



Council of Europe

Slovenian Chairmanship
May to November 2009



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

Organisers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Honorary patron: President of the Republic of Slovenia

Venue: Ljubljana, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia – Round Conference Hall

Date: 6–7 October 2009

Contents:

- Education on the rights of the child;
- Right to protection against violence;
- Activities of the Council of Europe and the Slovenian Government in these areas.

The aim of the conference:

- Raising awareness among the political, expert and general public with regard to children's rights, particularly the right to protection against violence within the framework of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers;
- Supporting the endeavours of Slovenian and international actors in the field of children's rights protection;
- Informing the Slovenian public of activities undertaken by the Council of Europe in support of the respect for children's rights;
- Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN International Year of Human Rights Learning.
- Informing international expert public on the promotion of children's rights in Slovenia.

Structure:

- Introduction and three panels; education on the rights of the child, the right to protection against violence, activities of the Council of Europe and the Slovenian Government;
- Top politicians, the Slovenian Ombudsman and a children's representative address the participants by way of introduction;
- Each panel starts with an introductory speech (7–8 minutes), followed by short speeches (5 minutes) addressing a particular topic. An approximately half-an-hour debate follows after the presentation of each topic;
- Children's participation: representatives of children are equally included among the speakers. Their involvement in almost every topic shows that their participation is taken seriously.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 6 October 2009 9.30 – 10.15

Welcome address by the host: **Pavel Gantar, PhD, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia**

Address by the honorary patron: **Danilo Türk, PhD, President of the Republic of Slovenia**

Opening speeches:

- **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General**
- **Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children**
- **Zdenka Čebašek Travnik, PhD, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia**
- **Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia**

Opening statement by the representative of children: **a student of the Ljubljana School for the Deaf**

Tuesday, 6 October 2009 10.15 – 12.00

Education on the rights of the child

Moderator: **Andreja Črnak Meglič, PhD, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia**

Introductory speaker: **Igor Lukšič, PhD, Minister of Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia**

- 1.) **Promotion of children's rights education – good practices in Slovenia**
 - Student of the Poljane Grammar School, Ljubljana: Signing of the ethical code;
 - Amnesty International Slovenia: presentation of projects;
 - Andreja Barle-Lakota, PhD, Director of the Education Development Office: Inclusion of civil education in school curricula;
 - Erika Rustja, Education Development Office: Promoting elimination of violence in schools;
 - Melani Centrih, Ptuj Grammar School: Presentation of work of Unesco ASPnet schools in Slovenia.



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2.) Promotion of children's rights education – international good practices

- Janez Lenarčič, ODIHR director, OSCE: Collection of good practices – Compendium;
- Maja Gabelica Šupljika, MSc, Deputy of Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Croatia;
- Representative of the Council of Europe: Schools for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship;
- Representative of the Council of Europe: Children's Rights – learning by enjoying.

3.) Presentation of good practices project “Our Rights”

- Blanka Jamnišek, MA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Slovenia – author of the project “Our Rights”: Presentation of the project;
- Hamdija Kujundžić, *Osmijeh* (Smile) non-profit organization, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Implementation of the project in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Ramush Lekaj with teachers and students from Kosovo: Implementation of the project in Kosovo;
- Anica Mikuš Kos, PhD, Slovene Philanthropy: Experiences gained during the project.

4.) Discussion/questions and answers

12.00–14.00 LUNCH (cold buffet) for all participants at the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

During lunch break: opportunity to visit the exhibition, information market, attend side events, hold bilateral talks, attend media events.

Tuesday, 6 October 2009 14.00 – 16.00

Right to protection against violence

Moderator: **Eva Irgl, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia**

Introductory speaker: **Katarina Kresal, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc)**

Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

1.) Presentation of projects for the protection of children against violence

- Representative of School Student Organization of Slovenia;
- Martina Jenkole, MA, Human Rights Ombudsman: project “Advocate – Voice of the Child”;
- Mitja Muršič, PhD, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: European Social Fund project “Consideration of emotional aspects in the identification and treatment of violent behaviour in school”;
- Tanja Šterk: “SAFE.SI” project.



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2.) Violence and vulnerable social groups

- Pupils of the Brdo pri Lukovici Elementary School;
- Marina Uzelac, Slovene Philanthropy;
- Maja Vojnovič, Unicef: “Safe points” project;
- Dragica Fojan, Coordinator for Combating Violence of the Social Work Centres for the Primorska region;
- Maja Gabelica Šupljika, MSc, Deputy Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Croatia.

3.) Sexual abuse and exploitation

- Representative of Children’s Parliament;
- Mirjam Kline, District State Prosecutor, Head of the Department of Juvenile, Sexual and Family Criminality;
- Renata Šlibar, independent researcher: Pornography and the Internet;
- Vlasta Nussdorfer, *Beli obroč* (association for the assistance to victims of criminal offences);
- Katja Bašič, *Združenje proti spolnemu zlorabljanju* (association against sexual abuse).

4.) Discussion/questions and answers

Wednesday, 7 October 2009 10.00 – 12.00

Activities of the Council of Europe and the Slovenian Government

Moderator: **Darja Lavtižar Bebler**, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Introductory speakers: **Thomas Hammarberg**, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Ivan Svetlik, PhD, Minister of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc)

1.) Presentation of activities in Slovenia

- Kristina Plavšak Krajnc, MA, Council of Europe Information Office in the Republic of Slovenia: Council of Europe campaign against corporal punishment “Raise Your Hand against Smacking”;
- Pavle Kornhauser, PhD, Forum against Corporal Punishment of Children in the Family, Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth: Eliminating corporal punishment;
- Uroš Lavrič, Simply Friends Institute: “Creating a non-violent environment” project;
- Pupils of the Bičevje Elementary School: “Creating a non-violent environment” project;
- Veronika Hovnik, Slovenj Gradec School Centre: Hand in Hand project – intergeneration cohabitation;
- Mojca Bevc Stankovič, Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia: Healthy Lifestyle in Elementary Schools project;



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- Representative of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc);
- Representative of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc).

2.) Presentation of the Council of Europe activities in the member states

- Representatives of the Council of Europe: Violence in schools;
- Representatives of the Council of Europe: Eliminating violence within the family through positive parenting;
- Representatives of the Council of Europe: Fighting sexual violence – CoE legal instruments.

3.) Presentation of the CoE Platform on the drafting of national integrated strategies on violence against children

- Irma Ertman, Ambassador of Finland, CoE thematic coordinator on children;
- Representative of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc).

12.00 – 12.30

Concluding speeches:

- **Tone Dolčič, Deputy Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia**
- **Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**

Concluding statements:

- **Representative of the Children's Parliament**
- **Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia**



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