

Press Release

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Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General to United Nations: Children's defence against violence is non negotiable

"Children's defence against violence is non negotiable", said Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, who is attending the UN General Assembly in New York this week.

A groundbreaking study by the UN Secretary General on "Violence against Children," led by Professor Paulo Pinheiro, and to which the Council of Europe substantially contributed for the European region, will be presented to the UN General Assembly. The study is essential for a new UN draft resolution specifically addressing the problem of violence against children, and the ways and means to prevent and combat it.

"I want to make Europe a corporal punishment free zone", said the Deputy Secretary General – who opposes any efforts to dilute language in the resolution specifically prohibiting corporal punishment.

"Children are not mini persons with mini rights", she said. The final resolution must establish a strong foundation for future action to defend children against all forms of violence.

"We are ready to play our part for the European region by leading the implementation of the Study recommendations there", said the Deputy Secretary General, who also supports the appointment of a UN special representative on violence against children, to help channel and coordinate efforts, monitor progress and push for further action to eliminate violence against children.

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