

Daphne-CHILD High Level Conference

Date: Thursday 1 October 2026: 09:15 – 16:00 CET.

Location: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Rue Van Maerlant 2, 1000 Bruxelles.

Arrival, registration and welcome coffee open from 9:15-10:00.

Programme agenda – subject to change

SESSION 1 – Practice and policy insights

- **10:00-10:15: Welcome remarks**, by Bruce Adamson, Vice President of Eurochild, and EESC representative.
- **10:15-10:55: Addressing violence against children – insights from practice**
 - Moderated by Zsafia Karetka, Communications Lead for Daphne-CHILD and Terre des hommes. Grantee partners sharing insights from addressing violence against children:
 - Tom O'Brien, Community Afterschool Project (CASPr), Ireland
 - Kids Colleagues representative, Hintalovon Foundation, Hungary
 - Tatjana Nikolić, Centar for Girls (Centar za Devojke), Serbia
- **10:50-11:30: Strengthening integrated child protection systems to address violence against children – insights from policy**
 - Moderated by Mieke Schuurman, Director of Child Rights and Capacity Building, Eurochild
 - Glen Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport (invited)
 - Kinga Joó, Member of the EESC's Civil Society Organisations' Group, National Association of Large Families, Hungary (invited)
 - Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ireland, or representative of the Irish EU Presidency (invited)
- **11:30-11:40: Group photo, followed by a ten minute break.**

SESSION 2 – Peer Exchange and Learning

Human Library – The Daphne-CHILD programme funded 48 civil society organisations to address violence against children in their local contexts. Through a Human Library peer exchange, attendees have the chance to meet and hear directly from the 48 grantees, to learn more about their local challenges, and take inspiration for designing interventions addressing violence against children across Europe.

This session is designed as an interactive peer exchange space, with refreshments available throughout. Participants are invited to engage at their comfort.

- **11:50-12:30: Human Library – Round 1**
- **12:30-14:00: LUNCH**
- **14:05-14:45: Human Library – Round 2**
- **14:45-15:25: Human Library – Round 3**

SESSION 3 – Concluding reflections

- **15:30-16:20: Reflections roundtable: The importance of re-granting to support local CSOs address violence against children – Lessons from the CERV-Daphne programme**
 - Moderated by Raluca Verweijen-Slamnescu, independent expert and member of the Daphne-CHILD Advisory Board;
 - Marie-Cecile Rouillon, Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, European Commission;
 - Learning shared from representatives from CERV Daphne re-grantors: Annina Hessel, Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung; Macarena Céspedes, Educo, Ciaran O'Donnell, Eurochild and Sasha Stefanovic, MODS; Bogdan Romanica, World Vision Romania;
- **16:20-16:30: Closing remarks** - Eurochild and EESC representative.
- **16:30:** Event closure.

Event programme concept

Daphne-CHILD (daphne.childhub.org) is a 3-year sub-granting and capacity-building programme, delivered by Eurochild and Terre des hommes. The programme has supported 48 grassroots civil society organisations across 9 countries in Europe address violence against children, with children meaningfully participating throughout each project from design to finish.

Join us in Brussels on 1 October, as we mark this year's International Day of Non-Violence, celebrate the work of the grantee partners in this programme, and amplify the importance of addressing violence against children across Europe, within the [EU's Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child](#).

We look forward to welcoming you for a day of high-level discussions with policymakers and civil society professionals, to listen, to share, and to create commitments and collaborations that can take the learnings from these inspirational civil society efforts to realise children's right to live a life free from any form of violence, and grow up in a safe, peaceful, and nurturing environment.

Further information: The Daphne-CHILD programme is active in nine European countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, and Ukraine. We are distributing €1.3 million in sub-grants to support local interventions addressing violence against children and young people. The 48 projects funded under this programme aim to support 23,000 children, 3,200 families, and 1,800 professionals.

Contact for info: [Ciaran O'Donnell](#), Programme Manager for the Daphne-CHILD programme, Eurochild.

This event is organised by Eurochild *and* Terre des hommes, *in partnership with the EESC's Civil Society Organisations' Group*, with financial support from the EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme.



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