



Child Rights Centre

Press Release

Belgrade, November 20, 2016 - on the occasion of 20 November, the date when in 1989 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the most important document in this field, **the Child Rights Centre wishes to draw attention to two important problems the Republic of Serbia is facing.**

- **The Republic of Serbia still lacks the Council for the Rights of the Child**, which would have the task of initiating measures for the harmonisation of policies of the Government in the areas relating to children (health, education, culture, social affairs), starting measures to build a comprehensive and coherent policy towards children and proposing the policy of realisation of the rights of the child in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as monitoring of realisation and protection of child rights in our country.
- At the same time, **the Republic of Serbia does not have a comprehensive document which determines state policy towards children.** There used to be a National Plan of Action for Children adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in 2004, which was in force until 2015. The Government has not done even the initial steps in the formulation and adoption of a new policy towards children.

These problems were pointed by the European Commission in the Progress Report of the Republic of Serbia for 2016, published on 9 November.

We believe that operational Council for Child Rights and comprehensive document that clearly defines the state policy towards children are two key prerequisites for taking any other measures that contribute to the advancement of child rights and improvement of the conditions in which children in Serbia live and grow up.

On the occasion of 27 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child Rights Centre, as the association of citizens, calls on the State to lead the processes that are necessary to solve priority problems, especially given the fact that the population of children in Serbia, according to the population census of the Republic of Serbia in 2011, decreased for the first time compared to those older than 65.