

Eurochild's 2026 Conference on Child Protection Systems

Human Library Programme

Wednesday 17 June 2026: 09h00 -11h00, Aliathon-Resort, Paphos, Cyprus

Moderated by Mieke Schuurman, Director of Child Rights & Capacity Building, Eurochild

Wednesday 17 June - Plenary Room	
09h00	<p>Moderator explains the human library and asks participants to each find a 'Book' they like to join. When a table is full (maximum 10 participants) participants will have to join another 'Book' and will have the opportunity during the second and third round to join the 'Book' of their first choice.</p>
09h10 - 9h40	<p>ROUND 1 of Human Library presentations and exchanges with participants</p> <p>Human Library (<i>14 books in 3 sessions of 30 minutes</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'The Childhood that chose me' - Rima Pușic, CCF, Moldova <i>A personal story about children without parental care and the importance not to separate siblings, referring to the importance of the solid support from a foster family.</i> 2. 'Starting where trust lives: talking about family separation in Roma communities' - Eleonora Chorbadzheva, Spring Impact and Our House Foundation, Bulgaria <i>This book shares lessons from the Solid Ground for Children Social Innovation Lab in Varna, where Roma women created safe, trust-based spaces to talk about family challenges—without naming family separation directly. Through crafts, shared stories and peer support, women set the pace, built confidence, and gradually opened conversations about keeping families together. The book explores what it takes to address taboo issues with care, dignity and community leadership.</i> 3. 'Every starfish counts' - Beatrice Darie, Fundația Serviciilor Sociale Bethany, Romania <i>Years of work with local communities have shown that effective child protection relies first on community preparedness. Formal systems can only function well when this foundation is strong. Yet too little attention is given to how communities actually safeguard children. Harm often occurs within the very environments meant to protect them, with intervention coming only after damage is done. This raises a crucial question about what could be prevented if communities were better supported and empowered to act earlier.</i>



	<p>4. ‘Child Friendly Company: When business chooses Children and Strengthens Social Protection’ – George Bogdanov, National Network for Children, Bulgaria & Donjeta Kelmendi, Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection, Kosovo <i>This book explores how civil society and business can collaborate to advance children’s rights through the Child Friendly Company certificate. It examines how such partnerships can strengthen the financial sustainability and resilience of civil society without compromising values or accountability to children. It opens an honest dialogue on responsible engagement.</i></p> <p>5. ‘From a Small Town to a Strong Voice’ – Mathias, Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Estonia <i>This youth book is not about titles, but about taking the first step. It begins in a small town in South Estonia, where I decided to speak up instead of staying silent. That choice led me into local and national decision-making, becoming vice-chair of a youth council, the youngest board member of the Estonian National Youth Council, and a Child Rights Ambassador. It shows how young people can shape change when they dare to try.</i></p> <p>6. ‘Do children’s rights change systems – or do systems change children’s rights?’ - Carly Elliott-Scott, Together Scotland, United Kingdom <i>This book reflects on what it takes for children’s rights to genuinely shape social protection systems – and how systems, in turn, shape children’s rights. Drawing on her experience working alongside children whose rights are most at risk, she explores how making children’s rights binding in law has influenced practice and culture. She shares Scotland’s journey, shaped by learning from European partners, and reflects on using the UNCRC to influence everyday decisions with and for children.</i></p> <p>7. ‘Children’s rights on the European Parliament’s agenda. Activities of the EP Coordinator on Children’s Rights’ – Monika Jagiello, Administrator in the Office of the European Parliament Coordinator on Children’s Rights, Belgium <i>This book will let you discover who does what in the European Parliament in the field of children’s rights and what’s behind the main areas of responsibilities of the EP Coordinator on Children’s Rights, which are: acting as a central contact point to monitor and actively promote children’s rights in EU policies; promoting cross-border mediation in international family disputes; serving as a central information point for EU citizens in international parental child abduction or other cross-border family disputes.</i></p> <p>8. ‘Book series: Play and Learn with Linos and Flora’ - Nikos Papadopoulos, Cyprus Red Cross Society, Cyprus <i>The “Play and Learn with Lino and Flora” series, created by the Cyprus Red Cross Society, is an educational collection blending stories, activities and illustrations for young children. It primarily supports children with migratory backgrounds, easing integration while strengthening language, social and emotional skills. Content is designed to be accessible for those learning a new language. Interactive activities encourage drawing, role play and collaboration through play.</i></p>
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	<p>14. 'Why I Take the Hard way out' – Marta Manniste, Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Estonia</p> <p><i>This book is told by a Child Rights Ambassador. After years of being told what to do and think, I stopped listening and started talking instead. I found and still find joy in proving to adults how valuable a young person's thoughts can be. During this, I realised that, as a society, we often mishandle issues. Instead of facing them, we hide away and ignore everything that involves hard topics and discussions. I want to be one of the people to change that, because hard topics don't scare me, an unstable future does.</i></p>
09h40 - 09h50	Move to 2nd Round of Book Presentations
09h50 – 10h20	ROUND 2 of Human Library Presentations and exchanges with participants
10h20 – 10h30	Move to 3rd Round of Book Presentations
10h30 – 11h00	ROUND 3 of Human Library Presentations and exchanges with participants
11h00 -11h30	<i>Coffee break</i>

For further information on the conference, please visit eurochild.org/event/eurochild-conference-2026

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