

30th anniversary of the Convention on the RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

20 Nov, 14:30, EP Plenary Chamber, Brussels



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK – TOPICAL DIGEST

November 2019

This year marks the 60th anniversary of UN General Assembly Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). As the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history, the CRC has helped to ensure better protection for the rights of children across the globe. On a multilateral level, the EU places great emphasis on this topic. The European Parliament has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment towards the protection and promotion of the Rights of the Child. To renew its unshakeable pledge to the protection and promotion of children's rights, the European Parliament has organised a High-Level Conference, on 20 November 2019, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the UNCRC. The following publications of the European Parliament's Research Service and its Policy Departments provide background information and analysis.

'Every child has the right to live and thrive'

Children's rights in the EU: Marking 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Briefing by Ingeborg Odink, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019

Adopted in 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was the first international instrument to explicitly recognise children as human beings with innate rights. Ratified by 197 countries, including all EU Member States, it has become the landmark treaty on children's rights, outlining universal standards for the care, treatment, survival, development, protection and participation of all children. The promotion and protection of children's rights is one of the key objectives embedded in Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

UN Convention on children's rights: 30 years on

'At a glance' note by Naja Bentzen, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019

Although conditions for children have improved since the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989, millions remain unprotected. The EU is committed to promoting the protection of the rights of the child, and the European Parliament has continued to push for universal ratification of the Convention and for remaining challenges, such as adequate nutrition and healthcare, and preventing abuses such as child combatants, child marriage and child trafficking, to be addressed.

EU contribution to the fight against child poverty

'At a glance' note by Marie Lecerf, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019

The number of children at risk of poverty – almost one in four – remains high in the European Union. The EU provides a framework of numerous financial instruments for Member States to implement measures to address child poverty, and the European Parliament has repeatedly encouraged EU countries to increase their commitment to fighting child poverty.

[Poverty, gender and life cycle: Portraits of poverty in the European Union](#)

In-depth Analysis by Marie Lecerf, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2017

Nearly a quarter of the population in the European Union (23.8 %) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015. Living conditions, the degree of insecurity and the routes into and out of poverty vary according to age and gender, as well as varying over the course of a lifetime. Children are the most affected population in Europe today, while young people aged between 18 and 24 now represent 10% of those at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU.

[Children on the move: a private international law perspective](#)

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, June 2017

The child's best interests are a primary consideration under international and EU law. EU migration and private international law frameworks regulate child protection, but in an uncoordinated way: the Dublin III and Brussels IIa Regulations are neither aligned nor applied coherently. This should change. In particular, the rules and mechanisms of Brussels IIa should be used to enhance the protection of migrant children. These include rules on jurisdiction to take protective measures, on applicable law, and on recognition and enforcement of protective measures, and mechanisms for cross-border cooperation between authorities.

Further reading:

[World Refugee Day: Focus on migrant children](#)

'At a glance' note by Anita Orav, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2017

[Disappearance of migrant children in Europe](#)

'At a glance' note by Anja Radjenovic, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2017

[Vulnerability of unaccompanied and separated child migrants](#)

Briefing by Joanna Apap, European Parliamentary Research Service, December 2016

[Integrating migrants and their children through education](#)

'At a glance' note by Denise Chircop, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2016

[Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived \(FEAD\)](#)

Briefing by Marie Lecerf, European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2019

[Fighting child poverty: The child guarantee](#)

Briefing by European Parliament's Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, September 2019

[Study in focus: Fighting child poverty: the role of EU funding](#)

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, August 2018

[Expansion of the concept of human rights: Impact on rights promotion and protection](#)

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for External Policies, March 2018

[Enhancing EU actions on economic, social and cultural rights within its human rights policy](#)

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for External Policies, February 2018

[EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Human Rights](#)

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, Martina Prpic and Rosamund Shreeves, EPRS, June 2019

Children's rights and the UN SDGs: A priority for EU external action

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019

The United Nations' (UN) 2030 Agenda for sustainable development includes a strong commitment by all states to respect human rights, in line with international law and other relevant international norms, in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More than a normative framework guiding the implementation of the SDGs, the rights of the child are also a fundamental enabling factor for sustainable development and vice versa.

Child labour: A priority for EU human rights action

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, European Parliamentary Research Service, January 2019

Despite a comprehensive normative international framework that prohibits child labour, it persists in many areas of the world, particularly in developing countries. In sub-Saharan-Africa, it has even increased in recent years. More efforts are therefore needed to combat child labour. However, not all work performed by children is harmful to their health and development. The first task is therefore to distinguish child labour – which entails harmful forms of work – from other forms of children's involvement with work that are acceptable and have an educational component.

Contemporary forms of slavery

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for External Policies, December 2018

The study aims to clarify the concept of contemporary forms of slavery and analyse the legal obligations of States, as well as recent international developments at global and EU levels. It highlights the inconsistent application of the concept by global governance actors and discusses the inclusion of various exploitative practices within this conceptual framework. It also examines the prevalence of contemporary forms of slavery and assesses the policy framework for EU external action.

Child marriages: Still too many

'At a glance' note by Eric Pichon, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2018

Although the official age of adulthood varies across countries, several international conventions, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been signed by 140 states, apply the definition of 'child marriage' to any couple where at least one member – usually the girl – is aged under 18. The practice of child marriage challenges both children's rights and gender equality, and exposes child brides to serious abuses and health risks. The European Union not only constantly condemns child marriage but also endeavours to tackle this practice through targeted aid programmes.

Research for CULT Committee - Child Safety Online: Definition of the Problem

In-depth Analysis by European Parliament's Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, February 2018

The In-Depth Analysis addresses the definition and scope of children's online safety as a policy issue and process. The paper draws on evidence of risks that children may encounter in the course of their use of the Internet. This is one of three briefing papers requested by the CULT Committee to assist in its assessment of the requirements to ensure adequate support for protection of minors and children's wellbeing in the digital age.

Domestic Sexual Abuse of Girls

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, November 2018

The study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee. The study provides a definition and conceptual model of domestic sexual abuse of girls, as well as analyses of prevalence and risk factors across the EU. It goes on to review policies and actions to address domestic sexual abuse of girls at the EU and Member State levels, and sets out case studies of four countries. It ends by providing recommendations for Member States and EU institutions.

Further reading:

[Combating sexual abuse of children Directive 2011/93/EU](#)

Study by Amandine Marie Anne Scherrer and Wouter Van Ballegooij, EPRS, April 2017

[Zero tolerance for female genital mutilation](#)

'At a glance' note by Rosamund Shreeves, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2019

[The situation of indigenous children with disabilities](#)

Study by European Parliament's Policy Department for External Policies, December 2017

[Procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings](#)

'At a glance' note by Martina Prpic, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2016

[Adoption of children in the European Union](#)

Briefing by Ulla Jurviste, Giulio Sabbati, Rosamund Shreeves and Anna Dimitrova-Stull, EPRS, June 2016

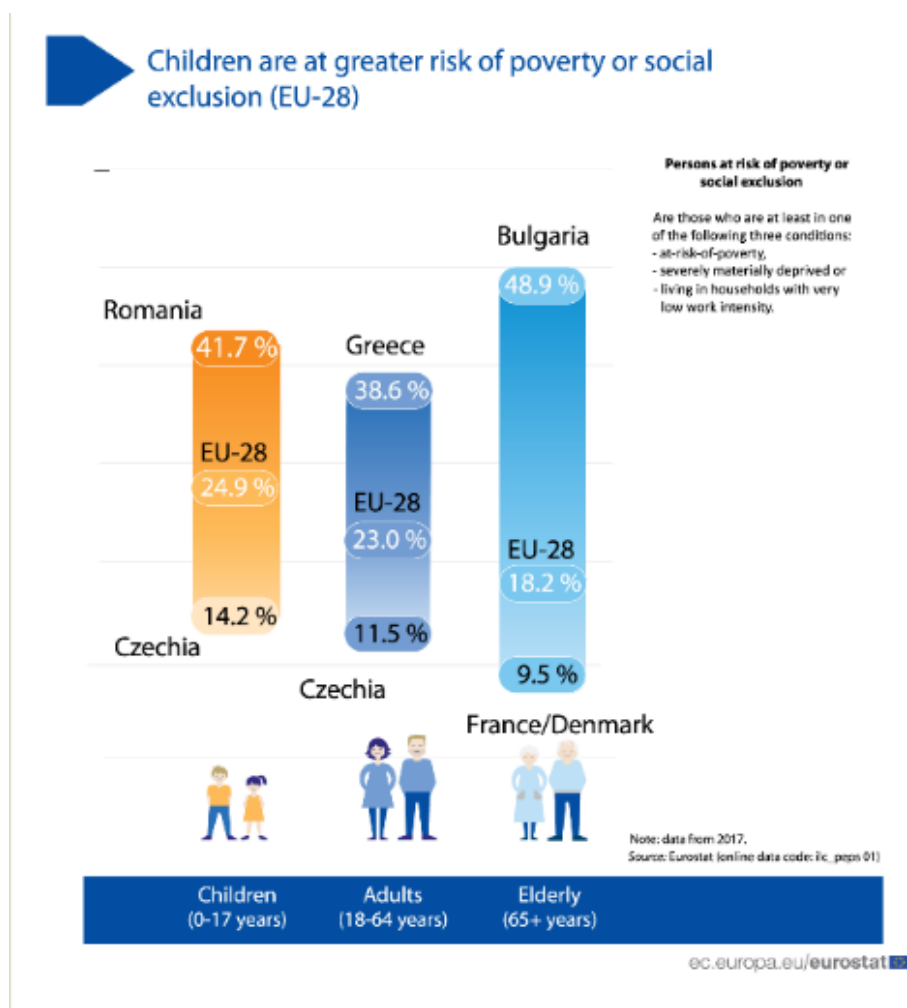
[Tackling childhood obesity](#)

Briefing by Nicole Scholz, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2017

[Early childhood education and care in family-friendly policies](#)

Briefing by Nora Milotay, European Parliamentary Research Service, May 2016

More in the [Graphics Warehouse](#):



Source: Eurostat, 2019

You can access this Topical Digest at

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_HLConference_Child_rights.pdf & <https://epthinktank.eu/high-level-conferences/> or by scanning the QR code.

More information on the Europarl website:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/world/20191010STO64046/celebrating-30-years-of-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

