

CGU (2025)OJ20 restricted

04 July 2025

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU) in collaboration with the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Conference:

High-level stock-taking session on the situation of the children of Ukraine: Council of Europe actions

(in person only)

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Special Thematic Hearing:

The impact of war on children of Ukraine with disabilities: risks, challenges and ways to mitigate harm

(hybrid)

Strasbourg, 9 July 2025, Room 1, Palais

9:00 - 10:50	<p>HIGH-LEVEL STOCK-TAKING CONFERENCE ON THE SITUATION OF THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE: COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTIONS</p> <p><i>Moderator: Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity</i></p> <p>Opening of the Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe</i>- <i>Hon Michael Falzon, Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta</i>- <i>Mariana Betsa, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine</i>- <i>Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Special Envoy of Council of Europe Secretary General on the situation of children of Ukraine</i>
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	<p>High-level panel on the situation of the children of Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iryna Postolovska, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for European Integration - Olena Khomenko, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine (PACE) - Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of the Center for Civil Liberties, 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, (pre-recorded video) - Markiyan Kliuchkovskyi, Executive Director, Register of Damage for Ukraine <p>Closing remarks for the high-level segment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe
10:50 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:00	<p> Evaluation of the Implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rica Terbeck, Senior Evaluator, Directorate of Internal Oversight <p> Rapid Assessment and Stock-taking of the CGU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carsten Schulz and Magali Bernard Partners at KEK - CDC (Analysis, Consulting, Evaluation) <p><i>Followed by a short discussion session</i></p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 - 13:15	<p>SPECIAL THEMATIC HEARING: THE IMPACT OF WAR ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: RISKS, CHALLENGES AND WAYS TO MITIGATE HARM</p> <p><i>Moderation: Agnes von Maravić, Head of the Children's Rights Division and CoE Coordinator for the Rights of the Child (TBC)</i></p> <p> Setting the Scene – some opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professor Gerard Quinn, affiliated Scholar, Raoul Wallenberg Institute and Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Founding Director of the Centre for Disability Law & Policy at the National University of Ireland
13:15 – 14:15	<p> Presentation of a Mapping study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elayn Sammon, Independent Expert <p> State of play in Ukraine: legislation, policies and practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tetiana Lomakina, Advisor - Presidential Commissioner for Barrier-Free Environment (online) - Iryna Tuliakova, Head of the Coordination Center on Family Upbringing and Childcare - Vasyl Lutsyk, Head of the National Social Service of Ukraine (online)
14:15 – 14:25	Short break

14:25 – 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  International and European standards protecting the rights of children with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pavlo Pushkar, The European Convention on Human Rights and Court case-law - Gioia Scappucci, Head of the Collective Complaints Division, Social Rights Department, The European Social Charter - Marianna Ianachevici, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - Jonas Ruškus, Former Member and Vice-chair of the UN Committee on the on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Tetiana Rudenko, Senior Project Officer Office of Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSCE) (online)  The role of independent human rights organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rhona Garland, Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disability of Malta - Michał Żłobek, Director of International and Constitutional Affairs Department, Office of the Ombudsperson for Children in Poland - Oksana Chervyakova, Representative of the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights of Ukraine (online)
15:40 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  The civil society's perspective in addressing risks and challenges for children of Ukraine with disabilities, amplified by the war <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Halyna Kurylo, Head of Disability Rights International Ukraine - Maria Buchanowska, CEO and Co-founder, Patchwork NGO, Association of Immigrant Families of Persons with Disabilities, Poland - Andriy Kasimov, Director and Founder, Paralelni Svity (Parallel Worlds) charity organisation, Ukraine - Yulia Boiko, Mother of a girl with disability, member of a CSO created by the parents of children with disabilities Rozpravleni Kryla (Spreaded Wings); Centre of Social Services and Rehabilitation Dzherelo (Source), Ukraine  Looking forward: ways to mitigate harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jean Choi, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Ukraine - Oleksandra Churkina, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Poland Closing of the hearing: reflections on the main findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor, Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)