

EN

E-003729/2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.12.2025)

As the Commission noted in its previous reply to written questions E-000431/2024, E-000766/2024 and E-001610/2024, the rights of the child are enshrined in Article 24 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter)¹. The EU Strategy on the rights of the child² aims, among others, to combat violence against children and ensure child protection. The Commission has adopted a Recommendation on integrated child protection systems³, which assists Member States when developing robust and comprehensive measures to protect children from all forms of violence.

The EU is not party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)⁴, but as Article 24 of the Charter is based on the UNCRC, the latter needs to be considered when interpreting the rights of the child. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child makes recommendations on issues relating to children to which it believes State parties should devote more attention. The Commission has no competence to monitor the implementation of opinions issued by this Committee.

The Charter does not apply to every situation of an alleged violation of fundamental rights, but applies to Member States only when they are implementing EU law. Its scope does not extend to activities such as bullfighting. It is for Member States' authorities, including their judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations, including the UNCRC.

¹ These include the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being as well as that child's best interests must be a primary consideration in all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0142>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/1238/oj/eng>.

⁴ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989,
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.