



Joint Statement

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

&

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Amsterdam, 24 September 2015

On the occasion of the 19th Annual Meeting of the European Network of Ombudsperson for Children (ENOC), we, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the members of ENOC,

Expressing deep concern at the magnitude and prevalence of violence against children across Europe,

Recalling the decisive contribution of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children as a global milestone in understanding the nature and scope of the challenges we face, and in acting as a catalyst for action,

Recalling the significant findings of the Global Survey toward a World Free from Violence, conducted by the UN Special Representative to assess progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study,

Emphasising the invaluable contribution of ENOC members to the development of the Study and their strong and supportive engagement with the Special Representative's mandate,

Emphasising that the vision of all partners working in this field is a world free from violence, for all children and in all settings,

Reaffirming the centrality of the international ethical, normative and legal frameworks to realizing this vision, particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols,

Underlining the dynamic, complementary and mutually supportive interaction between actors at a national, regional and international level in advancing children's rights,

Recognizing the important international momentum around tackling violence against children, especially the imminent adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Sustainable Development Goals and the forthcoming 10th anniversary of the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children,

Recognizing the important recommendations adopted by ENOC at its 19th annual meeting for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children and the determination of ENOC and its members to accelerate progress in children's protection from violence and to support the achievement of the target of ending all forms of violence against children, included in the sustainable development agenda agreed upon by the international community in the United Nations Summit, held on New York from 25 to 27 September 2015 (ENOC statement enclosed)

Express our strong commitment to capitalize on these and other opportunities to accelerate progress toward a world free of violence against children, by exercising our mandates to seek:

- The empowerment of children and young people, supporting them to be active agents in the shaping of policy and action and in vindicating their right to freedom from violence, in particular by promoting the active participation of children and young people in tackling all facets of violence against children, in an ethical and appropriate manner;
- A comprehensive legal prohibition of all forms of violence against children, in all settings;
- Clear legislation and supplementary guidance to support those working for and with children to make appropriate, high-quality referrals when they encounter instances of violence against children, with sufficient training to allow them to carry out this task;
- A sound, comprehensive national agenda to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children;
- Improved data and research on the prevalence and nature of violence against children, as well the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent and respond to it;
- The development of rights-based, child-friendly services and a culture of respect for children's rights across all levels of government and public administration;
- An integrated, multidisciplinary response to victims of violence that addresses the full range of their needs in a coherent fashion, and that ensures that all relevant professionals respond effectively, sensitively and in a manner that is respectful of children's rights.