

Pledge by Greece

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 11 May 1993

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 22 October 2003

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 22 February 2008



Pledges

1. Provide social protection without discrimination.
2. A Juvenile Protection Team (OPA) has been set up in each municipality.
3. The National Child Protection Line has been established with the free use of the short number <<1107>> on a 24-hour daily basis.
4. The Ombudsman's responsibilities were redefined and his mission extended to the field of protection and promotion of the rights of the child.
5. A financial support program for families is being implemented.
6. Child Access to Preschool Care and Education Units (Nursery, Nursery and Child Care Centers, Child Employment Units) as well as Children's Creative Employment Centers and Nursing Home Care for Children of vulnerable families.
7. With the introduction of Law 4538/2018 "Measures to Promote Institutions of Accession and Adoption and Other Provisions" are introduced provisions aimed at faster and more efficient management of applications for foster and prospective parents and registration of minors residing in closed care, with the aim of de-institutionalizing them. In addition, it is envisaged to create a National Register of Minors which lists minors who are placed in childcare and care units or are to be placed in foster parenting or to be adopted.
8. Elaboration of a legislative framework for unaccompanied and separated minors, which was legislated by Law 4554/2018 (A130). Under this law, ministerial decisions have been taken to regulate matters such as the Register of Unaccompanied Minors, the Register of Professional Commissioners and the Center for Hosting, as well as a decision on Professional Commissioners (defining their required formal and substantive qualifications and other details). Further, a tripartite agreement was signed between the Ministry of Labor, Social Security & Social Solidarity,

the UNHCR and the NGO METAdrasi, to implement a transitional committee program from the 1st January 2019 until the end of 2019. This program aims to meet the needs of a committee of unaccompanied minors residing in Greece (in protective care, in Reception & Identification Centers, in hospitals, accommodation centers, semi-detached apartments and in emergency housing solutions, such as hotels and secure accommodation) and the smooth and gradual transition to the new context.

In response to your above (1) relevant document on the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

We would like to inform you of the following about the responsibilities of our Board:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 20, 1989 and ratified by our country under Law 2101/1992. It endorses basic principles and commits Governments to step up their efforts for a child-friendly society. It recognizes that all children have the same rights as adults have, without any discriminations. Although, due to their nature, they also have additional rights, as they need special care and preparation to be nurtured in a spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity in order to be fully prepared to live an individual life in society.

In this context the following are implemented:

a) Provide social protection without discrimination on the basis of race, religion or origin to children who grow up in an environment inappropriate for physical and general health and are deprived of family care (orphaned, abused, children whose parents have physical or mental health problems, children in crisis, unprotected and abandoned, street children), applying a network of social welfare measures through the Child Protection Offices of the Social Welfare Centers of the Legal Entity of Public Law, (article 9 of Law 4109/2013 Government Gazette .16 / A), as well as the Papafio Thessaloniki Child Care Center (Law 4199/13 Government Gazette 216 / A).

Along with the above Legal Entity of Public Law, operate churches and charities as well as Child Welfare Unions which assist the work of the above bodies.

b) Under the authority of article 8 of Law 3961/2011 (Government Gazette 97 / A), no. 49540/2011 (Government Gazette 877 / B) Joint Ministerial Decision "Coordination of actions and services for child protection".

In the context of the application of the above Decision:

- A Juvenile Protection Team (OPA) has been set up in each municipality consisting of social workers with the aim of resolving issues that will arise in child protection issues.
- The National Child Protection Line has been established with the free use of the short number <<1107>> on a 24-hour daily basis, which operates at the National Center for Social Solidarity (NPC), which is supervised by our the Ministry.

The purpose of the Line is to provide immediate information and urgent counseling, psychological and social support to children and adolescents on issues that concern them or those are at risk and also to liaise with appropriate Child Protection Services. The above social support action ensures that the child's best interests are safeguarded.

At the same time, there is a 24-hour hotline for Social Assistance telephone number "197", which is the Service Unit of National Center for Social Solidarity, and is the main recipient of urgent social assistance requests, and is staffed by experienced, trained psychologists and social workers.

Line "197" is a National Emergency Service providing emergency counseling, psychological and social support to people and families in emergency situations and any other relevant information.

Also, according to the provisions of Law 3094/2003 (Government Gazette 10 / A), the Ombudsman's responsibilities were redefined and his mission extended to the field of protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

c) In addition, a financial support program for families is being implemented.

-The provisions of article 214 of Law 4512/2015 (Government Gazette 5 / A) "Arrangements for the Implementation of the Structural Reforms of the Financial Adjustment Program and Other Provisions", established the child allowance. The conditions and the procedure for granting the allowance were set out in D22/11/2705/58/2018 (Government Gazette 57 / B) decision of the Ministers of Interior - Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity – Finance.

d) Additional actions:

Child Access to Preschool Care and Education Units (Nursery, Nursery and Child Care Centers, Child Employment Units) as well as Children's Creative Employment Centers and Nursing Home Care for Children of vulnerable families, through the "Harmonization of Family and Work Life" action co-funded by the European Social Fund "Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning". The conditions for their inclusion in the action are set out in a Joint Ministerial Decision no. 57382 / 30.05.2019 (Government Gazette 2119 / .B ' / 2019), "Management, Evaluation, Monitoring and Control System - Procedure for Implementing the Action" Harmonizing Family and Professional Life "for the year 2019-2020".

Also, for the accommodation of children in need of a holiday, aged 6 to 16 years, there are 31 Children's Camps in accordance with the provisions of Law 749/1948 (Government Gazette 200 / Aug / 1948), as amended and supplemented thereafter

e) New institutional framework for the accession and adoption

With the introduction of Law 4538/2018 "Measures to Promote Institutions of Accession and Adoption and Other Provisions" are introduced provisions aimed at faster and more efficient management of applications for foster and prospective parents and registration of minors residing in closed care, with the aim of de-institutionalizing them.

In this context, the National Council for Accreditation and Adoption (ESYY) was set up as a collective advisory body, whose operation is regulated by no. D11 / no.57758 / 2484 of 05.11.2018 (Government Gazette 5090 / B / 14.11.2018) Decision of the Deputy Minister of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity. The aim of the Council is to support national policy in the field of underwriting and adoption to achieve the objective of de-institutionalization of minors.

In addition, it is envisaged to create a National Register of Minors which lists minors who are placed in childcare and care units or are to be placed in foster parenting or to be adopted. Articles 6 and 20 of Law 4538/2018 include arrangements for the establishment of a National Register of Foster Parents and a National Register of Parental Parents respectively, listing those who wish to become foster parents or adoptive parents.

There is also provision for follow-up training programs and continuing education programs for foster parents and adoptive parents. D11 fam. 49075/2067 and D11 No. 49074/2066 of 17.09.2018 (Government Gazette 4489 / B / 11.10.2018). At the same time, the National Register of Adopted Minors and the Special Registers of Approved Minors and the National Adoption Register are introduced.

Concessionaires will receive financial support to cover the needs of minors, as well as the possibility of insurance coverage for minors by the foster parent's insurance provider.

f) Unaccompanied Minors

Following the adoption of Law 4540/2018 (A91), according to which the Directorate-General for Social Solidarity is designated as the competent authority for the social protection of unaccompanied and separated minors, the Ministry has elaborated a legislative framework for un

accompanied committees and separated minors, which was legislated by Law 4554/2018 (A130). Under this law, ministerial decisions have been taken to regulate matters such as the Register of Unaccompanied Minors, the Register of Professional Commissioners and the Center for Hosting, as well as a decision on Professional Commissioners (defining their required formal and substantive qualifications and other details).

In these matters, our Ministry works closely with the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), its supervised body, which, under Law 4554/2018, is designated as responsible for coordination, support and evaluation of professional commissioners. Until the launch of the National Committee Program, a tripartite agreement was signed between the Ministry of Labor, Social Security & Social Solidarity, the UNHCR and the NGO METAdrasi, to implement a transitional committee program from the 1st January 2019 until the end of 2019. The National Center for Social Solidarity is a partner of the agreement through the Ministry.

This program aims to meet the needs of a committee of unaccompanied minors residing in Greece (in protective care, in Reception & Identification Centers, in hospitals, accommodation centers, semi-detached apartments and in emergency housing solutions, such as hotels and secure accommodation) and the smooth and gradual transition to the new context.

December 11th of each year is designated as World Children's Day at the UN's initiative and UNICEF, coinciding with the founding of UNICEF (11-12-1946 UN General Assembly Resolution).