

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

8th plenary meeting, 1 – 3 December 2025

In-person, Strasbourg

Meeting Room 11, Palais, Council of Europe

Agenda

Monday, 1 December	
9:30 - 10:00	 Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agnes von Maravić, Head of the Children's Rights Division and CoE Coordinator for the Rights of the Child- Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor, Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)
10:00 - 10:30	 Tour de table: <p>Members and participants will briefly introduce themselves, share key initiatives undertaken by their country or organisation to support children of Ukraine since the last tour de table in September 2025, and highlight current challenges.</p>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:00	 Tour de table (cont'd):
12:00 - 13:15	Lunch break

<p>13:15 - 14:00</p>	<p> Overview of topics to be discussed during the CGU's 2nd phase</p> <p>Session opened and moderated by Jean-Claude Legrand, CGU Facilitator, Independent Child Rights Expert</p>
<p>14:00 - 15:00</p>	<p> Follow-up to the CGU's Special Hearing on Pre-conditions for Safe Return of Children of Ukraine from CoE Member States : update on the current situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liudmyla Shemelynets, First Deputy Minister of Social Policy, Family and Unity <p> Other Council of Europe work: gender-sensitive returns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caterina Bolognese, Head, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe <p>Session opened and moderated by Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor to CGU</p>
<p>15:00 - 15:30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>15:30 - 16:15</p>	<p> Special Update on Ukraine's "Better Care Reform" supported by the European Commission and UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iryna Tuliakova, Head of the Coordination Center for Family Upbringing and Child Care Development - Kateryna Novokhatnia, First Deputy Head of the Coordination Center for Family Upbringing and Child Care Development - Jean Choi, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF Ukraine (online) <p>Session moderated by Jean-Claude Legrand, CGU Facilitator, Independent Child Rights Expert</p>
<p>16:15 - 17:15</p>	<p> Screening of the movie "Lost Stars of the Horoscope"</p> <p>Followed by a discussion with Katrina Lehismäe, Movie Director</p> <p>Discussion moderated by Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor to CGU</p>
<p>17:15 - 19:00</p>	<p>Cocktail reception – Parliamentarians' Bar</p>

Tuesday, 2 December

9:30 - 10:30	<p> Spotlight: Bullying and harassment of children of Ukraine within educational settings: ways of combating and preventing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of the work of the Including Children Affected By Migration Network (ICAMnet), Chris Gittings, Director (online)- Presentation of UNICEF study in Polish schools, Olena Styslavska, Education Policy Expert, (online) <p>Session opened and moderated by Martina Valdetara, Project Manager, Anti-discrimination Co-operation Unit, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity</p>
10:30 -10:45	Coffee break
10:45 -12:00	<p> Spotlight: Conflict-related sexual violence against children, and children born of conflict-related sexual violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation by Viktoriiia Karpa, lawyer, Deputy Head of “JurFem”, Head of the Center “JurFem: Education” (online)- Presentation by Céline Bardet, President of We are NOT Weapons of War- Presentation by Eva Veldhuizen Ochodničanová, Child Protection Specialist Europe, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) <p>Session opened and moderated by Erin Farrell Rosenberg, Senior Legal & Policy Advisor, Red Line Initiative, Mukwege Foundation</p>
12:00 - 12:10	<p> Spotlight: Russia's Systemic Policy of Destroying Children's Ukrainian Identity: Deportation, Militarisation, Indoctrination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation by Oksana Cherviakova, Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights for the Rights of the Child (online)
12:10 -13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:00	<p> Spotlight cont'd: Militarisation and Indoctrination of the children in Russia, Belarus and Temporarily Occupied Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of the Legal Roadmap Applicable to the System of Russification of Children in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine through Militarisation and Indoctrination –

	<p>Ruby Mae Axelson, Head of Gender and Child Justice Division, Global Rights Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the Return Every Child report, Alina Dmytrenko, Government Relations Manager, Save Ukraine (online) and Yaroslava Mozghova, Head of Programmes at War Child Ukraine (online) - Presentation of future CGU work on the Re-education, Militarisation and Indoctrination of Ukrainian Children in the Russian Federation and the Impact on Identity, Mental Health and Reintegration, Ton Liefwaard, Professor of Children's Rights, Head of Department of Child Law and Health Law, Leiden University <p>Session opened and moderated by Prof. Ann Skelton, Professor of Law, Chair of Children's Rights in a Sustainable World, Programme Director of the Master of Laws: Advanced Studies in International Children's Rights, Leiden University</p>
15:00 -15:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
15:30 -16:30	<p> Reflections on continuing work on the impact of war on children with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elayn Sammon, Independent Expert, author of Mapping study on the impact of war on children with disabilities <p>Session opened and moderated by Jean-Claude Legrand, CGU Facilitator, Independent Child Rights Expert</p>
16:30 - 17:00	<p> Reflections on bringing in children and young people's views into the CGU's work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating a youth perspective, Maja Micic-Lazovic, Senior Programme Officer, Council of Europe Youth Department & Marius Schlageter, Policy Adviser, Secretary to the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe - Child safeguarding issues, Anne Kayser, Secretary of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CDEF), Council of Europe <p>Session opened and moderated by Agnes von Maravić, Head of the Children's Rights Division and CoE Coordinator for the Rights of the Child</p>

<p>17:00 -17:30</p>	<p>+ Wrapping up: final remarks, concrete takeaways, and proposed way forward</p> <p><i>Session moderated by Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor to CGU and Jean-Claude Legrand, CGU Facilitator, Independent Child Rights Expert</i></p>
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Wednesday, 3 December

<p>9:00 - 17:30</p>	<p>The Thematic Expert Exchange agenda on <i>Accountability for Crimes Committed against Children during Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine: Child-Friendly Justice and Access to Remedies</i> - will be disseminated separately</p>
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