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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: mercredi 13 juin 2018 18:53
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Documents for interpreters
Attachments: Agenda with approx timings and languages.pdf; Conference film scripts FINAL.pdf; Draft concept note - Conf15June.pdf; No Child Left Behind agenda_FINAL.pdf; No Child Left Behind_conference publication.pdf

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached the documents for the interpreters.

We will provide you with more documents on the day – we have left them out for reasons of confidentiality as well as we have not received the power point presentations yet (if any).

I hope this is fine.

Have a good evening,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

With your help, we can change the lives of millions of children





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No Child Left Behind: Families not institutions – EU external action championing children's rights

15 June 2018, 10:30 – 16:00
European Commission, Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi 170

Draft Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
9.30-10.30		<i>Welcome coffee and networking</i>
10:30-10:55	Introduction and opening remarks	Irena ANDRASSY, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Mimica (6 minutes) (English) Youth representative, Emerging Global Leaders Summit (13 minutes) (Language TBD on the day) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos (6 minutes) (English)
10:55-11:00		<i>Short animation: Families Not Orphanages</i>
11:00-11:45	No Child Left Behind	(Chair) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos (all speakers in session – English) Neven MIMICA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Christos STYLIANIDES, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management J.K. ROWLING, author, Founder and Life President Lumos
11:45-12:00	Joining forces to end institutionalisation	Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos (15 minutes) (English)
12:00-12:10		<i>Short films highlighting reform around the world</i>
12:10-12:45	Strengthening child protection systems around the world	(Chair) Lotte KNUDSEN, Managing Director, Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues, European External Action Service (3 minutes) (All speakers in session – English – NO TRANSLATION) Zornitsa ROUSSINOVA, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria (7 minutes) Dr. Claudine UWERA KANYAMANZA, Executive Secretary, National Commission for Children, Rwanda (7 minutes) Aaron GREENBERG, Senior Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, Child Protection, UNICEF (7 minutes)
NB interpretation break from 12.00 - 13.30	(NB this session <u>will not be translated</u> as the 1.5 hour break will have to extend from 12.00 - 13.30)	
12:45-13:30		<i>Lunch</i>
13.30-13:55	The human and financial cost of institutionalisation	(Chair) Sophie MORGAN, Lumos Ambassador (1 minute) (English) Prof. Charles ZEANAH, Mary Sellars-Polchow Chair in Psychiatry; Vice Chair, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Tulane University School of Medicine (7 minutes) (English) Prof. Manfred NOWAK, Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study Children Deprived of Liberty (7 minutes) (English) Mihaela IVANOVA, self-advocate, representative, Emerging Global Leaders Summit (10 minutes)(Bulgarian)
13:55-14:05		<i>Short films highlighting reform around the world</i>
14:05-14:30	Emerging responses	(Chair) Cecile KYENGE, MEP, Vice Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (3 minutes) (probably French) HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-HUSSEIN, President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Jordan (5 minutes) (English) Myria VASSILIADOU, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (5 minutes) (English) Sophie MAGENNIS, Officer in Charge, UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs (5 minutes)(English)
14:30-15:00	Closing remarks and recommendations	(Chair) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos (4 minutes) (English) Neven MIMICA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development (5 minutes) (English) J.K. ROWLING, author, Founder and Life President Lumos (5 minutes) (English) Elisabeth RIEDERER, Deputy Head PSC/POL Department, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU (3 minutes) (English) Paul d'AUCHAMP, Deputy Regional Representative for Europe, OHCHR (3 minutes) (English) Youth rapporteur, Emerging Global Leaders Summit (5 minutes) (Language TBD on the day)
15:00-16:00		<i>Networking reception</i>

Piece 1 - Animation:

Welcome to

No Child Left Behind: Families not institutions –

EU external action championing children's rights

[EC LOGO and LUMOS LOGO]

A child's life is so much more than the sum of its parts -

and the love a family brings holds everything together.

From the very beginning, a child thrives on individual care and attention.

A baby quickly forges a bond with loving parents -

and because of this bond the brain develops with

remarkable speed and complexity.

Within a safe, secure and stimulating environment

a child gets the most out of life;

in play, education and friendship

their personalities develop freely within safe bounds.

But this picture of childhood can be a fragile one.

Conflict and disaster can destroy the foundations of family life.

When countries suffer the effects of extreme poverty,

the bond which holds families together can easily be broken apart.

In these circumstances, families can feel they have no choice

but to place their child into a so-called orphanage,

especially if the child is disabled

and needs care the family cannot afford.

Community support alternatives may not even exist.

That orphanages do exist locally may convince

desperate parents that there is no alternative.

But once a child enters an orphanage,

a very different picture of childhood can emerge.

A child must now compete for the unique attention they crave.

A lack of individual care harms babies

and affects their infant brains at a critical stage.
Any schooling they receive is no compensation
for the parental love they are denied,
and children can become cut off from the world.
Ill-prepared for life outside they have very poor life chances,
and they are much more likely to fall victim to abuse and crime
once they leave an orphanage.
And we know there are at least 8 million of these children worldwide.
But there is hope -
and it lies at the very heart of the problem.
80% of children in orphanages are not in fact orphans
but have parents or extended families
who could care for them, given some support.
And by better channeling existing donations,
we can support these vulnerable children at home.
By directing funds away from so-called orphanages
we can transform systems of care;
we can establish community-based services
and prevent these places from ever taking root.
Community-based services are a better investment for donors:
they are more cost efficient than residential care
and reward children and communities in the long run.
Placing children into orphanages is a choice and not a necessity;
it is preventable and reversible.
And by giving communities options in how they support families,
we can change the lives of millions of children
and give them strong beginnings -
and the futures they deserve.

Thank you for joining us today.

[EC and Lumos logos]

Piece 2 - Transforming the lives of children and families around the world (Moldova, Colombia, Bulgaria)

Transforming the lives of children and families around the world

MOLDOVA

Moldova, Europe's poorest country, had one of the region's highest rates of institutionalisation, and has experienced many years of political instability.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the government, international donors and civil society, over the past 12 years the number of children in institutions has reduced by 86%.

[REDACTED] *were reunited with their parents after spending years in an institution.*

Mother: Two children, to take them away from home like that, being small, and powerless.

We made the decision to take them to the residential school [institution] in Ialoveni.

Because they were not accepted here at the mainstream school, there was no way to enrol them.

And we kept going to doctors, and other doctors...

It was a hard decision, but we took it.

It's so much better at home, because, you know, home is home.

Your child is beside you, you see them, cuddle them, take care of them, dress them...

Mother: For us, our children make us happy all day long... We may become sad during the day, but they are ours.

Moldova is committed to ending the institutionalisation of children.

COLOMBIA

Figures from the Colombian Government suggest that there are nearly 15,000 children living in institutions for a variety of reasons, and an additional 40,000 living in residential boarding schools.

The stigma of being diagnosed with HIV and a lack of support services has led to many children being institutionalised.

[REDACTED] *spent some of the first year of her life in the Fundamor institution, which has now begun a process of deinstitutionalisation*

Noris (Fundamor): [REDACTED] was admitted to Fundamor when she was four months old. ... The mother was HIV positive and she was not in treatment. The father was not in treatment either. And the girl obviously was not either. So in the face of that situation of negligence, they decided to admit Sarita to Fundamor.

[REDACTED] Grandmother: They [Fundamor] brought up the possibility that with the support of the family we could have [REDACTED] here, bring her here and that Sarita would not be raised in an institution.

Katherine (Sarita's aunt): With [REDACTED] I consider myself as a second mother. I have a lot of love for her. I don't know what it means but I love her like she's my daughter. When I go to work I have the

feeling that when I get home she will call me Mami. She hugs me and she kisses me and that is priceless.

Mami (Fundamor): Look at **Isis**'s case, I simply accompany, direct, energize a few things, giving shape to what they themselves already have.

Colombia is at the beginning of its journey towards deinstitutionalisation.

BULGARIA

In Bulgaria, discrimination and a lack of support services led to children with disabilities being routinely separated from their families and communities and placed in institutions. Conditions were poor, and mortality rates for children and adults were high.

The Bulgarian Government embarked upon an extensive deinstitutionalisation strategy in 2010. Since 2010, the number of children in institutions has decreased by 86%.

Isis lived in the Rudnik institution as a child, and now lives in a small group home.

Life in Rudnik was very bad

It was an awful place to live

The food and the conditions were terrible

Nothing was good about that place

No matter how the staff, the government or the municipality tried to help and make conditions better for the children

A large number of children crammed together in this institution would never provide the opportunities that could be provided by family-based care
[images of empty building]

I left Rudnik with one backpack that contained my entire life

No child should ever have to live in an institution

When I graduate school I would like to get a house

Where me and my brother Ilko would live

The Bulgarian Government's national strategy aims to close all remaining institutions for children by 2025.

This film was created with the support of Chris Leslie and Fundamor

Piece 3: Transforming the lives of children and families around the world (Haiti, Nepal, Kenya)

HAITI

An estimated 30,000 children – most of whom have at least one living parent – currently live in one of Haiti's estimated 760 orphanages. Many of these orphanages were created as an emergency response to the 2010 earthquake, but have remained and proliferated long after the disaster.

Poverty and lack of access to education or healthcare are forcing Haitian parents to send their children to orphanages.

ODETTE RADIMET, Mother reunited with her children ██████ and ██████ in 2016:

I would never advise someone to drop their kids off at an orphanage.

I watch my kids closely and they are underdeveloped.

I visited the orphanage twice, and the type of food they have is of low quality.

They are not supposed to feed the kids such type of food.

If the kids were in my possession, although I don't have much, they would have been better developed.

My name is ██████. I am from Saint Christophe. I am 15 years old.

I am very happy to be with my family because I used to be in the orphanage.

I did not see them for six years. Now I am with them. I thank God for the fact that I live with them.

I love my family very much!

When I was staying at the orphanage I was not well,

the kids used to say I was buried under earthquake rubble

because I could not see my mom...

Despite a challenging environment, the Haitian Government is targeting its orphanage epidemic, with support from international bodies, so that more children like Ilove can safely return to their families

NEPAL

In Nepal, poverty, civil war and a severe earthquake have torn vulnerable, rural families apart. The promise of education is hard to resist for families living in extreme poverty in some of the country's most remote mountain villages. Traffickers have also targeted these families to 'recruit' children to orphanages in tourist-heavy areas, and attract donations from well-meaning foreigners who want to help.

██████ was one of those children, now reunited with his family.

My name is ██████, I am from Humla.

When I left Humla, I was ten or eleven years old.

Humla is undeveloped county, and it is far from the main centre.

And I stayed at Thankot, Matatirtha, [in an orphanage] where I found that there were many children.

Some of them were orphans, some not orphans.

The situation was really bad, I didn't get much food and clothes.

Sometimes I went outside to collect some money, and vegetables, so that the other children can have food.

Some children, they came, and then used to go to other orphanages.

When I was there, there were 20 or 25 children.

The foreigners, they used to come and they used to take the children.

I missed my family badly.

I wanted to go home.

[REDACTED] was finally reunited with his family aged 18. With the support of a local NGO, he is now studying to be a dentist. There is a strong civil society movement in Nepal to stop children being trafficked into orphanages.

KENYA

In Kenya, poverty, HIV, displacement, disability and other drivers are breaking vulnerable families apart, and forcing children in to institutions. An estimated 43,000 are living in Charitable Children's Institutions in the country.

My name is [REDACTED]

And I am a freelance journalist, I'm a child-rights advocate, I'm a chair of Kenya Society of Careleavers.

I spent 10 years of my childhood in an orphanage.

An orphanage....I call it a prison, you are programmed to do things.

You have a time to wake up, you have a time to eat, time to do things, time to go to bed.

And I don't think anyone in this world would want to raise their kid in that manner.

Since a family is where a child will feel loved.

It's like a store – an all in one store where you can get everything that you need.

So one thing I'll say, we have so many alternative care systems –

We have kinship, we have foster care, we have adoption.

We should bring together all stakeholders and sit down with them and explain to them – this is the way forward.

The Kenyan Government is committed to the protection of children's rights and recognises the importance of transitioning away from institutions towards family and community-based care, in partnership with civil society.

This film was created with support from Next Generation Nepal and Kenya Society of Care Leavers



No Child Left Behind: Families not institutions --- EU external action championing children's rights

Draft Concept Note

This high-level international conference is being jointly organised by the European Commission and Lumos¹, an international NGO working to end the institutionalisation of children around the world by 2050. It will be co-hosted by Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development and J.K. Rowling, Founder and President of Lumos.

Background

Over 80 years of research from across the world has demonstrated the significant harm caused to children in orphanages and other institutions, where they are deprived of loving family care and may consequently suffer life-long physical and psychological harm.² The number of children who live in institutions globally is unknown, but it is estimated to be around eight million.³ However, figures are often underreported, underestimated, and are based on incomplete data, especially from countries with large numbers of unregistered institutions.

Institutions rarely provide effective protection and quality education, health or other services to children, which results in poor outcomes for them, with dramatically reduced life chances. Furthermore, research consistently demonstrates that more than 80 per cent of children in institutions are not 'orphans',⁴ but are placed there due to reasons such as poverty, disability, and marginalisation, or as a result of trafficking.

High-level conference

Bringing together the voices of girls and boys, global leaders, leading experts and policy-makers, the high-level conference will explore the role of the EU and the international community in leaving no child behind, ensuring that all children across the world can realise their right to live in a safe environment within their families and communities.

Objectives:

- To promote global leadership in tackling the institutionalisation of children and explore how the EU and the international community can continue to drive and support quality child care and protection reform around the world;
- To explore the drivers of institutionalisation, including orphanage trafficking, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability;
- To ensure children and young people who have experienced institutionalisation play a lead role in influencing the EU and international child rights agenda.

Participants will include high level representatives from the European Commission and other EU institutions and bodies, international organisations, national governments, recognised experts/civil society representatives in the field of child care and protection and self-advocates who have experienced institutionalisation.

Date and time: 15 June 2018, 10:30 – 16:00

Venue: Charlemagne Building, European Commission, Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels

¹ Lumos Foundation (Lumos) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number: 5611912 | Registered charity number: 1112575. www.wearelumos.org

² Berens & Nelson (2015). The science of early adversity: is there a role for large institutions in the care of vulnerable children? *The Lancet*. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)61131-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61131-4/abstract) [Accessed 16 September 2016]

³ Pinheiro, P.S. (2006). *World Report on Violence against Children*. New York: UNICEF

⁴ Csáky, C. (2009) *Keeping children out of harmful institutions: why we should be investing in family-based care*, Save the Children, p. vii

Pre-Event: Global Leaders Youth Summit

The conference on 15 June will be preceded by a '**Global Leaders Youth Summit**' on 13 and 14 June.

This two-day event will bring together emerging young global leaders from around the world to discuss their personal experience of institutionalisation and family separation. They will develop recommendations on how to keep families together and avoid institutionalisation, including in different situations, such as humanitarian responses.

The participants will attend and actively participate in the conference the following day, and their findings from the Global Leaders Youth Summit will be shared with the conference participants.



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: FAMILIES NOT INSTITUTIONS – EU EXTERNAL ACTION CHAMPIONING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

15 June 2018, 10:30–16:00

European Commission, Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi 170

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
9:30–10:30	WELCOME COFFEE AND NETWORKING	
10:30–10:55	Introduction and opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irena ANDRASSY, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Mimica Youth representative, Emerging Global Leaders Summit Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos
10:55–11:00	ANIMATION: FAMILIES NOT ORPHANAGES	
11:00–11:45	No Child Left Behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Chair) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos Neven MIMICA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Christos STYLIANIDES, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management J.K. ROWLING, Author, Founder and Life President, Lumos
11:45–12:00	Joining forces to end institutionalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos
12:00–12:10	SHORT FILM HIGHLIGHTING REFORM AROUND THE WORLD	
12:10–12:45	Strengthening child protection systems around the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Chair) Lotte KNUDSEN, Managing Director, Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues, European External Action Service Zornitsa ROUSSINOVA, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria Dr. Claudine UWERA KANYAMANZA, Executive Secretary, National Commission for Children, Rwanda Aaron GREENBERG, Senior Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, Child Protection, UNICEF
12:45–13:30	LUNCH	
13:30–13:55	The human and financial cost of institutionalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Chair) Sophie MORGAN, TV Presenter and Entrepreneur Prof. Charles ZEANA, Mary Sellars-Polchow Chair in Psychiatry; Vice Chair, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Tulane University School of Medicine Prof. Manfred NOWAK, Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study Children Deprived of Liberty Mihaela IVANOVA, Self-advocate, Representative, Emerging Global Leaders Summit
13:55–14:05	SHORT FILM HIGHLIGHTING REFORM AROUND THE WORLD	
14:05–14:30	Emerging responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Chair) Cécile KYENGE, MEP, Vice Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid AL-HUSSEIN, President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Jordan Myria VASSILIADOU, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Sophie MAGENNIS, Officer in Charge, UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs
14:30–15:00	Closing remarks and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Chair) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos Neven MIMICA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development J.K. ROWLING, Author, Founder and Life President, Lumos Elisabeth RIEDERER, Deputy Head PSC/POI. Department, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU Paul d'AUCHAMP, Deputy Regional Representative for Europe, OHCHR Youth rapporteur, Emerging Global Leaders Summit
15:00–16:00	NETWORKING RECEPTION	



Neven Mimica
European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

Mr Neven Mimica is a Croatian politician and diplomat, currently holding the position of European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development (since November 2014).

After his diplomatic career, from 2000 he served as Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister for European Integration, Chairman of the European Integration Committee and Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, and as Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Internal, Foreign and European policy. In July 2013, he was appointed European Commissioner for Consumer Policy.

Mr Mimica was born in 1953 in Split, Croatia. He is married, with two children. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Trade and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Zagreb.



Christos Stylianides
European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

Christos Stylianides has been the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management since November 1st 2014. On October 24th 2014 he was appointed as the EU Ebola Coordinator by the European Council.

He was elected Member of the European Parliament in the May 2014 European elections, where he served until October 31st 2014. He was twice appointed Government Spokesperson of the Republic of Cyprus (2013–2014 and 1998–1999). He was responsible for the management of the Government's communication strategy and was head of the Government's centralised Press and Information Office.

During 2006–2013, he served as a Member of the Cyprus House of Representatives (elected in 2006 and 2011). During his tenure, he served as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs (2011–2013) and member of the Committee on European Affairs, the Committee of Internal Affairs and the Committee of Employment and Social Affairs (2006–2011). Between 2006–2011 he was a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and he was elected Member of its Bureau in 2012.



J.K. Rowling
Author, Founder and Life President, Lumos

J.K. Rowling is the author of the record-breaking, multi-award-winning Harry Potter novels. Loved by fans around the world, the series has sold more than 500 million copies, been translated into over 80 different languages and made into eight blockbuster films.

In 2006, J.K. Rowling founded Lumos, an international non-profit organisation dedicated to ending the institutionalisation of children. Through her charitable trust, Volant, J.K. Rowling supports a number of other causes to do with social deprivation, particularly concerned with women, children and young people at risk. She continues to fund research and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis and other neurological conditions through the Anne Rowling Clinic at Edinburgh University.

As well as receiving an OBE and Companion of Honour for services to children's literature and philanthropy, J.K. Rowling has received many other awards and honours, including Légion d'Honneur and Denmark's Hans Christian Andersen Award.



Zornitsa Roussinova
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria

Zornitsa Roussinova has served as Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria since May 2017. She is responsible for EU funds, European affairs and international cooperation, and preparation for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018.

Zornitsa Roussinova served as Minister of Labour and Social Policy from May 2016 to January 2017. She held the position of Deputy Minister during March 2012–March 2013 and November 2014–January 2016, in charge of labour market policy, international relations, labour and social law, incomes and demographic policies, and international and European funding programmes.

Since 2010, she has been actively involved in the development and implementation of deinstitutionalisation (DI) policy in Bulgaria. She has a Masters degree in international economic relations from the University for National and World Economy and Masters degrees in Bulgarian and English from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She is fluent in English and Russian.



Dr. Claudine Uwera Kanyamanza
Executive Secretary, National Commission for Children, Rwanda

Claudine Uwera Kanyamanza has been the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Children (NCC) since August 2015. The mission of the NCC is to enhance child rights through coordinating, implementing, overseeing and monitoring the child protection system in Rwanda.

By profession, she is a psychologist and psychotherapist; and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Rwanda.

She graduated from the National University of Rwanda in Psychology in 1999, and did a Masters in Clinical Psychotherapeutics at Brussels Independent University in 2005. She has also finished her PhD studies in Psychology and Education Sciences at the Catholic University of Louvain in 2012. Her thesis concerned child-headed households: *Ménages d'enfants et enfants chefs de ménage dans l'après génocide au Rwanda. (Re) création d'appartenances.*



Aaron Greenberg
Senior Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, Child Protection, UNICEF

Aaron Greenberg joined the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia as Senior Child Protection Regional Advisor in July 2017. Prior to this, Aaron served for nearly a decade as chief of child protection in Georgia and then in Myanmar where he directed UNICEF's support to government and NGO partners around social welfare, child care and justice reforms. Aaron has also worked in the Strategic Planning Unit of the United Nations Office of the Secretary General; at Columbia University's Center for International Organization and Security; and for local government in his hometown of New York City in the US.

He has an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Administration, and a B.A. in English Literature from Union College.



Mihaela Ivanova
Self-advocate, Representative, Global Youth Leaders Summit

Mihaela is a passionate self-advocate and emerging leader in the deinstitutionalisation movement. She was a founding member of Lumos' self-advocacy groups, taking a lead role in the EU-funded project Turning Words into Action: Enabling the Rights and Inclusion of Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Europe (2012).

In 2015, Mihaela became Lumos' first professional young self-advocate, joining the Bulgaria team as a member of staff. She assists child participation activities, national and international advocacy campaigns and events, and has spoken at numerous international arenas including the United Nations, UNESCO Global Youth Forum, EU Self-Advocacy Assembly and the European Parliament.

Mihaela has personal experience of both spending time in an institution and growing up with her family. She uses this experience and her empathy for others to advocate for children's rights to family-based care, inclusive education and youth participation. Through passionately speaking out she has influenced policy makers, professionals and NGOs.

Mihaela is a Bulgarian national and won two gold medals at the 2011 Special Olympics.



Cécile Kyenge
MEP, Vice Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Cécile Kyenge, former Italian Minister for Integration, has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2014. As an MEP, she is a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and of the Committee on Development (DEVE). She is also Vice-President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP-EU and member of the delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament.

She is co-President of the European Parliament "Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup" (ARDI). She was the co-rapporteur for the European Parliament's report on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic approach to migration. In 2015 and 2016 she was appointed Chief Observer of the EU election observation missions in Burkina Faso and Zambia. She was also part of the EU Parliament's delegation for the EU election observation missions in Nigeria, Haiti, Gabon and Gambia.



Myria Vassiliadou
EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

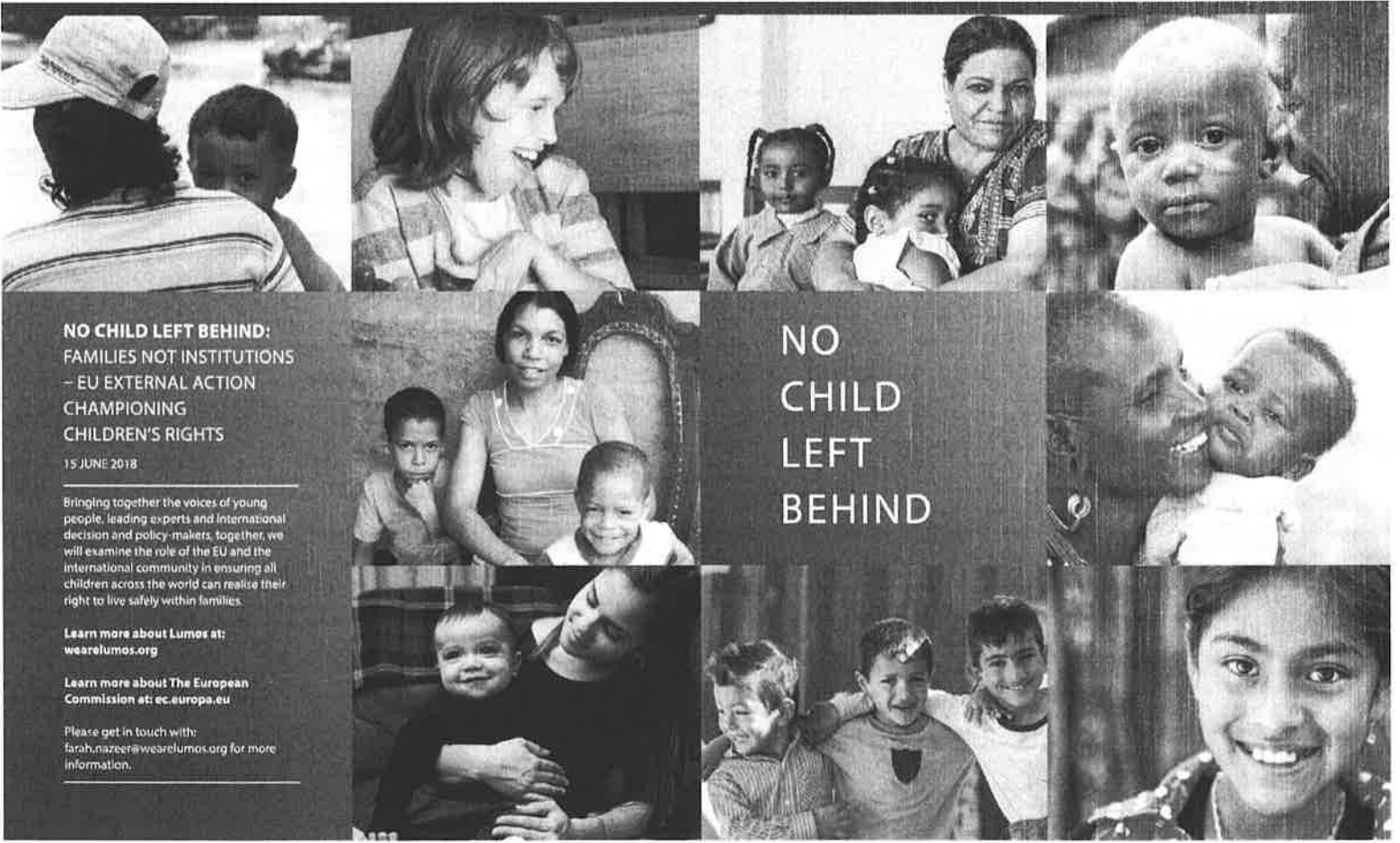
The EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Dr Myria Vassiliadou, is responsible for improving coordination and coherence among EU institutions, EU agencies, Member States and international actors and developing existing and new EU policies to address trafficking in human beings. The position of EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator is based on the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU.

Dr. Vassiliadou has monitored the implementation of EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings. She holds a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Kent at Canterbury and has worked as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nicosia, at the European Commission in the Directorate General for Research, as Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby, and, as director of the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies.



**Pavel, Martina, Ilove, Michael, Ruth, Alice, Shalyce, Maicol, Antonio,
Veliko, Mihaela and Nujeen
Emerging Global Leaders Summit**

Listening to children and young people directly affected by institutionalisation is vital when developing solutions. As part of this conference, a group of self-advocates from Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa have come together to share their experiences of growing up and leaving orphanages and other institutions. In the two days prior to this conference, they have worked together to develop a set of recommendations to present.



**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND:
FAMILIES NOT INSTITUTIONS
– EU EXTERNAL ACTION
CHAMPIONING
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

15 JUNE 2018

Bringing together the voices of young people, leading experts and international decision and policy-makers, together, we will examine the role of the EU and the international community in ensuring all children across the world can realise their right to live safely within families.

Learn more about Lumos at:
wearelumos.org

Learn more about The European Commission at: ec.europa.eu

Please get in touch with:
farah.nazeem@wearelumos.org for more information.

**NO
CHILD
LEFT
BEHIND**



FOREWORDS



Foreword by Ruth, self-advocate from Kenya

Life begins when a child BELONGS

As the former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan put it: "A society that cuts itself off from the youth severs its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death".

Voices of young people must be taken on board in decision-making processes, policy and legislative formulation and programming. We are the best communicators of our own needs. Nothing should be done or decided for us without us.

In Kenya, institutional care is heavily relied upon for the care and protection of orphaned and vulnerable children. The global shift towards family-based care and strengthening families brings great hope for thousands of children in the care system.

It is important to understand the harms of institutional care through the lens of young adults like us who spent years in institutions.

I had the worst experience growing up in one; from living on a carrot a day, to no meals at all. We suffered from hunger, yet donations were being received. That's exploitation! It is a place where children remain at risk of abuse, neglect and developmental damage, among others. No-one ever asked me what I wanted when in care. My dreams and hopes never really mattered.

The one-size-fits-all approach translated to lost identity and we lacked a sense of belonging. The longer we stayed in the institution, the more we lost ourselves. We left care physically strong but internally broken. Yes, I acquired an education, but what use is it when I have to spend my adulthood trying to find myself?

Children thrive best in families and the European Union has a great role to play in ensuring that those behind us are not deprived of this right. Funding orphanages is not the right way because no matter how well run an institution is, it can never replace a family.

Together, we can raise children who do not have to spend a lifetime forgetting their childhood.



Foreword by Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

I believe that all children should have the right to grow and reach their full potential in a safe environment, within families and communities. Sadly, this is not the case for eight million girls and boys around the world who are placed in institutions and orphanages.

Most of these children are in fact not orphans, but there are many reasons why they end up in closed institutions. This can be due to poverty and disability; humanitarian crises, migration or trafficking; or a lack of quality alternative care options and affordable treatment. The list is long.

Institutionalisation affects children's brain development at early ages. Institutions are too often characterised by a lack of privacy, invisibility and exclusion, violence and degrading treatment. And even when the basic intentions are good, institutionalisation can increase the risk of harmful practices, behaviours and outcomes, especially in situations of fragility, poverty and forced displacement. We cannot let this continue.

The European Commission is committed to supporting children's rights, protection and welfare, inside and outside the EU. This is not only enshrined in the EU's legal framework. It is also part of our collective responsibility and conscience. Our 2017 Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child recognise institutionalisation as one of the risks facing vulnerable children. They highlight the importance of appropriate alternative care, which allows children to participate in family and community life, in their best interest.

I am personally determined to ensure that these commitments are fully reflected in our external action and cooperation with international partners, aligning our practices across policies inside and outside the EU. This is a long journey, but we are decisively on our way. No child left behind means every child living in a safe environment with an equal choice and chance in life.



Foreword by Georgette Mulheir, CEO Lumos

In the decade after the fall of Ceausescu, the European Union's PHARE programme channelled over €75 million into Romania's state-run orphanages.¹ The EU and other major donors, understandably thought improving the system of institutional care was the only answer to the humanitarian crisis in Romania's care system.

As Romania progressed towards EU accession, new research demonstrated the extent of devastating damage to child health and development caused by institutionalisation.² It became clear that only investment in families, not institutions, would enable vulnerable children to flourish. The EU insisted Romania transform its childcare system as a prerequisite for EU membership, a condition subsequently extended to Bulgaria.

These first instances of EU financial and policy power influencing nations to undertake 'deinstitutionalisation' programmes paved the way for a ground-breaking shift in policy and funding regulations that is transforming systems of care across the EU and beyond.³

Whilst the EU is now convinced of the harm of institutional care, in many countries extreme poverty, discrimination and orphanage-trafficking⁴ fuel family separation and a proliferation of harmful institutions. Many international decision-makers and donors continue to fund orphanage systems, with the best of intentions, but with harmful consequences for children.

There is an opportunity, indeed a responsibility, to learn from the transformation of care systems in different countries and contexts and influence other global leaders and donors. Lumos is therefore delighted to co-host today's conference with the European Commission to explore how the EU can take a lead role in the global movement to transform systems of childcare and protection.

Together we can demonstrate it is both necessary and possible to move away from systems that cause serious harm, towards societies that empower all children to be raised in families and included in communities, to make choices and take the lead in transforming the world around them.

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

The scale and drivers of institutionalisation globally

Globally, an estimated eight million children live in institutions, often called 'orphanages'.⁵ However, the majority of these children are not orphans. Around 80% have at least one living parent and, with a little additional support, most children could live with their birth or extended families.⁶

Children are placed in institutions because of poverty, war, natural disaster, disability and social exclusion.⁷ There is a glaring and unjust relationship between disability and institutionalisation. Not only are children and young people with disabilities overrepresented in institutional systems, placement inside institutions can create otherwise preventable disabilities. Children with disabilities are often placed in institutions because their parents cannot afford or access rehabilitation or inclusive education.⁸ The lack of services and support in the community often means parents are forced to place their child in an institution.⁹

There is a strong gender influence in the harm caused by institutionalisation. Girls in institutions are at a much higher risk of being trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation than their peers raised in families.¹⁰ Furthermore, research suggests that young women with disabilities in institutions have been routinely sterilised without their consent to control their fertility.¹¹ Many children placed in institutions are from single parent households,¹² predominantly single mothers, who are more likely to live in poverty.¹³ Discrimination against single mothers also leads to their children being disproportionately represented in institutions.¹⁴

Many institutions put the economic interests of adults ahead of the best interests of the child. In some cases, children are actively 'recruited' into orphanages, often using false promises of education and food.¹⁵ These 'orphanages' are profit-making ventures and exist to attract the lucrative international flows of volunteers, donations and other funding. This form of exploitation is increasingly being recognised as a form of child trafficking, namely 'orphanage trafficking'.¹⁶

Despite the evidence, there is a lack of understanding of the harm of institutions. Many people think that institutions are a social good, or that better alternatives do not exist, so they continue to invest in and donate to these institutions. There is also resistance to change – institutions may be the biggest employer in a town, or an easy way to make profit. Changing these established systems and long-standing beliefs on care is complex. It takes a concerted effort and a great deal of expertise for stakeholders to see that alternatives to institutions are viable, and build child protection systems and universal access to education, healthcare and other services.

¹ The number of institutions in Romania and the number of children in institutions peaked in 1990 at around 160,000. By 2000, this had fallen to around 10,000. The majority of these children were in institutions because of poverty, war, natural disaster, disability and social exclusion. The majority of these children are not orphans. Around 80% have at least one living parent and, with a little additional support, most children could live with their birth or extended families.

² See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

³ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

⁴ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

⁵ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

⁶ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

⁷ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

⁸ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

⁹ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹⁰ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹¹ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹² See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹³ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹⁴ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹⁵ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

¹⁶ See, for example, the work of the European Commission on the impact of institutionalisation on child development.

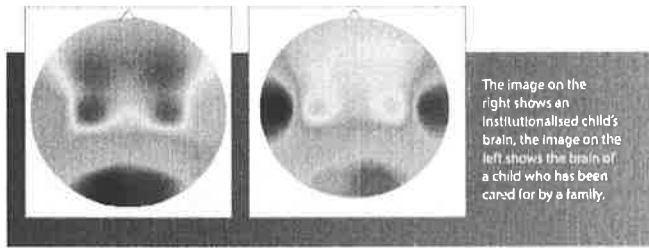
Children in institutions often come from marginalised or stigmatised communities, making them more vulnerable and less able to access available support services. The common drivers of institutionalisation include:



THE HARM CAUSED BY INSTITUTIONS

Over 80 years of research from around the world has demonstrated that living in institutions can cause significant harm to children. They are deprived of loving parental care and can suffer lifelong physical and psychological harm as a consequence.¹⁸ Babies in particular fail to develop as they should without one-to-one parental interaction, and research has demonstrated the severe impact of institutionalisation on early brain development.¹⁹ Studies have shown that children who remain in institutions after the age of six months often face severe developmental delays.¹⁸

These images from the Bucharest Early Intervention Project show the low electrical activity in an institutionalised child's brain. Orange and red indicate high activity.²⁰

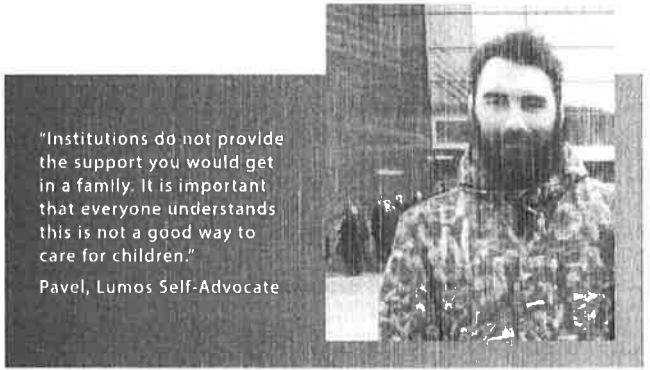


Institutions can also severely limit the life chances of the children who grow up in them.²⁶ A number of studies have shown that care leavers are more likely to be involved in criminal activity, that institutions are ineffective in preventing criminality,²¹ and that young people leaving institutions are at increased risk of prostitution and suicide.²² The risks of becoming homeless are approximately 50 times higher for those who have lived in institutions, compared with those who were placed in foster care²³. Children placed in foster care are also more likely to attain higher levels of education and family stability, are less prone to substance abuse and are less likely to be arrested or convicted.²⁴

Young adults leaving institutions are especially vulnerable to these risks because they have had fewer opportunities to develop the social skills and networks they need to live successfully and independently in the community.²⁵ These poor outcomes for children result in high potential social and economic costs to society.²⁵

Moreover, children in institutions in many countries experience various forms of neglect, abuse and maltreatment.²⁷ The prevalence of physical and sexual abuse in residential care is also higher than in other forms of care, even in countries where residential care is better resourced with smaller numbers of children per facility.²⁸

Irrespective of the intentions with which an institution is established, how it is managed, or its material conditions, it can never replace the love, support and stability that children need to form secure attachments.



18. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

19. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

20. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

21. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

22. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

23. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

24. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

25. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

26. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

27. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

28. Nelson, K. E. & Rutter, M. (1993). The development of attachment in children with institutional experience. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 34(1), 1-10.

A CHILD'S RIGHT TO A FAMILY

The international legal framework clearly outlines the case against institutions and the need to support children to be in a family and included in the community.

The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** outlines a range of children's rights that, taken together, state that most children should live with and be cared for by their birth families.⁴⁰ It is the primary responsibility of parents to raise their children and it is the responsibility of the state to support parents to fulfil that responsibility.⁴¹ Placing children in residential institutions so they can access healthcare or education denies them their right to live with their family and to be included and participate in community life. Article 2 emphasises the rights of all children, irrespective of background or disability, to access all their rights.

The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** reaffirms children's rights to live with their families and be included in the community, to be included in education that meets their needs without segregation from their peers, and to participate in decisions that affect them.⁴²

The **UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children** affirm that states must ensure families have access to services which support them in their caregiving role⁴³ and institutions are not a suitable option. If institutions still exist, "alternatives should be developed in the context of an overall deinstitutionalisation strategy with precise goals and objectives, which will allow for their progressive elimination."⁴⁴

The **EU 2017 Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child** outline the EU's strategy to strengthen efforts to ensure that every child, especially those most marginalised, is reached by EU policies and actions.⁴⁵

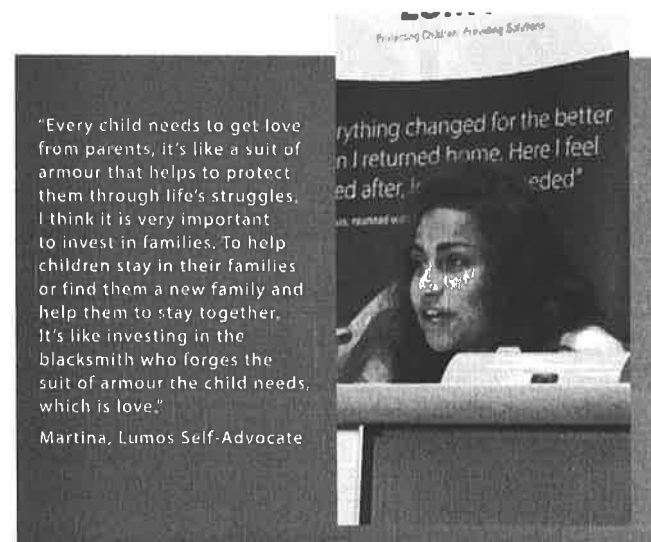
Article 3 of the **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)** protects all citizens from torture or inhuman and degrading treatment. This is relevant for practices identified in some institutions, such as physical restraint or humiliating punishments.⁴⁶ **Article 8** protects all citizens from unlawful interference in their private and family life. This includes the rights of children and families to not be separated unless it is both necessary and proportionate.⁴⁷ Additionally, **Article 5(1)** states that no one shall be deprived of their liberty, except the listed cases in the article and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law – the cases do not include any of the main drivers of institutionalisation, such as poverty or lack of services.

Article 19 of the **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)** states that children should, whenever possible, have the right to live with their parents, and that no child should be separated from his or her parents against his or her will, except when authorities believe it is in the child's best interest. **Article 25** affirms that children who are separated from their parents should get special protection and should be provided with alternative family care, and that states should also take all possible steps to trace and re-unite children with parents. Furthermore, **Article 13** states that all children with disabilities have the right to special protection to ensure their dignity and promote their self-reliance and active participation in the community.

⁴⁰ UNCRC, Article 18.
⁴¹ UNCRC, Article 18.
⁴² UNCRC, Article 18.
⁴³ UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, Article 1.
⁴⁴ UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, Article 1.
⁴⁵ EU 2017 Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child, Article 1.
⁴⁶ ECHR, Article 3.
⁴⁷ ECHR, Article 8.

The **Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities** describes the need to adopt legislative, social, educational, labour-related or other measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities and promote their full integration into society.

The **Arab Charter on Human Rights** asserts that the state and society shall ensure the protection of the family and provide adolescents and young people the best opportunities for physical and mental development. It also requires states to guarantee the dignity, enhance self-reliance and facilitate the active participation of persons with disabilities in society.



THE FINANCIAL CASE FOR CHANGE

Governments in many countries believe that providing care and protection to children through institutions is the most cost-effective option. However, research has shown that on average, institutional care is eight times more expensive than providing social services to parents and children; it is up to five times more expensive than foster care; and twice as expensive as community residential homes or small group homes.⁴⁸

In the Kagera region of Tanzania, the World Bank reported that the cost of a child living in an institution was nearly six times higher than supporting a child to live in a foster family.⁴⁹ A case study in Eritrea showed that the annual cost per child in residential care was \$1,900 USD, while the cost for family integration was below \$100 USD.⁵⁰

It is important that financial arguments do not override the necessity to support the needs, and realise the rights, of the child. Reforming systems of protecting and caring for children must never be viewed as a cost-cutting or money saving exercise. The reform process is an opportunity to analyse the needs of children and direct resources to create a system that meets them.

"When you live in a house with 100 children you are nobody, you exist in documents, there is no future for you, no freedom to express your abilities, you are not prepared for the outside world, and you go down the wrong path. So you are useless for others, for yourself, and I realised you are expensive for society."

Mihaela, Lumos Self-Advocate



THE ALTERNATIVE

Principles

Investment must be directed towards strengthening families and communities. A holistic childcare and protection system, social support for vulnerable families and inclusive universal services are needed to tackle the drivers that place families at risk of separation.

Political commitment, technical expertise, resource and the involvement of young people, communities and civil society must be in place to break the cycle of disadvantage and invest in children so they can reach their potential.

Deinstitutionalisation involves the transformation of services to ensure that children are able to live with their families, or in family-based or family-like services in the community. It typically involves:

- **Providing community services that prevent family separation, and give vulnerable children the opportunity to remain with their birth parents, or with other family.** Such services might include access to healthcare, inclusive education, or targeted services to help at-risk families who might need additional support in times of need.
- **Ensuring that appropriate alternatives are available when it is not possible for children to remain with their families.** Following a thorough assessment of a child's needs, there may be occasions when it is not in the best interests of the child to remain in his or her family. In these instances, it is vital that alternative forms of care, such as kinship care or foster care, are in place to ensure children continue to benefit from the love and support of a family and remain in their community.
- **Dismantling the institutional system.** This is a complex and sensitive process that involves moving children from institutions to families or family-based care, and eventually closing down institutions. Throughout this process it is vital to ensure that each child has a placement that best meets his or her needs.
- **Redirecting resources.** Institutions are expensive. The money and other resources currently invested in institutions should be redirected towards community-based health, education and social services that keep families together. In this way, the alternatives to institutionalisation become sustainable for the long term, providing assistance to many more children than the institution could.

Fundamentally, it is about inclusion – making sure the right support services are in place to enable all children to live with families, in the community.

Reform is complex and requires a well-planned approach. Deinstitutionalisation does not mean closing institutions overnight. Children can only leave institutions once the relevant support and alternatives are in place. The creation of new services is a critical component of the process.

48. Whitem, A. (2008) 'The Cost of Care: A Review of the Evidence on the Costs of Institutional Care and Foster Care in the UK', London: The Children's Society.
49. World Bank (2010) 'The Cost of Care: A Review of the Evidence on the Costs of Institutional Care and Foster Care in the UK', London: The Children's Society.
50. Eritrean Ministry of Health (2010) 'The Cost of Care: A Review of the Evidence on the Costs of Institutional Care and Foster Care in the UK', London: The Children's Society.

EXAMPLES OF REFORM

Examples of reform from around the world, ensuring high-quality support for children, families and communities.

Long-term integrated support for families and National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has been seriously affected by the AIDS and HIV crisis. In 2011, there were 72 registered child institutions in Zimbabwe – and according to UNICEF, between 1994 and 2004, 24 new private institutions were built and the number of children in residential care doubled.³¹

To tackle this issue, the EU is providing long-term support to the Government's National OVC Action Plan to enable children to remain with their families.³² This programme aims to develop a sustainable child-sensitive National Social Protection Framework for Zimbabwe, strengthening and reforming existing national social protection strategies.³³

In this context, evaluations have recognised the importance of complementary actions, including cash transfers, strengthened child and family care, and effective government social services.³⁴ The multi-donor, multi-sector model enables cooperation between government, donors and a variety of implementers, and has resulted in coordinated and transparent funding.

By March 2010, the programme had:

- provided school-related assistance to 249,314 children
- reunited 5,413 children with their families.³⁵

Reforming the care system for vulnerable children in Rwanda

Rwanda has made great strides in reforming its system of care for vulnerable children. Donors, including the EU, USAID, Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF) and Global Fund, have supported care reform, early childhood education, prevention and economic strengthening.³⁶

Prior to 1994 there were 37 residential facilities housing 4,800 children, but by 1995 – in the wake of the 1994 genocide – the number of facilities rose to 77, housing 12,704 children. Work on family tracing and reunification, alongside an expansion of foster care for children who could not be reunified, meant that by April 2000, the 37 remaining centres housed fewer than 5,000 children.³⁷

There were several significant developments between 2010 and 2012, including the passing of a landmark law on the Rights and Protection of the Child; the establishment of the National Commission for Children (NCC); and successful pilot deinstitutionalisation projects. These initiatives demonstrated that - with a concrete strategy, well-trained social workers and available alternative care options such as formal foster care – deinstitutionalisation was possible in Rwanda.³⁸

The reforms have strengthened the capacity of government bodies and professionals working with children and families, and family support services and social protection schemes are in place to address the drivers of family separation. A robust legal and policy framework that includes prevention of separation and provision of targeted support to families and increased availability of alternative care services such as foster care, have led to a reduction in the number of children living in institutions.³⁹

Protecting children who have been exploited or victims of violence in Senegal and Mali

A project in Senegal and Mali aims to protect 1,500 children who have either been exploited or have been victims of violence.⁴⁰ Some of these children have fled Koranic daara schools or the conflict in the north of Mali. They are often traumatised, isolated and vulnerable. The aim of the project is to tackle child exploitation in the region and build long-term stability.

The project, managed by the European Union Delegation in Senegal, aims to reintegrate children with their families if possible, or find other ways to protect them. The project supports the return of children to formal education and provides economic support for tutors and training in child rights. The project develops community knowledge and raises awareness on protection and participation to prevent further exploitation and provide protection for children.

The range of approaches aim to support children to find homes within families and prevent future exploitation, trafficking and forced labour.

Tackling orphanage trafficking and voluntourism in Australia

The number of people volunteering in orphanages, and the amount of donations given internationally, has become so great that it has created a demand for more orphanages. 'Orphanage trafficking' is the active recruitment of children from vulnerable families into residential institutions for the purpose of exploitation.⁴¹

In 2017, the Australian government's parliamentary inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act set a global precedent by recommending that 'orphanage trafficking' should be included in the definition of modern slavery.

In its final report, the Committee listed 11 recommendations on measures to fight orphanage trafficking.⁴² Under the acknowledgement that orphanage tourism contributes to the demand for children to be trafficked into orphanages, the government launched a 'Smart Volunteering' campaign which explicitly discourages any short-term, unskilled volunteering in orphanages.⁴³ With mounting pressure, several travel agencies have since publicly withdrawn from offering orphanage trips.



Returning children to families in Moldova

"I know what it means to be a child deprived of identity and family care, because I lived through this experience. I had a difficult period in my life: my father died when I was six months old, and when I was six years old my mother became a victim of a serious car accident, after which she needed medical treatment for a long time. Left without supervision, I was taken into an institution, and nobody asked for my opinion nor for my mother's."

It was very hard in the institution, we lived under strict rules. Nobody was interested in our opinions. They put the same clothes on us, cut our hair, and there was never any hope of getting out of there. We were punished just because we wanted to go home, and sometimes we didn't even have the right to tears. The things that happened there remained within those walls, and will be in my memory for the rest of my life.

After seven years spent in the institution, at the age of 14, my life changed – Lumos helped me to find a wonderful family. Only then did I understand what it means to have a family, brothers, sisters, and what's most important – love, which I was deprived of in my childhood.

I can't change my past anymore, I can only build my present and future, based on my decisions. Similarly, we can't change the past of millions of children left without parental care, but together we can build a better future for them by respecting their rights and offering support in a safe environment. These children exist and they need us. They still have a chance, since we are here today, and today is the first day towards improving the lives of children."

- Olga



88%

There has been an 88% reduction in children in institutions, from 11,544 in 2007 to 1,429 in 2017.¹⁴



685%

685% increase of children with special-educational needs in mainstream schooling, from 1,253 at the beginning of the inclusive education programme in 2010 to 9,840 in 2017.¹⁵



Reuniting children with their families in Haiti

Picked up by a policeman, wandering alone and separated from their family after the earthquake in 2010, Mirlande and her brother were taken to the only place he believed would look after them – an orphanage. Instead, the siblings were starved, abused and used to garner donations from well-meaning tourists and volunteers.

"They took all the stuff and sold it. The white people would bring us sandals, and she [the Director] would not give them to us – all the kids would walk around barefoot. If something valuable was sent to a kid by their sponsor, she would take it and use it for herself." In the six years that passed, Mirlande began to lose hope of ever returning home to her mother.

However, in 2016, when a team of government child protection workers, supported by Lumos, arrived to begin the process of closing the orphanage and returning the children to family care. A family tracer worked with Mirlande and her brother, and they told him every single detail they could remember about their family. Armed with all they told him, he travelled first to their home village, where he learned that their mother was now living in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. When he eventually found her, Mirlande's mother was elated. "Even though my mom was searching for us, she did not know if we were still alive."

Several visits and support sessions later, the family were officially reunited. Mirlande is now happy and safe, and the family continues to receive support to ensure that they stay together. "What hurt me the most was the fact that I was not living with my parents. Your parents' love is stronger than anyone else's."



- Of the approximately 30,000 children in orphanages in Haiti, the Government of Haiti estimates that 80% have one or two living parents who could care for them at home or in another family setting. If properly supported.¹⁶ Since Lumos began working in Haiti, the team has worked closely with IBESR – the government department responsible for children – and supported the closure of eight institutions.¹⁷ More than 75% of the children have been able to go home to their families with support.
- Terre des Hommes and IBESR run a foster care programme in Les Cayes, Haiti, which is funded by the European Union, UNICEF and the Embassy of France.¹⁸ The programme includes a formal certification process and in 2016 there were 20 families listed in the accredited foster family protection programme, with eight more families awaiting certification.¹⁹

¹⁴ The number of children in institutions in Moldova decreased from 11,544 in 2007 to 1,429 in 2017. Source: Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Moldova.

¹⁵ The number of children with special educational needs in mainstream schooling in Moldova increased from 1,253 in 2010 to 9,840 in 2017. Source: Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Moldova.

¹⁶ The number of children in orphanages in Haiti is estimated at 30,000. Source: Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Haiti.

¹⁷ Source: Terre des Hommes, Haiti.

¹⁸ Source: Terre des Hommes, Haiti.

¹⁹ Source: Terre des Hommes, Haiti.



Transforming care systems in Bulgaria

Ivan spent several years in the Rudnik institution in Bulgaria. Cold, dark, with a large number of children with disabilities crammed into uncomfortably close conditions, with no toys or personal belongings, Rudnik did not come close to home for Ivan. "It was an awful place to live," he says. "The food and the conditions were terrible. Nothing was good about that place."

"No children's drawings on the walls, just children isolated in this closed building... we couldn't believe the conditions inside," remembers Ilia Iliev, Head of the Bulgarian Social Services Department, of his first visit to Rudnik. Thankfully, political commitment and the support of international organisations have brought incredible change to Bulgaria.

With the support of the European Commission and civil society, the Bulgarian government embarked on an ambitious programme to transform the system of caring for vulnerable children. In 2009, the Bulgarian government developed its Vision for Deinstitutionalisation of Children in Bulgaria. In recent years, large-scale homes for children with disabilities have been replaced by family support services, foster care and small group homes, which prioritise keeping children at home where possible.

For Ivan, who now lives in a small group home that supports his independence and aims to provide a family environment, this is welcome news. "I left Rudnik with one backpack that contained my entire life. No child should ever have to live in an institution. When I graduate from school, I would like to get a house, where me and my brother Ilko would live."



The Bulgarian government has demonstrated that when a system shifts away from a reliance on institutions, towards community-based services, many more children and families can be supported - with better outcomes - using a similar budget.

- ¹ In 2010, the highest proportion of state expenditure on vulnerable children went towards institutions. 15,278 children were supported with a budget of €52 million.
- ² By 2017, the emphasis had shifted towards providing community-based support, and the number of children living in institutions had reduced. 27,550 children are being supported with a budget of €55 million.⁴

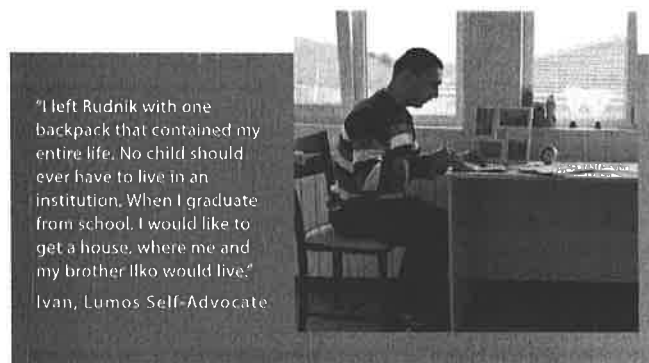
¹ [Data from the Bulgarian Social Services Department, 2017](#)
² [Data from the Bulgarian Social Services Department, 2017](#)
³ [Data from the Bulgarian Social Services Department, 2017](#)
⁴ [Data from the Bulgarian Social Services Department, 2017](#)



Diversifying money from institutions towards community-based services in Europe

The European Union is playing a pivotal role in supporting deinstitutionalisation across Europe. In 2013, the ex-ante conditionality 9.1 was introduced in the Regulations governing the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The ex-ante conditionality states that Member States must have and implement a "national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction, aiming at active inclusion" that "includes measures for the shift from institutional to community-based care."¹ This means that Member States can no longer spend ESIF on building new institutions and have to prioritise community-based services.

The guidelines accompanying the ESIF explicitly state that "building or renovating long-stay residential institutions is excluded, regardless of their size" and emphasise that any new measures should allow for the possibility of inclusion in the community and high-quality care.² This landmark decision has resulted in hundreds of millions of Euros being directed towards reforming systems, shifting away from institutions to community-based care, making a positive impact on some of Europe's most socially excluded citizens.³



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Ivan, Lumos Self-Advocate

¹ [Ex-ante conditionality 9.1](#)
² [Guidelines accompanying the ESIF](#)
³ [Data from the European Commission, 2017](#)

THE WAY FORWARD

It is possible to end the harmful practice of institutionalisation. Every government, business, civil society organisation and individual has a part to play in achieving better outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.

Invest in children and families

- **Invest in children and prioritise funding that drives the transition from institutions to family and community-based services.** Funding should be directed towards services that support children to live in families and their communities. These include: family support, early childhood development, inclusive education, health and social services, high-quality alternative care and strengthening child protection systems.
- **Build systems that keep families together.** Creating a better life for children out of institutions doesn't just mean providing them with 'care' in the community. The full range of services a child and their family need must be planned – across government ministries, donors and communities – to ensure that children are included, safe and secure, can actively participate, and have access to more targeted support when they need it.

Launch high-quality, inclusive and sustainable care system reform

- **Put children and young people at the centre of all reform plans.** Life begins when a child belongs. Children's views must be included when designing, monitoring and implementing projects that concern them.
- **Create a vision.** Set a shared vision of the goals of reform and ensure that key ministries, civil society, children and other partners – national and international – are committed and aligned. Outlining a common ambition for children, and the goals and timings, will help set the foundations to develop the strategy and detailed plans, and engage parties involved in reform.
- **Ensure the transition from institutions to family and community-based services is reflected in relevant laws and policies.** Develop regulations to ensure that funds are never used to build, renovate or support institutions and that staff responsible for administering programmes are trained and supported to deliver to these objectives.
- **Safely dismantle institutional systems and redirect money towards new services.** In parallel with developing family and community-based services, the institutional system must be scaled back, reducing its 'pull factor' for children and resources – and freeing up money to develop and fund new services.
- **Undertake financial analysis.** Mapping the system of care in a country and finding out how much money goes into institutions or other forms of care is key to ensuring money can be redirected towards better forms of care. This also alerts authorities to potential fraud, corruption and even 'orphanage trafficking'. Money is often an obstacle to change but can also provide a huge opportunity to facilitate change. These opportunities cannot be harnessed without information.
- **Fund demonstration programmes to expand the evidence base.** The legal framework states that institutions should be the last resort, and only on a temporary basis. Yet without investment in generating high-quality evidence of family-strengthening and alternative care in a range of cultures and contexts – especially in emergencies, following natural disasters, or in cases of mass migration – institutions will continue to be the default solution for vulnerable children. They are likely to compound harm and risk rather than protect children.

- **Ensure long-term investment and planning that leads to sustainable transformation.** Transforming the system of care in a country takes longer than typical five-year political terms. Formal political dialogue and coordinated, complementary support from a range of donors is vital to ensure consistency in the implementation of reform.
- **Strengthen capacity to undertake reform.** Once political will, funding, vision and plans are in place, one of the biggest obstacles to implementation is the understanding that reform will involve significant change across the system. The capacity of staff across all levels of the system will need to be built to ensure they are equipped with the right skills and support to deliver.
- **Create open and clear communications throughout the reform process.** Good communications can minimise resistance and, in the long run, save money. A communications strategy must have clear messaging aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviours of communities, institution directors and personnel, politicians, funders and individuals.

Leave no child behind

- **A child is a child.** Regardless of their background, faith or migration status, all children are entitled to the same set of rights; those which we hold universal, even in uncertain and unpredictable times. The evidence and the rights framework is clear – children need families to thrive.
- **Prioritise the most vulnerable children.** Often, babies and children with disabilities are those who suffer greatest harm from institutionalisation. Their needs must be identified and prioritised at the beginning of the reform process.

Participation, commitment and transparency

- **Everyone has a role.** A vast range of organisations and people fund, volunteer in, visit and support institutions, including multilaterals, governments, businesses, philanthropists and individuals. With limited resource, stakeholders must work together to ensure that resource, expertise and good intentions are redirected towards new services to support vulnerable children.
- **Seek out and embrace a range of perspectives in the reform process.** The knowledge and expertise of civil society, young people, communities and others should be built into the design, implementation and planning of the reform process.

Invest in data

- **Ensure all children are counted.** If you do not know how many children there are and why they are in institutions, how can you solve the problem? Ensure that the post-2015 global monitoring framework **includes all children**, by taking measures to improve and expand data collection methodologies so that children living outside families are represented in disaggregated data.
- **Measure what matters by investing in rigorous monitoring and evaluation of reform processes.** Ensure that practice reflects the plans and policy intentions, that health, development and quality of life outcomes for children and young people are monitored, and that systems are put in place to assess the long-term impact. Ensure practice – good and bad – is documented and shared, so that others can learn from, and build on, what has worked and common issues faced in the process.

Raise awareness of 'orphanage trafficking'

- **Tackle 'orphanage trafficking'.** Ensure all governments and donors are aware of this form of trafficking, where children are recruited to orphanages purely as a means of raising funds from unsuspecting donors and volunteers. Countries should consider prohibiting organisations from facilitating orphanage tourism abroad and support strengthening the rule of law in countries where orphanage trafficking is prolific.

