

EN

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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.1.2025)

The protection and promotion of the rights of the child is a core objective of the European Union¹ and the Commission has already put forward legislation, policy initiatives and funding activities².

On 23 April 2024, the Commission adopted a Recommendation³ on integrated child protection systems on combating all forms of violence against and amongst young people calling on Member States to develop national plans to fight violence against children and ensure their protection.

The Recommendation calls on Member States to take educational measures to prevent and protect children from bullying, including cyberbullying, through comprehensive anti-bullying plans, making use of EU programmes^{4,5} and successful anti-bullying practices⁶.

There are two EU key legislative instruments on child-friendly justice standards for the protection and safeguarding of children in contact with the law: the Procedural Safeguards Directive⁷, which establishes procedural safeguards for children as suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings and the Victims' Rights Directive⁸, which is currently being revised⁹ to improve the rights of child victims in the EU, including to ensure that child victims are better supported and protected, also via improved access to integrated and

¹ as enshrined in Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and reiterated in the EU strategy on the rights of child (COM(2021) 142 final).

² The Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027) continues to finance child protection projects.

³ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 of 23 April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child.

⁴ The CERV CHILD (https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/call-proposals-rights-child-and-childrens-participation-cerv-2024-child_en) and DAPHNE (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/cerv-2024-daphne?keywords=CERV-2024-DAPHNE&programmePart=>) programmes call for proposals on the protection of children from violence and to tackle bullying and violence notably in schools or in leisure activities through education and mental health programmes.

⁵ The Erasmus+ Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>) fosters tolerance, mutual understanding and inclusion among young people. The programme also supports the professional development of youth workers and teachers with the skills and competences needed to effectively address conflicts and violence. Erasmus+ specifically promotes safer and more supportive learning environments for young people through a priority on projects addressing wellbeing, mental health, and anti-bullying.

⁶ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/476cda91-3b5f-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

⁷ Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57–73.

⁸ Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 1–20.

⁹ COM/2023/424 final.

multidisciplinary support and protection services¹⁰.

¹⁰ Other actions include the implementation of the EU campaign on victims' rights (<https://victims-rights.campaign.europa.eu/en/country/all/crimes>) with a focus on child victimisation. For further reference please see: <https://victims-rights.campaign.europa.eu/en/country/all/crimes>