

Annual Report 2022



Forward

Greetings to all our supporters, partners, and advocates,

Every day we bear witness to the spread of violence and abuse against children. Today, violence against children can occur in any context. In addition to the challenges they continue to face in terms of health, nutrition and education, children today have to contend with new threats such as climate change, online abuse and cyberbullying. As an organization whose action is focused on the rights of the child, we are constantly developing new programs in order to cover as many needs as we can.

We are never complacent and we do not limit our programs, as we recognize that our role is important for society, with the aim of both preventing and addressing violence against children, which requires a systematic effort to limit risks and find protective factors.

The pages of this annual report stand as a testament to the unwavering dedication and collective efforts that have brought us closer to realizing our vision.

With every challenge we face and every hurdle we overcome, we are reminded of the incredible resilience that resides within each child we serve. Over the past year, we have extended our reach even further, touching the lives of countless children in need.

Our collaborations with local communities, governments, and like-minded organizations have amplified our efforts, reinforcing the idea that progress is most impactful when we stand together.

To all those who have contributed to our cause, I extend my deepest gratitude. With your continuous support we can expand our efforts and programs to build a better future for all children.

Joseph Borghese

Joseph Borghese
"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center Founder



About us

"Hope for Children" CRC Policy Center is an **International Humanitarian** and Independent Institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Our institution is established on standards and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the



Our vision

We envision a world where every child has access to education, healthcare, and a safe environment to thrive.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide support, protection, and opportunities for children facing poverty, abuse, neglect, and other violations, and achieve positive change in their lives.



FOSTER CARE SEXUAL ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN

JUVENILE JUSTICE

BULLYING

CHILD & YOUTH PARTICIPATION



MAIN AREAS OF ACTION



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

INTEGRATION
OF
VULNERABLE
CHILDREN
& YOUTH

CAPACITY
BUILDING FOR
PROFESSIONALS
WORKING WITH
CHILDREN

CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTIONS



Child Protection

- Multidisciplinary structure for sexually abused children
- -Holistic Support to Unaccompanied Children
- -Evaluation & Support Services to foster parents
- -Psychological/legal/social services to children
- -Non-formal Educational activities
- -Awareness raising actions
- -Operation of helplines on 24/7

Research & Policy

- Coordinate & Implement
 EU & International projects,
 in cooperation with external partners
- -Research initiatives on child rights issues
- -Lobbying & Advocacy for improvement of laws and policies related to children
- -Capacity building for more effective and coordinated child protection mechanisms.

Hope For Children launches 'milestone' operation in USA

HFC achieved a new **milestone** in its history, the inauguration of its USA operations in New York.

At the inaugration event, the Organization was honored by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Vice-President of UNICEF, the Chief of Office of UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Ambassadors, Counsels, Deputy Permanent Representatives to the UN, businesspeople, academics and media representatives.

HFC USA goals include: to serve as a hub to coordinate promotional and fundraising activities targeting private donors in the US for the support of the humanitarian programs of the organization in Cyprus; to coordinate the activities of HFC in the US through the cooperation with international agencies, universities and other stakeholders, and the participation in research and development projects that aim to exchange and identify best practices in the field of child protection between the EU and the US.



Unveiling of the Plaque by Mr. Joseph Borghese, HFC Founder, and H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynár, Vice-President of UNICEF,

The establishment of HFC USA was achieved with the financial assistance of the Patti and Everett B. Birch Foundation.





FOSTER CARE for children under the care of the Social Welfare Services

933

families received HFC's services since the start of the program in 2017



332

families received evaluation services, social and psychological support, material aid, training, access to support groups and workshops.



Through the Hope For Children **Helpline 1466**, the professionals of HFC are available on a **24-hour basis**, any day, to provide support to foster parents.



On advocacy level: HFC contributed to the drafting of the **new Foster Care Bill**, coordinated by the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare

The total number of families involved in the foster care institution increased to approximately **50%** in 2022.



However, the need for more foster families is still urgent.

4,779

Children in private & public Schools across Cyprus were trained through **Non-Formal Education** on issues related to their **protection**

439

Children were referred to the **Children's House** only in 2022 for cases related to **sexual abuse**



Parents were trained on child protection issues



+80

Teachers received trainings on child protection issues

+60.000

Children were reached through awareness campaigns



Unaccompanied Children were offered **accommodation** and specialized support services



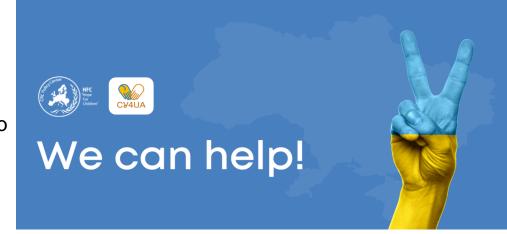




RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS - SUPPORT TO UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Always responding to **humanitarian crisis** and showing sensitivity and solidarity towards Ukrainian adults and children who have been affected by the war in Ukraine, Hope For Children together with the network CY4UA supportedmore than **700 people**, Ukrainian children and families that are stranded in Cyprus because of the war. The support provided involves:

- -Provision of basic needs items, medical supplies clothing and food to families;
- -Free psychological, social and legal support services including individual needs assessment, support to secure accommodation, facilitation to access health and government services, access of children to education, implementation of psycho-social activities for children and covering of other needs occurring for every case individually.



Legal Affairs Parliamentary Committee visits HFC



During the meeting the discussion focused on the progress achieved regarding the multidisciplinary management of cases of sexual abuse against children after the establishment of the Children's House with the active involvement of all relevant Ministries, the present challenges faced, and the possible ways of cooperation with the Legal Affairs Parliamentary Committee.



Policy & Advocacy

Hope For Children participates at the 1st Barnahus Forum



"Hope For Children' CRC Policy Center participated in the 1st Barnahus Forum held in Stockholm, Sweden, organized by the PROMISE Barnahus Network and the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The forum, titled '**Tell me more about that,'** brought together over 170 professionals from various organizations and agencies from 22 countries.

Hope For Children is a founding member of the European network 'PROMISE Barnahus Network' and actively participates in the network's activities aimed at further developing specialization and knowledge exchange for the handling of cases of violence against children and the operation of the 'Children's House'.

Side-event on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children, organized in the margins of the 77th General Assembly of the United Nations.

Policy & Advocacy

The side-event was organized by HFC, the Republic of Cyprus and the United Arab Emirates in cooperation with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Violence against Children and the Council of Europe.

This virtual event gave us the opportunity not only to shine a light on this important issue, but also to reflect on the trends, challenges and responses to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.



Virtual side-event organized by the Republic of Cyprus and the United Arab Emirates

in cooperation with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Violence against Children and the Council of Europe and,

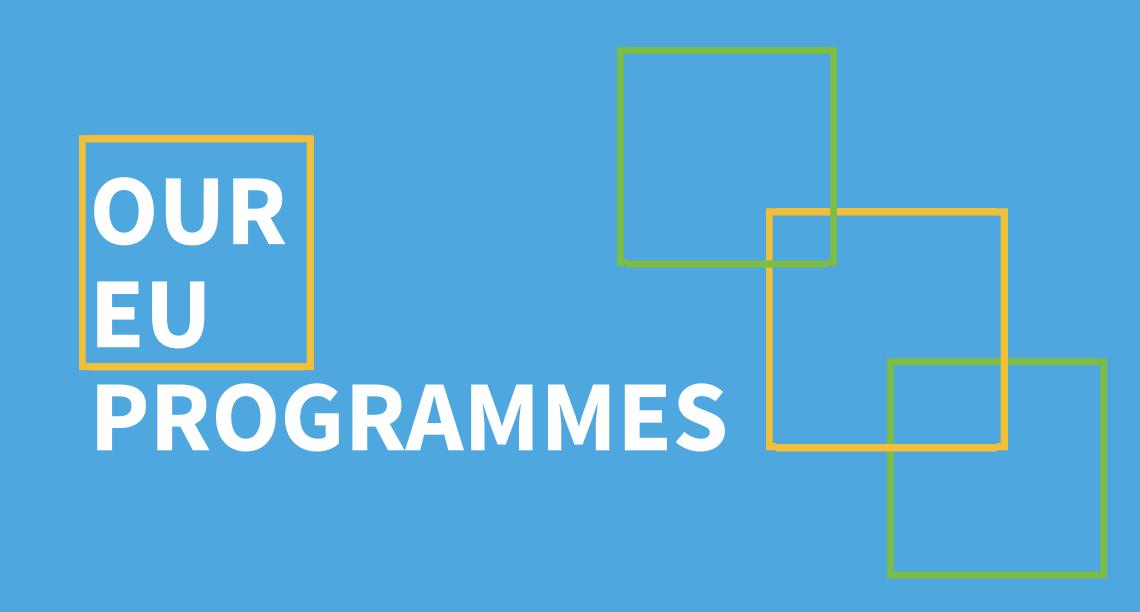
in partnership with "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center

In the margins of UNGA 77 High Level Week, New York

Link: https://mfacyprus.webex.com/mfacyprus/j.php?MTID=mef73dfba0211df52da4163381e7f7f96

Join by the Webinar number (access code): 2731 582 6006 Webinar password: sideevent2022 (74333836 from phones)

The digital environment, constitutes an intricate and rapidly changing world that is reshaping children's lives in many ways, providing them with new opportunities but also exposing them to risks. The dramatic increase in online sexual exploitation and abuse of children is no longer a worrying trend, but a problem whose scale and complexity causes enormous individual and societal harm.



BIGTIME TAKEOVER

The project aims at empowering young people to use their creativity and the potential of technology in positive ways to express themselves on issues that affect directly their lives. By applying the takeover methodology, it offers the opportunity to young people to develop innovative solutions, foster intercultural understanding, promote community cohesion and youth participation.

Youth Powerpack: Launch of a digital educational tool created by a team of young creatives that illustrates the steps to turn creative ideas into practice.

Learning mobility activity: 2 creative youth and 1 youth arts educator from Cyprus participated in a training in Matera, Italy, to build capacity, develop active citizenship and deepen civic participation.

CARE

The project aims at investigating the trauma that children may experience during the processes of investigation, removal and out-of-home placement and effective ways to reduce it. It promotes inter-sectoral coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding public among authorities, NGOs and educational institutions trauma-informed on responses to adverse childhood experiences during these processes.

National awareness raising events:

Implementation of an awareness raising campaing and training sessions to inform schools and communities about the possible traumatic experience of children undergoing home removal and presentation of effective practices to minimize the risk of re-retraumatizion.

Final Transnational Conference: 2 HFC professionals presented the project results during the CARE international conference in Athens, Greece.

CHILDREN DIGICORE

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Children Digi CORE App: Release of a web-App that enables children to report violations of their own rights or those of their peers directly to the Ombudsperson for Children of the Piedmont (Region).

Mid Term Plenary Consortium Meeting:

Organization of a transnational meeting in Cyprus with representatives from all partners, members of the co-design team and the Ombusdperson for children of the Piedmont region, Italy.

CIRCUS A.C.T.

The project aims at empowering young people to use their creativity and the potential of technology in positive ways to express themselves on issues that affect directly their lives. By applying the takeover methodology, it offers the opportunity to young people to develop innovative solutions, foster intercultural understanding, promote community cohesion and youth participation.

Kick-off meeting: Start of the project done in a hybrid format meeting from Nicosia, with the participation of all partners in January.

Curriculum for Youth Workers: Creation of the educational tool from the project consortium to guide youth workers on Social Circus.

e-Learning platform: Creation of the platform from STANDO IT team with the support of the rest of the partners. .

COMMIT

The project aims to stimulate the engagement of migrant communities and diasporas in Europe enhancing children's rights. It does so by mobilizing resources and strengthening the skills and knowledge of community leaders, migrant parents and children to create a safe environment for children's development and well-being. The project adopts a community-based and intercultural approach and addresses racism, discrimination and social exclusion.

European Migrant School on the Rights of the Child: Local implementation of a capacity building training addressed to 30 people with migrant background to enhance their knowledge on children's rights.

e-Learning course: Content development and release of a MOOC targeting members of diaspora associations and migrant individuals to build their capacity on children's rights and child protection.

Children's Diaspora Laboratories: Implementation of community-based and participatory laboratories with migrant and refugee children in Nicosia and Larnaca.

ESC

The European program offers young people (17-30) the opportunity to volunteer on projects throughout Europe, and the chance to gain practical experience and express personal commitment through full-time volunteering abroad. At HFC, work in the the Humanitarian Division and the Research & Development Division. It addresses the need for social inclusion and interaction, cultural awareness and acquisition of specialized knowledge and skills in the field of children's rights and unaccompanied minors.

International volunteer team: 2 young volunteers from Italy joined HFC team to volunteer at the R&D Division and in the humanitarian programs.

HUMANNESS

It is a transnational project which includes a Ugandan partner. It aims to provide methods and instruments to help underprivileged young people living in challenging environments to integrate into society and develop their skills through their engagement in civic and social activities. The initiative strives to enhance chances for knowledge sharing between European organizations and African professionals related to social cohesion & development, democracy, and inclusivity through the promotion of intercultural discourse and peer-to-peer contact.

Kick-off meeting: Start of the project done in a hybrid format meeting from Rome, with the participation of all partners in December 2022.

FA.B!

The project aims at supporting the improvement and expansion of quality alternative family-based care system for unaccompanied migrant children. It does so by transferring and disseminating knowledge about promising practices, methodologies and tools for providing quality family practices and improving the skills of professionals involved in the family system.

Training Course for Professionals:

National training event with professionals where they were informed about alternative-based care, handling challenging situations and self-care.

Learning Sessions for Foster Parents:

Presentation of the foster care programme to potential foster parents and providing them with important information on the topic.

Informative Sessions with UMs: Providing the young UMs residing in shelters in Cyprus with information about their human rights and opportunities they have as children.

Living Library: Local sessions where young migrant children shared their stories about how they reached Cyprus with the participants.

Participation Training Workshops with UMs: Implementation of workshops in shelters in Nicosia and Larnaca about the participation of young UMs in society, their rights and obligations.

Final Sharing Experience in Rome: Took place between 8-9/06/2022 where 3 people attended from the HFC staff, informed about the reception and alternative-based care services offered in Italy while sharing practises followed in Cyprus.

FORM

It is a transnational project that aims to bring together scientific knowledge and experience for the empowerment and inclusion of unaccompanied minors and their foster families. The project aspires to develop a model guide, providing training for professional foster care workers in the provision of therapeutic care for refugee minors and their foster families, and the transferability of acquired knowledge to improve the service provided to target groups.

Kick-off meeting: The project kicked off in March 2022 in Ghent, Belgium, with the participation of all partners.

MICREATE

The project aimed to stimulate the inclusion of migrant children by adopting a child-entred approach to their integration at the educational and policy level. Existing measures for the integration of migrant children at the regional and local level were identified through case studies in ten countries applying qualitative and quantitative child-centred research; and developed integration measures and identification of social investment particularly in educational policies and school systems that aim to empower children.

Seminars for teachers and policy laboratories: Delivery of informative sessions to encourage the inclusion of migrant children in schools by adopting a child-centered approach to their integration at the educational and policy level.

Final Conference: Conclusion of the project in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where all project results were presented.

PROMISE III

The project aims to ensure a systematic, accelerated, and sustainable effort to train workers and facilitate professional exchange across Europe on the protection of children's rights. Activities include establishment of a European Competence Centre providing training to enable staff to practice in line with law, guidance and the Barnahus Quality standards: reinforcement of a European professional network; rolling-out a case management tool to facilitate MDIA case management and capture comparable European data; and others.

Several training opportunities: Diverse training sessions including those in child forensic interviews with specific modules focusing on challenging situations, such as interviewing small children and those with special needs.

REBOOT NOW

The projects seeks to prevent gender-based violence among children and young people. It does so designing and settling measures and educational activities in schools that support wellbeing, mental health, and the capacity of young people to develop healthy relationships, and implements psychological counselling desks at schools to aid in the recovery of children and families from challenges caused by measures taken to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It also helps schools and families in the prevention and identification of at-risk cases of teen dating violence.

Kick-off meeting: The project kicked off in April 2022 in Palermo, Italy, with the participation of all partners.

Training course for service providers: Implementation of a training for professionals to improve capacity on how to deliver a support service tailored to the emerging needs, preventing teen dating violence and building healthy and safe relationships, online and offline.

Itinerant school counselling desks: Delivery of psychosocial support interventions for children and families, to concretely support well-being and healthy relationships of children.

RISIV

The project consists in a transnational partnership between France, Spain, Portugal, the UK, Italy and Cyprus, that provides a new model of social inclusion through youth participation in local and structured social impact projects (SIPs). The goal is to design, test, validate new guidelines and support material for youth workers, youth leaders, and young people aged 13-17 to co-produce, implement and evaluate locality-based volunteering projects for social impact.

Curriculum for Youth Workers: Focuses on co-production and mobilization concepts and techniques for youth workers to support young people to run social impact projects in local communities.

Learning mobility activity for youth workers: 2 youth workers from Cyprus participated in a training in Logroño, Spain, to test the educational material created.

Resource Pack for youth leaders: Creation and release of the Resource Pack for youth leaders which includes guidance, tips and tricks for the young people to run social impact projects.

Learning mobility activity for young people: 3

young people and 1 youth worker from Cyprus participated in a week-long training in Ovar, Portugal. The training focused on developing leadership skills and devising social impact projects through the implementation of non-formal education activities.

TEAM UP

The project aims to improve the psychological wellbeing of conflict-affected children aged 6-18. It does so by structured play and movement-based activities provided by trained facilitators. During weekly TeamUp sessions, children become aware of how their body works as well as how to engage with and trust in others. We communicate through play and movement, rather than verbal cues, so that all children can participate even if they don't share a common language

Training of Facilitators: 2 HFC professionals participated in a training delivered by War Child Holland to build capacity on the Team Up methodology.

TeamUp School Sessions: Implementation of structured play and movement-based activities with refugee and migrant children in schools in Nicosia and Larnaca.

TYF22

The project aimed at empowering young adults (16-30) with migrant background by researching, discussing, and to tangibly contributing to policy reforms at national and European level regarding the challenges of their integration in the educational system. Led by "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, in Nicosia, universities and organizations from Italy, Portugal, and France, researched and discussed with key stakeholders in their local contexts to reveal the problems in the systems and find long term solutions to prevent early abandonment of schools, absenteeism and losing of motivation to pursue further studies/higher education.

Final Report "Climate Change, Global Concerns and the Rights of Future Generations": Publication of a collective outcome that details the current challenges related to the Climate Crisis and provides the general audience with accurate and up-to-date information about its detrimental impact on the Human Rights of Future Generations from different perspectives.

Transnational Youth Forum: The event brought together youth, professors and policymakers from different European countries to foster debate, promote youth participation and raise awareness on the interlinkages between Climate Change and the Rights of Future Generations.

YCREATE

The project aims to support young people in counteracting hate speech and violence, disinformation, and misinformation targeted at minorities and vulnerable communities through creative, arts-based, participatory, and digital activities that foster and strengthens active citizenship and socially responsible actions at local level.

YCreate Curriculum Programme: Developed to support youth workers, tutors and community arts facilitators across Europe, including modular-based learning materials and pedagogical guidance, a comprehensive Competency Framework and a matrix of what is required in terms of Knowledge, Skills, Attitude.

Peer Mentoring Community Action Enables **Toolkit:** peer mentors to intervene in a cultural and artistic way with children, and youth to counteract speech. behaviour hate and misinformation towards minorities and vulnerable groups identifying social and economic challenges and acting upon them in periods of crisis by using creative digital resources.

Learning mobility activity: 3 young people and 1 youth worker from Cyprus participated in the training in Arnhem, the Netherlands where they gathered knowledge and practices on the development and implementation of the creative participatory action intervention.

OUR FINANCES

OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Income 2022



- National Funds
- EU Funds
- Other Donations





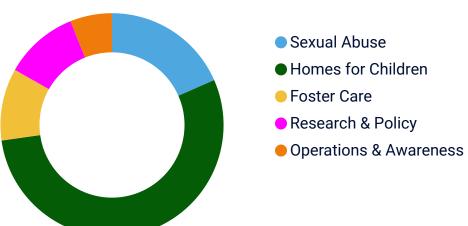
Joseph Borghese, Founder



Andria Neocleous,
Director of
Humanitarian
Division



Andria
Angastiniotou,
Humanitarian Division
Deputy Director





Pinar Zubaroglu-Ioannides, Director of Research & Development Division



Evridiki Georgiou, Operations Manager

Senior Advisory Board Members



Dimitris Ioannides



Emily Yiolitis



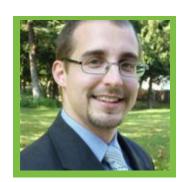
Irena Georgiadou



Efi Kammitsi Eliades



Basil Polemitis



Dr. Arnold Kammel



Dr. Ema Sofia Leitão



Dr. Isabelle Ioannides



Dr. Antonios St. Stylianou



Elena Louroutziati



Maria Luisa de Bivar Black



Olga Themeli

International Presence



Observer Status at the Council of Europe's Lanzarote Committee

Cooperating partner of the CoE for the One in Five Campaign

Participatory
Status at the
CoE's Conference
of INGOs

Member of Child Helpline International

Observer Status at the CoE's Children's Rights Committee

Member of
Missing Children
Europe

Member of Destination Unknown Campaign

Member of Anna Lindh Foundation Euromed Network

International Affiliations

National Focal
Point for the
European Juvenile
Justice
Observatory

Participant in the FRA's Fundamental Rights Platform

Founding Member of PROMISE
Barnahus Network

Founding Member of European Guardianship Network

Founder and Member of INTEGRA Network



116111 - European Helpline for Children and Adolescents:

Provides direct psychosocial support to children/adolescents free and confidentially.

Monday-Friday: 12:00pm-08:00pm Saturday: 09:30am-02:00pm

Child Abduction Alert:

HFC in cooperation with SPAVO operates the child alert mechanism in Cyprus.

- A) enables all relevant stakeholders to cooperate and work under a unified system to enhance the efforts of the police to trace missing children and combat this phenomenon.
- B) mandate from Cyprus Police to operate the child alert system in Cyprus.

National Helpline for Children and Families - 1466

Provides psychological, social and legal support, counselling and guidance for matters related to child protection.

Operates 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, free of charge

116000 - European Hotline for Missing Children:

A tool for:

- the prevention and handling of missing children cases;
- the access to support services for relatives of missing children;
- the coordination with authorities and NGOs at national and international level.

