

Pledge by Turkey

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 4 April 1995

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 4 May 2004

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 19 August 2002

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 26 December 2017



Pledges

1. A Social Cohesion Program is conducted for Syrian children living outside the camps in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and UNICEF Turkey and with the help of Provincial Child Committees on Child Rights in order to ensure their cohesion within society, to establish a platform for mutual dialog and information exchange between Syrian and Turkish children, to minimize social cohesion problems of theirs and to raise awareness on current risks and resources, to let them live according to their rights, and to develop mutual understanding and tolerance between two cultures.
2. National Child Forums are held every year on 20 November as Universal Children's Day with the participation of representatives of Child Rights Committee from all provinces. The 20th National Child Forum will be organized on November 20, 2019 and the theme of the forum will be "Assessing and Discussing of Social Cohesion Program".



**30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Template for States parties' commitments and initiatives - Turkey**

- 1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to

the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

- **What?** *(Please provide one specific and measurable action that will be taken to implement the Convention, e.g. birth registration for all children; increased access of children with disabilities to inclusive education; deinstitutionalization of all children under the age of XX.)*
 - Providing social cohesion of Syrian children living outside camps.

- **Why?** *(Please provide the rationale behind the action to be taken, e.g. XX of children are not registered at birth; the majority of children with disabilities do not attend mainstream schools; XX of children currently live in alternative care institutions.)*
 - Millions of people around the world are obliged to leave their country and to migrate, and to live in anywhere they do not know with people and culture they do not know. Children are negatively the most affected ones. There are many Syrian children in this situation in our country. Main problems which these children encounter in their social and cultural life are that they do not feel secure, they mostly stay away from their families and environment, they live in an unusual culture, they do not know any foreign language, they can not carry on their education, they lose their social statue in society, they do not feel themselves to belong to a society.
With regard to this, **Social Cohesion Program** is conducted for Syrian children living outside the camps in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services and UNICEF Turkey and with the help of Provincial Child Committees on Child Rights in order to ensure their cohesion within society, to establish a platform for mutual dialog and information exchange between Syrian and Turkish children, to minimize social cohesion problems of theirs and to raise awareness on current risks and resources, to let them live according to their rights, and to develop mutual understanding and tolerance between two cultures.

- **How?** *(Please provide information on the steps envisaged, and resources allocated, to complete this action, such as through a national policy, strategy, programme or activities, e.g. implement a national birth registration programme; adopt a national policy on inclusive education; establish a family-based foster care system for children who can not stay with their families. This could also include information on how the impact of this action will be assessed.)*
 - This program is carried out by children registered to Provincial Child Committees on Child Rights, affiliated to provincial directorates in 81 provinces, under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, with trainings via peer education technique and socio-cultural activities. Social Cohesion Training Module prepared by trainers on the basis of empowerment approach contains issues below in Turkish and Arabic;
 - Convention on Children’s Rights,
 - Society in which we live,
 - Safety, Prevention of Violence-Abuse, Discrimination, Child Labour and Early Marriages,
 - Culture-Tolerance-Cooperation,
 - Understanding and Expressing Each Other,
 - Essential Institutions Rendered Services.Socio-cultural activities, such as chess tournaments, child workshops, sports activities, festivals, visits, artistic activities, meetings, seminars and conferences, take place as well.

- **When?** *(Please provide a deadline within the next 5 years for completing this action, e.g. by 2022.)*

- Trainings and activities of Social Cohesion Program which initiated across 18 pilot provinces in 2015 has been extended to 81 provinces within the scope of 100-Day Action Plan of Presidency. Program can be revised in line with the requirements.
- **Who?** *(Please provide the name of the Government ministry or agency who will take the lead in implementing and monitoring this action, as well as implementing partners including civil society and children's organizations, e.g. Ministry of Social Affairs or Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with XX civil society organizations.)*
 - Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services in collaboration with UNICEF Turkey.

2) We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention: *(Please provide information, including dates and venues, on any events or activities planned by the State party to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention.)*

- In Turkey, National Child Forums are held every year on 20 November as Universal Children's Day with the participation of representatives of Child Rights Committee from all provinces. 162 children as 1 girl and 1 boy from 81 Provincial Child Committees on Child Rights attend to National Child Forums. Since 2015, Syrian children have been participating and contributing to the forum within the scope of Social Cohesion Program, as well. Moreover, themes of forum are determined by children and children's views about theme of forum are presented to the Chairperson and members of the parliament by national child coordinators in Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM).
20th National Child Forum will be organized on November 20, 2019 and the theme of the forum will be "Assessing and Discussing of Social Cohesion Program".