

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@wearelumos.org>
Sent: lundi 11 juin 2018 17:22
To: ANDRASSY Irena (CAB-MIMICA)
Cc: [REDACTED] (DEVCO); [REDACTED]
Subject: Speaker's brief
Attachments: [REDACTED].pdf

Dear Irena,

Please find attached the Speaker's brief we have prepared for you.

Do let me know should you have any questions.

Best,

[REDACTED]
EU Advocacy Manager
Rue de l'Arbre Bénit / Gewijde-Boomstraat 44 b.7
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium
Mob.: +32 499 24 74 61
Email: [REDACTED]@wearelumos.org




Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

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



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

This email and any attachments to it are confidential. Any use, copying or disclosure other than by the intended recipient is unauthorised. If you are not the person for whom this email is intended, please notify the sender immediately by calling +44 20 7253 6464 or emailing postmaster@lumos.org.uk and delete this message and any copies from your computer and network.


Lumos Foundation (Lumos) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number: 5611912 | Registered charity number: 1112575 | Registered office: Gredley House, 1-11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BQ.

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

Panellist: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of Cabinet of Commissioner Mimica

Introduction and Opening Remarks

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Friday 15 June 2018

Time: 09:30 – 16:00

Venue: European Commission
Charlemagne building
Rue de la Loi 170,
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Contact: If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Points to be Aware of:

- You will need to print out the confirmation you were sent to bring to security, and bring along the ID you used to register
- Please let us know what time you plan to arrive in Brussels before the conference
- If you do wish to use slides in your presentation, we strongly recommend no more than two or three slides. In order to ensure all of the slides are loaded up ready for speakers, please can you send your slides to briony.anthony@wearelumos.org by the end of Wednesday. Please do be aware, you will be unable to alter your presentation on the day, due to the technical provisions of the venue.

1. Overview

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 Life President of Lumos.

Key messages of the conference:

- Over 80 years of research from around the world demonstrates that living in institutions can cause significant harm to children. Institutionalisation of children significantly limits their future life chances and places them at increased risk of being abused and trafficked.

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

- Children are placed in institutions because of poverty, war, natural disaster, disability and social exclusion.

- All children, regardless of their background, faith or migration status, have the right to a family. Yet in emergency situations – such as natural disasters, mass migration or war – children are often placed in an institution to protect them. These very actions – intended to support children – tear them from their family and community, and place them in an environment that increases their vulnerability and their exposure to harm and abuse.
- Even institutions that are well run, have good material conditions and qualified and caring staff, cannot replace the individual love, support and stability children get from a family.
- International agencies, governments, philanthropy, charities and individuals – are still investing in the creation, maintenance and expansion of institutional care systems in too many countries, which results in children being separated from their families and put at high risk and violence, abuse and neglect.
- International donors, especially those engaged in areas such as child rights, disability, need to prioritise funding activity and technical advice to support the transition from institutions to family and community-based services. This includes family support, early childhood development, inclusive education, health and social services, quality alternative care and strengthening child protection systems.
- Funding these services will help protect children from violence, abuse and neglect and give children the best opportunity to reach their full potential and access their full set of rights within families and communities.
- This is a solvable issue. There are examples of successful reform in different countries, contexts and cultures that demonstrate that, despite challenging circumstances, children can be supported to live in a family or family-like environment through cost-efficient actions.
- It is vital children and young people at the centre of all plans to reform systems of care. At an individual level, they must be included in their own care planning and adequately prepared for any move in placement. Children and youth who experienced institutionalisation have unique views on the policies and services they need. Governments, service providers and all relevant stakeholders should actively listen to their wishes and feelings and involve them in all relevant policy and service development.

2. Background

2.1. About Lumos

Lumos is an international NGO,² founded by the author J.K. Rowling, whose primary aim is to end the institutionalisation of children globally. They do this by transforming education, health and social

² Lumos Foundation (Lumos) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number: 5611912 | Registered charity number: 1112575

care systems for children and their families and helping children move from institutions to family and community-based care. Lumos sits on the EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings and is a founding member of the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care.

2.2. About the European Commission

The European Commission is the European Union's (EU) executive arm. It promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget. The Commission is made up of 28 Commissioners, including the President of the Commission, who look after different policy areas and services. Neven Mimica is the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development. He is responsible, among others, for ensuring that the EU delivers on its commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, while making sure that the EU's development assistance is effective, well-targeted and efficiently contributing to addressing the global challenges.

2.3. Institutionalisation of children

Over 80 years of research from across the world has demonstrated the significant harm caused to children in institutions who are deprived of loving family care and who may consequently suffer life-long physical and psychological harm.³ 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, marginalisation, a lack of family support services in the community and as a result of trafficking.

The number of children who live in institutions globally is unknown. Estimates suggest that at least eight million may live in institutions⁵, but figures are often underreported, underestimated, and are based on incomplete data, especially from the many countries with large numbers of unregistered institutions. Many institutions are unregulated and privately run – effectively making these vulnerable children invisible, and allowing for abuse and mistreatment to occur with impunity. Consistently, institutions do not provide effective education, health or other services to children. Institutionalisation is associated with increased risks of homelessness, crime, poor educational outcomes and prostitution; it can limit the life chances of individuals, to whom the costs are profound.⁶

An institution can be defined as any residential facility where an 'institutional culture' prevails. *"The size of the institution matters, but is not the only defining feature. The children are isolated from the broader community and are compelled to live with other non-related children. These children, and their families, do not have sufficient control over their lives and over decisions which affect them."*

³ Berens, A. & Nelson, C. (2015) The science of early adversity: Is there a role for large institutions in the care of vulnerable children? *The Lancet*. 2015.

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

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

⁶ Csaky, C. (2014). *Why Care Matters: the Importance of Adequate Care for Children and Society*, p14. Available at: <http://www.familyforeverychild.org/report/why-care-matters/> [accessed 9 March 2016].

Crucially, the requirements of the organisation itself tend to take precedence over the children's individual needs"⁷.

3. The high-level conference *No child left behind: Families not institutions – EU external action championing children's rights*

This high-level conference brings together the voices of girls and boys, global leaders, leading experts and policy-makers. It 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.

Conference 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 deinstitutionalisation including quality child care and protection reform around the world through 1) policy leadership and 2) changing donor practice from funding institutions to funding deinstitutionalisation (including community care services).
- To explore the drivers of institutionalisation, including orphanage trafficking, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability; to explore the solutions and the alternative to institutionalisation.
- 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.

⁷ Adapted from European Commission. (2009). *Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care*.

4. Duration, content and key messages of your session – Introduction and Opening Remarks

You will be participating in a session from 10:30 – 10:55 (please see attached agenda). The session title is Introduction and Opening Remarks. It will introduce the conference and give the young leaders an opportunity to speak about the Global Youth Summit.

Your Role:

You are one of three speakers in this panel. Your role will be to introduce the conference and welcome the delegates.

Please note, the timetable is very tight and each speaker is kindly requested to keep their speech to a maximum of six minutes only.

Given the objectives of this high-level conference, we would suggest that your presentation could address some of the following points:

- Welcome the delegates to this important conference on behalf of the EC and Lumos.
- Explain why the issues addressed in this conference are important (child protection, the responsibility of the conventions we have signed, these are vulnerable children that have been left behind, and we have the power to change the world).
- Explain the EC's role in responding to this area of child protection.
- Explain what the principle of *no child left behind – families not institutions* means in practice in the context of EU external action.
- Address how EU external action will further champion children's rights.
- Address the importance of taking children's and young people's views in all policies and decisions which concern their lives.
- Introduce the young people. (Details to be provided the day before)

As the first speaker of the day, we ask that you also take a few moments to run through some **housekeeping points**. You will need to let delegates know that they are asked not to take photographs during the conference. This is just for security reasons, and there will be a professional photographer here on the day taking pictures. Guests are also asked not to post about the attendees of the conference on social media; again this is important for security reasons. The last point is around the music playing throughout the conference – delegates might have noticed it's unusual for a European Commission conference! We have asked our young leaders to select some music which has importance to them; we do hope delegates enjoy this!

Other speakers in your session include:

Speaker one: *Youth Representative, Global Youth Summit*

Speaker two: *Georgette Mulheir, CEO, Lumos*

Bios as included.

Format:

1. [REDACTED] – *Deliver points of housekeeping and speak (6 mins)*
2. *Youth Representative – Speak (13 mins)*
3. [REDACTED] – *speak (6 mins)*