

## CELEBRATION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



***“Humanity owes the child the best it can give”<sup>1</sup>***

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. It co-sponsors with the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), an annual resolution on the Rights of the Child at the UN Human Rights Council and at the UN General Assembly, with a special focus this year on the *30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

The year 2019 is also a critical year for the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. Heads of State and Government will meet at the UN High-Level Political Forum convened during the opening of the 74th General Assembly (September 2019) to discuss progress and challenges to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national, regional and global levels. The CRC and the SDGs go hand in hand. Children’s rights cannot be achieved without the successful implementation of the SDGs and vice versa. Therefore, the Convention has never been more relevant than it is today to make sure that no child is left behind.

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 will organise a High Level Conference to be held on 20 November 2019 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the UNCRC, acknowledge the progress made over three decades and reflect on the challenges ahead in a global and digital world.



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<sup>1</sup> Eglantyne Jebb (1876-1928) founder of Save the Children in 1919.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME (updated: 17.10.2019):**

**14:30 - 15:15**

**Opening of the high level conference**

**Guest of Honour**

H.M **Queen Mathilde** Honorary President UNICEF-Belgium

**David Sassoli**

President of the European Parliament

**Ursula von der Leyen (tbc)**

President of the European Commission

**15:15 - 16:30**

***First panel: "Every child has the right to live and thrive"***

Moderator **Maite Pagazaurtundúa**, First Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties  
Justice and Home Affairs

In the 30 years since the adoption of the Convention, the lives of millions of children have been improved through the progressive recognition of rights and fulfillment of obligations enshrined within the Convention and its three Optional Protocols. The CRC inspired the EU and its Member States to change laws, policies and practices aimed at ensuring that all children can fully enjoy their rights and receive adequate protection and care. On the EU territory, legislation on the protection of children applies to all children, independently of their nationality or residence status.

- *Addressing discrimination and barriers to the full enjoyment of child rights including socio-economic inequalities/disabilities among children*
- *Sharing lessons and good practices in integrating child rights principles into EU and national legislation*
- *Assessing the impact of measures on children's development and communities' changes*

Child testimony (**fight against poverty - integration of refugee**)

European Commissioner Justice and Gender Equality **Věra Jourová** (TBC)

Member of the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (TBC)

EUROCHILD- **Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, Chairperson, ex-President of the Republic of Malta

Q&A session

Concluding remarks **Lucy NETHSINGHA** chair of Committee on legal affairs

**16:30 - 17:45**

***Second panel: “Every child has the right to dream”***

Moderator **Maria ARENA** Chair of the Subcommittee on Human rights

Despite remarkable progress, the Convention is still not fully implemented in all State Parties or widely known and understood. Millions of children continue to experience abuses of their rights. They are denied adequate health care, nutrition, education and protection from violence. They are forced to leave school and work, get married, and enroll in wars... Global changes such as digital technology, environmental challenges, persistent conflict and large-scale movement of populations are affecting childhood. Children’s rights are threatened while at the same time new opportunities emerge to uphold/fulfil them. The implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols are more than ever closely linked to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

- *Protecting the rights of the child in an ever-changing digital world; threats and opportunities*
- *Addressing the changing nature of armed conflicts and its impact on children’s rights and future*
- *Mainstreaming of a child-rights approach in all development planning and implementation*

Child testimony (**Ending violence against children - rehabilitation**)

Minister of Foreign Affairs (first country in the world to ratify the CRC), **Shirley Ayorkor Botchway**

European Commissioner international cooperation and development **Neven Mimica**

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director **Charlotte Petri Gornitzka**

Q&A session

Concluding remarks by **Tomas TOBÉ** Chair of the committee on Development

**17:45 - 18:00**

**Concluding remarks of the high level conference**

Vice President and EP coordinator on Children’s rights **Ewa Kopacz**

**18:15**

Opening of the exhibition *Cartooning for Peace* “Drawings press and children’s education on freedom of expression”