

EU Children's Participation Platform

Our Call to Action for a Fairer Future

June 2025

Who we are

We are children from nearly every country of the European Union. We are part of the EU Children's Participation Platform. This is a space where children can express their opinions and be heard by adults who make decisions.



About this Call to Action

The Call for Action tells you that children need protection, love, stability, and respect. Children expect the EU to make sure that every child has equal opportunities in life – especially those living in shelters (when they migrate) or those who cannot stay with their families and homes, or in difficult circumstances.

Children want the EU to protect our rights, listen to our voices. This means investing in safe and welcoming schools, supporting our mental health, ensuring decent housing and care for children, and taking action to fight poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion.

All of these things we are asking for are related to rights that children have and that the EU and member states have promised to respect, protect and fulfill.

We ask you to see children as people with individual needs rather than as a generalised demographic. We ask adults, including teachers, not to treat students like they might break at any moment – we need support, not to be made to feel we are broken.

Children want the EU to create more safe and accessible spaces for play and learning, where all children can participate regardless of their country, abilities, or background. Laws should be

applied equally to everyone no matter what. Everyone should be judged objectively and consciously, not by their physical appearance. These are our rights.

Climate change is not only about the environment – it's about fairness between generations. Children did not cause this crisis, or wars, but we will face its biggest consequences.

We want the EU to take real action: reduce emissions, protect nature, include children and young people in decisions and to do everything in their power to stop wars. All children, no matter where they live, have the right to a safe and healthy future. Poorer countries are suffering more, and that is not fair.

We need climate justice, education, and urgent change. We want clean air, safe schools, peace, and leaders who really listen to us. The EU can help by protecting nature and making sure no child is left behind.

How we created our Call to Action

We have been working together for three years to share our ideas and make connections. We have been deciding on priorities for things that need to be better for our generation, for the next generation, and for the generations after that.

This Call to Action is a way to get our ideas heard by the EU, governments, adults and children, so that together we can take action to change things.

In our General Assembly on 20–21 June 2025, we did workshops on four themes, and we also thought about intergenerational fairness. We developed recommendations, and then we decided which ones were the most important.



The next day, eight young people worked with these recommendations and priorities to write this Call to Action.

The first place we presented the Call to Action was [the European Forum on the Rights of the Child](#). This Forum is important because it shows that children's views matter and can help in making better choices for everyone's future.

We want to speak for all the children who want a better future.

We believe young voices matter and today, we are proud to use ours.

Our rights as children

Our rights are described in:

- the [EU Charter of the fundamental Rights](#), which we will call the Charter. Is a special list of rules that protects the basic rights and freedoms of people living in the European Union, such as the right to be treated fairly, have privacy, and to express yourself freely, and
- the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child](#), which we will call the UNCRC. It is a set of promises on children's rights for countries all across the world.

The European Union describes the actions to put children's rights into practice in the [EU Plan for Children's rights](#).








Our 5 Key Themes

Below, you'll find our hopes and the actions we want to see taken on education and wellbeing, intergenerational fairness, climate, online safety, and hate speech.



Intergenerational fairness

 Our Goals and Ideas	<p>By working together across generations, we can better understand and respect each other: adults respect us, we respect adults, and children respect each other in general. We should talk more, exchange opinions, tell adults what we think, and let adults share with us their experiences so we could learn something new.</p> <p>Adults should take our opinions more seriously because our voice matters, the same respect and listening we give to them they should give us, the children</p> <p>We should also look at our elders, our grandparents, cooperate with them, spend time with them. We, the younger generation, can learn something new from them and they can learn from us too.</p> <p>Every generation should be educated about what intergenerational fairness means, so we can respect each other and be nice to everyone.</p>
 Our Asks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some adults blame children and tell them off in a way that is hurtful. We want a change in the mentality in society: adult role models have to stop negative talking and bullying of others and stop blaming victims.• The EU should organise events and campaigns where children and adults meet and discuss different topics.• The EU should give more support to organisations that give children opportunities to express their opinions and participate in traditionally adult spaces such as local and national decision-making, EU conferences, public discussions and other.




	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults should work together against hate. Popularise the anti-hate speech for all by running campaigns in social media with publicly known persons with influence, valuing migrant children and LGBTQ+.
 <p>Our Rights</p>	<p>Charter Article 20: Everyone is equal before the law.</p> <p>Charter Article 21.1: We should always treat everyone kindly and equally, no matter what they look like, where they come from, what they believe, or who they are, because everyone is special and deserves respect.</p> <p>Charter Article 24: As children, you have the right to be safe and happy, and to say what you think and feel, and adults should listen to you and consider your thoughts when making decisions that affect you. Adults, whether they are your parents, teachers, or others who take care of you, should always do their best to do what's best for you. Adults should make sure you get to spend time regularly with the people who care about you.</p> <p>Charter Article 25: The EU knows that older people deserve to be treated with respect and kindness, and to be able to make their own choices and spend time with others, enjoy cultural events and being a part of their community.</p> <p>Charter Article 37: We need to take good care of the Earth and make sure it becomes cleaner and healthier, so we in the EU can make good choices now that will help keep our planet happy and safe for a long time.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 3 - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 5 – Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognises the child’s increasing capacity to make their own choices.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 6 – Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 12 - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during</p>

immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

EU Plan on Children's rights: Pillar 1




Well-being in schools


 <p>Our Goals and Ideas</p>	<p>Children spend a great majority of their childhood in schools which help shape them. This is why their well-being in school is crucial.</p> <p>Children of the Platform believe there needs to be more action taken to make sure that students in the EU feel good in schools and do not have anxiety on a daily basis when going to school.</p> <p>Our dream is for schools to be a place where children are excited to go to, where they feel safe, wanted and included.</p>
 <p>Our Asks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To get EU funding, the municipalities in member countries should be required to make mental health care accessible at schools. A lot of kids need help from professionals like teachers and/or psychologists and school counselors. • Support Member States to make sure that schools are renovated where needed and so that environments are not depressing, ensuring that children feel good. Since all children are by law going to school, they should be safe spaces • Children must be educated on their rights, so they know how to act when they are not respected. We want the EU to recommend all members states to have this topic in the school curriculum.
 <p>Our Rights</p>	<p>Charter Article 3.1 - Everyone's body and feelings should be treated with kindness and respect</p> <p>Charter Article 13: Everyone has the right to explore art and research. Universities are free to decide about their activities</p>

	<p>Charter Article 14: All children have the right to go to school and learn. Everyone has the right to start schools. Parents can help choose what school children go to, to make sure it respects their own beliefs and ideas. All schools must follow the rules of the country.</p> <p>Charter Article 24: As children, you have the right to be safe and happy, and to say what you think and feel, and adults should listen to you and consider your thoughts when making decisions that affect you. Adults, whether they are your parents, teachers, or others who take care of you, should always do their best to do what's best for you. Adults should make sure you get to spend time regularly with the people who care about you.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 3 – The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 6 – Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 29 - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.</p> <p>EU Plan for Children's Rights: Pillar 2</p>
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Working together against hate



 <p>Our Goals and Ideas</p>	<p>Children are not born with hate, they are taught to hate. This is why children of the Platform feel that the EU has to make spaces where children can learn about each other's differences.</p> <p>Adults have to make inclusive spaces where children can spend their time and can express their thoughts and feelings freely and safely. And we can contribute all together to keep the spaces safe and inclusive.</p>
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	<p>It is important that children and adults work together. They are dependent on adults, that's exactly why we need to tell the adults what we want, so that our lives can be better.</p>
 Our Asks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Erasmus bigger. Have a bigger budget and make it more inclusive, so that more countries, schools and children can participate. This promotes that we understand each other better and creates less hate and learn more about cultures of other countries. • Support schools so that children can learn more European languages and also learn about the cultures in other European countries. Organise events to support friendship between different minority groups. • Organise an exchange of letters between children from different EU countries. • Keep and support the EU Children's Participation Platform. It is important. It helps children meet and understand each other so it is a way to combat hate. • EU should fund projects against hate.
 Our Rights	<p>Charter Article 7: Everyone has the right to privacy. Your family life, home, and conversations are private, and you have the right to keep them safe!</p> <p>Charter Article 20: Everyone is equal before the law.</p> <p>Charter Article 21.1: We should always treat everyone equally and kindly, no matter what their sex, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, appearance, language, religion or belief, opinion, social origin or property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation, because everyone is special and deserves respect.</p> <p>Charter Article 24: As children, you have the right to be safe and happy, and to say what you think and feel, and adults should listen to you and consider your thoughts when making decisions that affect you. Adults, whether they are your parents, teachers, or others who take care of you, should always do their best to do what's best for you. Adults should make sure you get to spend time regularly with the people who care about you.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 2 – The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities</p>

	<p>or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 3 – The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 14 – Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 30 - Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.</p> <p>EU Plan for Children’s Rights: Pillar 3</p>
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Online safety & cyberbullying

 <p>Our Goals and Ideas</p>	<p>We want a safe online space for children, for youth, and for the next generation but we do not have it yet. We have some problems. And these are problems not just for this generation.</p> <p>So, we need some help from the EU to make our safe online spaces. You have to start somewhere. We have to do it now. For the future.</p> <p>Change the mentality of society. And our generation, the youth, children will keep it for the next generation and next generation.</p>
 <p>Our Asks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU should encourage awareness raising about what to do about cyberbullying, and also make sure governments get informed about online problems. • Teach teachers to teach children how to be safe. Include in the bubble of what we learn – how to have private accounts, have healthy screen habits, how to work with information, and to think critically. • Find ways to use AI to recognise and prevent cyberbullying and find ways to use AI to help children with cyberbullying.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find ways to punish the companies for allowing children aged under 13 years to make social media accounts by definite laws connected to governments.
 <p>Our Rights</p>	<p>Charter Article 7: your family life, home, and conversations are special and private, and you have the right to keep them safe!</p> <p>Charter Article 8: When people collect information about you, like your name, address, or favorite things, they have to keep it safe and only use it for good reasons, and they need to ask you or your parents if it's okay first. You have the right to see what information they have about you and have it fixed if it's wrong.</p> <p>Charter Article 21.1: We should always treat everyone kindly and equally, no matter what they look like, if they are healthy or not well, where they come from, what they believe, what they think, if they live with disability, whether they're girls or boys, they have money, where they were born or who they like, because everyone is special and deserves respect.</p> <p>Charter Article 24: As children, you have the right to be safe and happy, and to say what you think and feel, and adults should listen to you and consider your thoughts when making decisions that affect you. Adults, whether they are your parents, teachers, or others who take care of you, should always do their best to do what's best for you. Adults should make sure you get to spend time regularly with the people who care about you.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 3 – The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 16 – Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.</p> <p>UNCRC Article 17 - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.</p> <p>EU Plan for Children's Rights: Pillar 5</p>



Climate action

 <p>Our Goals and Ideas</p>	<p>Everyone is affected by climate change. Education is important but this includes projects so that people can become really aware of what is happening.</p> <p>We need to know more about pollinators and what they do and how to live with and protect them. We need to find more ecological methods to manage biodiversity.</p> <p>Research should include the impacts on people's lives and citizens should be involved in this research in meaningful ways.</p> <p>War is a huge polluter and causes destruction to the planet, and people need to work together to end this. We need to take better care of the planet for future generations to have better opportunities.</p>
 <p>Our Asks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More funding should be invested in research to continue to evidence climate change and the impacts. • Create more spaces for pollinators in our neighbourhoods and around schools. These creatures are essential for climate protection. • Provide education for all people (every generation) about the climate including how different aspects are connected. • Change labelling so that people know what really made their food e.g. This was made by bees. • Fund better public transport so people do not need to use their cars. • Climate change and war are connected. This needs to be recognised when making decisions.
	<p>Charter Article 24: As children, you have the right to be safe and happy, and to say what you think and feel, and adults should listen to you and consider your thoughts when making decisions that affect you. Adults, whether they are your parents, teachers, or others who take care of you, should always do their best to do what's best for you. Adults should make sure you get to spend time regularly with the people who care about you.</p>



Our Rights

Charter Article 37: The EU should take good care of the Earth and make sure it becomes cleaner and healthier. This is so that we in the EU can make good choices now that will help keep our planet happy and safe for a long time.

UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

EU Plan for Children's Rights: Pillar 3 and 6

We hope that adults are ready to work with us.

We want adults to understand and think about these problems,
and to think about themselves and our concerns.

We are grateful and motivated by this opportunity to share our ideas.

We want to feel proud of what we did but also want to feel listened to.

We want adults to take action to ensure that the rights of all children are respected.

[Learn more about the Platform and our work](#)

