

HIGH-LEVEL LAUNCHING CONFERENCE FOR THE NEW STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (2022-2027)

Following a large child consultation process led in 2021, gathering the opinions of 220 children in 10 countries on the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), a delegation of children - the “young delegates” - will also participate in the High-level Launching Conference in Rome on 7-8 April 2022. Supported by the Council of Europe Children’s Rights Division, the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and Defence for Children International (DCI) Italy, young delegates will be present and actively involved during all plenary sessions, thematic conversations and informal events. Their participation is particularly relevant since children represent both the main target group and stakeholders of the Strategy.

In order for all of us to ensure a meaningful, safe and positive experience for the children, we kindly ask you to:

1. **Be mindful of the need to ensure a power balance between adults and children:** Adopt a culture of support, respect and tolerance towards children, engage in active listening and never use language or make suggestions that can be perceived as violent or diminishing in any way;
2. **Respect the principle of non-discrimination:** Contribute to an environment that makes all children feel safe and included. Treat all children with respect at all times, regardless of age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, cultural, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;
3. **Recognise each child as a rights holder:** Recognise and respect the concept of dignity attached to each child as a holder of the full set of human rights and as a unique and valuable human being with an individual personality, distinct needs, interests and privacy;
4. **Keep in mind that most participants have English as their second language:** Be careful to speak clearly when communicating and, especially when children are participating in a session. Always try to use simple words that everyone can understand and demonstrate respect for children’s views;
5. **Be respectful towards others in your use of social media:** Do not post pictures of others, especially children, or communicate their private data without receiving prior consent;
6. **Be aware of and report any situations which may represent a risk to children:** Make sure to contribute to a transparent and safe environment and raise any concern that might arise.

During the conference you might be approached by young delegates to be interviewed for their own report about the event. You are kindly asked to be open to this possibility and provide your informed consent on sight.

Remember that all adults have the obligation to make children feel safe and respected. Should you have any concerns or observations regarding the above principles, please turn to the competent staff member of the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe - the name of a child safeguarding reference person will be communicated to all participants upon their arrival at the event.