



UNIVERSITY OF  
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European Children's Rights Unit



## **'How experts can help the European Court of Human Rights to understand children's rights'**

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**Child-friendly version** of 'PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTIONS'

**'How experts can help the European Court of Human Rights to understand children's rights.'**

**Introduction**

All children have rights. These help them live a good life, which is safe and healthy. For example, children have the right to grow up with their family, the right to be listened to, and the right to education.

If governments in Europe do not protect **children's rights**, children can ask the **European Court of Human Rights** to help.

Inside the Court **judges** hear about the problem and decide if a government has done something wrong.



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Because these can be difficult problems, special **experts** sometimes send information to the judges to help them understand better.

This is the **European Court of Human Rights**



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# Child-friendly version of 'PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTIONS'

## The Project

We wanted to know if the information given to the Court by experts helps the judges to understand children's rights and the problems they have.

We looked at 27 court cases about children. In these cases, 53 groups of experts had sent information.

We found that the experts talked about parents and the problem. Most didn't talk about children and their rights.

## Conclusion:

We think there are some things that experts can do better.

They should:

- 1) **send more information about children**
- 2) **work together to share ideas**
- 3) **keep watching for problems that they can help the Court with**
- 4) **understand that they can also help the Court after a case ends**

These things will help judges to make good decisions about the problems that children have in European countries.

**Fact:** The cases we looked at were about children who live in 15 different European countries



These were: **Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, and the UK.**

## GLOSSARY (helpful words and their meanings)

**Court case:** A disagreement or problem which judges listen to in a court.

**European Court of Human Rights:** A Court in Strasbourg, France, which makes sure that 46 European governments protect people's rights (including children).

**Experts:** people who know a lot about a particular subject

**A government:** A group of people who are in charge of a country

**Judge:** A person who listens to a court case and makes decision on who is right