

# Annual Report 2021



# About us

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“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 European Union Law.



# Our vision

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We contribute to the **protection** and **promotion** of the rights of the child and we support the active participation of youth in society.

# Our Mission

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Our aim is to **raise awareness** and to **promote respect** towards all cultures and religions within society.



WHO

WE

ARE

# Humanitarian Division

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WHAT

WE

DO

**-Children's House:** Child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency model for Sexually Abused Children. The services provided are: Social Support & Rehabilitation, Forensic Interview, Multidisciplinary / Multi-thematic cooperation, Medical Examinations, Family Therapy, Psychological Evaluation, Psychological Support & Therapy.;

**-Children's Shelter:** holistic support to Unaccompanied Children - Accommodation, Rehabilitation & Integration services. It operates in collaboration with Social Welfare Services;

**- Social Work Department:** It records the social history of the minors and follows up their care plan (socio-economic aspect);

**- Child Protection Department:** It offers information to the minors about the steps of their international protection application, their rights and obligations;

**- Education & Awareness Department:** it addresses the basic needs of child development and provides extracurricular activities;

**- Psychology Department:** it manages psychological support, holistic care and crisis intervention;

**- Foster Care Department:** it identifies and assesses potential foster parents to undertake the care of children who are under the legal guardianship of the State; provides 24/7 support to foster parents.

## Research & development division

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Its primary mandate is to:

- Undertake and coordinate **EU projects** and research initiatives, also in cooperation with external partners.
- Contribute to research initiatives of partners and other stakeholders on **child rights issues**.
- Analyse laws and policies related to children and identify areas for advocacy and/or research.



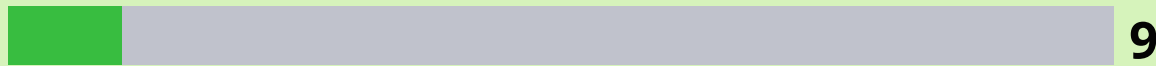
**OUR  
IMPACT  
2021**



# 218

Total Number of **Foster Families** who received social and psychological support, material aid and the chance to attend in training, support groups and workshops.

## Ammochostos



## Nicosia



## Larnaca



## Limassol



## Paphos



Number of Foster Families supported in each District in 2021

# 139

Total Number of evaluations of **Foster Families applicants**



## Ammochostos



## Nicosia



## Larnaca



## Limassol



## Paphos



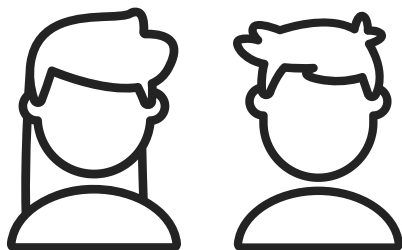
Number of Evaluations of Foster Families applicants in each District in 2021

# 788

Children in Schools across Cyprus were trained by Hope for Children on issues related to their protection in 2021

# 481

Children were referred to the **Children's House** in 2021



# 45

Parents were trained by Hope for Children from September to December 2021



# 30

Teachers received Hope for Children's trainings from September to December 2021

# 60.000

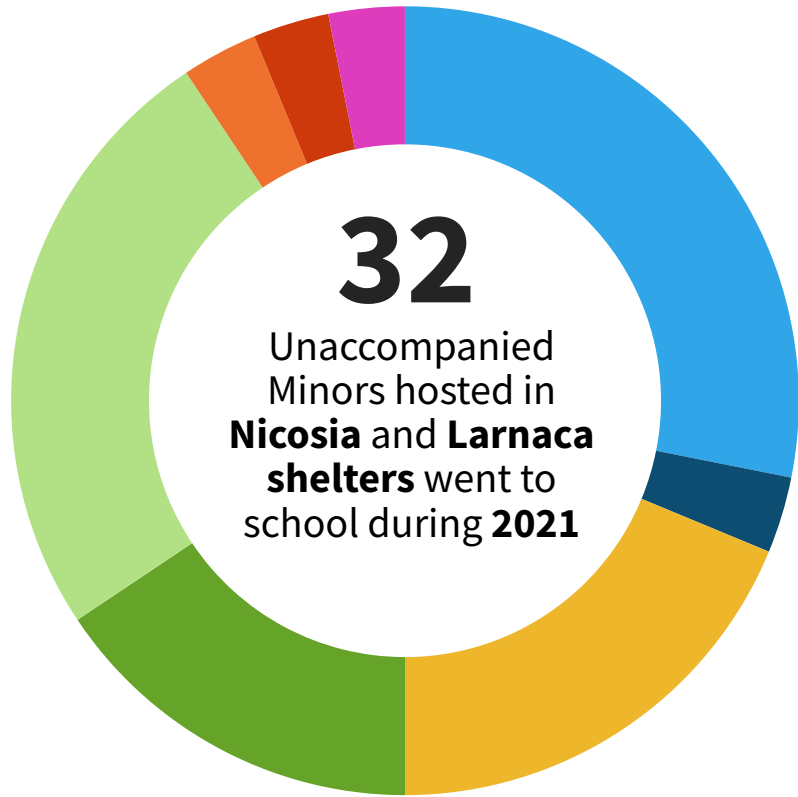
Children in schools were reached through awareness campaigns

# 110

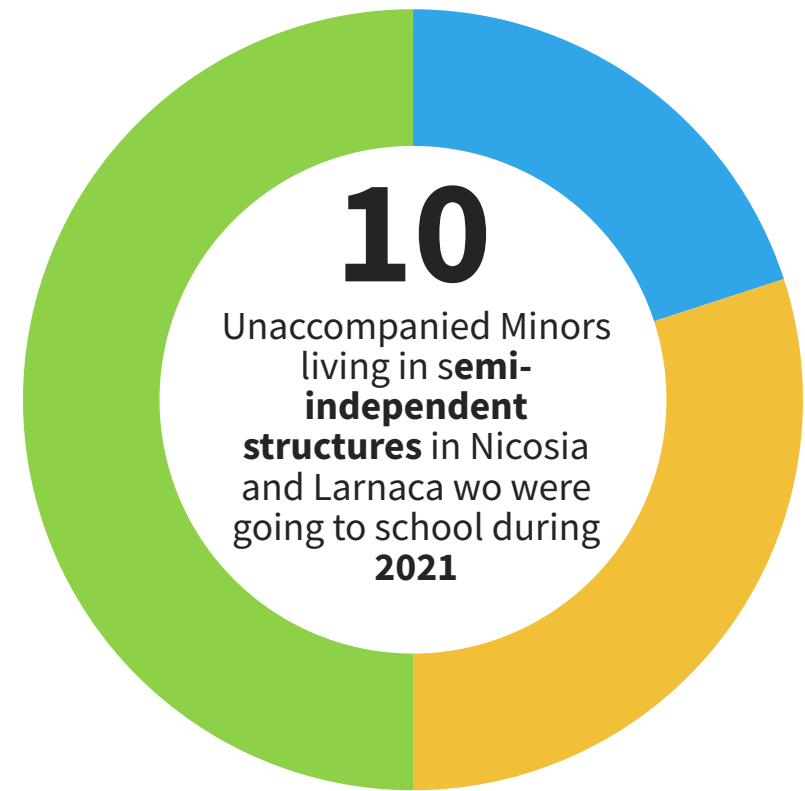
Unaccompanied Children were offered **accommodation** and specialized support services in 2021

## IN NUMBERS





- Syria
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- Congo
- Guinea
- Gambia
- Cameroon
- Ivory Coast



- Somalia
- Syria
- Guinea

**24/01/2021**

Hope for Children has honored the **International Day of Education** proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

**28/01/2021**

Participating in **Children First - International Conference** on Dating Violence with Tania Masia Coordinator – Psychotherapist

**13/02/2021**

Hope for Children and CY-Educational Services organized the online workshop **“School Bullying”**

**20/02/2021**

Participating in the **online event** of Papavassiliou Educational about domestic violence, ways to support the victims

**08/03/2021**

Participating in the initiative “Choose to Challenge aimed at raise awareness regarding inequalities and discriminations against women.



**RAISE AWARENESS**



**30/03/2021**

Online Conference, "Child-friendly procedures in cases of international child abduction"

**30/03/2021**

Participating in the 31st virtual meeting of the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe with the status of the Observer.

**16/07/2021**

Experiential workshop on diversity at the Avgorou Multipurpose Center

**27/07/2021**

An experiential workshop on anger management was held at the Augorou Multipurpose Center

**11/10/2021**

Conference about the impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic on children's well-being**: the conference aimed to explore the impact of the pandemic on children's welfare and mental health.



**23/02/2021**

Participated at the 2nd Field Experience **Event** to support the improvement and expansion of the **alternative family-based care system** for unaccompanied migrant children

**19/04/2021**

The children and the ambassadors of the children's rights, took the reins of the discussion and shared their feelings during the pandemic, the return to school (**Conference about the impact of the COVID-19**)

**02/06/2021**

**Children's rights ambassadors** from The American International School in Cyprus AISC - Private School, Nicosia **designed a face mask dedicated to foster care**, contributing this way to the efforts of HFC to raise awareness on the foster care institution

**23/03/2021**

**Children's rights Ambassadors** from the American International school in Cyprus AISC presented their upcoming campaign which will be implemented with the support of Strovolos Municipality. The campaign aims to **promote Children's Rights in all schools in Nicosia**

**02/06/2021**

Children's rights Ambassadors from The American International School in Cyprus AISC - Private School, Nicosia hosted an awareness & fundraising **activity to promote the Foster Care institution in Cyprus**

**04/06/2021**

**Ambassadors** from the American International School in Cyprus AISC - Private School, Nicosia **met with Zorbas Bakeries** to present their campaign on Children's Rights & Responsibilities

**09/2021**

HFC Children's Right's Ambassador Kasra Muot from the The American International School in Cyprus AISC - Private School, Nicosia met with members of the Ministry of Education Cyprus to discuss the **distribution of the Passport of children's rights**

**CHILD PARTICIPATION**

**23/09/2021**

Hope For Children participated in the information day of the HOPEFUL program "Inclusion of children with a migrant background in school: Tools for teachers"



**CRC Campus Club:** non-formal education programme on human peer support groups for the prevention of addiction in gambling games for students

**11/2021**

Training volunteers of KSOP Cyprus Family Planning Association - KSOP / Cyprus FPA for the staffing of the 1455 line was successfully carried out

# NON FORMAL EDUCATION

**09/2021**

Experiential workshops held at Xylofagos Regional High School on the subject of school bullying

**One in Five Campaign:** workshops on prevention of sexual abuse using the material of the Council of Europe

**24/12/2021**

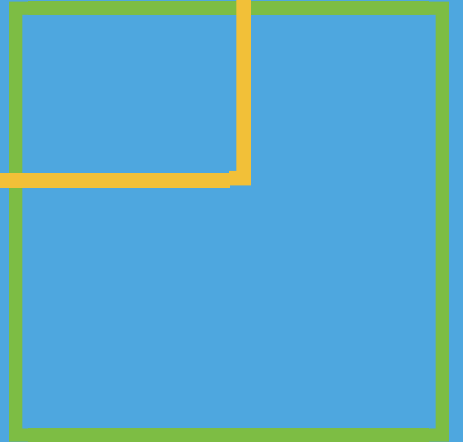
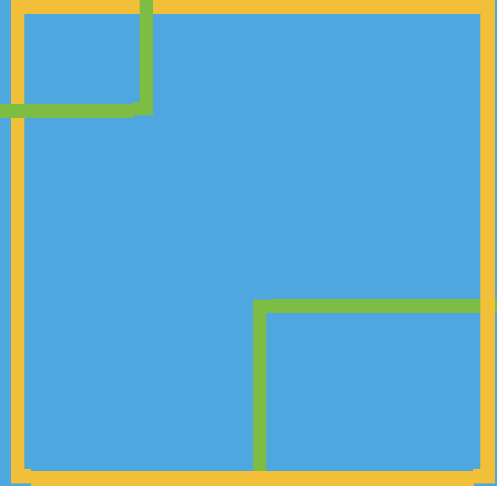
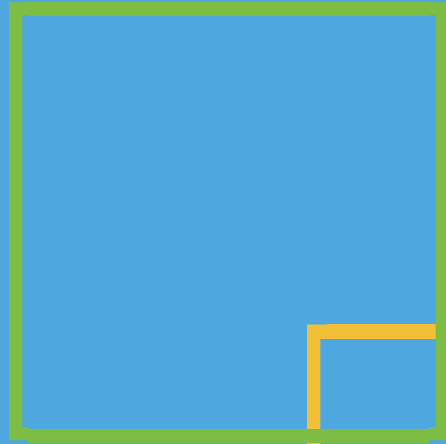
Team from the Nicosia Shelter attended two workshops, researching the destabilizing effects of Climate Change

**Beat Bullying** peer to peer support and education groups in schools



**OUR  
EU**

**PROGRAMMES**



## BIG TIME TAKEOVER

It is a European Project that aims at empowering young people to use their creativity and the technology in positive ways and making positive change in youth's local environment.

**June 2021:** start of the project with partners from 5 countries: Italy, Cyprus, UK, North Macedonia and Poland

**July 2021 – December 2021:** Preparation & finalization of a toolkit designed together with Youth Art Educators.

## MEDIS

### Mediterranean Inclusive School

It has been a programme consisting of different phases carrying out to strengthen and consolidate social cohesion, intercultural education and local language in a multilingual framework of newly arrived migrants at primary and secondary schools through the Mediterranean Inclusive Schools Programme.

**March 2021:** First and second round of the piloting activities.

In total MEDIS partnership has reached 90 schools, 167 trainers and 1488 students.

### **06 July 2021: Final conference**

Partners of 6 European countries had presented policy recommendations, outcomes of the project and good practices implemented.

## YCREATE

It is a project that aims to equip young people to counteract hate speech and violent behavior, disinformation and misinformation (offline and online) targeted at minorities and vulnerable communities. Through creative, art-based, participatory, and digital activities YCREATE wants to promote the civic and social participation of young people and strengthen their support to the local community.

**August 2021:** Start to develop YCreate curriculum programme.

**21-22 October 2021:** First partnership meeting that took place in Rome, Italy. Partners had the opportunity to get to know each other and discuss the continuation of the project.

## TRANSNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM 2022

### Climate Change, Global Concerns and impact on the Rights of the Future Generations

It is a project funded by Erasmus+ Programme which aims to encourage mutual dialogue on Climate Change and its inextricable link with the violation of the Rights of Future Generations.

**16 March 2021:** 40 students from Cyprus, Portugal, Italy and UK had participated in a workshop presenting the Final Report “Climate Change, Global Concerns and the Rights of future generations”, preparing policy-recommendations and advocacy actions.

### 17 March 2021 - Final Conference:

The participants discussed the project's outcomes with local environmental, youth NGO's experts and decision-makers.

## FA.B!

### Family Based care for Children in Migration

It is a transnational project with partners from Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Spain and Greece aimed at supporting the improvement and expansion of quality alternative family-based care system for unaccompanied migrant children.

**24-25 June 2021: 2nd Field Experience event** in Malta that aim to support the improvement and expansion of the alternative family-based care system for unaccompanied migrant children.

**29-30 July 2021: 3rd Sharing Experience Event** in Nicosia, Cyprus hosted by HFC aiming to present the opportunities & challenges of the local family-based care system for Unaccompanied Migrant Children.

**16-17 September 2021: 4th Sharing Experience Event** in Athens, Greece. The participants had the opportunity to hear about how the Greek system works regarding unaccompanied Minors and what steps are taken towards the implementation of family-based care.

**14-15 October 2021: Final event of the Sharing experience** that took place in Madrid, Spain. Partners heard about how the system works for Unaccompanied Minors (UMs).

**14-15/12/2021:** Training course for professionals about family-based care & unaccompanied minors.

## RISIV

### Regenerate, Innovate: Social Impact Volunteering for Youth

It is a project that aims at providing an innovative model of social inclusion through youth participation in community service. By designing and validating new support material for youth workers, RISIV provides a better preparation for young people involved in volunteering or internships experiences.

### 23-24 November 2021 - First Transnational Partnership Meeting:

Two representatives of Hope for Children traveled to France to discuss with the partners further steps towards the implementation of the project.

### November 2021 - Developed the RISIV Pedagogy Roadmap:

The roadmap has combined the theory behind the RISIV pedagogy and the practical elements that require the expertise of professionals in the field. This enabled the project partners to individuate a precise set of skills for youth workers and young volunteers working on SIPs (Social Impact projects) that can help professionals to rely on this material when developing a social impact project in their local communities.

Every partner has conducted a variety of interviews and focus group in their countries with their corresponding target groups. 22 young people and 24 professionals have contributed to determine which competences and skills they wanted to develop.

# CARE

## Leaving with care – Living with care

It aims at investigating what is the trauma that children may experience during the process of investigation, removal and out-of-home placement. By improving skills of first responders (such as social workers, police officers and helpline operators) CARE works towards to reduce the trauma that children may encounter during these processes.

### 02 February 2021 - 2nd transnational meeting

The project partners made an overview of all their actions and discussed the training needs of the professionals of the “front line” bodies for developing a range of trauma-centered approaches at EU level.

# BASE

## Migrant and refugee child-friendly support services in cases of sexual and gender-based violence

It addresses the need to counteract GBV against refugee/migrant girls through the development and sustainability of strategies to nurture inclusive communication and a culture of trust between support service professionals, victims, families and communities, thus preventing victim re-traumatization and encouraging reporting of GBV.

### 12 February 2021 - “Migrant Women Empowerment in Cyprus society” online event:

HFC had presented BASE project and the role of Cultural Advisors in the Cypriot context. The European NGO, “Project Phenix” attended the event, contributing to strengthening the efforts of the programme.

### 22 March 2021 - Transnational conference:

Human Rights Advocates, Support Service Professionals, Survivors of GBV, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Migrant Community from all the countries had participated to the meeting in order discuss the role that

Cultural Advisors and Community Advocates can have in raising awareness on Gender Based Violence and how to support professionals handling cases of sexual abuse.

# INCLUDE

It is a project aimed to enhance the wellbeing of children at all stages of an international child abduction by providing guidelines and good practices to legal and other professionals.

In 2021 the INCLUDE project partners:

- Created the **Guide to Good Practice**, a good practice guide based on youngsters’ views to professionals involved in international child abduction cases;
- Organized the final conference for legals and other professionals.

## 5 SHADES OF BLUE

It is a one year European project providing a training course on project management focused on migration that brings together representatives of Organisations from Mediterranean countries

### **21-29 July 2021 - Training course in Rome on project management with a focus on Migration:**

The course brought together representatives from Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Slovenia, Bulgaria, France and Croatia in order to improve the participants' skills on the design & overall coordination of non-formal education projects based on the inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

In **2021** the 5 Shades of Blue project partners:

Realized an **handbook** for sharing ideas, methods, inputs and suggestions for improving the skills in the design, coordination and evaluation of non-formal

education projects focused on the social inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

The **Handbook** is a source of inspiration and reflection based on the comments shared by the participants and trainers who attended the training course in Rome.

## KEEP ME SAFE

### **Supporting youth peer development tackling sexual abuse**

It is a transnational project bringing together experts from organizations across 6 EU countries to counteract sexual violence by: Fostering youth agency; Promoting youth worker's capacity to identify risks & counteract them through youth work; Producing a Competence Framework for European youth workers in the field of prevention and awareness raising of sexual abuse.

### **02 September 2021 - Final Conference:**

Representatives from partner organizations enabled transnational debate between

decision-makers, practitioners and representatives involved in child protection and youth peer strategies.

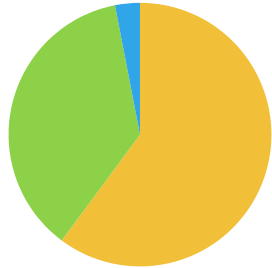
## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

It is initiative that aims to develop solidarity and to promote social cohesion as well as mutual understanding of social issues. By doing so, ESC contributes to strengthening solidarity, democracy and citizenship around Europe.

In **2021** HFC welcomed 5 volunteers who worked and got involved in the activities of the Humanitarian and Research & Development divisions.

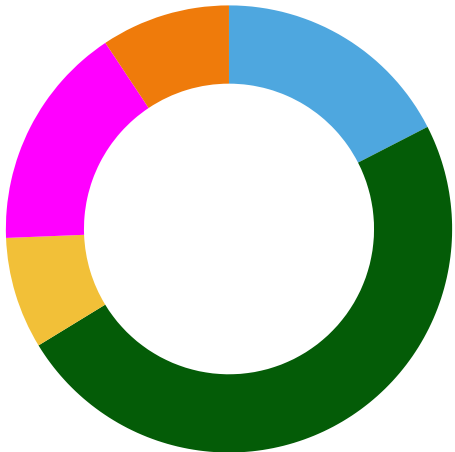
# OUR FINANCES

## Income 2021



- National Funds
- EU Funds
- Other Donations

## Expenditure 2021



- Sexual Abuse
- Homes for Children
- Foster Care
- Research & Policy
- Operations & Awareness

# OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM



**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 Kammitzi  
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 and European Cooperation

## International Affiliations

- Observatory status at the **Council of Europe's** Lanzarote Committee
- Participatory status at the **Council of Europe's** Conference of International
- Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs)
- Cooperating partner of the Council of Europe for the **ONE in FIVE** Campaign
- National focal point for the Separated Children in Europe Programme
- Focal point for the European Network of **Guardian Institutions**
- Member of the European Federation **Missing Children** Europe

## HFC Representation

- USA
- Cyprus,
- Denmark,
- United Kingdom,
- Hungary,
- Italy,
- Nigeria,
- Romania,
- Portugal.

- Participant in the **Fundamental Rights** Platform (FRP)
- Founding member of **PROMISE** Barnahus Network
- Member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Euromed Network
- Founder and Coordinator of the Network **CHAIRS** of the CRC Policy Center
- Coordinator for the Observatory for the Return of Unaccompanied Children
- National Focal Point for the **European Juvenile Justice Observatory**
- Member of the European Network of Child Friendly Cities
- Member of the Destination Unknown Campaign
- Founding Member of the **INTEGRA** network



# HOPE FOR CHILDREN HELPLINES

## **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.

## **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.



SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

