

To:

Athens, 20/11/2024

Prime Minister of Hellenic Republic  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Protocol n.: 20-11-2024/426/02

Notification:

Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
Acting General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Minister of Social Cohesion and Family  
Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family  
Ministers of State  
Deputy Ministers at Prime Minister office  
Deputy Minister at Prime Minister office and Spokesperson  
Prime Minister's General Secretary

### Resolution

Honorable Prime Minister,  
honorable Ministers,

Through this resolution, the signatory child protection organizations active in Greece, which promote and defend the rights of the child, providing services and programs to children in the Greek territory, we call the Political Leadership and in particular the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs through their competent departments to consider our request to initiate the procedures for signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the UN International Convention on the Rights of the Child (Law 2101/1992 - Official Gazette A 192/ 2.12.1992) for communication procedures.

The [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure](#), mostly known as OPIC, was adopted at the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly with the resolution [66/138](#) of 19 December 2011, opened for signature in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 February 2012 and entered into force from April 14, 2014.

The OPIC has been already ratified by 52 countries, recognized UN Member States, while 15 more have proceeded to sign it. It is important to point out that the majority of Member States that have ratified OPIC are located in Europe. Specifically, 25 countries in Europe have ratified the OPIC, 15 of which are Member States of the European Union.

As it is known, in addition to the ratification of the UN International Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Greece has proceeded to ratify both the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict with the Law 3080/2002 (Government Gazette A' 312), and the Optional Protocol on Child Trafficking, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography with the Law 3625/2007 (Official Gazette A' 290). However, Greece has not yet initiated any procedure for signing and ratifying the OPIC in order to ensure the joint protection provided by the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols, contrary to the majority of both the EU Member States and the countries located in Europe. In this way, children living in Greece are deprived

of the possibility of reporting and appealing to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ("Committee") in the event that any violation of their rights takes place.

At the same time, the Committee in the most recent concluding observations sent on June 28, 2022 in the context of the periodic review for the implementation of the UNCRC in Greece, in section L (par. 46), recommends the signature and ratification of the OPIC, in order to further strengthen the fulfillment of children's rights. A respective recommendation was also highlighted in the Committee's previous concluding observations in section H (par. 74), sent on August 13, 2012, in the context of the periodic review of the implementation of the UNCRC in Greece.

Furthermore, during the period 2025-2026, Greece will have a presence as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and as Greece has [stated](#), one of the priorities is to focus on both prevention and restoration through the effective operation of friendly children of judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, as well as promoting active and strong partnerships with international partners that take into account and give voice to the real needs of children.

By its nature, the OPIC is not only a monitoring mechanism in cases of violations of children's rights, but also it truly gives voice to children themselves to express their needs and demands and ultimately exercise their rights, especially when they are violated. Through the Committee's jurisprudence, the Member States that have ratified the OPIC are advancing in the defense of the rights of the child and act in this way as pioneers in child protection. Besides, it is increasingly realized that ensuring the protection of children's rights contributes to the protection of the collective public interest as well as social cohesion. Therefore, OPIC's ratification in the context of Greece's presence in the United Nations Security Council will demonstrate the practical support for children rights and ensure that children are a priority for the Greek State.

Recognizing the work that Greece has already done, mainly with the adoption of a National Action Plan for the Rights of the Child, the aim is to create a uniform, holistic, inclusive and stable national child protection system, without gaps and fragmented legislation, in which the participation of the children themselves, which until now remains minimal, will have an important role. Additionally, this position is reflected to the Committee's concluding observations, both in the [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Guarantee](#), and in the [Council of Europe's Strategy on the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#). Therefore, the OPIC's ratification will contribute significantly to the creation of a child protection system that is voiced by the children and works to ensure their best interests.

In view of the above, in order Greece to be harmonized with its international commitments, following the Committee's recommendations and with the certainty that it is a State in which children are a priority and that ensuring their rights and protecting them is a main concern of the Greek Government, the undersigned organizations declare our desire to contribute in any way requested to initiate the OPIC's ratification procedures.

With our experience and presence in the field of child protection and defense of children's rights, we will support every action of the State that will contribute to ensuring the best interests of children in Greece and therefore we urgently call on the Greek Government to proceed with OPIC's ratification.

Sincerely,

The signatory entities defending child rights:

1. Άγγελοι της Χαράς ΑΜΚΕ
2. ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ - Κέντρο Πληροφόρησης και Τεκμηρίωσης για το Ρατσισμό, την Οικολογία, την Ειρήνη και τη Μη Βία
3. ΑΡΣΙΣ-Κοινωνική Οργάνωση Υποστήριξης Νέων
4. Ασφαλή Ξένοιαστα Παιδιά Τώρα – ΑΞΕΠΤ
5. ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ Ελλάδος
6. Διεθνής Κοινωνική Υπηρεσία
7. Δίκτυο Αναδόχων Γονέων και Εθελοντών για την κοινωνική προστασία των ανηλίκων
8. Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού
9. Ελληνική Ένωση για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου / Hellenic League for Human Rights
10. Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες
11. Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Μεταναστών
12. Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Προσφύγων
13. "Ένα Παιδί - Ένας Κόσμος" Π. Λυκουρέζος ΑΜΚΕ
14. Εξέλιξη Ζωής
15. Επιτροπή για το Οικογενειακό Δίκαιο και τη Συναινετική Συνεπιμέλεια
16. ΕΡΓΩ ΜΚΟ (ERGO Academy)
17. ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΨΥΧΙΚΗΣ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ (ΕΠΑΨΥ)
18. Εταιρεία Προστασίας Σπαστικών / Πόρτα Ανοιχτή
19. Εταιρία Κοινωνικής Ψυχιατρικής Π. Σακελλαρόπουλος
20. ΖΕΥΞΙΣ ΜΚΟ
21. ΗΛΙΑΚΤΙΔΑ ΑΜΚΕ
22. Κέντρο Ερευνών Ρίζες
23. ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΠΑΙΔΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΕΦΗΒΟΥ
24. Κέντρο Στήριξης Οικογενείας της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αθηνών
25. Κιβωτός του Κόσμου
26. ΜΕΤΑδραση
27. Οικογένειες Ουράνιο Τόξο
28. Οργάνωση Γη
29. Παιδικά Χωριά SOS Ελλάδος
30. Πανελλήνιος Σύλλογος Προσαρμοσμένων Δραστηριοτήτων ΑΛΜΑ
31. Πολύχρωμο Σχολείο - Rainbow School
32. ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΜΕΡΙΜΝΗΣ ΑΝΗΛΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΩΝ/Society for the Care of Minors and Youth
33. Συνύπαρξις - Οικουμενικό Πρόγραμμα Προσφύγων

34. Σχεδία -Κέντρο Παιδαγωγικής και Καλλιτεχνικής Επιμόρφωσης
35. Σωματείο «Αντιμετώπιση Παιδικού Τραύματος»
36. ΤΕΧΝΟΔΡΟΜΩ
37. Χ.Ε.Ν. Αθηνών
38. Ως Αιδώ Αστική Μη Κερδοσκοπική Εταιρεία
39. ActionAid Ελλάς
40. Better Days Greece
41. Changemakers Lab
42. Cool Crips AMKE
43. Defence for Children International Greece (DCI Greece)
44. ELIX
45. Equal Rights Beyond Borders
46. Equal Society - Κοινωνία Ίσων Ευκαιριών
47. FENIX humanitarian legal aid
48. Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality and Diversity
49. HIAS Greece
50. INTERSOS Hellas
51. International Rescue Committee Hellas
52. PRAKSIS
53. Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)
54. Safe Passage International AMKE
55. SolidarityNow
56. TANDEM Αστική Μη Κερδοσκοπική Εταιρεία
57. Terre des hommes Hellas - Γη των ανθρώπων