



Save the Children



**Universal Periodic Review of Serbia, 43rd
session of the UPR Working Group**

**Pre-session on the Republic of
Serbia
April 5, 2023**

STATEMENT

**Contribution by
*Save the Children North West Balkans and
Centre for Youth Integration***

CHILD RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Recommendations accepted in the 3rd cycle:

- ✓ Adopt a comprehensive law on children's rights
Mongolia, 114.17;
- ✓ Establish an office of the Ombudsman for Children
Slovakia, 114.19;
- ✓ Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure
Slovakia, 114.9;
- ✓ Prohibit corporal punishment of children
Montenegro, 114.91; Portugal, 114.92; Austria, 114.93;
Uruguay, 114.95; Slovenia, 114.96; Chile, 114.94 ;

Status of the actions taken:

- × A law on children's rights has not yet been adopted
- × An office of the Ombudsman for Children has not been established

Although the ratification has been initiated, the OPCP is still to be ratified

- × Corporal punishment of children not yet prohibited



RECCOMENDATIONS

Take measures to ensure a legislative and institutional framework for the protection and the realisation of the rights of all children, including the most vulnerable groups.

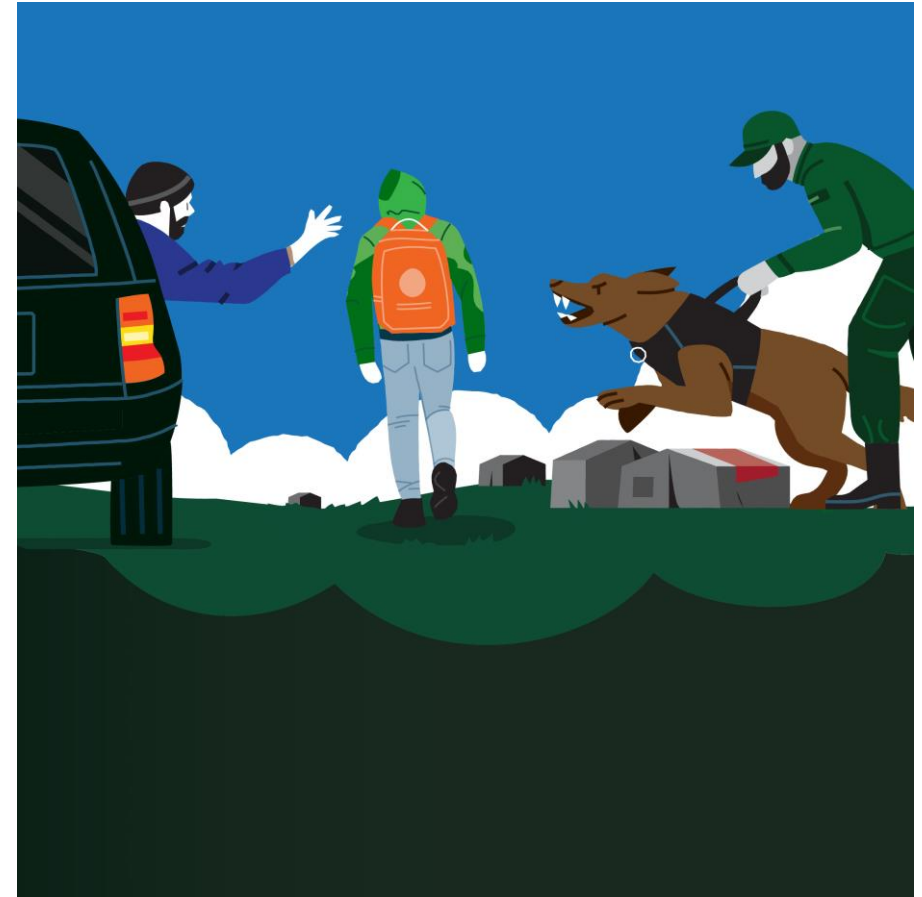
- ✓ Adopt the Act on the Rights of the Child
- ✓ Establish an office of the Ombudsman for Children
- ✓ Adopt the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.
- ✓ Prohibit corporal punishment of children.



RIGHTS OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

- **Serbia** remains one of the **key transit countries** for children and adults travelling to Europe via the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans Route
- In **2022**, **120,245** new arrivals were registered in Serbia, a **99%** increase compared to 2021.
- Lacking legal pathways to travel and seek asylum in Europe, refugee and migrant children arriving in Serbia are among **the most vulnerable groups of children**.
- In-depth research shows that, most likely, all refugee and migrant children arriving in Serbia through the Balkan route **have been exposed to violence** - physical, psychological, sexual violence, discrimination and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.



REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

Recommendations accepted in the 3rd cycle:

- ✓ Establish legislative and other measures to protect children from abuse and violence

Kyrgyzstan, 114.89;

- ✓ Complete efforts in order to effectively protect children from violence and abuse

Greece, 113.53 ;

- ✓ Develop programmes to reduce dropout rates from schools

Timor-Leste, 113.32;

- ✓ Step up efforts towards achieving inclusive education for all children

Georgia, 113.34;

- ✓ Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, including against women, children, Roma and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

Italy, 113.14 ;



RECCOMENDATIONS

All refugee and migrant children and families need **adequate protection**, access to **quality education** as a protective factor and unhindered access to **health services**.

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

RECCOMENDATIONS

- Step up efforts to ensure that all aspects of migration management consider the violence experienced by refugee and migrant children, including by introducing **independent monitoring and child protection mechanisms at the borders, strengthening child protection services** in the country and **providing alternative care solutions** for unaccompanied migrant and displaced children.
- Step up efforts to ensure **prompt access to safe education**, offer children **more support in education** and **introduce mechanisms to prevent dropout**.
- Ensure that all asylum seekers, refugee and migrant children, and their families are not being discriminated against and have **unhindered access to health care**, including mental health care.



THANK YOU