



**THE COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HUNGARY**

To whom it may concern

Subject: World Programme for Human Rights Education following the Human Rights Council Resolution No 21/14.

Budapest, 28th March 2013

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am delighted about the *Human Rights Council Res. 21/14 "World Programme for Human Rights."* I do truly believe and have been trying to emphasize during my activity, as Ombudsman: human rights begin with children's rights.

The new CXI Act of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Ombudsman Act) entered into force at the 1st of January 2012, and provides priority and a special legal duty among its first articles to the Commissioner as it says „he/she pays special attention to the protection of the rights of children”.

I have initiated a focus children's rights project in 2008 for my entire mandate. The long-term aim of the project was to improve the vindication and realisation of children's rights, an enhanced enforcement of children's interests and as a result to improve the social position of children in the society.

Education is one of the most important channels of getting acquainted with children's rights. Awareness about human rights and children's rights should also figure in curricula of primary and secondary education. It is also a precondition to the actual enforcement of children's rights that decision-making persons on children's issues and experts dealing with children should have proper knowledge about children's rights and their outlook should be permeated by values of children's rights. Therefore another target group of the project was adults coming in contact with children. The aim of the project was to enhance the knowledge of children's rights of children as well as of adults dealing with them such as parents, educationists, guardianship administrators, experts of child protection, etc.

We have launched a special children's rights website in 2008 (www.gyermekjogok.ajbh.hu), and a Facebook profile in 2011 (www.facebook.org/Gyermekjogok), which is a useful tool to create contact with children directly – to the website we have received over 250 complaints.

I have carried out in 2008 a special comprehensive, ex officio inquiry on children's rights awareness-raising in education with many concerning findings, which have strengthened my preliminary



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hypothesis, that we have to increase our common effort to improve the awareness on human rights in general and on children's rights in special from the earliest stages of life.

That is why I warmly welcome the first two phases of the World programme.

For the third phase, based on our experiences of the last year's children's rights investigations on right to health in 2011 and on child-friendly justice in 2012, I suggest as *target sector* for education on human rights, non-discrimination and especially children's rights the following:

- *health care professionals*
- *alternative child care professionals*
- *actors of justice system* (judges, lawyers, prosecutors, policemen, psychologists)

During the education of these actors which have been also proposed in various ombudsman reports in recent years, the special features of children, their special rights and needs, especially who belongs to any minority (e.g in Hungary Roma children) or other vulnerable groups (e.g. children living with disabilities, or who are living in care institutions).need to be emphasized.

Yours Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Máté Szabó
The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
Hungary