INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN’S RIGHTS
AND PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

Organisers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Honorary patron: President of the Republic of Slovenia

Venue: Ljubljana, National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia – Round Conference Hall

Date: 6–7 October 2009

Contents:
- Education on the rights of the child;
- Right to protection against violence;
- Activities of the Council of Europe and the Slovenian Government in these areas.

The aim of the conference:
- Raising awareness among the political, expert and general public with regard to children’s rights, particularly the right to protection against violence within the framework of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers;
- Supporting the endeavours of Slovenian and international actors in the field of children’s rights protection;
- Informing the Slovenian public of activities undertaken by the Council of Europe in support of the respect for children’s rights;
- Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN International Year of Human Rights Learning.
- Informing international expert public on the promotion of children’s rights in Slovenia.

Structure:
- Introduction and three panels; education on the rights of the child, the right to protection against violence, activities of the Council of Europe and the Slovenian Government;
- Top politicians, the Slovenian Ombudsman and a children’s representative address the participants by way of introduction;
- Each panel starts with an introductory speech (7–8 minutes), followed by short speeches (5 minutes) addressing a particular topic. An approximately half-an-hour debate follows after the presentation of each topic;
- Children’s participation: representatives of children are equally included among the speakers. Their involvement in almost every topic shows that their participation is taken seriously.
TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 6 October 2009  9.30 – 10.15

Welcome address by the host: Pavel Gantar, PhD, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Address by the honorary patron: Danilo Türk, PhD, President of the Republic of Slovenia

Opening speeches:

- Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Council of Europe Acting Secretary General
- Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- Zdenka Čebašek Travnik, PhD, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia
- Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Opening statement by the representative of children: a student of the Ljubljana School for the Deaf

Tuesday, 6 October 2009  10.15 – 12.00

Education on the rights of the child

Moderator: Andreja Črnak Meglič, PhD, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Introductory speaker: Igor Lukšič, PhD, Minister of Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia

1.) Promotion of children’s rights education – good practices in Slovenia

- Student of the Poljane Grammar School, Ljubljana: Signing of the ethical code;
- Blaž Kovač, Amnesty International Slovenia: Presentation of projects;
- Andreja Barle-Lakota, PhD, Director of the Education Development Office: Inclusion of civil education in school curricula;
- Erika Rustja, MA, Education Development Office: Promoting elimination of violence in schools;
- Melani Centrih, Ptuj Grammar School: Presentation of work of Unesco ASPnet schools in Slovenia.

2.) Promotion of children’s rights education – international good practices

- Janez Lenarčič, ODIHR director, OSCE: “Collection of good practices – Compendium”;
- Maja Gabelica Šupljika, MSc, Deputy of Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Croatia;

Council of Europe
Slovenian Chairmanship
May to November 2009
- Wiltrud Weidinger, Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich, Switzerland: Presentation of the Council of Europe human rights education teaching manuals;
- Vera Remškar, Executive Director, Foundation Together: Raising awareness of adults about children’s right in countries at war and post conflict countries – good practises from Iraq;
- Mitja Sardoč, MA, Educational Research Institute, Ljubljana: “Council of Europe Project – Education for Democratic Citizenship”.

3.) Presentation of good practices project “Our Rights”
- Blanka Jamnišek, MA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Slovenia – author of the project “Our Rights”: Presentation of the project;
- Hamdija Kujundžić, Osmijeh (Smile) non-profit organization, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Implementation of the project in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Ramush Lekaj with teachers and students from Kosovo: Implementation of the project in Kosovo;
- Tatiana Chshieva, PhD, Foundation Achievements: Implementation of the project in North Ossetia/ Russian Federation;
- Anica Mikuš Kos, PhD, Slovene Philanthropy: Experiences gained during the project.

4.) Discussion/questions and answers

12.00–14.00 LUNCH (cold buffet) for all participants at the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
During lunch break: opportunity to visit the exhibition, information market, attend side events, hold bilateral talks, attend media events.

Tuesday, 6 October 2009  14.00 – 16.00

Right to protection against violence

Moderator: Eva Irgl, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Introductory speaker: Katarina Kresal, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia

Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

1.) Presentation of projects for the protection of children against violence
- Matija Renčelj, Acting Student Rights Ombudsman, Representative of School Student Organization of Slovenia;
- Maja Vojnovič, MA, Unicef: “Safe points” project;
- Mitja Muršič, PhD, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: European Social Fund project “Consideration of emotional aspects in the identification and treatment of violent behaviour in school”;
- Vasja Vehovar, PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana: For Safer Internet – presentation of the projects for the protection of children using Internet.
2.) Violence and vulnerable social groups
- Pupils of the Brdo pri Lukovici Elementary School;
- Marina Uzelac, Slovene Philanthropy;
- Dragica Fojan, MA, Coordinator for Combating Violence of the Social Work Centres for the Primorska region;
- Maja Gabelica Šupljika, MSc, Deputy Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Croatia.

3.) Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Representative of Children’s Parliament;
- Mirjam Kline, District State Prosecutor, Head of the Department of Juvenile, Sexual and Family Criminality;
- Renata Šribar, PhD, independent researcher: Pornography and the Internet;
- Vlasta Nussdorfer, Beli obroč (association for the assistance to victims of criminal offences);
- Katja Bašič, Združenje proti spolnemu zlorabljanju (association against sexual abuse).

4.) Discussion/questions and answers

### Wednesday, 7 October 2009 10.00 – 12.00

**Activities of the Council of Europe and the Slovenian Government**

**Moderator:** Darja Lavtižar Bebler, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

**Introductory speakers:** Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
Ivan Svetlik, PhD, Minister of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

1.) **Presentation of activities in Slovenia**
- Pavle Kornhauser, PhD, Forum against Corporal Punishment of Children in the Family, Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth: Promotion of the book “Youth without corporal punishment for our children”;
- Kristina Plavšak Krajnc, MA, Council of Europe Information Office in the Republic of Slovenia: Council of Europe campaign against corporal punishment “Raise Your Hand against Smacking”;
- Uroš Lavrič, Simply Friends Institute: “Creating a non-violent environment” project;
- Pupils of the Bičevje Elementary School: “Creating a non-violent environment” project;
- Veronika Hovnik and students, Slovenj Gradec School Centre: European Social Fund project “Hand in Hand – intergeneration cohabitation”;
- Mojca Gabrijelevič Blenkuš, MD, Head of Health Promotion Centre, Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia: European Social Fund project “Healthy Lifestyle in Elementary Schools”;
- Lea Javornik Novak, MA, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Representative of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc).
2.) Presentation of the Council of Europe activities in the member states
- Lioubov Samokhina, Programme Advisor for the programme "Building a Europe for and with children": Violence in schools;
- Mona Sandbaek, Senior Researcher, Nova Research Institute, Norway: Eliminating violence within the family through positive parenting;
- Ksenija Turković, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia: Fighting sexual violence – Council of Europe legal instruments;
- Irma Ertman, Ambassador of Finland, Council of Europe thematic coordinator on children;

3.) Access to rights protection mechanisms
- Smiljana Knez, MA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Human Rights Department: Slovenia’s activities in the United Nations Organization;
- Council of Europe representative: activities and good practices of the Council of Europe regarding the access of children to rights protection mechanisms.

Wednesday, 7 October 2009 12.00 – 12.30

Concluding speeches:

- Tone Dolčič, Deputy Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia
- Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Concluding statements:

- Representative of the Children’s Parliament
- Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia