

Child Rights Connect Child Protection Policy: Annex on Risk Assessment & Mitigation Strategies

Finalized: 12th March, 2025

This risk assessment is prepared by Child Rights Connect to evaluate the risks that children might be exposed to by taking part in the Mid-Term Review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child of the Council of Europe, held in-person between 2-4 of April 2025 in Strasbourg, France. Prevention and mitigations measures are recommended below in relation to each risk identified.

ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CHILDREN (name, describe all activities of the project)	STAFF & OTHERS (list of all adults who are involved in these activities... staff, experts, volunteers, etc.)	CHILD PARTICIPANTS (describe children who will be involved and what kind of info will be collected about them)	COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN (describe nature of contact with children in the listed activities)
General considerations			
In the framework of the Council of Europe Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”, operating since 2006, the fourth Strategy for the rights of the Child (2022-2027), hereafter the Strategy, was designed to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of the child across Europe. Since the Strategy provides for a mid-term evaluation to be undertaken during the year 2025, a mid-term Review Conference is being organised in the framework of the Luxembourgish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and will be an opportunity for the member states representatives to express their commitment to the	The conference will involve adults from all member states of the Council of Europe who have to register in advance and accept the Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure. Staff of the Council of Europe will be also present.	7 children will participate: Denis (Bulgaria) Dion (Albania) Elodie (Northern-Ireland, UK) Jose (Spain) Lana (Croatia) Leonardo (Italy) Sarah (Northern-Ireland, UK) The children are supported by Child Rights Connect and their own supporting organisations: - Teddy Network	Child Rights Connect is in touch with the children and their supporting organizations to provide guidance on their participation at the conference via email. The children meet 5 times online as part of their preparations (Zoom platform). The Council of Europe, organizer of the conference is in touch with the parents and accompanying adults of the children regarding travel and accommodation.

<p>Strategy. It will take place on 3 and 4 April 2025.</p> <p>During the event, six interactive workshops will take place, articulating with the six objectives of the Strategy for protecting and promoting the rights of the child. Children will actively engage at the session on Freedom from violence for all children and the session on Giving a voice to every child, furthermore at the closing plenary (rapporteurs).</p>		<p>Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People</p> <p>DND Opatija</p> <p>Ombudsman Office of Andaluz</p> <p>All the children and their parents sign the consent forms and specify the personal information that can be shared about them.</p>	
--	--	---	--

POTENTIAL RISKS² & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

POTENTIAL RISKS	PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES
Please find below a list of the main risks Child Rights Connect is taking into account for the event.	Our strategies aim at raising awareness both among children and adults in order to prevent and mitigate risks.
Before the event	
The child may have questions and concerns about the event since this will be their first time in a conference where most of the participants are adults. They may not know how to prepare for their role and their interventions.	<p>The children will be proposed several preparatory online meetings online to ensure that they understand the full scope of their participation and the context of the event in question. One of these preparatory meetings will focus on safeguarding.</p> <p>Child-friendly information will be shared with the children to explain the event and topics discussed.</p> <p>Close communication with the supporting organizations and parents will be maintained throughout the weeks leading up and after the event to ensure that they can best assist the children with their participation.</p>
Online preparatory meetings via zoom: not authorized persons are participating at the meeting.	Ensure access to zoom is password protected and only invited and authorized persons are participating (by using the waiting room feature).
The children need to travel internationally to a potentially unknown country and navigate the city to attend the different activities. Delays or cancellation of flights or train might happen, luggage might get lost.	The children will be accompanied by their chaperones and a staff member of Child Rights Connect with whom close communication will be maintained. The children will also receive a child-friendly welcome pack with essential information for their trip which will be discussed in one of the online preparatory meetings. Throughout their trip, the children will be accompanied by their chaperones.
During the event	
The children could feel uncomfortable, stressed or overwhelmed during the event depending on the kinds of issues, examples and challenges	We make sure that the child participants feel empowered and confident going into the conference. This involves various preparatory calls,

<p>raised. This could include being exposed to ageist, racist, sexist, misogynist, homophobic and/or hurtful behaviour from the audience.</p>	<p>including group calls between all the child representatives and their supporting organisations.</p> <p>All children will also be informed that they are free to withdraw from the event at any moment (including during the event) and do not have to answer any question or provide any information that they do not feel comfortable to do.</p> <p>We will discuss the kinds of issues and themes that might be raised during the interventions from the participants of the conference and how they might feel about these, whether there would be any triggers. We will discuss how we might deal with these kinds of situations and how the children can be best supported.</p> <p>The adult participants of the conference will have to accept the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure at the time of their registration and the Code of Conduct will be shared among the documents of the conference. The moderator will share an announcement at the beginning of each session where children are present about child safeguarding and how to ensure a safe and meaningful dialogue space for everyone.</p> <p>Safeguarding Focal Point will be appointed and introduced to the children at the beginning of the conference and available throughout the event.</p>
<p>Unknown venue for the children which is not child-friendly. Children might not find a space to relax whenever they feel like.</p>	<p>We will support the children to familiarize themselves with the venue at the day before the conference. During the conference, separate child-friendly space will be available for them.</p>
<p>Language used by the adult participants is not accessible and children might feel lost.</p>	<p>The children will be empowered to intervene if they don't understand something during the sessions and the adults will be reminded by the moderator's announcement to use accessible language.</p>
<p>The Permanent Mission (PM) and other officials of the country of origin of the children may attend the conference, take note or object certain statements or criticism made by the children in relation to their government or</p>	<p>The children will be informed about this possibility and provided with guidance on how to present their statements in a respectful and objective manner. The PMs and other officials may also be informed about the participation of children from</p>

country.	their country at the conference.
Pictures or videos may be taken during the event by spectators in-person or via the online platform. These pictures or videos may be shared after the event for various purposes.	<p>The participants will be informed at the beginning of the conference and reminded regularly that children are present at the event and pictures should not be taken of them without their consent. The children will discuss their right to image and how to react in such situations as part of their safeguarding briefing at one of the preparatory meetings.</p> <p>Cases where pictures that were taken without the consent of the children or they are published or used in ways that were not consented to by the children will be reported and followed up on by Child Rights Connect.</p>
After the event	
Child participants might experience backlash from their family or community after the event, or be exposed to the risk of reprisals by their government.	Ensure that this is discussed with the children during our preparatory call(s) and meetings while staying in touch with their supporting organizations on developments after the side event.
Supporting organisations do not have capacity/needs to delay conducting follow-up meetings/communication with the children after the conference. Due to this, children does not have the opportunity to evaluate their experience.	We will underline the importance of following-up with children after the conference and check in with the supporting organisations after the event. In addition to that, we will organise a debrief with the children online, within 2 weeks from the day of their return home.