

Pledge by Bulgaria

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 3 June 1991.

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Participation of Children in the Armed Conflict on 12 February 2002.

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children of child prostitution and child pornography on 12 February 2002.



Pledges

1. Finalizing the process of deinstitutionalization and completing the transition to community-based services for children. In connection with deinstitutionalization, we plan to close all children's institutions by 2025.
2. Formal meeting of the National Council of the Child on November 19, 2019 in the granite hall of the Council of Ministers.
3. Celebration of the Good, November 21, 2019. At a ceremony, accompanied by a cultural and entertaining program, we will bring together all the ambassadors of the good - children, parents, representatives of institutions and organizations, who will present stories of people who helped a child and / or his family at a difficult time, trouble, a serious incident, and have changed their lives. The most exciting of all collected stories from all over the country will be promoted and awarded on this day.
4. Installation of a Capsule of Good on November 22, 2019, which will contain messages from children from the Council of Children and Protection Bodies in our country to the future generation, as well as related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Bulgaria and Pakistan co-facilitated the modalities resolution for the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, resulting in an inclusive and transparent process of consultation. Bulgaria will take part in the high-level commemorative event (25 September, New York), and will also co-organise a side-event on the same day on the topic of "*Ending the Institutionalization of Children to Ensure No One Is Left Behind*".
6. As co-chair of the Group of Friends of Children and SDGs, Bulgaria endorsed the Global pledge "*For every child, every right*", which provides an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to children's rights and to pursue the SDGs in line with the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Commitments and initiatives of the Republic of Bulgaria

1) In view of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have made the following commitment to emphasize our

determination to promote, protect and exercise the rights of the child in connection with the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Convention:

- **What?** Bulgaria continues to harmonise its national legislation in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The government's priority is to finalize the process of deinstitutionalization to facilitate the transition from institutional care to community-based services for children still in institutional care.

The Bulgarian Constitution puts the family, motherhood and children under the protection of the state and society. The upbringing of children is a right and obligation of their parents, supported by the state. In cases where children are left without the care of their relatives, they are under the special protection of the state and society.

We strongly promote the principle that the family is the best environment for the child, which is the reason for the support of the children and their families and our continued efforts to finalize the process of deinstitutionalization.

- **Why?** The placement of children in institutions may violate their rights. In most cases, institutional care lacks an element of personal treatment of children and thus limits the chances of development and well-being of children, leading to discriminatory models in education and access to education, quality care and services.

All children must be given constant support in society in order to develop into confident and independent young people. We see the need for an integrated approach to childcare aimed at preventing the relevant risks from the very birth of a child, including early intervention to provide a family or close family environment for each child.

- **How?** Through the implementation of the National Strategy "Vision for Deinstitutionalization of Children in the Republic of Bulgaria", and of the annual National Child Protection Programs, focused on supporting children and families.

- **When?** In connection with deinstitutionalization, we plan to close all children's institutions by 2025.

- **Who?** Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Assistance with active involvement of all relevant institutions at national and local level, civil society, private sector, parents and children, with the support of UNICEF, European Union and UN.

We have made the following plans to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

- Formal meeting of the National Council of the Child on November 19, 2019 in the granite hall of the Council of Ministers.
- Celebration of the Good, November 21, 2019. Organized at the initiative of the State Agency for Child Protection, together with the members of the National Council for Child Protection, the children from the Council of Children, representatives of national and international organizations, the mayors of municipalities, children and parents. In doing so, we will show that together we can support the good future of our children and achieve more to grow in a secure environment and well-being. At a ceremony, accompanied by a cultural and entertaining program, we will bring together all the ambassadors of the good - children, parents, representatives of institutions and organizations, who will present stories of people who helped a child and / or his family at a difficult time. , trouble, a serious incident, and have changed their lives. The most exciting of all collected stories from all over the country will be promoted and awarded on this day.
- Installation of a Capsule of Good on November 22, 2019, which will contain messages from children from the Council of Children and Protection Bodies in our country to the future generation, as well as related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be installed in front of the Sofia City Library. The capsule will be opened in 2030.

- Bulgaria and Pakistan co-facilitated the modalities resolution for the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, resulting in an inclusive and transparent process of consultation. Bulgaria will take part in the high-level commemorative event (25 September, New York), and will also co-organise a side-event on the same day on the topic of *“Ending the Institutionalization of Children to Ensure No One Is Left Behind”*.
- As co-chair of the Group of Friends of Children and SDGs, Bulgaria endorsed the Global pledge *“For every child, every right”*, which provides an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to children’s rights and to pursue the SDGs in line with the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.