



**Building a Europe
for and with children**
**Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants**



Strasbourg, 22 June 2021

**Contribution by the Council of Europe Secretariat
to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion on
"Children's Rights and Alternative Care", 16-17 September 2021**

The Council of Europe Secretariat¹ welcomes the opportunity offered by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to contribute to its Day of General Discussion on children's rights and alternative care. This contribution outlines the Council of Europe's acquis in this area, and takes into account the outcome of a [Regional Discussion organised in the run-up to the General Discussion on 1 June 2021](#). The programme of this event is attached as Annex I. The Regional Discussion, which was organised in an online format under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, brought together national delegations, participants, and observers of the Council of the Council of Europe Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), representatives of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Committee) and 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), as well as other experts and stakeholder representatives. Participants exchanged on how best to address some of the main challenges' states are facing in the context of alternative care, taking into account recent examples of good practice and relevant standards. The event was informed by an internal survey carried out by the Children's Rights Division in April – May 2021, to which twenty national delegations and two non-governmental organisations had responded (referred to as "COE 2021 survey", not published).

Building a Europe for and with children

Within the framework of its programme "Building a Europe for and with children", the Council of Europe promotes and protects the rights of 150 million children in Europe. The Council of Europe's work on children's rights in relation to alternative care is strongly grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. The standards developed by the Council of Europe provide further guidance to its member states, thus complementing the efforts at global level. The European Convention on Human Rights, as interpreted by the important body of case-law of the European Court of Human Rights², together with the [Convention on Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) ("Lanzarote Convention") and the [Convention on Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) ("Istanbul Convention") form a solid set of rules safeguarding the rights of all children living across the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.

¹ This contribution has been prepared by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Council of Europe's member states.

² [Presentation on "the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to the protection the rights of the child in relation to alternative care settings"](#) by Ksenija TURKOVIĆ, Vice President of the ECHR].

These legally binding texts are complemented by other relevant instruments and tools, such as Recommendations [Rec\(2005\)5 on the rights of children living in residential institutions](#), [Rec\(2006\)19 on Policy to support positive parenting](#), [Rec\(2010\)2 on deinstitutionalisation and community living of children with disabilities](#) and [Rec\(2011\)12 on Children's rights and social services friendly to children and families](#).

Children and alternative care

All children should live in a supportive, protective, and caring environment that helps them develop their full potential. Due to such concerns as stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, some groups of children, such as those with disabilities, children with challenging behaviours, and Roma and Traveller children, may also become more at risk of being placed in alternative care. When a child's own family is unable, even with support, to provide safe and necessary care for the child, the state is responsible for ensuring suitable alternative care. An estimated 1.5 million children in the Council of Europe member states live in some form of alternative care. Children living in all forms of alternative care may be more at risk of having their human rights violated. For example, they may be isolated from their families and communities, lack the suitable care that meets their individual needs and best interests, suffer from unstable relationships, and be at higher risk of experiencing violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Primary consideration should always be given to prioritising prevention of unnecessary separation and provision of support, both to the child and their families, to attain this important goal. This includes determination of the circumstances of the child and their family and all decisions being made in a participatory manner that guarantee the rights and best interests of the child. In this manner, states should provide child-friendly social services that respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of every child, including the right to provision, participation and protection and the principle of the best interest of the child.³

For the purpose of the present contribution, the Council of Europe, among the areas suggested by the UNCRC Committee, has decided to focus on three key areas outlined below, keeping in mind their particular relevance for the ongoing and future work of the organisation.

FOCUS 1: PUTTING AN END TO ABUSE WITHIN DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVE CARE-SETTINGS: LEARNING FROM PAST ABUSE

Under the consistent case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, state parties have a positive obligation to grant effective protection from abuse to any person under their authority, and, in particular, to vulnerable persons such as children.⁴ This is specified in more details in the [Lanzarote Convention](#)⁵, and the [Istanbul Convention](#)⁶. In 2019, the Lanzarote Committee⁷ adopted a specific [Declaration on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#).

However, on a daily basis, children continue to be placed in alternative care. Many children enter care who are victims of different forms of violence, including sexual violence in their homes. Upon arriving at the institutions for alternative care, they often do not receive the necessary support (i.e. psychological support, restitution/compensation, victim support, etc) to deal with the past abuse, trauma, and suffering.

³ Rec(2011)12 on Children's rights and social services friendly to children and families, para. 2(5)

⁴ ECHR, *X and Y v. the Netherlands*, §§ 23-24 and 27; *August v. the United Kingdom* (dec.); *M.C. v. Bulgaria*.

⁵ CETS No.201, ratified by 32 Council of Europe member States and two non-member States (June 2021).

⁶ CETS No.210, ratified by all 47 Council of Europe member States and one non-member State (June 2021).

⁷ The Lanzarote Committee is the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, established to monitor the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.

They also often experience violence and abuse of different forms within the alternative care facility where they are placed, including by professionals or volunteers, (experiencing re-victimisation and most likely not being able to access services to complain and protect them). This is occurring in all forms of alternative care settings. Although developments are being made toward increasing provision of family-based alternative care, evidence suggests that the lack of sufficient resources, guidance, rigour and safeguards mean children's rights and best interests are not always being met, and violations occur.⁸ Abuse has long been reported in large residential institutions where some children endure, 'appalling treatment'.⁹ Furthermore, concerns persist due to lack of protection identified in some small scale residential care settings.¹⁰

Along with these enduring concerns, gaps remain in research that would provide rigorous evidence of the plight of children in all forms of care, especially from middle and low income countries.¹¹ For example, ten out of twenty states having replied to the COE 2021 survey, were not aware of any research or reports that would provide information on abuse in different forms of formal alternative care settings in their country.

The importance of learning lessons from past failings in view of safeguarding the rights of all children in alternative care settings was demonstrated during the Regional Discussion by a presentation on the Portuguese casa pia care-homes¹², which responded to the finding of past abuse by instituting a reform process which led, inter alia, to the establishment of an integrated Social Skills Program to strengthen and promote the social skills of all children under their care, including by strengthening children's participation in the development of their individual care plan.

Children not only have a right to protection but also to be heard in matters affecting their lives, including the ability to speak out about abuse.¹³ Noting the prevalence of abuse in all forms of alternative care, it is essential that children exposed to violence have access to safeguarding mechanisms by which they can safely and confidentially report violations.¹⁴ However, such access to safe, confidential and impartial reporting and safeguarding mechanisms is frequently absent.¹⁵ In addition to which, independent and rigorous monitoring of state and non-governmental care providers may either be lacking completely or, be seriously inadequate.¹⁶

⁸ Bendict et al. (1994) Types and Frequency of Child Maltreatment by Family Foster Care Providers In An Urban Population. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 18(7), pp.577-585; Euser et al. (2014) Out of home placement to promote safety? The prevalence of physical abuse in residential and foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 37, pp.64 -70; Hobbs et al, (1999) Abuse of Children in Foster and Residential Care. *Child abuse and Neglect*, 23(12), pp.1239-1252

⁹ Biehal et al. (2014) *Keeping Children Safe: Allegations Concerning the Abuse or Neglect of Children in Care, Final Report*; European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG) (2012) '*The Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care*'; EveryChild (2011) '*Scaling down: Reducing, reshaping and improving residential care around the world*'; Lorenz & Wittfeld (2018) *Violence against children with disabilities committed by staff in residential facilities*. Free University of Berlin, Germany & University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care',

¹⁰ UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) (2020) . *White Paper : The role of small-scale residential care for children in the transition from institutional to community-based care and in the continuum of care in the Europe and Central Asia Region*

¹¹ Better Care Network (2017) *Violence Against Children in Care in Africa: A Discussion Paper*

Available at: https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/BCN_VAC_and_Care_Report_single_page_17102017_0.pdf and; Rogers et al. (2021) Children's experiences of alternative care in mainland Southeast Asia – A scoping review of literature. *Children and Youth Services Review*, Vol 120.

¹² [Presentation by Rita MENDES, Director of the Childcare Department of Casa Pia](#)

¹³ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12

¹⁴ Compare, in relation to sexual violence, Declaration of the Lanzarote Committee on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (2019), <https://rm.coe.int/declaration-of-the-lanzarote-committee-on-protecting-children-in-out-o/1680985874>

¹⁵ Gudbrandsson, B. (2008) Rights of Children in Institutions: *Report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation Rec (2005)5 on the rights of children living in residential institutions*. Council of Europe.

¹⁶ *ibid.*

FOCUS 2: SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMMES WITH THE AIM OF AVOIDING FAMILY SEPARATION

In the first instance, all efforts must be made to prevent unnecessary separation of children from parental care and to ensure family reunification as soon as it is safe to do so.¹⁷ This requires states 'to take effective action to provide support to families' with the 'best interest of the child as the primary consideration'.¹⁸ It is also recognised how important the mechanisms of 'gatekeeping'¹⁹ are in achieving deinstitutionalisation and as an integral component of inter-sectoral reform of national child protection systems.

In relation to prevention of family separation, particular concerns have been noted in relation to the frequent placement of children with challenging behaviour into alternative care or juvenile detention, rather than support programmes that could halt such separation. It is recognised that children's behavioural problems are often impacted by the ecological system in which they grow up including such influencing factors²⁰ as family, peers, education etc. as well as interruptions in positive relations. In response, there is a need to support children and young people with challenging behaviour through a child centred approach rather than imposition of penalties.

Results of the COE 2021 survey confirmed that children with challenging behaviour continue to be placed in large and small residential alternative care settings, foster care, medical facilities and secure accommodation. Although a number of states also indicated the existence of programmes with a view to supporting families and preventing separation, it is also noted how some states are sending children with challenging behaviour across border to other states to be accommodated and cared for.

It is further acknowledged that interventions are more effective when they 'promote resilience, strengthen protective factors, empower children and parents, promote coping skills, eliminate or reduce violence, discrimination and inequalities'.²¹ There is a growing body of evidence illustrating promising practice indicating positive results utilising such programmes as Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), Multisystemic therapy (MST) and Functional family therapy (FFT).²² These programmes implemented in countries such as Norway, Sweden and Iceland prove that it is possible to move away from an 'overuse of medicalization and institutionalization'.²³ This evidence now places a further responsibility on states to increase investment in such forms of family-based and community based support based on a socio-ecological model that offer a 'protective, enabling and therapeutic environment'²⁴ within a child or young person's own home.

¹⁷ Council of Europe (2016) Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly (2019) 'Promotion and protection of the rights of children' adopted by the General Assembly at its 74th session, 19 November 2019, A/74/395, Article 33. See also United Nations General Assembly (2009) Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. Resolution A/RES/64/142

¹⁹ Gale & Csaky (2015) Making Decisions for the Better Care of Children: The role of gatekeeping in strengthening family-based care and reforming alternative care systems. Better Care Network

²⁰ See for example Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory in Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979) *The Ecology of Human Development*. Harvard University Press

²¹ [Presentation of Dainius PŪRAS, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health and former CRC Committee member](#)

²² [Presentation of Margrét SIGMARSÐÓTTIR, Specialist in clinical child psychology](#), also see: Keles, S., Taraldsen, K. & Olseth, A.R. (2021) Identification of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Subgroups with Distinct Trajectories on Ultimate Outcomes in Norway. *Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology* Vol 49, pp.429–442; Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare/Method guide available at: <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/utveckla-verksamhet/evidensbaserad-praktik/metodguider/>

²³ Interview with Dainius Pūras, Former UN Special rapporteur on the right to health, available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/07/1067741>

²⁴ [Presentation of Mr Dainius PŪRAS, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health and former CRC Committee member](#)

FOCUS 3: CHILDREN SENT IN FORMAL ALTERNATIVE CARE SETTINGS ACROSS BORDERS

The two pillars of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, are the principles of ‘necessity’ and ‘suitability’ applicable to all forms of alternative care, including placements outside of the child’s country of habitual residence. The same standards are reflected in the principle of proportionality under the European Convention of Human Rights. This means that a child should only be placed in care if rigorously assessed as necessary for their protection after which, the most suitable form of care that meets their best interests should be provided.

According to the COE 2021 survey, a limited number of children are placed every year into formal alternative care setting from one member States to another State. Children are also being received from non-Council of Europe states. Some states noted the best interests of the child as the guiding principle in such placements, and some that prioritisation of national solutions were explored but sometimes the needed specialist services did not exist within their border. It is particularly important that there are robust safeguards in place that ensure that the best interests of the child are given primary consideration in any decision relating to such cross-border placement, and that the ‘necessity’ and ‘suitability’ principles are being met.

In general, across Europe, and indeed the globe, there is a lack of consolidated reliable data on children being sent across borders into care, including the reasons they are being sent. Whilst some reports indicate economic reasons to be a motivation - contrary to the best interests of the child and the UN Guidelines²⁵ - others report access to more suitable care being a primary factor. Further investigation and verification of these reasons are therefore needed, so as to ascertain whether or not the principles of necessity and suitability are being systematically applied.

Specific references in the UN Guidelines regarding care provision for children outside their country of habitual residence urges states to ensure a designated body has responsibility for determining specific standards in relation to necessity and suitability principles. The Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, of 19 October 1996²⁶ appears useful for encouraging States to cooperate²⁷ firstly, in ascertaining whether a cross-border alternative care placement is truly necessary and secondly, whether the placement is the most suitable with regards the child’s best interests.

It is also important that examples of promising practice can be disseminated and built on. For example, the Swiss Government have developed an (*aide mémoire*²⁸) to guide Cantons implementing the 1996 Hague Convention on Cross-border Child Protection with the aim of preventing unnecessary placement across borders and safeguarding children when it does occur. The *aide mémoire* notes the importance of fully exploring the child’s individual situation, including the principle of subsidiarity and family situation, and ascertaining whether or not there are actual reasonable grounds for placing children in, or receiving from, other countries. Likewise, in Ireland,²⁹ procedures are in place that require the necessity and suitability principles are adhered to when considering cross border placements, including the evidence of exceptional circumstances and the need for High Court approval, development of a care plan and state oversight.

²⁵ Para 20. The provision of alternative care should never be undertaken with a prime purpose of furthering the political, religious or economic goals of the providers.

²⁶ Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, para. 139.

²⁷ [Presentation of Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR, First Secretary at the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law](#)

²⁸ [Presentation of Ms Joëlle SCHICKEL, Co-Head of Private International Law Unit, Federal Office of Justice of Switzerland](#) and <https://www.bj.admin.ch/bj/en/home/gesellschaft/kinderschutz/platzierungen.html>

²⁹ P [Presentation of Mr Albert O’DONOGHUE, Principal Officer of the EU and International Unit, Ireland](#)

CONCLUSION

The Council of Europe has been upholding the rights of children living in alternative care for more than 15 years, drawing from the important guidance provided by the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child, by the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, and by the increasing body of relevant recommendations adopted by its own Committee of Ministers.

Experiences of past abuses remind us of the importance of learning lessons from past failings in view of safeguarding the rights of all children who may be concerned by any form of alternative care today and in the future. Despite efforts to reform alternative care systems, moving away from large institutions and towards family-based or family-type care, or to de-institutionalise care systems, many children are currently living under some form of alternative care system and all of them need protection of their rights and best interests.

This protection must begin at the level of decision-making, by ensuring that the best interests of the child are protected in all proceedings which may eventually lead to a child being placed in alternative care. The Council of Europe's [Guidelines on child-friendly justice](#) provides important guidance towards treating all children who are affected by such court proceedings with dignity, respect, care and fairness. The Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care Proceedings [CJ/ENF-ISE](#) is currently in the process of complementing this work by developing guidance on the protection of the best interest of the child in placement proceedings, and on ensuring children's participation in care proceedings.

When it comes to the protection of children living in any form of alternative care setting, it is essential to implement the safeguards outlined in the Lanzarote Committee's [Declaration on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#), including comprehensive screening procedures for all persons taking care of children; adequate mechanisms for supporting children to disclose any sexual violence; protocols to ensure that, in the event of disclosure, effective follow-up is given in terms of assistance to the alleged victims and investigation of the alleged offences by the appropriate authorities; clear procedures to allow for the possibility of removing the alleged perpetrator from the out of home care setting from the onset of the investigation; and effective monitoring of the practices and standards, to prevent/ combat child sexual abuse. In this respect, the Council of Europe is also working towards a new draft Recommendation on strengthening mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children (for 2022) that will be highly relevant for children in alternative care.

With regard to children who exhibit challenging behaviour, family- and community-based programmes are being developed to support them and their families to prevent family separation and unnecessary placement in alternative care. Yet, in many countries, children with challenging behaviour continue to be placed in residential alternative care settings.

Sending children to alternative care across borders is also a practice which raises a number of questions relating to the rights of the children concerned, and to the responsibilities of both the sending and the receiving country to safeguard these rights, and the co-ordination between the countries concerned which is necessary to comply with these. There exist promising examples in this context, involving careful assessment of the child's individual situation and the existence of reasonable grounds before considering placement in another country, which would merit further exploration and dissemination.

The new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), which is currently under preparation by the CDENF, will have a strong focus on the needs and the rights of children living in alternative care, including, as a cross-cutting issue, the implementation of an anti-discrimination approach, which accounts for children's varied situations and seeks to fight discrimination against all groups of children,

including children living in alternative care. The Strategy will be implemented by concrete actions, promoted by the Council of Europe and implemented by its member States, together with their strong partners, aimed at protecting children without parental care and/or living in alternative care .

These actions will include supporting the transition of children in vulnerable situations into adulthood, including for children leaving care; protecting children on the move by promoting family and community-based care solutions in place of immigration detention, and supporting member States in making existing institutions and services attentive and reactive to situations of child poverty and exclusion, including through systematic child impact assessments and through supporting families, thus also avoiding child-family separation.

Together with its partners at the Regional and Global levels, the Council of Europe thus assumes its role in promoting the rights of all children living in Europe, including children in alternative care. For these children, three objectives are in the focus, always in the light of the best interest of the child: (1) preventing family separation and the placement in alternative care for all children, (2) protecting and supporting children who need to be placed in alternative care also by finding the most appropriate care setting for them, and (3) keeping a close eye and promoting special support to children in particularly vulnerable situations (including, for example, migrants, children with behavioural problems or children in transition to adulthood).

Appendix 1: Agenda of the Regional Discussion, 1 June 2021

Appendix 2: List of relevant Council of Europe standards and resources

Appendix 1: Agenda of the Regional Discussion, 1 June 2021, 09:30 – 17:00 (CET)

9:30	Opening session Chair: Maria-Andriani KOSTOPOULOU, Chair of the CDENF
	Elda MORENO, Head of the Council of Europe Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department Zoltán LŐRINCZI, Secretary of State for International and Carpathian Basin Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency
10.00	I. Setting the scene: Safeguarding the rights of children in relation to all alternative care settings
10.00	Prevention of family separation and Children’s right to protection in all forms of alternative care settings: Guidance from the UNCRC Bragi GUÐBRANDSSON, Member of the UNCRC
10.20	The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to the protection the rights of the child in relation to alternative care settings Ksenija TURKOVIĆ, Vice President of the ECHR
10:40	The work 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) on the consideration of the best interests of the child when assessing the necessity of alternative care placements Seamus CARROLL, Chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE
11:00	Coffee break
11:10	II. Putting an end to abuse within different alternative care -settings and learning from past abuses
11:10	Responding to past abuses – obstacles and opportunities for restorative justice Maeve O’ROURKE, Lecturer in Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway
11:30	Case Studies Ukraine: Naira AVETISYAN, Chief of Child Protection section, Unicef Ukraine Portugal: Rita MENDES, Director of the Childcare Department of Casa Pia
12:10	Open plenary exchange between Delegations and stakeholders

12:30	Lunch break
14:00	III. Supporting children with challenging behaviours: Family- and community-based programmes with the aim of avoiding family separation
14:00	<p>Children with challenging behaviour in alternative care: a problem or a myth?</p> <p>Dainius PŪRAS, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health and former CRC Committee member</p>
14:20	<p>Case Studies</p> <p>Norway: National Centre for Child Behavioural Development Dagfinn MØRKRID THØGERSEN, Clinical Director of Youth Program Development and Knut TARALDSEN, Psychology specialist and Senior Advisor</p> <p>Iceland: Family support program Margrét SIGMARSDÓTTIR, Specialist in clinical child psychology</p>
14:40	Open plenary exchange between Delegations and stakeholders
15:00	IV. Children sent in formal alternative care settings across borders
15:00	<p>Responsibility of the sending and the receiving State for safeguarding the rights of the Child</p> <p>Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR, First Secretary at the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law</p>
15:20	<p>Case Studies</p> <p>Switzerland: Unifying cantonal practices</p> <p>Joëlle SCHICKEL, Co-Head of Private International Law Unit, Federal Office of Justice</p> <p>Ireland: Albert O'DONOGHUE, Principal Officer of the EU and International Unit</p>
16:00	Open plenary exchange between Delegations and stakeholders
16:30	Concluding remarks
	<p>George NIKOLAIDIS, former Chair and member of the Lanzarote Committee</p> <p>Regína JENSDÓTTIR, Head of the Children's Rights Division and Council of Europe Coordinator for the Rights of the Child</p>
17:00	End of Conference

Appendix 2: List of relevant Council of Europe and other Regional standards and resources

- I. Council of Europe standards and resources
 - [European Convention on Human Rights](#)
 - [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice](#)
 - [Convention on the Protection of Children against Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse \(Lanzarote Convention\)](#)
 - [Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#)
 - Council of Europe [Recommendation Rec\(2005\)5](#) on the rights of children living in residential institutions
 - Council of Europe [Recommendation Rec\(2006\)19](#) on policy to support positive parenting
 - Council of Europe [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2010\)2](#) on deinstitutionalisation and community living of children with disabilities
 - Council of Europe [Recommendation Rec\(2011\)12](#) on children's rights and social services friendly to children and families
 - [Children and young people in care – Discover your rights!](#), a Council of Europe booklet addressed to children and young people in alternative care
 - [Securing Children's rights – A guide for professionals working in alternative care](#), provides guidance and tools for professionals that work with children in care
 - [Declaration of the Lanzarote Committee on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#)
 - [Children and alternative care](#), Council of Europe dedicated webpage
- II. Other Regional Standards and Resources
 - [1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children](#)
 - The Hague Conference on Private International Law - [Practical Handbook on the Operation of the 1996 Child Protection Convention](#)