

First of all, Hungary views all human rights as universal, indivisible and interdependent. As any other human rights, the rights of the child are severely affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups of people exposed to these effects. Therefore we see a strong relationship between climate change and the enjoyment of the rights of the child that should be addressed. The interests of children should be involved in the decision making processes as much as possible. In that regard, we see it crucially important to ensure that children learn about climate change at an early age to be fully aware of the problem. It can be also derived from the obligation prescribed by Article 29 paragraph 1 (e) Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that “States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (…) the development of respect for the natural environment.” The fulfilment of this obligation alone could result in more effective climate action.



Currently no data is available in Hungary.



Hungary protects the rights of the child at the highest level. Our Constitution states that “By means of separate measures, Hungary shall protect (…) children (…).” There is also a separate act for the protection of the rights of the child, Act XXXI. of 1997. The aftermath of the Paris Agreement also provides an opportunity for Hungary to reconsider its climate change legislation, taking also into account the changes in the relevant legislation of the European Union. In this process human rights, including the rights of the child should be expressively taken into account.



As was prescribed by the historic Paris Climate Agreement, “the Parties to the Agreement should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.” Hungary became a Party to the Agreement already when it entered into force in November 2016. It follows that we are not only willing to, but we are obliged to adequately integrate children’s rights within climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. As a Member State of the EU, we are committed to stand for the integration of human rights aspects into future EU climate action and legislation. We are of the view that human rights and climate experts should work more closely in order to find the best practical solutions to achieve this important goal.



We believe that raising awareness is the first step towards effective engagement in climate-related decision making. In Hungary there is a long tradition of open-air schools, where young people can easily get familiar with the natural environment, including the most important environmental problems, such as climate change. Efforts have also been made to integrate the issue of climate change into the official education schedule; however it has not happened so far. There is also a government website dedicated to the issue of climate change that can be easily accessed by the younger generation. We are eager to make the information publicly understandable and easily readable. Government officials hold regular presentations about the topic, on many occasions in front of young audience. It is also planned to reach the younger generation via social media in order to raise awareness and disseminate up to date information more effectively.



We see that there is a knowledge gap among climate experts regarding human rights obligations as well as challenges. It would be useful to produce relevant materials, organise workshops and generally work more closely together to be able to fulfil the obligation prescribed by the Paris Agreement and to make climate action in a way that fully take into account human rights.