

Every Child's Right to Safe, Secure, and Adequate Housing

Taken from
*Unequal Childhoods: Rights on paper
should be rights in practice*
Eurochild 2025 flagship report
on children in need across Europe.



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On 20 November 2025 - World Children's Day - Eurochild released its Flagship Report on children in need titled "Unequal Childhoods: Rights on paper should be rights in practice". The report is based on information provided by 84 Eurochild members and contributors in 36 countries across Europe. This sub-report builds on the findings of the 2025 Flagship Report to examine housing as a fundamental children's rights issue and a key structural driver of child poverty and social exclusion. It analyses the structural challenges affecting children across Europe, highlights key gaps and emerging practices, and sets out why a child-centred and prevention oriented housing approach is essential to ensure that rights on paper become rights in practice.

Introduction

Across Europe, access to safe, secure, and adequate housing has become one of the most pressing structural challenges affecting children and their families. While poverty is often measured in income terms, its consequences are often most visible in the places where children grow up. Housing conditions shape children's physical and mental health, educational opportunities, stability, and overall development. When housing is insecure, overcrowded, or substandard, children's rights are directly undermined. According to the latest national statistics, roughly 400,000 children are homeless in the EU.¹

The Right to Adequate Housing

The right to adequate housing is firmly grounded in international human rights law. Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises every child's right to an adequate standard of living and requires states to provide material assistance and support where needed, including in relation to housing. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights further clarifies that adequate housing must include affordability, habitability, accessibility, stability of tenure and access to services. At EU level, Principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights states that social housing and housing assistance must be available to those in need and that vulnerable people must be protected against forced eviction.

The Reality for Children across Europe

Evidence from the Flagship Report highlights the serious consequences of inadequate living conditions. Damp, mould, poor air quality, and insufficient heating expose children to respiratory illnesses and other health risks. Energy poverty further compounds these vulnerabilities, particularly during periods of economic strain and rising living costs.

¹ [Fondation Abbé Pierre & FEANTSA. \(2024\). Ninth overview of housing exclusion in Europe.](#)

Overcrowding and unstable housing increase stress within families and limit children's ability to study, participate fully in education, and engage in community life.

High housing costs place a severe burden on low-income families across Europe. In Croatia, many families spend more than 40% of their income on housing, while in Italy more than 20% of families spend over 30% of their income on rent and 50% of vulnerable families are unable to access adequate housing due to limited supply. In Ireland, housing costs push the overall 'at risk of poverty' rate from 11.7% to 17.9% once housing costs are accounted for, and over the last government term, child and family homelessness increased by 70% and 87% respectively. In Czechia, over 150,000 people, including around 61,000 children, are in housing need.

Who is Most Affected?

Certain groups of children are disproportionately affected, including children living in poverty, single-parent households, children with migrant and ethnic minority backgrounds, including Roma children, and children with a disability, who face discrimination and barriers in accessing accessible housing. Housing instability also places pressure on child protection systems. Many family separations are preventable, yet poverty-related housing conditions can become contributing factors in decisions to place children in alternative care. Young people leaving care face especially high risks of homelessness due to the absence of affordable housing options and adequate transitional support.

Promising Practices

Several promising approaches to securing adequate housing for children and families have emerged across Europe. In Austria and Poland, Housing First models prioritise stable accommodation as a foundation for addressing needs, offering a rights-based pathway out of homelessness. Austria's *Wohnschirm* initiative complements this by providing free counselling and practical support to families at risk of losing their home, including help with rental debts and energy costs. In Portugal, the *1º Direito* programme provides targeted support to those living in inadequate housing conditions, while the *Front Door* project responds to urgent accommodation needs for those facing imminent homelessness.

The EU Policy Response

The first [European Affordable Housing Plan](#) represents an important policy moment. Its recognition of child homelessness, energy poverty and the need to reverse the decline in social housing aligns with the evidence gathered by Eurochild members across Europe. If implemented with a clear children's rights focus, strengthened monitoring, and sustained investment in social housing, it has the potential to contribute to meaningful progress, including through integration within the European Semester.

Eurochild's Three Recommendations on Housing

To ensure that every child grows up in safe, secure and adequate housing, governments at national and EU level should take the following actions:

1. Prioritise safe, secure and adequate housing for every child

- Provide every child with safe, secure and adequate housing that supports their physical, mental, and social development.
- Apply a child rights-based approach to the early identification of housing-related risks, including homelessness.
- Implement adequate legal protections to prevent forced evictions.
- Ensure families facing eviction can access safe alternative housing options.

2. Increase social housing and develop comprehensive national strategies

- Substantially increase the social housing stock.
- Lower access barriers to social and affordable housing.
- Develop comprehensive national housing strategies rooted in children's rights.
- Include long-term planning, accelerate the construction of affordable homes, address regional disparities, and improve the quality of existing housing.
- Reinforce inclusive and child-sensitive housing policies and maintain affordability. Replace a segregated housing approach with an inclusive and integrated approach.

3. Tackle the financial burden of high housing costs

- Address the financial burden of high housing costs including energy costs, especially for low-income families.
- Adopt policies to regulate housing prices and prevent families from being overwhelmed by disproportionately high costs, particularly during economic and cost-of-living crises.
- Introduce measures such as rent control policies, subsidies for low-income households, and targeted support for families at risk of poverty.

By implementing these measures, governments can move towards housing systems that protect children from poverty and exclusion, strengthen families, and ensure that children's rights are upheld in practice.

Housing-Related Findings from the Flagship Report

The following pages present key developments, remaining gaps and emerging practices across Europe in relation to housing.

Albania

Legislation on social housing provides rent support, low-cost housing, emergency shelters, and safeguards against forced eviction, including a 5% housing quota for Roma and Egyptian families, and priority access for survivors of domestic violence.

However, implementation remains weak across most municipalities. Many local authorities lack systems to assess housing needs, and restrictive eligibility and banking criteria exclude the poorest families. Ethnic minority children, particularly from Roma and Egyptian communities, continue to face poor housing conditions and discrimination, while migrant and internally displaced families experience insecure housing. In rural and peri-urban areas, housing insecurity is compounded by limited services and infrastructure. In Durrës, families affected by the earthquake still lack permanent housing, and survivors of domestic violence face bureaucratic obstacles and insufficient long-term solutions.

Austria

Projects such as Wohnschirm or *Housing First* support access to adequate and secure housing for children and families. The initiative offers free counselling and practical support to people at risk of losing their home, including help with rental debts, homelessness, and energy shutoffs such as heating or electricity being cut off.

Belgium

The Belgian Constitution guarantees the right to adequate housing. Social housing and rent support schemes are available.

However, the constitutional guarantee has limited policy power, and residency status, including immigration, family reunification and registration, determines housing rights at the regional level. Social housing and rent support remain largely insufficient. There is a significant shortage of affordable housing suitable for larger families in both the social and private housing market, along with long waiting lists, particularly for large families. The transition from youth care to independent living remains difficult for many young people due to challenges such as high housing costs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the past, international organisations made greater efforts to ensure that Roma children and families had access to adequate, affordable, and secure housing, while other families in poverty were largely excluded from such initiatives. These efforts have since declined, despite rising housing costs increasingly affecting all low-income families.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, the European Regional Development Fund is a main source of funding for the national housing policy.

The country profile also identifies sustainable and affordable housing as a key measure to counter child poverty, yet there is no systemic support for children and families with acute housing needs. Evictions of Roma families without appropriate alternative accommodation remain an ongoing practice. In 2025, entire Roma neighbourhoods were demolished in Sofia and Stara Zagora, leaving dozens of families homeless. Municipal authorities have not provided durable housing solutions, and responses have been limited to temporary shelters or reliance on extended family networks, with delays in providing adequate support. According to a [2024 study by The Childhood 2025 Coalition](#), child–family separation in Bulgaria is rooted primarily in poverty, often combined with parameters like inadequate housing.

Croatia

Despite plans to build affordable housing for young families and the existence of a National Housing Policy, there is no systematic solution for families at risk of poverty, single-parent families, Roma families, or large families. Many families spend more than 40% of their income on housing, indicating a high level of housing cost overburden.

Cyprus

Cyprus has a social safety net for children and families in need, including a Minimum Guaranteed Income with housing supplements. Homelessness is almost non-existent, and overcrowded housing is not a pressing issue, as families tend to be small.

However, the system is not comprehensive enough. Inadequate housing remains a concern, particularly in older urban and rural areas where living conditions are often poor. The greatest challenge is the high cost of housing, with families facing a heavy financial burden from high rents and ongoing maintenance costs. Although forced evictions are relatively rare, the lack of affordable options puts many households under pressure. Unaccompanied minors face particular challenges when it comes to inadequate housing conditions.

Czechia

Czechia has taken some steps to address housing exclusion. The 2025 Housing Support Act aims to provide nationwide assistance, protect 1.6 million people from housing poverty, and reduce the number of children entering state care. There is legal protection for families with children against eviction, although it is not absolute. Some support with housing costs is available through the ‘příspěvek na bydlení’ (housing benefit) for low-income households. EU-funded projects have helped thousands of people, and broader EU-supported reforms aim to improve inclusion.

However, social housing support remains very limited, as most social housing was privatised after 1989 and governments have largely left housing to the free market. Modern housing is

often used for short-term rentals or as an investment rather than for residential use. Housing costs are among the highest in Europe, and Prague ranks among the least affordable major cities for homeownership. According to the 2024 Report on Housing Exclusion, over 150,000 people, including around 61,000 children, are in housing need. EU-funded initiatives are short-term, and political commitment to housing reform remains insufficient. Structural issues such as housing discrimination and limited affordable housing continue to persist

Denmark

Denmark generally ensures high housing standards and supports families through rent subsidies and access to social housing. Housing benefits and child-specific allowances improve housing stability and living conditions for low-income families, and recent measures under the Child Guarantee are seen as promising.

However, families on low incomes and from ethnic minorities continue to face overcrowding, poor housing and rising rent burdens. Evictions under the 'ghetto law' have disproportionately affected children in racialised communities, destabilising family life. Civil society reports limited access to affordable family housing, inadequate child-sensitive eviction protections, and the harmful impact of 'parallel society' policies, which have led to family evictions and displacement.

England

In England, poverty is increasingly pushing schools to respond to housing insecurity and the lack of basic household essentials affecting children and their families. Staff are not only addressing educational needs but also supporting families facing housing difficulties. For example, they are helping families with basic essentials such as beds and mattresses, topping up electricity meters, and washing clothes.

Estonia

Estonia's social security system provides important protections for children and families. Strengths include universal child benefits, subsistence benefits for low-income families, housing allowances, and support for school-related expenses. Targeted housing measures are also in place. The KredEx home grant supports low-income families with three or more children in improving housing conditions. Local municipalities provide temporary accommodation, social and municipal housing, and emergency support for housing costs such as rent arrears and utility debts. Child maintenance support has been increased for single-parent families, and municipalities are required to ensure stable housing solutions for young people leaving care to help prevent youth homelessness.

However, protections remain incomplete. Many families, particularly those with low incomes, struggle with excessive housing costs, inadequate living conditions, and limited access to affordable rental options. Families with children are disproportionately affected by housing cost overburden, highlighting persistent affordability challenges despite existing support measures.

France

The Pacte des Solidarités 2023–2027 aims to reduce poverty and inequality, including by addressing employment barriers such as housing. Implementation of the Child Guarantee is ongoing, with progress reported.

However, significant implementation gaps remain, especially in housing. In 2024, an estimated 2,043 children were homeless or lacked stable housing solutions, up from 927 in 2020. Limited access to emergency housing remains a major concern.

Germany

Germany provides housing support, subsidised housing, housing benefits, and advisory services to assist low-income families. Recent policy commitments include expanding social housing, particularly for families with children, and increasing housing support.

However, many families remain excluded, including those in precarious employment, single parents, and families with a migration background. Several thousand children are affected by homelessness or live in overcrowded and precarious housing conditions.

Greece

Greece has introduced some positive measures to support vulnerable children and families. A professional foster care system for children with disabilities offers specialised family-based care, with foster parents receiving a monthly allowance of €1,561.11 and additional financial support to ensure a stable home environment as opposed to institutional care. There is also some financial assistance for rent, and the [Housing and Employment Programme](#) provides support for both housing and employment.

Still, it is highlighted that in general, the Greek state does not do enough to ensure adequate and affordable housing, and significant gaps remain in the availability of stable and affordable housing solutions for young people ageing out of alternative care and migrant families in particular.

Hungary

Hungary has expanded its family housing support system. In addition to existing measures such as the Rural Family Housing Allowance, the government introduced the [Expanded Family Housing Support Loan](#) in 2024. This nationwide scheme provides loans to families planning to have additional children and is available to families upon their commitment to having children until the mother reaches 41 years of age. For a transitional period of two years, women above this age may also apply if they can certify a pregnancy of at least 12 weeks.

However, significant gaps remain, particularly for refugee and asylum-seeking children. Refugee families face inadequate housing support. A 2024 government decree terminated housing support for certain Ukrainian refugees from areas not classified as war-torn, leaving around 3,000 people [homeless](#), most of them Transcarpathian Roma, including many children.

Ireland

Over the last government term in Ireland, from June 2020 to November 2024, child homelessness increased by 70% and family homelessness by 87%. Housing costs are significantly affecting low-income households, with many households being pulled into poverty due to the burden of housing costs. While the overall 'at risk of poverty' rate was 11.7% in 2024, it rose to 17.9% after housing costs. Increases are most pronounced for one-parent families, renters and those receiving social housing support. Homelessness has doubled in three years, with more than 15,000 people in emergency accommodation, including 2,000 families and over 5,000 children. An estimated 92,000 children are among 236,000 people in need of social housing. A new action plan introduced last year, Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030, aims to address these challenges by targeting the construction of 300,000 homes, including 72,000 social homes, through regulatory reforms, tax incentives, and record State investment.

Italy

Italy has introduced several measures to support vulnerable families' access to housing. Social housing provides rent-controlled accommodation, although it remains underfunded. The 'Rent Bonus' (*Bonus Affitto*) and tax relief for subsidised leases help low-income families cover housing costs.

However, significant housing inequalities persist. Roma, Sinti, and Caminanti children, children from large families, single-parent households, migrant backgrounds, southern regions, deprived urban or remote rural areas, and children with disabilities or in out-of-home care face systemic barriers in accessing adequate housing. Many families with children live in overcrowded conditions, particularly in urban areas and in the south, with severe repercussions on children's psychological well-being, educational outcomes, and health. Although social housing exists, 50% of vulnerable families are unable to access adequate housing due to the limited supply. 9% of families live in overcrowded conditions, 30% of families with children cannot afford adequate housing, and more than 20% of families spend over 30% of their income on rent.

Kosovo

The government of Kosovo and municipalities have begun addressing housing needs for vulnerable groups through new social housing projects and targeted support measures.

However, housing challenges remain severe. In 2024, nearly 23% of children lived in poverty and 7% in extreme poverty. Around 80% of Roma children experienced severe material deprivation, compared to the national average of 34%. Many Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian families live in overcrowded, substandard or informal housing without access to basic services, often in damp conditions lacking sanitation. Limited affordable housing increases the risk of homelessness and forced evictions, while inadequate housing intersects with poverty, unemployment and restricted access to education and healthcare.

Latvia

Social housing is available in Latvia, but only in certain locations. Families with low incomes and those in need can also receive support to cover housing costs. Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion are more likely to live in overcrowded housing.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg offers a wide range of financial assistance to support families with housing costs. Furthermore, a draft law proposes adding single parenthood as a new criterion in the allocation of affordable rented housing, aiming to prioritise single-parent families who face a heightened risk of poverty and deprivation.

However, access to housing remains difficult due to a property market that limits affordability. Existing financial assistance is insufficient for a growing number of families, and children living in severely deprived housing conditions are particularly at risk of poverty.

Malta

Malta has introduced housing support measures, including the Housing Benefit Scheme, which subsidises private rental costs for low- to middle-income families, and efforts by the Housing Authority to expand social housing and collaborate with private landlords to broaden housing access. Tenant protections provide safeguards against unjust eviction and promote fair lease terms.

However, significant housing challenges remain. Many families face rising rental costs, limited affordable housing options and overcrowding, with 2.4% of the population living in overcrowded conditions, particularly low-income households. Migrant and asylum-seeking children face additional barriers in accessing housing, further increasing their vulnerability.

Moldova

The state provides some financial support for housing costs, but protection against eviction and access to affordable, secure housing remain insufficient, especially for vulnerable families. An emerging issue highlighted in the country profile is the lack of adequate housing solutions for young people leaving the care system. Many leave residential or foster care at 18 without stable housing, placing them at high risk of homelessness and poverty.

Netherlands

Rent allowance is available to people on low incomes, and there are also political initiatives to strengthen public housing and ensure more affordable housing.

However, the report emphasises that children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, including those living in temporary shelters or unstable housing situations, are among the most affected by poverty and social exclusion in the Netherlands. There are no additional targeted measures to ensure children and their parents have adequate housing. In 2024, [a housing shortage](#) and high demand led to rising prices and a lack of affordable

housing for families. Overall, there remains a need to improve access to adequate housing for children and families in need.

Poland

The programme for the social and civic integration of Roma in Poland for 2021–2030 aims to, among other things, improve housing conditions for Roma communities. ESF+ and RRF funds support housing for vulnerable groups through models such as Housing First and assisted living services. Integration efforts also include housing support for Ukrainian refugees.

At the same time, 40% of homeless children in Poland are foreign-born, up from 9% in 2019, indicating growing housing vulnerability among migrant children.

Portugal

Portugal's *1ª Direito* housing programme provides support for access to housing and promotes solutions for people living in inadequate housing conditions. The *Front Door* project responds to situations of urgent need for accommodation for people who are temporarily or permanently deprived of their home or who are at imminent risk of homelessness. The *Porta 65 Jovem* programme supports young people with rental costs.

Romania

Romania supports children and families' access to adequate and safe housing through legislation and public programmes, but implementation varies widely at local level. Key measures include prioritising social housing for vulnerable groups, eviction protections in specific circumstances, and financial support for housing costs such as heating and rent. However, social housing is often underfunded and in poor condition, forced evictions still occur without adequate alternatives, and there is no clear national mechanism for resettlement or post-eviction support.

In 2024, over half of children at risk of child poverty and social exclusion lived in overcrowded housing, and many lacked access to basic sanitation

Scotland

Universal Credit in Scotland includes support with housing costs for eligible families, and the impact of the UK Government's household benefit cap is mitigated by the Scottish Government through additional financial support to affected households.

Despite this, significant housing challenges persist. High housing costs are driving 50,000 children into poverty, and more than 10,000 children are living in temporary accommodation. Poor-quality housing particularly affects households with 'No recourse to public funds', limiting access to social housing for some migrant children. The benefit cap continues to affect families with children and those facing high rents. In addition, the five-week wait for the first Universal Credit payment can lead to rent arrears, prompting some landlords to initiate legal action and eviction proceedings.

Serbia

Some positive steps have been taken to support housing in Serbia. In cities such as Čačak, apartments have been built and allocated at minimal rental cost to ensure more stable housing. There have also been joint initiatives with the EU and the United Nations Office for Project Services to finance housing for vulnerable groups, including Roma, women, care leavers, and persons with disabilities.

However, overall support remains limited and insufficient to ensure access to adequate, affordable and secure housing. Social housing is rarely granted, and most vulnerable families are left to manage on their own, often living in informal dwellings without access to basic infrastructure such as water, electricity or sewage. Financial assistance for housing costs is minimal and does not provide long-term stability. According to the SitAn report, climate change further exacerbates housing vulnerability, particularly for children in marginalised communities, who are disproportionately exposed to environmental risks and poor living conditions.

Slovenia

Some support is provided through rent subsidies and soft loans. The Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia manages and develops non-profit rental housing across the country, including public and social rental housing. There has also been increased investment in public rental housing and subsidies for low-income families.

However, housing and rents remain very high, especially in the capital city, making it difficult for young families, single-parent families and low-income working families. Many Roma children continue to live in inadequate housing conditions.

Spain

Through housing legislation adopted in 2023, Spain is helping children and families to ensure they have adequate, affordable and secure housing. The legislation aims to regulate the housing market, protect tenants, and promote affordable housing. It establishes rent control mechanisms, measures to protect public housing, and introduces financial aid and support for families in vulnerable situations.

However, many Autonomous Communities have not fully implemented its provisions, and full implementation remains inconsistent across Spain.

Sweden

Sweden has adopted a strategy to combat homelessness and has a relatively strong social safety net.

At the same time, evictions of families with children are increasing. There are more people living in poverty, and proposed measures such as welfare qualification requirements and benefit caps risk restricting access to support. There is a need to increase financial assistance to families, including higher housing allowances, as current policy directions may negatively affect children's living conditions.

Switzerland

Cantons and municipalities in Switzerland provide rent subsidies and additional support through social welfare programmes for low-income families, although availability and eligibility vary. Some cities promote non-profit or cooperative housing to improve affordability. Families facing eviction may access legal aid or mediation in certain cantons, and child welfare authorities can be notified if eviction risks lead to homelessness.

However, significant housing challenges persist that affect children's well-being, safety, and ability to thrive. High housing costs, overcrowding and unequal access to adequate housing affect many children, particularly those from migrant backgrounds, large families or without permanent residency. One in three low-income households spends more than 40% of their income on rent. Hidden homelessness among families is increasing, especially in urban areas. Families with multiple children, from migrant backgrounds, or without permanent residency are more likely to live in overcrowded or structurally inadequate housing. Switzerland also lacks a national social housing policy, public housing stock remains low, and there is no consistent national framework linking housing stability with child protection.

Türkiye

Türkiye has implemented mass housing projects for low-income families and provides some limited financial assistance schemes, including rent support under certain social assistance programmes.

However, these measures remain insufficient. Mass housing projects often exclude refugee families and are limited in high-demand urban areas where housing insecurity is most acute. Financial assistance does not adequately protect families from high rents. There are no strong legal or administrative protections against forced evictions, and families with informal tenancies or without formal ownership documents are particularly vulnerable and often excluded from public assistance. Around 40% of households experience poor-quality housing, including damp, poor heating and overcrowding, with low-income families, single-parent households and those in informal settlements most affected. High inflation and insufficient state support further exacerbate housing insecurity and force parent to choose between housing and other essentials.

Ukraine

Ukraine is implementing reforms within its child protection system that include strengthening support for vulnerable families with housing needs. Ongoing reforms to maternity and children's homes aim to better assist young mothers with small children who lack safe housing. The state has introduced social housing initiatives to provide low-income families with access to affordable accommodation, alongside legal protections against eviction, particularly during the ongoing war, ensuring that vulnerable populations have stability in their housing situation. Financial support measures, including rent subsidies and assistance with utilities, help families maintain housing stability.

At the same time, many vulnerable families still lack secure housing options, highlighting the need for sustained investment in community-based support and safe, long-term housing solutions.

Wales

The Getting Ready Project empowers young people in local authority care by improving their knowledge of their rights and entitlements as they plan to leave care. Through workshops, training and resources, it supports safer transitions from care and helps reduce the risk of homelessness and housing instability.

At the same time, housing provision remains a major challenge in Wales, particularly for children with a migrant background. The number of homeless families requiring local authority support has increased significantly over the past 10 years. There is a shortage of affordable properties for families and young people to rent or purchase, resulting in many living in unaffordable, temporary or poor-quality accommodation. For families in the private rented sector, the Local Housing Allowance is insufficient to cover costs, contributing to continued housing insecurity and negative impacts on children's well-being, health and education.

Closing remarks

The housing crisis affecting children across Europe is not incidental. It reflects structural weaknesses in social protection frameworks, including social housing provision and long-term public investment. When families are priced out of adequate housing, when social housing stock declines, and when eviction safeguards fail, children bear the consequences first and most severely.

Evidence from Eurochild's 2025 Flagship Report demonstrates that housing insecurity is closely intertwined with child poverty, energy poverty, and inequality. Poor living conditions undermine prevention efforts, increase pressure on child protection systems and heighten the risk of homelessness, particularly for young people leaving care. They also expose children to increased risks of violence, exploitation and trauma, especially in situations of homelessness or forced eviction. These patterns confirm that housing must be treated not as a peripheral social issue, but as a central pillar of children's rights and well-being. The social inclusion strategies should prioritise adequate and affordable housing for children in need and their families.

The interplay between poverty, housing instability, and social exclusion creates a vicious circle that limits children's educational attainment, health outcomes and long-term life and career chances. Housing conditions provide not only a home or a safe shelter, but they also determine access to schools, healthcare, green spaces, and safe community environments. Where neighbourhoods lack essential services, which is often the case for segregated Roma settings or isolated housing for migrants, children's rights are further constrained.

The European Affordable Housing Plan offers an important policy opportunity. Its commitments to strengthen monitoring, mobilise investment in social housing and address housing exclusion reflect a growing recognition at the EU level that structural reform is needed. However, good intentions will only translate into real change through effective implementation. This requires clear targets, sustained funding, child-sensitive indicators, and stronger coordination between housing, social protection and child protection systems.

In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Pillar of Social Rights, protection against forced evictions, access to affordable and accessible housing, and targeted support for the most marginalised children must become enforceable realities rather than policy aspirations. Particular attention must be given to migrant children, Roma children, children with disabilities, and victims of domestic violence, who face compounded and discriminatory barriers in accessing adequate housing.

The findings of this sub-report make a fundamental point clear. Without safe, stable and affordable housing, broader efforts to combat child poverty and social exclusion will remain incomplete. A child-centred approach to housing, one that prioritises preventing homelessness, evictions and housing instability and is grounded in non-discrimination and long-term investment, is essential. Ensuring that every child has a secure home is not only a social policy objective but a prerequisite for making children's rights a reality across Europe.

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