

Group of Experts on responses to violence against children (CAHENF-VAC)

Role

In line with [Resolution CM/Res\(2011\)24](#), the Group of Experts on Responses to violence against children (CAHENF- VAC) is established to assist the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) in its mandate related to enhancing the implementation of international and Council of Europe standards on the protection of children from violence in member States and of the priority area 3 “*A life free from violence of all children*” of the Council of Europe strategy for the rights of the child (2016-2021).

Composition

The CAHENF–VAC is composed of Committee members from up to 16 member States, having a thorough knowledge of law, policy and practice in the field of children’s rights, with established expertise on preventing and combating violence against children.

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of up to 8 experts for each working meeting in the period 2018-2019.

Participation is also open to 1 representative from participating organisations and institutions, as set out in the terms of reference of the CAHENF. Selected organisations and initiatives with established expertise in this area may be invited, on an ad-hoc basis, to contribute to the work of the CAHENF-VAC. Their participation shall be an advisory role and at the charge of their budget.

Specific Tasks

The CAHENF-VAC will support the work of the CAHENF and the implementation of the Children’s Rights Strategy (2016-2021) by:

- a) Advising the CAHENF on priority actions to support member states in the development of legislation, policies, practice, training schemes and awareness raising materials to support the implementation of the CoE standards on the protection of children from violence and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably SDG Target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children;
- b) Developing proposals for actions by the CAHENF to promote and operationalize the implementation of the Council of Europe Policy Guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence;
- c) Developing a concept for a clearing house providing access to existing national strategies promoting an integrated approach to protection from violence and to provide a platform for peer- to-peer support in their development, implementation and reviews, including on data collection, at national, regional and local levels (Priority area 3.1 of the Strategy);
- d) Supporting the mid-term evaluation process of the Strategy’s priority area 3 by developing proposals to assess the Strategy’s contribution to achieving the planned impact - “Children enjoy their right to be free from violence”;

- e) Facilitating the organisation of regular exchanges of knowledge, good practices and experiences among member states in the priority area “A life free from violence” by the CAHENF in the period 2018-2019.

Working methods

The Group will hold two working meetings in Strasbourg per year in the period 2018-2019, which would be chaired by a Bureau member of the CAHENF. It will also perform its functions and responsibilities on line between meetings. The Group may hold hearings, if necessary and subject to available budgetary resources.

It shall be assisted in its work by the Secretariat of the CAHENF, and within the limits of budgetary appropriations, by consultants with specific knowledge and expertise on violence aspects.