



## INVITATION

**Claude Moraes MEP** and International **children's NGO Lumos**, founded by J K Rowling, are delighted to invite you to a round table discussion at the European Parliament:

**A Global Approach to Ending the Institutionalisation of Children:  
How the EU and the USA can join forces to help children in adversity around the world**

Tuesday 8th April

14.30 -16.30

A5G315

**A buffet lunch will be served from 13.30**

The Round table will be chaired by Claude Moraes MEP. Participants will include: Professor Neil Boothby, who for the past two years has served as Special Adviser on Children in Adversity to US President Obama; Georgette Mulheir, CEO of Lumos and Anna de Geer, CEO of the World Childhood Foundation. Participants are expected from civil society, the European Commission and National Governments.

An estimated 8 million children worldwide live in institutions where they are deprived of appropriate care for their individual needs and are exposed to all forms of abuse and neglect. Now, for the first time, the new Regulations for EU Cohesion Policy include specific commitments that EU funds must be used to support the, "transition from institutional to community-based care". This means that the EU Structural and Investment Funds will not be used to perpetuate institutionalisation, but instead to develop much needed community-based services and ensure full inclusion in the community. This commitment represents major progress, but the harm caused to children by institutionalisation is not only a problem within EU Member States. In many countries across the world, there is a worrying trend of increased institutionalisation. There is a need for all major funders to address this and to ensure that a coherent approach to assistance offered to other countries is followed.

Towards this end, the US Government, together with the governments of Sweden, Canada as well as the World Bank, have launched the Global Alliance for Children. This global initiative intends to help specific countries deliver the President Barack Obama's Action Plan for Children in Adversity. One of its primary objectives is ending the institutionalisation of children.

This Round Table aims:

- To provide an opportunity to share the progress made in the USA and Europe in this field;
- To explore the need for policy coherence across different funding streams both within Europe and globally;
- To explore ways in which the EU and the USA could work together, both at the global level and on the ground in individual countries, to further this important human rights issue.

RSVP by Friday 28 March to [rachael.mccallum@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:rachael.mccallum@europarl.europa.eu)

Participation is by invitation only.

Please note that numbers are limited and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.