

VOTE FOR CHILDREN



Child Rights Action Group's recommendations to the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights

March 2025



INTRODUCTION

The Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) is the largest informal network of child rights organisations at the European Union (EU) level, working collectively to promote and protect the rights of children inside and outside Europe. CRAG is committed to collaborating with the European Parliament's Intergroup on Children's Rights to advance policies and initiatives that put children's rights at their heart and prioritise children's well-being and fundamental rights.

One key initiative in this regard is the [Child Rights Manifesto](#), eight commitments to protect children during the 2024 – 2029 term. We encourage all Intergroup members to demonstrate their commitment by [signing the Manifesto](#), ensuring that children's rights remain at the centre of their work throughout the parliamentary term. This pledge will help strengthen the collective impact of the Intergroup in shaping EU policies that benefit children across all sectors.

We welcome the Intergroup's work plan for 2025, which sets a strong foundation for advancing the rights of children in internal and external actions. In particular, we strongly support the yearly celebration of World Children's Day on 20th November and the initiative to establish focal points in each parliamentary committee. We believe these focal points will play a crucial role in mainstreaming children's rights across various policy areas and legislative processes.

We also welcome the focus on combating violence against children and addressing their mental health. However, it is essential to ensure that these efforts extend beyond the online sphere to also tackle the challenges children face offline. A comprehensive approach is needed to safeguard children's rights and well-being in all environments.

To ensure an effective and ongoing dialogue, we propose establishing a structured cooperation between CRAG and the Intergroup's Bureau to facilitate evidence-based policymaking and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration on pressing child rights issues.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Sign the [Child Rights Manifesto](#);
- Organise twice a year a meeting between the Intergroup's Bureau and CRAG to discuss the work plan, priorities and activities;
- Organise regular meetings between the Intergroup and CRAG on specific thematic areas.

By taking decisive steps and working together, we can ensure that the European Parliament continues to be a strong advocate for children's rights, delivering meaningful and lasting change.

Review of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child

In the past political cycle, the EU has been a champion for children's rights. The [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child](#) is a landmark initiative mainstreaming children's rights and includes numerous actions to advance children's rights across its thematic pillars. We particularly appreciate the strategy's child-centred approach and key deliverables on child protection, child participation and socioeconomic inclusion.

However, we think that the Strategy needs to be reviewed to assess its effectiveness, update priorities as needed, and address current global challenges affecting children, particularly those in vulnerable situations. Progress on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to children is severely lagging, while climate change, geopolitical instability, and weakening multilateral cooperation further threaten their rights and well-being. Additionally, shifting geopolitics in the digital space poses growing risks to human rights, democracy, and the voices of civil society, including children and youth.

We believe a review of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child is needed for the following reasons:

Lack of long-term vision

While the Strategy no longer has a fixed time frame, it was initially introduced in March 2021 as a policy framework set to expire in 2024. The Strategy should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Pact of the Future.

Unbalanced approach between EU internal and external dimensions:

While the Strategy makes some references to the 2030 Agenda and important connections with other EU external action initiatives, its "Global Pillar" remains underdeveloped, limiting its impact on children outside Europe. The Strategy's overall approach and its initiatives are strongly focused on the EU's internal dimension, but this level of ambition has not been matched in its external dimension. Key areas, such as children and the digital environment, are notably absent from its external scope. Additionally, the Strategy falls short in ensuring child participation in EU external policy-making, as the [Youth Action Plan](#) – intended to promote youth and child empowerment in external action – primarily focuses on youth.

While we really welcome relevant initiatives to prevent and fight violence against children within the EU, we regret that no new action has been envisaged to end violence against children in the EU external action. Each year more than half of the world's children experience violence, both offline and online. This risks being exacerbated by the current global poly-crisis, in particular for children living in third countries. A comprehensive framework to end all forms of violence (offline and online) in the EU external action is needed. This framework should take the form of a communication accompanied by an action plan and should align with the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034.

No appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

The Strategy foresees that the European Commission will report on progress at the annual European Forum on the Rights of the Child. However, this alone is insufficient and does not enable effective monitoring of the Strategy. Establishing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, including benchmarks and indicators, would be essential to track its implementation and progress. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that the European Commission regularly reports to the European Parliament and the Council on the Strategy's implementation, as this reporting mechanism is currently absent.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Submit a written question to the European Commission, emphasising the need for a review of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and requesting clarification on whether such a review is planned and, if so, the expected timeframe.

02

Strengthening the European Child Guarantee

The European Child Guarantee is the flagship initiative to combat child poverty and social exclusion in the European Union. At its core, the [European Child Guarantee](#) ensures that children in need across the EU have access to key services such as early childhood education and care, education, healthcare, nutrition, and housing.

Child rights organisations have played a key role in monitoring the implementation of the European Child Guarantee. We welcome the biennial reports drafted by EU Member States which offer critical insights into the progress made, the target groups identified, and the rollout of services across Europe. Member States should use the biennial reports to assess and reinforce national action plans where necessary.

However, despite its potential, challenges remain. Many Member States are struggling with limited financial resources. Earlier this month (March 2025), the European Parliament supported its report on the future of the ESF+, including the 5% earmarking of ESF+ funds to fight child poverty in all Member States, increased allocations for countries with higher poverty rates, and meaningful engagement with civil society and targeted groups. We regret that the European Parliament failed to include a dedicated budget of at least €20 billion for the European Child Guarantee. The EU and its Member States should increase funding allocation to ensure sustainable and effective implementation of the European Child Guarantee.

The exclusion of the most vulnerable children from national action plans remains a significant issue. Many plans do not adequately address the needs of children from marginalised communities, those in alternative care, those with disabilities, those with a migrant background, or those living in severe poverty. It is key to ensure the European Child Guarantee reaches the most vulnerable groups of children, leaving no child behind.

Additionally, gaps in data collection and monitoring persist. Without comprehensive, disaggregated data, assessing real progress and ensuring that no child is left behind becomes increasingly difficult. To improve monitoring and accountability mechanisms, strengthening data collection is key.

Finally, Member States fail to involve children and civil society organisations working for and with children in the delivery of the European Child Guarantee. Local organisations play a crucial role in ensuring community-driven solutions, yet their engagement varies across Member States. In some cases, their involvement is inadequate, limiting the effectiveness of the initiative. The EU and Member States should actively involve civil society and promote meaningful, inclusive and safe child participation in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the European Child Guarantee.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Follow and meaningfully engage with the work of the EMPL Committee Child Guarantee Working Group;
- Support the launch of a shadow report/INI report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee in parallel with the European Commission 2026 Interim Report;
- Request Member States to present annually the progress on the implementation of the Child Guarantee in the European Parliament (every 21st June, on the anniversary of the adoption of the Child Guarantee);
- Participate in the Child Guarantee National Coordinators annual meeting.



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Guaranteeing children's rights in the Post 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework

The European Parliament must ensure that the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) prioritises and protects the rights of all children, both within Europe and globally. EU funding plays a fundamental role in turning political commitments into tangible results. Without adequate financial allocations, key policies risk being ineffective, failing to meet their targets, and leaving the most vulnerable children behind.

How the EU structures its next budget will determine how it responds to challenges and prepares for opportunities. While the 2021–2027 MFF has initially marked some progress towards a fairer and more sustainable Europe, the shifting global landscape has led to concerning budgetary reallocations. The COVID–19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and climate crises have redirected resources, impacting social initiatives, development cooperation, and humanitarian aid.

To keep its credibility as a global children's rights defender, the EU must safeguard funding for social inclusion, human rights, climate action, and humanitarian efforts, ensuring that economic and defence priorities do not come at the expense of social and external commitments.

The next MFF is a defining moment for the EU's social and external commitments. By ensuring stable and strategic investments in children's rights, the EU will not only uphold its legal obligations under the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) but also build more resilient and inclusive societies for future generations. The European Parliament must lead this effort, ensuring that no child is left behind in the EU's future budgetary priorities.

The Intergroup on Children's Rights should actively engage in the MFF negotiations, ensuring that children's rights remain a cross-cutting priority. It should also guarantee that EU funding regulations, instruments, priorities, and expenditures fully align with the principles of the UNCRC and its General Comments and the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#).

This requires concrete commitments in both EU internal and external policies:

Commitments for Internal policies:

- Ensure adequate funding to fight child poverty, support vulnerable groups, and strengthen social policies. In particular, the European Child Guarantee must be reinforced with the dedicated €20 billion budget requested by the European Parliament, but also ensuring that Member States allocate at least 5% of their ESF+ resources to tackling child poverty, with higher commitments from countries with above-average rates;

- Ensure the effective implementation of the enabling condition 4.3 in the Common Provision Regulation 2021–2027, requiring Member States to develop a national strategic framework for poverty reduction and social inclusion, including «measures for the shift from institutional to community-based care”. This framework should directly connect with the European Child Guarantee and the upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- Protect investments in education, mental health, and social cohesion, ensuring that future funding instruments uphold non-discrimination principles and promote equal opportunities for all children, including those with a migration background, Roma communities, and children in alternative care;
- Fund the operationalisation of the best interest of the child principle in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Scale up Asylum and Migration funding for improved accommodation infrastructures and services for families and unaccompanied children, with a special focus on small-scale and community-based care settings and access to mental health support;
- Maintain integration measures as one of the main focuses in the future funding mechanism dedicated to asylum and migration and, at the minimum, the earmarking of 5% for the implementation of integration measures by local and regional authorities;
- Engage more actively in the enlargement process, recognising the importance of the MFF for pre-accession countries and ensuring that child rights are integrated into financial instruments supporting candidate and potential candidate countries. In particular, the Child Guarantee can strengthen national policies on child poverty by promoting legal and policy alignment with EU standards and strengthening access to key social services for children in vulnerable situations.

Commitments for External policies:

- Sustain the EU's role as the world's largest provider of ODA, ensuring that children's rights remain central to its external action budget and are mainstreamed across all development and humanitarian funding streams;
- Ensure that the successor to Global Europe – Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) maintains clear commitments to education, child survival, social inclusion and «the promotion of the transition from institutional to community-based care for children, as well as the promotion of new initiatives to build stronger child protection systems in third countries», with at least 20% of ODA dedicated to human development and 10% to education. Funding should focus on improving access to quality and inclusive education, early childhood development, and health and social family-based services, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings;
- Establish a dedicated humanitarian aid budget line to guarantee swift and effective responses to crises, ensuring that the EU remains a reliable partner in global child protection. This includes targeted funding for child protection programmes in emergencies, ensuring access to mental health and psychosocial support, family reunification, and safe learning environments;
- Reject the merger of the external funding instruments (NDICI, Humanitarian aid and IPA);

- Resist the politicisation of ODA for restrictive migration policies, ensuring that development aid remains aligned with humanitarian principles and children’s rights. Funding should support child-sensitive migration policies, prioritizing protection over deterrence and addressing the root causes of forced displacement, including poverty, conflict, and climate change;
- Strengthen investments in child rights within EU partnerships with third countries, particularly in pre-accession and neighbourhood countries, ensuring that social inclusion and child protection measures are a core element of external funding instruments;
- Ensure that the successor of IPA III continues to support social protection systems to provide effective, efficient and adequate protection throughout all stages of a person’s life, promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care fostering social inclusion, promoting equal opportunities and addressing inequalities and poverty;
- Enhance EU funding for civil society organisations and local actors working on child rights, ensuring they have the resources and capacity to hold governments accountable and implement grassroots initiatives that directly benefit children and their communities.
- Develop a child marker to allow EU institutions and partners to measure, monitor and report on EU investment in children through the collection of disaggregated and specific data, with a view to identifying gaps between policy and financial commitments.

We call on the Intergroup’s members to:

- Actively engage in the MFF negotiations, ensuring that children’s rights remain a cross-cutting priority of the next EU budget;
- Organise a dedicated meeting on the budget from a child rights perspective, ideally as a response to the European Commission’s proposal to mitigate the risk that children are overlooked in the next MFF.



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Protecting the rights of children in the digital age

Children's lives and rights are significantly affected by digital technology, ranging from exposure to abuse and harm to suffering economic exploitation. Protecting children's digital rights is crucial, as their education, family interactions, and social lives are increasingly conducted online, introducing new risks such as disinformation, algorithmic discrimination, and scams. This is particularly concerning as many digital services and products children use are designed to prioritise commercial interests over their well-being. While the EU has taken big steps forward in advancing children's rights online, regulatory gaps and enforcement challenges remain. The European Parliament must continue their role in ensuring children's rights are protected equally offline and online, promoting public accountability of online platforms to offer digital spaces that are safe and empowering by design.

Some facets of internet use have started to be labelled "problematic" by health research in the past years because of the evident negative impact on mental health and well-being, especially when it comes to children and adolescents. The Problematic Use of the Internet (PUI) brings structural and functional brain changes and encompasses a wide range of repetitive behaviours characterised by excessive screen time, compulsivity and addiction.

Current EU legal instruments regulating the digital environment are essentially market-oriented focusing on promoting an internal EU market, ensuring fair competition, protecting consumer rights, and regulating digital markets and services. We welcome these efforts, but ask that other areas, such as public health, are also taken into account. PUI should be tackled in a way that allows children to access the internet in a healthy way while avoiding measures such as social media bans becoming the solution. We welcome the inclusion in the Intergroup's work plan 2025 of the issue of mental health and children in the digital era and of the INI Report on the protection of "neuro-rights" and mental health of children.

To protect and promote children's rights online, the Intergroup should:

- Contribute to the effective implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA) by holding online platforms publicly accountable for their compliance with the provisions on the protection of minors online, especially articles 14, 28, 34 and 35;
- Commit to ensuring a child-centred approach in the Digital Fairness Act (DFA), making sure the best interests and needs of children are fully respected and protected. Make sure that the DFA is fully in line with the UNCRC and its General Comment 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment and the UN Global Digital Compact;
- Advocate for and support the development of concrete, clear and harmonised guidelines on how to apply the GDPR to children;
- Monitor the implementation of the Artificial Intelligence Act from a children's rights perspective, especially Article 5 which prohibits AI systems that exploit the vulnerability of age, but also other provisions that have an impact on children;

- Resist an overly restrictive lens on the planned INI report on the protection of children as online consumers, recognising the full spectrum of children’s rights, including privacy, information, participation, education, health and play, and filling in existing gaps on addictive design and dark patterns, especially on videogames and education technology;
- Raise awareness of the effects of online experiences on the well-being and mental health of children and their families, with a specific focus on addictive design and dark patterns, and taking into account the specific needs of the most vulnerable children including children with disabilities;
- Mainstream children’s rights across all policies affecting children online, including by fostering cross-party dialogue between and within the different working groups and committee work affecting children’s rights online; in doing so, ensure that support to families (all types without discrimination) is made available to help them empower their children through this digital transition and to harness the full potential of technology.

We call on the Intergroup’s members to:

- Table a question to the European Commission whether the EU-wide inquiry on the broader impacts of social media on well-being will feed into other policy initiatives such as the Digital Fairness Act (DFA) or the upcoming Action Plan against Cyberbullying, drafting process and whether/how children will be involved in the drafting process, including through the EU Children’s Participation Platform;
- Consider using a broad definition of Problematic Use of Internet if the INI Report on the protection of neuro-rights and mental health is approved;
- Organise a public hearing on the impact of the Problematic Use of the Internet on the mental health and well-being of children. Some of us work on this topic and are involved in international research programmes, we can support the EP Intergroup by providing experts, including scientists, researchers and clinicians;
- Organise a hearing on the impacts of cyberbullying and monitor the European Commission’s Action Plan against cyberbullying.

According to Eurostat, in 2023, nearly 250,000 asylum seekers were children, around 374,000 residence permits for family reasons were issued to children and around 20,000 children were ordered to leave the territory. Hundreds of thousands of children are impacted by European migration legislation, policies and procedures every day across the Union and beyond. Many of these children experience violence – at the borders, when they are placed in immigration detention or are deported; or when they are denied access to essential services like healthcare or education because they are undocumented or stateless. All in all, migration enforcement is prioritised over child rights and children’s well-being.

The 2024 – 2029 term will be pivotal for migrant children today and tomorrow. The Migration and Asylum Pact, negotiated under the previous term, will be rolled out, and new legislation will be negotiated. The Commission’s proposal to create a common return framework is a clear example. The European Parliament will play a pivotal role in both, and so can the Intergroup.

We call on the Intergroup’s members to:

- Adopt and vote for EU laws and policies and European Parliament initiatives, including INIs, that treat migrant children as children first. This includes voting for policies that give all children equal access to essential services and basic rights, irrespective of their residence or nationality status, and pushing back against laws and policies that harm children. Harm can be caused by social exclusion (formally or practically excluding undocumented, stateless or racialised children from essential services for example), by migration enforcement policies (for instance, the detention of children, family separation, forced homelessness, externalisation and pushback policies, etc.), and when migration and child protection actors do not work together;
- Closely follow the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum;
- Ask for a substitute (child rights) impact assessment of the 2025 Commission proposal for a common system for returns, as none was done by the Commission. In addition, the impact assessment done for the 2018 proposal to Recast the Return Directive is not adequate anymore, as the new proposal includes too many new elements;

- Commission research on the mental and physical health impact of migration policies, for instance, the implementation of the Migration and Asylum Pact files on asylum-seeking, on undocumented and stateless children (both unaccompanied and those in families);
- Organise events calling attention to children in migration's specific experiences and challenges that they face together with civil society organisations and child protection actors.

06

Fighting against child trafficking

On 27th May 2024, the Council of the EU adopted [Directive 2024/1712](#), amending Directive 2011/36/EU, on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. The new Directive addresses child, disability, and gender rights, enhances prevention measures, and improves the identification, protection, and support of trafficking victims. It introduces new forms of trafficking, such as forced marriage, illegal adoption, and the exploitation of surrogacy when the mother is a victim of trafficking, while also acknowledging the heightened vulnerability of children in institutional care to human trafficking.

The Directive encourages Member States to ensure that national child protection systems develop specific plans to prevent human trafficking, including the trafficking of children in residential or closed-type institutions. This aligns with the [European Commission's Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems](#), which similarly urges Member States to create such plans, particularly during the transition process.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Prepare a European Parliament Resolution on the implementation of the Directive through children's rights lenses;
- Organise an event on children's rights in the revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive and how these can be translated into actions at Member States' level;
- Ensure that there is meaningful engagement with civil society and children in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive.

- Ensure that the implementation of the Directive is enabled through appropriate resourcing at EU and national levels;
- Ensure that the next EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy has a strong child rights focus and acknowledges the link between child institutionalisation, migration policies (for instance where children are left homeless or housed in overcrowded centres due to lack of reception capacity) and trafficking.

07

Promoting children's rights in external action

The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child has a thematic area dedicated to 'the Global dimension' of the EU's work, listing the EU's actions and commitments to promote and protect the rights of all children, including those outside of the EU's borders.

The EU has also been playing a key role in tackling the [six grave violations against children in armed conflict](#). This is confirmed by the recent update of the [EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict](#). One of the six grave violations is the denial of humanitarian access. It entails the obstruction of life-saving aid, such as food, water, and healthcare, from reaching people in need, causing particularly devastating consequences for children. Denial of humanitarian access profoundly affects children, as they are among the most vulnerable in conflict zones. This is particularly evident in ongoing crises such as in [Gaza](#) and [Sudan](#). The EU should increase its diplomatic efforts to ensure the protection of children's rights in conflicts, including further supporting accountability mechanisms foreseen by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The EU can play an important role in ensuring that children's right to health is upheld. Every child has the right to a healthy start in life. This means access to basic services such as a quality and affordable healthcare system, primary healthcare, routine immunisation, nutritious food, and basic and primary education.

The Global Gateway is now at the core of the EU's external agenda. For this reason, the EU has an important role to play in making sure that children's rights are protected and prioritised in the Global Gateway.

The European corporate sustainability legislation is another area specifically affecting the EU's external action agenda. The [EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive \(CSDDD\)](#) came into force on 25th July 2024. The final text of the CSDDD reflects a holistic view of child rights. This is a positive development that also allows for child rights to be seen from more than a child labour perspective. However, we are now particularly worried about the European Commission's reopening of these files which would risk undermining mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence that is essential to address adverse impacts on children.

To ensure children's rights in external action are promoted and protected, the EU should:

- Step up humanitarian diplomacy efforts to address the six grave violations against children in armed conflict, including the denial of humanitarian access;
- Promote and protect the rights of children to health;
- Promote a 'do not harm approach' in the Global Gateway;
- Uphold children's rights in corporate sustainability legislation.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Hold the European Commission accountable for the implementation of the updated EU CAAC guidelines via an Action Plan, by holding regular hearings with and submitting written and oral questions to the HR/VP and the DG ECHO and DG MENA Commissioners;
- Contribute to European Parliament Resolutions on specific crises with narratives on the 6 grave violations against children in armed conflicts;
- Conduct missions in conflict areas to inform a report and/or a resolution on the specific impacts of denial of humanitarian access on children;
- Participate in important EU and global events on nutrition such as the EU Global Health Policy Forum;
- Ask the European Commission to regularly report on the implementation and impact of the EU Global Health Strategy;
- Urge the European Commission to maintain its support of Global Health initiatives, including Gavi the Global Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
- Hold the European Commission accountable for the implementation of the Global Gateway, making sure that a 'do not harm approach' is integrated into the terms of reference of the sustainability and impact study prior to investments and in the 360-degree approach of the Global Gateway;

- Provide further scrutiny of the commercial implementers or partners of EU investments, including in dialogue with stakeholders, before being engaged in implementation projects; by holding regular hearings with the DG INTPA Commissioner at plenary and committee (DEVE) level and submitting written and oral questions to the DG INTPA Commissioner;
- Ensure that language relating to children’s rights, including the explicit mention of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the CSDDD Annex and age as a factor of vulnerability, is safeguarded in the text;
- Oppose the reopening of EU sustainability legislation since at this stage it would disrupt ongoing legislative processes at the national level. Moreover, companies and investors who have invested significant resources in adapting to more sustainable business models will also be affected by the lack of legal certainty that this process raises.

08

Ensuring meaningful, inclusive and safe child participation

Children have the right to participate and be heard in all matters that affect them, as stated in the UNCRC and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. They are experts in their own lives and should therefore be actively involved in all policy and decision-making processes at all levels, including at the EU level. Child participation supports children’s holistic development and empowers them as agents of change. In turn, it promotes active citizenship and contributes to more inclusive societies and healthy democracies. The EU demonstrated a leading role in promoting and strengthening child participation by setting up the first-ever [EU Children’s Participation Platform](#) to facilitate children’s active role in shaping European laws and policies. Over the last two years since its birth, the EU Children’s Participation Platform has grown into a network of 80 members spread over 24 countries. It has enabled thousands of children on key EU policy frameworks and initiatives to have an impact on their lives.

We count on the European Parliament to intensify its efforts on child participation during this mandate. The Intergroup on Children’s Rights should both champion and facilitate meaningful, inclusive, safe child participation within its legislative processes. The members of the Child Rights Action Group bring extensive expertise in child participation and are fully committed to supporting the Intergroup in its initiatives.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Work with the European Commission to make the EU Children's Participation Platform a permanent mechanism after 2026;
- Systematically consult the EU Children's Participation Platform in all decisions, reports, debates and hearings in the European Parliament that affect children's lives (including the existing ones such as the European Child Guarantee and the upcoming: the Anti Poverty Strategy, the renewed European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the Common System for Returns proposal, Intergenerational Fairness Strategy);
- Ensure consistent participation in the EU Children's Participation Platform Advisory Board;
- Involve children in the drafting process of the yearly work plan of the Intergroup on Children's Rights;
- Ask Commissioners how they plan to meaningfully integrate the voices of young people from the age of 15, especially those in vulnerable situations, as part of the annual Youth Policy Dialogues;
- Advocate for the inclusion of children from outside the European Union in the Commissioners' Youth Policy Dialogues;
- Ask the President of the European Commission to make the EU Children's Participation Platform a permanent body of the President's Youth Advisory Board.



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Advocating for child rights impact assessments

In line with the principle of intergenerational fairness, it is crucial to ensure that decisions taken at the EU level do not harm children but contribute to their development. Children's rights should be taken into account in the drafting of any new EU legislation, policy, strategy and funding decision.

We call on the Intergroup's members to:

- Raise the importance of child rights impact assessments in their dialogue with the European Commission and request the EC to put them in place before any new legislative proposal, including with the participation of children;
- When no impact assessment is done by the European Commission, ask for a substitute impact assessment and ensure that it includes a child rights focus.

"Politicians are not interested in children because they cannot vote. This is why they are not aware of our problems. They believe that we will grow up and our problems will disappear."

Harry, 14, Bulgaria

Publication is the intellectual property of the member organisations of the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG).

<https://www.childrightsmanifesto.eu/>

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