

Redefining Power:

Strengthening the rights of the child as the key to a future-proof Europe

*Conference organised by the Council of Europe
in the framework of the French Presidency of the
Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

PROGRAMME

**Containing all available presentations for
download in their original language**

(19/12/2019)

**Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe
Strasbourg, France**

13-14 November 2019

Wednesday 13 November 2019

09:30 – 10:00 Opening

Hemicycle – interpretation English/French

Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Adrien Taquet, Secretary of State on Child Protection, France

10:00 – 10:45 High-level plenary session 1

Hemicycle – interpretation English/French

In conversation with Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe:

Liliane Maury Pasquier, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights

Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

11:30 – 12:45 High-level plenary session 2

Hemicycle – interpretation English/French

Moderator: **Jeroen Schokkenbroek**, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Member states / Ministers:

- **Iceland: Ásmundur Einar Daðason**, Minister of Social Affairs and Children
- **Italy: Elena Bonetti**, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family

Member states / Secretaries of State:

- **Poland: Kasimierz Kuberski**, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy

Further speakers:

- **Elene (Georgia) and Emma (Ireland)**

Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children

Afshan Khan, Regional director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF

Koulla Yiasouma, Chairperson of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)

[Veronica Yates, Director of the Child Rights International Network \(CRIN\)](#)

14:00 – 15:30 Power Talk 1 – The power of collaboration: stepping up the coordination of global and pan-European agendas to increase their impact on children’s human rights

Room 1 – interpretation English/French

There are no solo performers on the international stage: much more can be achieved by working together. But where, exactly, are there gaps to be filled? What added value can intergovernmental bodies generate by working together better? How can they coordinate their work more effectively? And how can visions developed at the global and pan-European level be turned into joint and concrete actions to take the rights of all children forward? This session looks at recent, major reports, studies and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and asks where we go from here in turning the vision of the UN CRC into a new reality for children.

Moderator: Elda Moreno, Head of Children’s Rights and Sports Values Department, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Najat Maalla M’jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children

Ann Skelton, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) and Chair of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

[Jeffrey Labovitz, Director of Operations and Emergencies, International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#)

Baroness Doreen Massey, member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Benoit Van Keirsbilck, Director, Defence for children international, Belgium

[Amadea \(Albania\) - “Power Talk challenger”](#)

14:00 – 15:30 Power Talk 2 – The power of inclusion: fighting precarity, poverty and exclusion, and promoting equal opportunities for all children

Room 2 – interpretation English/French

Too often, poverty is transmitted from one generation to the next. Across Europe, many children are still feeling the effects of austerity policies today. And poverty still falls hardest upon our most vulnerable members of society. Positive action is needed to develop the attitudes, means and support which will enable children to leave poverty behind. What role can education and the promotion of human rights play in breaking cycles of poverty? And what priorities should national strategies to combat poverty address to be effective?

Moderator: H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Eurochild, former President of Malta

[Eliane Chemla](#), member of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), together with [Aoife Nolan](#), member of the ECSR via video presentation

[Mónica Oltra Jarque](#), Vice-President of the Council, Minister for Equality and Social Inclusion, Autonomous Region of Valencia, Spain

[Neila Peka](#), Commissioner for Children's Rights, People's Advocate, Albania

Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Scientific Adviser, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

[Bright and Liam \(Ireland\)](#) - "Power Talk challengers"

14:00 – 15:30 Power Talk 3 – The power of media: inform, inspire and mobilise while respecting the rights of the child

Room 3 – English only

In a world where they reflect and shape social norms and influence political decisions, media have a particular responsibility when portraying children, reaching out to them and when addressing matters of concern to them. How to ensure that this responsibility is not overlooked? How to promote ethical reporting and avoid collateral damage when covering highly sensitive subjects, such as child abuse? Are whistle-blowers protected and able to speak up about serious child protection gaps and violations? What further action is needed to encourage the media to use its power to protect and promote the rights of the child? And, finally, how to encourage children to become critical users of the media?

Moderator: **Inge Welbergen**, Bureau member of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

[Ivaylo Spasov](#), Communication for Social Change Officer, UNICEF Bulgaria

Bernard de Vos, Generale Delegate (Ombudsman) for Children's Rights of the Federation Wallonia-Bruxelles, Belgium

Amelie (Germany) - "Power Talk challenger"

16:00 – 17:30 Power Talk 4 – The power of speaking up against violence: putting an end to violence against children

Room 1 – interpretation English/French

International and national agendas across the world, express strong commitment to ending violence against children. Yet responses to reported violence are not yet sufficiently effective and may even put children at risk. How do we create an environment where children feel confident enough to share an experience of violence? How can we guarantee that their stories will be taken seriously and addressed properly? Sexual violence against and abuse of children is happening in places where children should feel safe, including in care institutions, schools and sports associations. But are we ready to tackle these issues head-on?

Moderator: **George Nikolaidis**, Chair of the Lanzarote Committee

Ivor Frank, Representative of the England and Wales Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse", United Kingdom

Matthias Katsch, member of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Germany

Hélène Kozaczyk, Solicitor at the Caen bar association, France

Véronique Gasté, Head of the office for Health and Social Action, Ministry of National Education and Youth, France

Kasra (Cyprus) - "Power Talk challenger"

Discussion

16:00 – 17:30 Power Talk 5 – The power of data: balancing transparency, freedom of expression and privacy of children

Room2 interpretation English/French

In today's data-driven societies, childhood and family life are being increasingly "datafied" and the rights of the child are being challenged. How to ensure respect for the rights of children in the digital environment? How to ensure children's privacy when faced with an increase in the questionable commercial use of their data? How will their data footprint shape their lives and ultimately redefine their digital citizenship? How is children's understanding of the digital environment considered in designing services, regulations and policies? Are decision-makers of any kind equipped to create safe roads for children through the data-driven territory?

Moderator: **Tamar Kaldani**, Vice-Chairperson of the Consultative Committee of Convention 108

Sonia Livingstone, Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics (LSE), United Kingdom

Pascale Raulin-Serrier, Coordinator of the International Working Group on Digital Education (DEWG), France

Julia Stoll, Head of the IT Unit, Hessian Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Germany

Andrea (Serbia) - "Power Talk challenger"

16:00 – 17:30 Power Talk 6 – The power of children: shaping or shaking up political agendas for a new generation of activists

Room 3 – English only

Across Europe and the world, we see more and more children making their voices heard. Children are powerful advocates of their own rights and are taking bold steps to have them respected and protected. What more can be done to foster an engaged, curious and courageous generation? What protections and safeguards are needed to ensure that children are safely and securely using and fighting for their human rights? What can adults learn from these young rights-holders? And is it time for children to be given a say through the most fundamental form of societal participation: the right to vote?

Moderator: **Gerison Lansdown**, International consultant on child participation

Sylvia Kritzinger, Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Vienna, Austria

George Moschos, Initiative for Article 12 (*InArt12*), Greece, together with **Ourania Douvou**, former member of the Greek Children's Ombudsman Youth Advisory Panel and member of the youth team of *InArt12*, Greece

Sally Proudlove, Head of Safeguarding, UNICEF United Kingdom

James (UK) - "Power Talk challenger"

17:45– 18:15 Performance "Take it like a man"
by Mark Neville and Darragh Malone:

Living through a first-hand experience of corporal punishment at school

Thursday 14 November 2019

09:00 – 10:30 Power Talk 7 – The power of family relations: respecting the best interests of the child in divorce and separation

Room 1 – interpretation English/French

The first contact that children have with the justice system comes too often as a result of disputes relating to divorce and separation, custody or visiting rights; thus situations that regularly have devastating results for the children involved. The image and role of the modern family is changing, as is the position of children therein. How to strike the right balance between the interests of parents and children in such cases? Are the rights of the child adequately upheld by the justice system and are they given a voice? How to better deal with cases of intra-family violence? And how can both parents maintain a positive relationship with their children while in conflict with each other?

Moderator: Seamus Carroll, member of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), Ireland

Louise Crowley, Solicitor and Director of the LLM (Children's Rights and Family Law) at the School of Law, University College Cork, Ireland

Frédéric Mauche, First Vice-President in the Regional Court of Strasbourg, responsible for the family affairs unit, France

Lana Peto Kujundžić, Judge, President of the Juvenile Justice Department of Zagreb, Croatia

Capucine and Lucas (France) - "Power Talk challengers"

09:00 – 10:30 Power Talk 8 – The power of support: Responding to and preventing sexual violence by children

Room 2– English only

The capacities of professionals confronted with cases of sexual violence committed by children may sometimes be exceeded by the complexity of this phenomena which often remains a taboo. The Lanzarote Convention requires member states to put in place relevant programmes or intervention measures. This session looks into appropriate ways of addressing violence by children, including peer-to-peer sexual violence. Which measures are to be taken with regard to children who commit such acts towards other children, often younger than themselves? Which methods are the most effective at an age where the acts committed by children may be facilitated by ICTs with consequences that children can hardly predict?

Moderator: Christel De Craim, Vice-president of the Lanzarote Committee

Simon Hackett, Professor of Child Abuse and Neglect, Department of Sociology, University of Durham

Claudia van Diessen, Prevention programme of juvenile violence "Stichting Halt", Utrecht, Netherlands

Anna Newton, Treatment provider for children with harmful sexual behaviour, Icelandic Government Agency for Child Protection (*Barnaverndarstofa*)

Rostyslav (Ukraine) - "Power Talk challenger"

09:00 – 10:30 Power Talk 9 – The power of technology: seizing opportunities and responding to new challenges in the relations between children and technologies

Room 3 – English only

Nowadays, technology is an integral and inescapable part of children's lives. We have only started imagining the applications and implications of Artificial Intelligence. While information and communication technologies offer children undeniable benefits, they also come with risks. How exactly are offenders using technology to abuse and exploit children? How can technology become a catalyser of change to prevent violence, protect children and fight impunity, in the full respect of the right to privacy? And how can the private and public sectors co-operate and foster a culture of digital responsibility?

Moderator: Alexander Seger, Head of the Cybercrime Division, Information Society Department, Council of Europe

John Carr, International Consultant on Children in the Digital Environment, United Kingdom

June Lowery-Kingston, Head of Unit, DG CONNECT - Communication Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission, Luxembourg

Christiane Yavuz, Head of Monitoring and Research, *jugendschutz.net*, Germany

Emma (Ireland) + Andre (Malta) - "Power Talk challengers"

11:15-13:00 Closing session - Children's rights as a key to a future-proof Europe: redefining priorities for 2020-2021 and beyond

Room 1 – interpretation English/French

11:15-11:30 Interlude: "Sounds of Children's Rights"

"Turning words into action":

Discussion on the next steps in the implementing the Strategy on the Rights of the Child of the Council of Europe (2016-2021), and its five pillars:

1. Equal opportunities for all children;
2. Participation of all children;
3. A life free from violence for all children;
4. Child-friendly justice for all children;
5. Rights of the child in the digital environment.

Moderator: Regína Jensdóttir, Head of the Children's Rights Division and Children's Rights Coordinator of the Council of Europe

Discussion in "fish-bowl" format

Panel

Roxana Maracineanu, Minister of Sports, France

[Snežana Samardžić-Marković](#), Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

[Christos Giakoumopoulos](#), Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

[Emmanuel Crabit](#), Director, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission, Brussels

One alternating seat

Parliamentarian: **Stefan Schennach**, Federal Council, Austria

Ombudsperson: **Geneviève Avenard**, Child Advocate with the Ombudsman, France

NGO: **Nuala Mole**, Aire Centre, United Kingdom

Academia: **Ton Liefwaard**, University of Leiden, Netherlands

Children: **Amadea (Albania) – “Power Talk challenger”**

13:00

Close of the conference

General Rapporteur for the Conference

[Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou](#), Chairperson of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)