

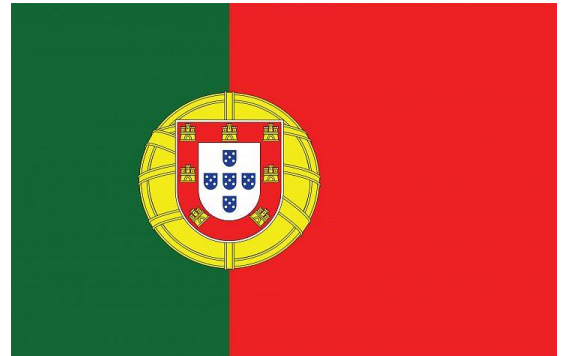
# Pledge by Portugal

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 21 September 1990

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 19 August 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 16 May 2003

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 24 September 2013



## Pledges

1. A National Council of Children and Young People will be created, within the scope of the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention by 2021.
2. The Ministry of Health intends to publish guidance for health professionals on how to promote the safe use of the digital environment by children, young people and families.
3. The Ministry of Health is translating the Council of Europe handbook: How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration.
4. The Ministry of Health is developing the extension of digital Birth News from the National Health Service to the private health system.
5. The Ministry of Health has stepped up the Safe Babies, Children and Youth Project, which aims to contribute the reduction of the child mortality and morbidity from traffic accidents, including the promotion of literacy for the safety of the pregnant woman and the safe transport of the baby.
6. The following plans are made to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention:
  - a. A special edition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols will be published and publicly presented.
  - b. National public radio and TV will broadcast a national campaign that entails a 20-second spot on the rights of the child.

- c. The Instituto de Apoio à Criança (IAC) (Child Support Institute) will organize a conference entitled “30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child” on October 29, 2019.
- d. The Ministry of Health will promote the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary actions developed at the national level by the Network of Support Centres for Children and Youth at Risk from the Primary Care and Hospitals, with the active participation of children and youth.

**1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention:**

- **What?**

A National Council of Children and Young People will be created within the scope of the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention.

The Ministry of Health, through the Directorate-General for Health, intends to publish guidance for health professionals on how to promote the safe use of the digital environment by children, young people and families.

The Ministry of Health, through the Directorate-General for Health, is translating the Council of Europe handbook: How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration - A handbook for frontline professionals.

The Ministry of Health, through the Directorate-General for Health, is developing the extension of digital Birth News from the National Health Service to the private health system.

The Ministry of Health has stepped up the Safe Babies, Children and Youth Project which aims to contribute the reduction of the child mortality and morbidity from traffic accidents, including the promotion of literacy for the safety of the pregnant woman and the safe transport of the baby. From the moment of discharge from the maternity and, at the same time, teaching about safe behaviour in the car and on the street, throughout childhood and youth.

- **Why?**

Portugal considers that the development and consolidation of participation mechanisms is paramount. As such, Portugal will continue to provide children and young people with information on their rights, as well as to deepen the multiplicity of dimensions of the participation of children and young people, including in public decision-making.

The creation of the National Council of Children and Young People is a decisive step in broadening children and young people's culture of civic intervention and participation, contributing to the realization of equal opportunities that will lead to the fulfilment of all children and young people's potential.

The main goal of the Health Action for Children and Youth at Risk is "To promote the rights of children and young people, in particular health, by preventing the occurrence of abuse, early detection of contexts, risk factors and signs, alarm, monitoring and provision of care and signalling and or referral of identified cases" (Order of the Minister of Health No. 31292/2008, of 5 December).

The Ministry of Health, through Health Action and its Support Centres for Children and Youth at Risk of the Directorate General of Health, promotes various public initiatives (national and local) to promote and protect the Rights of the Child. Specifically, in line with the Convention's 30th Anniversary Commemoration program, initiatives have been developed to promote hearing and participation of children and young people in matters that concern them and in different life contexts.

To promote the Rights of the Child in a digital environment, the Ministry of Health, through the Directorate-General for Health, intends to publish guidelines for health professionals. These guidelines are in line with the CDC and the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on how to best respect and protect the rights of the child in a digital environment (CM / Rec (2018) 7).

The translation of the Council of Europe handbook: How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration - A handbook for frontline professionals aims to provide a working tool to promote the protection of migrant children's rights in Portugal.

Digital birth news is a maternity birth notification for primary care in the child's area of residence. It provides information on pregnancy, childbirth, neonatal period and family risk assessment. It is a key tool in helping primary health care locate all newborns and guarantee their rights, including the right to vaccination and surveillance of their health. The extension to the private sector allows no children to be left behind.

- **How?**

The National Council of Children and Young People:

- Will be composed of representatives of all groups of Children and Young People, from all over the country;
- Will encompass non-formal education facilitators, who will guide reflections and discussions, which will take place during sessions, workshops and training actions, based on an empowerment perspective. Its sustainability is ensured through multiplication processes and peer education; and
- Will develop its action in order to produce recommendations with impact on public policy-making, as well as on reinforcing children's active and effective participation in the implementation phase.

The Health Action for Children and Youth at Risk implements the promotion and protection of the Rights of the Child through multidisciplinary teams that constitute the National Child Support Centres at Risk, in primary health care, maternity and in hospitals with paediatric support from the National Health Service. This Action produces an annual or biannual national report on its activity.

To promote the Rights of the Child in a digital environment, the Ministry of Health, through the Directorate-General for Health, will publish guidelines in the technical guidance format of its National Child and Youth Health Program. Thus, all primary care health professionals should apply them to all the child and youth health surveillance consultations from birth to 18 years of age.

The Council of Europe Handbook: How to pass on child-friendly information to migrant children - A handbook for frontline professionals translated and adapted into Portuguese will be circulated and made available to frontline professionals who welcome and care for children in migration.

Digital birth news will be made available to the entire health system through an online platform that enables the flow of information on pregnancy, childbirth, the neonatal period, and family-wide health risk assessment (public and private). Technical solutions are being developed to ensure that the National Data Protection Regulation is granted.

The “Babies, Children and Youth in Safety” Project is developed through a comprehensive child safety promotion policy, involving all Regional Health Administrations (ARS's), Maternity and Health Centre Groupings (ACES). The Project proposes a personalized intervention with pregnant women and their families and a community intervention, based on professional training, standardization, information production and the provision of demonstration instruments. To this end, civil society involvement and partnerships are key.

- **When?**

A call for participants will be launched on November 20, 2019.

The creation of the National Council of Children and Young People is due in 2021.

The Health Action for Children and Youth at Risk has been in existence since 2008 and will continue to be scaled up over the coming years, notably through the revision of its Handbook: “Maltreatment in Children and Youth - A Practical Guide to Approach, Diagnosis and Intervention.”, scheduled for the next 3 years. The public initiatives (national and local) developed by the Health Action for Children and Youth at Risk and the Support Centres for Children and Youth at Risk, in order to promote and protect the Rights of the Child, are traditionally held on the 1st of June of each year (commemoration of World Children's Day and the celebration of the “Declaration of the Rights of the Child”) and April (International Month for the Prevention of Child Abuse).

Guidelines for promoting the rights of the child in a digital environment will be published in 2019.

The Council of Europe Handbook: How convey child-friendly information to children in migration- A handbook for frontline professionals translated and adapted into Portuguese will be released and made available to health professionals in 2019.

Digital birth news will be made available to the entire healthcare system over the next 5 years and is in the requirements assessment phase.

The Safe Babies, Children and Youth Project has been running since 2011 and it will be extended till 2020.

- **Who?**

The National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People will be leading this action.

The Health Action for Children and Youth at Risk is a National Action of the Ministry of Health, involving all health units of the National Health Service where children and young people are cared for. This is monitored and evaluated by the Directorate-General for Health.

The Guidelines for Promoting the Rights of the Child in a Digital Environment are an initiative of the Directorate-General for Health and are addressed to health professionals from National Health Service institutions that implement child and youth health surveillance by 18 years.

The Council of Europe Handbook: “How to Pass Child Friendly Information to Migrant Children - A Handbook for First-Line Professionals” translated and adapted into Portuguese will be disseminated and made available to all health professionals by the Directorate-General of the Health, therefore, involving all units of the National Health Service that can provide care for children and youth.

The process of extending digital birth news to the entire health system will be implemented and monitored by the Directorate-General for Health and will be technically developed by the Ministry of Health's Shared Services.

The Safe Babies, Children and Youth Project represents a collaboration between the Directorate-General for Health, Dorel Portugal, Fundación MAPFRE and the Association for the Promotion of Child Safety (APSI). This will directly involve all Regional Health Administrations (ARS's), Maternities and Health Centre Groups (ACES).

## 2) **We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention:**

Among other actions, the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People plans to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention through:

- The publication and public presentation of a special edition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols; and through

- A national campaign that entails a 20-second spot on the rights of the Child, which will be broadcasted on national public radio and TV.

Instituto de Apoio à Criança (IAC) (Child Support Institute): “30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child” conference held on October 29, 2019 at the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian.

The Ministry of Health, through the Health Action for Children at Risk, will promote the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through actions developed at a national level by the Network of Support Centres for Children and Youth at Risk from the Primary care and Hospitals, with the active participation of children and youth in accordance with the guidelines of the Global Action on the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - “A global pledge: For every child, every right”.