

Building a Europe for and with children (eds), *Eradicating violence against children-Council of Europe actions*, Council of Europe Publishing, September 2008, 135pp. US\$38/€19 ISBN 978-92-871-6432-2

This book is a new edition, revised and updated, of the book published in 2005 by UNICEF *Council of Europe actions to promote children's rights to protection from all forms of violence*. Made by the Council of Europe itself in the context of its programme « building a Europe for and with children », the aim of this publication is to summarise and reference what the institution does to protect children from violence. Indeed, it provides an insight of the Council of Europe's work in the fields of prevention, promotion and protection of children from all forms of violence. The book is divided into two parts. The first examines the different tools with which the Council of Europe works to protect children's rights, especially regarding the fight against violence. The second part looks at the mechanisms relevant for the protection of children from all forms of violence.

The publication begins with a brief introduction dealing with the Council of Europe and the way it works. It is subdivided into five parts. It opens with a very short part that recalls the structure of the institution. Then are examined, with a lot of details, the conventions, recommendations and resolutions adopted by the Council of Europe to protect children from violence. This part shows in full detail what each instrument contains, and what concrete implications these instruments have to protect children from all forms of violence. It allows appreciating the large number of fields linked to the protection of children covered at the European level. The following part looks at the monitoring. It emphasizes the various actors and mechanisms involved, from the highest level to the lowest. The importance of the work done by each actor is well shown. There is a specific focus on the role of the commissioner for human rights, who works directly with states. He is interested in many issues relating to children. A special accent is put upon the issue paper he published on corporal punishment. The fourth sub-part examines policy development. It particularly falls on policies developed at the European level, in accordance with the work done within the United Nations. Cooperation with states is required to obtain good results and many means have been created to answer to this need. The first part ends with a brief final sub-part, which sounds like a kind of conclusion. It is explained that all the work done cannot be really successful without communication, which is another topic the Council of Europe works on.

The second part of the publication focuses on the three main mechanisms relevant for the protection of children from all forms of violence, which are the European Convention on Human Rights, the revised European social Charter and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. There is one sub-part by instrument. Relevant provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights are highlighted, and the European Court of Human Rights' case law relating to violence against children is analysed. Concerning the European Social Charter and the revised European Social Charter, the same approach is made. Articles 7 and 17 of both versions are examined, to show that the new article 17 provides a more effective protection. Then, the European Committee of Social Rights' case law is analysed. Finally, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the conclusions of its Committee are examined as well.

This book provides a very clear and detailed examination of what is done by the Council of Europe in order to protect children from all forms of violence. By reading it, it becomes easier to have a good understanding of the broad and effective work that is made within the institution. The line chosen is to diffuse and popularize the work and to explain it, and the result is brightly accomplished. This publication is an essential tool to appreciate the effort made at the European level to protect children efficiently. Nonetheless, due to its

pedagogic role, the book stays superficial concerning some aspects. But it has to be underlined that it constitutes a first step to understand the work done, and that deeper researches are necessary to obtain a detailed analysis on a specific issue.

Marc MOREL

LL.M candidate at the Geneva Academy of international humanitarian law and human rights