1
Online¹

¹ [Zoom link](#) – Meeting ID: 646 9804 7984 - Password: 029443

On 19 November 2025, the Council of Europe will launch two new Recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 28 May 2025 to strengthen the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in [parental separation proceedings](#) and in [care proceedings](#).

When parents separate or when a child's family is unable to provide adequate care, even with appropriate support, authorities are often faced with decisions that have a significant impact on the child and those close to them. The consequences of such decisions can be life-changing and reach well beyond childhood. The Recommendations aim to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all such decisions.

Accompanied by detailed Explanatory Memoranda, these Recommendations provide national authorities with guidance to take into account all circumstances that may be relevant when assessing a child's best interests in proceedings relating to parental separation or care. They also ensure that the substantial and procedural rights of children affected by such proceedings, including the right to be informed and to be heard, are fully implemented, and the principles of rule of law, non-discrimination and timeliness of proceedings are respected.

Children and young people were actively consulted in the preparation of these texts, ensuring that their voices and lived experiences informed the content and approach of both Recommendations.

This launch event will be an opportunity to highlight key aspects of these Recommendations, and to discuss challenges faced by children in parental separation and care proceedings.

PROGRAMME

2.00 **Welcome words**

Hallvard Gorseth, Director, Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe

2.15 **Keynote addresses**

- *Ambassador Daniela Cujbă*, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova, Chair of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe
- *Bjørn Berge*, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- *Anne Louise Bormann*, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

2.45 **Presentation of the Recommendations**

- *Seamus S. Carroll*, First Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)
- *Thomas Knoll-Biermann*, Second Chairperson of the CJ/ENF-ISE (online)

3.15 **First panel: Challenges faced by children in parental separation and care proceedings**

Moderated by *Eral Knight*, Chair of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

- *Anna Glatz*, Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation (Hungary) facilitating child consultations during the drafting process of the Recommendations (online)
- *Stéphanie Hébrard*, Vice-Chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE
- *Benoit Van Keirsbilck*, Director of Defence Children International Belgium, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Questions and answers

4.00 **Refreshment break with pastries- Family photo**

4.30 **Second panel: Promising practices among CoE member States**

Moderated by *Ružica Boškić*, Chair of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

- *Daja Wenke*, Consultant of the CJ/ENF-ISE
- *Andrej Del Fabro*, Head of Child-Friendly Criminal Justice Department, Ministry of Justice, Slovenia
- *Bente Therese Bekkhus*, Acting Director, Department of International Law, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs and Member of the CJ/ENF-ISE

Questions and Answers

5.00 **Concluding Remarks**

Ambassador Dastid Koreshi, Permanent Representative of Albania and Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC)