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MODS is an association of children's associations that currently gathers 103 members from all over Serbia. We arose from the need for organizations working with children to gather around common goals and perform together.

Today , MODS is an independent platform that works to improve the cooperation of associations, harmonize common positions and increase their participation and the participation of children in creating public policies that will contribute to:

- reducing poverty, social exclusion and inequality;
- that every child lives in a safe family environment;
- that every child has an accessible and quality education;
- that every child has accessible and quality health care and environment;
- that every child be protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

MODS organizes consultations with members, organizations that conduct activities with children and for children and with their parents, on policy changes that can provide a better quality of life for every child. We try to find out the children's opinion and respect their views. We support the participation of our members in working groups that form state institutions in order to change public policies for children.

We have established 5 thematic groups in which the members of the MODS are involved and which serve us to agree on joint actions, exchange of information and learning: 1. Social inclusion and poverty reduction; 2. Protection of children from violence; 3. Children's participation; 4. Quality education and inclusion; 5. Early development and education of children.

MODS has a representative in the Council for the Rights of the Child of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Deputy Protector of Citizens for the Rights of the Child, signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Council for Monitoring the Recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; is a member of the Platform of Organizations for Monitoring the Recommendations of UN Human Rights Bodies; we are a member of international networks and alliances - Eurochild, ChildPact, the global network for ending sexual exploitation - ECPAT and regional networks in the Danube region - Danube Civil Society forum .



Indukcija prirode
za nova čuda.



BE A CHILD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



It is a challenging year for us, marked by the global epidemic of the infectious disease COVID-19. Privileged people were able to stay in their homes and work from home, while many, the poorest, remained to bear the burden of the economy and be at the highest risk of contracting COVID-19.

The consequences of the epidemic were also felt by children, especially children from the most vulnerable groups.

In the first days after the declared epidemic, the MODS prepared a list of resources for its members, parents and children, available and relevant information regarding COVID-19: COVID-19, COVID-19 Resource List. We shared the Councils for successful distance learning, calls and initiatives of our members that Children and young people must be a priority in times of epidemic, Develop a plan for children whose parents suffer from COVID-19, that food aid is urgently needed, recommendations of the Committee for children's rights on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and UNICEF's challenge on social media

In the first days of the epidemic, we conducted two studies with parents and children in Serbia - on Parenting during the pandemic and Being a child during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we sent recommendations based on research with children to relevant institutions and state bodies.

1571 children aged 5 to 18 from all over Serbia participated in the research through online questionnaires. Children were exposed to existential fears and prolonged uncertainty and moved quickly without preparing for a radically new way of learning.



MODS SENT A COMPLAINT TO THE PRESS COUNCIL



The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) submitted a complaint to the Press Council against the following newspapers: Srpski telegraf, Kurir, Alo, Informer and Blic regarding the reporting on the case of the kidnapping of the girl M.K.

More information available [here](#).

By reporting on this case on several occasions, the newspapers mentioned had a significantly negative impact on the emotional, moral, intellectual and social development of every child exposed to these contents. Moreover, they caused severe damage to the interests of every child:

- Grossly violating the rights of the child and the Code of Journalists,
- Exposing them to inappropriate and disturbing content,
- Spreading sensationalist information without any public significance,
- Endangering the safety of every child by the fact that cruel descriptions of violence can encourage bullies to do the same or something worse.

MODS WITH THE DEPUTY PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



The Deputy Protector of Citizens and representatives of the MODS stated that future structured cooperation between them is a necessity. The aim is better synergy between the civil sector and the independent institution for the protection of children's rights would include regular meetings and the exchange of information and thematic meetings, joint activities and education.

Director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia Saša Stefanović, director of the Child Rights Center and member of the Board of Directors of the MODS Jasmina Miković and coordinator of the organization SOS Children's Village Jelena Tanasijević highlighted some of the key topics for cooperation with the Protector of Citizens. Such as issues of ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, reconciliation of work and parenting, media coverage of children, protection of children from secondary victimization in court proceedings and lack of services for children.

More information is available [here](#).

MODS AND PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS SIGNED COOPERATION AGREEMENT



On February 19, 2020, MODS signed an agreement on cooperation with the Protector of Citizens.

The Protector of Citizens and the MODS, which brings together about a hundred civil society organizations, establish cooperation to contribute to the full exercise of rights and the improvement of the position of the child through joint activities.

Deputy Protector of Citizens for Children's Rights and Gender Equality Jelena Stojanović and Director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) Sasa Stefanović signed an agreement on cooperation and understanding in the field of protection of the child's rights guided by the child's best interests and the view that the child's rights are realized, protected and promoted in a more comprehensive and effective way through the joint work of civil society organizations and independent institutions.

More information is available on the following [link](#).

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE A PRIORITY



MODS and Child Rights Center called on the Government of the Republic of Serbia to urgently plan and take measures that will be aimed at the systematic and continuous provision of resources for the empowerment and support of children and families, especially those who belong to the most vulnerable groups.

More at the link [here](#).

The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia and the Child Rights Center stated that the problems affecting almost every child in Serbia require immediate systematic solutions, a strategic approach, and more significant and appropriate allocations for protecting and realizing children's rights.

The position of children in Serbia has been further harmed by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which primarily affects children from the most vulnerable groups - children with disabilities, migrant children, Roma children, children in a street situation, children with HIV/ AIDS, children of members of the LGBTI population, children from single-parent families and families with no or low income, etc.

MODS ANNOUNCEMENT: "AGAINST THE POLITICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN"



**Children are not
political tools**

On May 31, 2020, the statement "Against the political abuse of children" was published.

Before the elections in 2020, the Network of Children's Organizations of Serbia, Friends of Children of Serbia and the Child Rights Center called on political parties not to abuse children for political purposes and thus violate children's rights.

Entire announcement is available [here](#).

In the statement, political parties were invited to respect the opinions and attitudes of children and note that there is no reason for their direct involvement in any promotional activities. However, it is necessary to define the difference between quasi-participation and manipulation of children from their actual participation in social life, where political parties must consider their age. That is why the invitation to political parties to support the initiative and commit to complying with the Code on the Protection of Children from Political Abuse is open.

We invited political parties to get acquainted with "Rulebook on the Abuse of Children for Media Purposes and Respect for the Code on the Protection of Children from Political Abuse", published by Friends of Children, a member of the MODS, 2019.

STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE



The National Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence from 2020 to 2023 was adopted in May 2020, with an Action Plan for its implementation from 2020 to 2021.

More at the link [here](#).

Members of the MODS participated in the development of this strategy, and Jelena Zunic Cicvaric, program director of the Uzice Center for the Rights of the Child, represented us in the working group for the development of the Strategy.

The right to protection from all forms of violence is the fundamental right of every child; it is established by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and a number of international and regional treaties in the field of human rights protection that the Republic of Serbia has confirmed.

With the adoption of this strategy, Serbia realized another activity from the Action Plan for negotiation chapter 23 in the process of joining the EU.

DIALOGUE FOR THE FUTURE



Network of organizations for children of Serbia in partnership with the Association for the Realization of the Rights of the Child "Our Children" within the Joint Regional Program "Dialogue for the Future : Improving Dialogue and Social Cohesion in, and between, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia" UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, and funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF) implemented the project "Children say".

Project activities are carried out in cooperation with members of MODS in Serbia and the network "Stronger Voice for Children" in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Belgrade (Friends of Children of Serbia and Center for Youth Integration), Nis (Open Club), Kraljevo, SOS Children's Villages Foundation), Sarajevo (Our Children), Banja Luka (Hello), Tuzla (Country of Children in BiH) and Prijedor (Lighthouse).

The project's overall goal is to build trust between different social groups and people in BiH and Serbia by improving social cohesion.

More about project can be found [here](#).



RECORDING CHILDREN MESSAGES FOR THE "CHILDREN SAY" PROJECT



In August, MODS recorded video messages of children for the "Children say" project.

160 boys and girls from marginalized groups from Serbia and BiH identified the main problems of the social groups they belong. 32 boys and girls from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina recognized the common issues of their social groups and proposed solutions. Furthermore, 32 boys and girls from Serbia and BiH acquired the skills necessary to inform the decision-makers and international agencies about the problems common to children and young people from marginalized groups, as well as the priorities and recommendations for their solution.

The project's main objective is to contribute to building trust between different social groups and people in BiH and Serbia through improving social cohesion.



D CARE LAB PROJECT

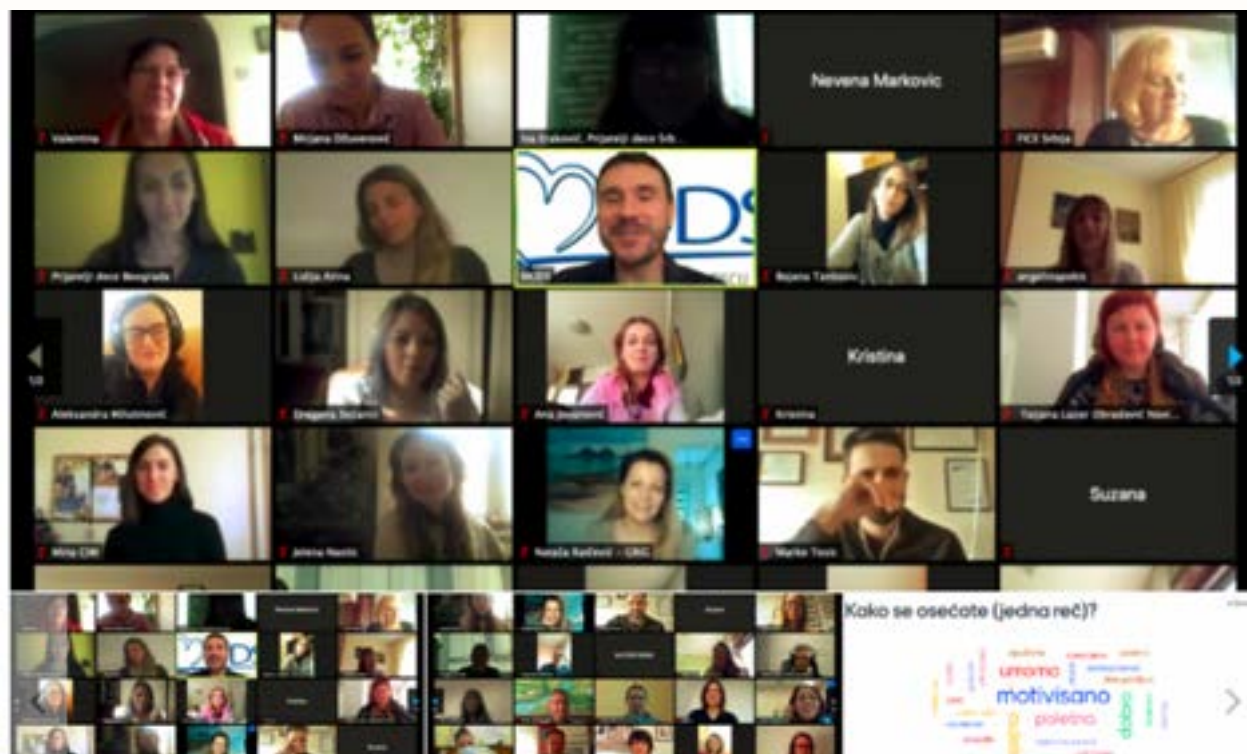


MODS started implementing the D-CARE LABS project in a coalition of organizations from 10 European countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Moldova) which is implemented within the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Program. The D-Care Labs project is co-financed by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI)

The aim of the project is to support specialized service providers, product development experts and social start-ups to design and implement better home care services for the elderly, people with disabilities and the establishment of specialized regional innovation structures in D-care laboratories . children with disabilities.

More information about the project is available [here](#).





The MODS Assembly elected the following members of the Management Board: Jasmina Mikovic (Child Rights Center), Marko Totic (Center for Youth Integration), Kenan Rasitovic (Youth Forum for Roma Education), Tatjana Lazor Obradovic (CPZV - Know How Center), Dragana Socanin (AgroInvest Foundation Serbia), Aleksandra Milutinovic (Okular), Gordana Plemic (Parent Association), and Kristina Lilic (Society for Child Development and youth - Open Club).

She also elected new members of the Supervisory Board Ana Jovanovic (Center for Creative Development Knjaževac) and Neda Salai (Misturafina Center for Creative and Sustainable Development).

More at the link here.



"D-CARE LAB-S" EVENT



DESIGN THINKING

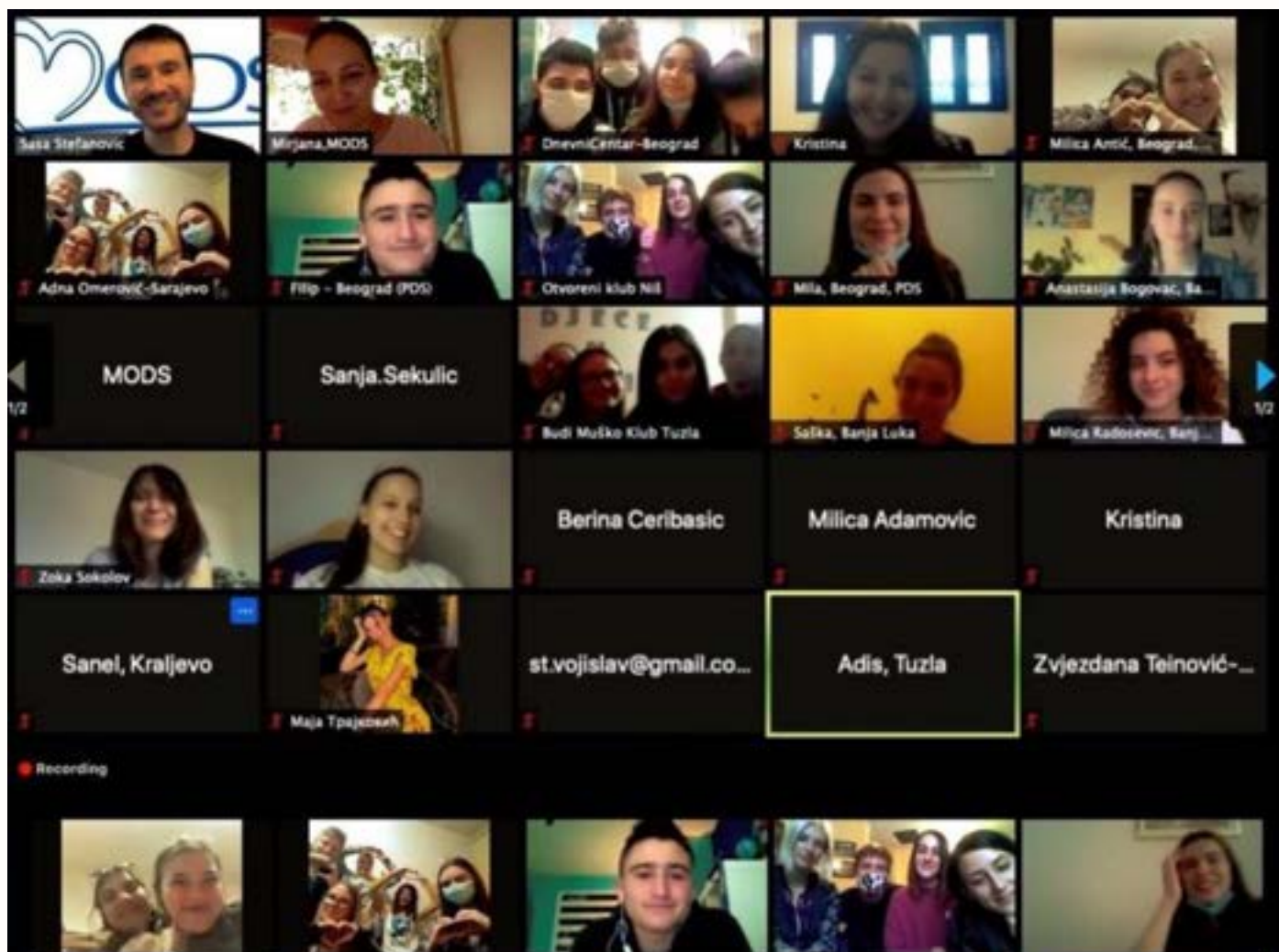
On December 17, 2020, an online event was held "D-Care Lab for a better life for families and children with disabilities." The D-Care Labs project, which is being implemented in 10 European countries * within the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Program, was presented at the event.

As part of the D-Care Labs project, a social innovation laboratory (D-Care Lab) will be established to support social innovation in providing social services for families and children with disabilities. An agile approach and design will be applied through the social laboratory thinking methodologies to support social care providers, associations, organizations, institutions, and professionals who can design and implement quality innovative services for children with disabilities and their families.

More at the link [here](#).



REGIONAL WORKSHOP - "CHILDREN SAY"



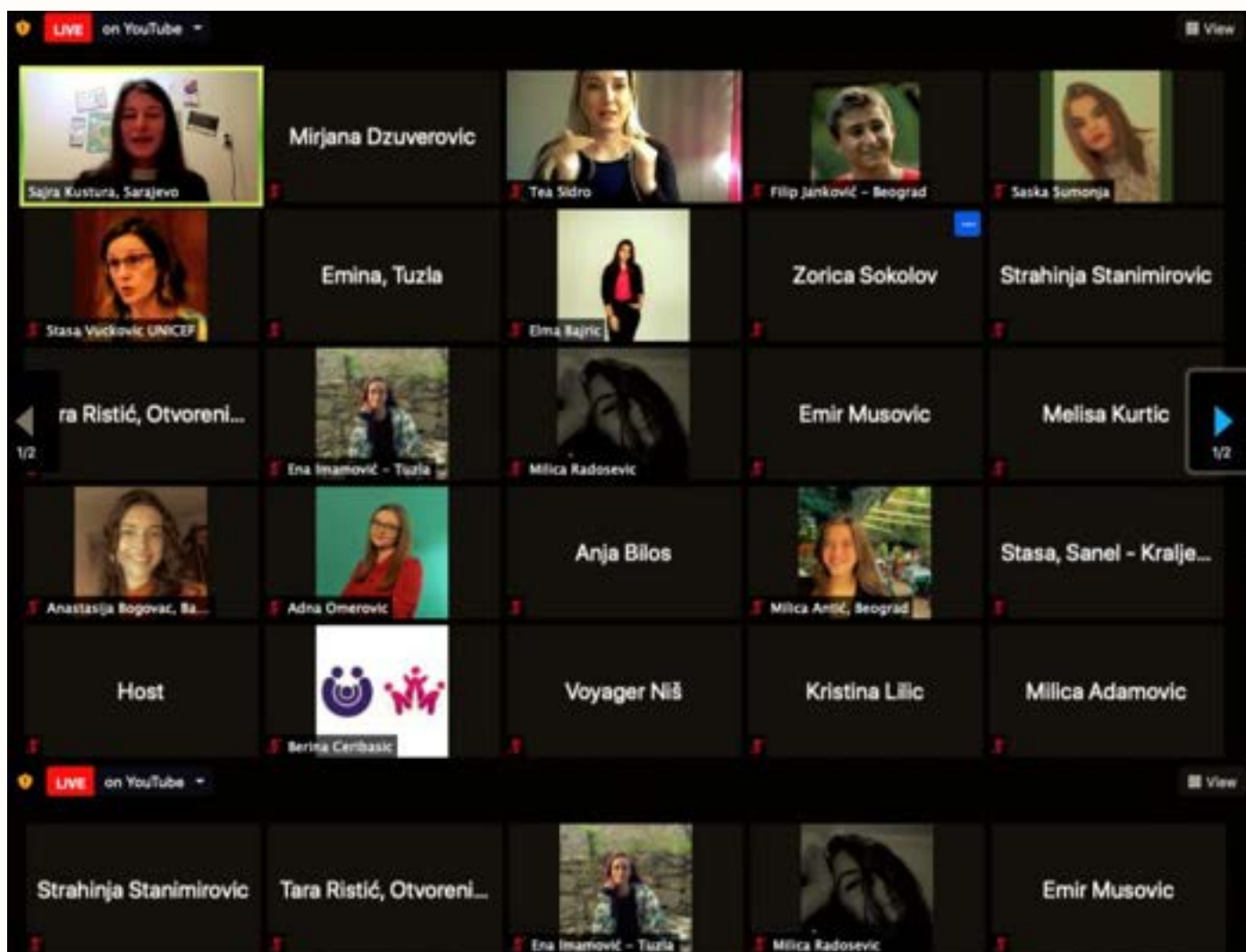
From December 17 to 19, 2020, a regional workshop was held as part of the "Children say" project with young people from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The idea was for children and young people from Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina to connect, develop trust, participate in the dialogue for the common good, and point out the problems they face in their community through workshops.

On the first day of the workshop, young people had the opportunity to research and understand the concept of social cohesion - solidarity, justice, common good, and differences. On the second day of the workshop, young people worked in groups to identify common problems and obstacles in their community. Finally, on the third day, 30 young people worked on proposals to reduce differences in education, health, housing, and environment.

More on the following [link](#).

DECEMBER 2020 |

THE CONFERENCE "WHAT CHILDREN SAY?"



On January 15, 2021, an online conference, "What children say?" was held. Organized by the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia and the association "Our Children" Sarajevo within the regional project "Children say".



The project "Children Say" is implemented within the framework of the Joint Regional Program #DialogZaBudućnost: improvement of dialogue and social cohesion in and between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia", implemented by the United Nations Development Program - UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, and it is funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (#UNPeacebuilding).

More information is available on the following [link](#).

CALL TO CREATE CHILD RIGHTS COUNCIL WITHIN THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT

In December 2020, The Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia - MODS, together with The Coalition for the Monitoring of Child Rights in Serbia and The Child Rights Centre, called on the Government to urgently establish the Child Rights Council.

Children and families in Serbia are faced with a crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is significantly affecting the most vulnerable groups.

The entire letter can be found [HERE](#).



Quality inclusive education, health care, adequate housing, and a healthy environment are crucial for the wellbeing and development of every child. As it stands, Serbia lacks key strategic documents and amendments to the laws to help ensure a high degree of social cohesion and reduced inequality in society.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has recognized the Council on the Rights of the Child as one of the key mechanisms for exercising the rights of the child, as confirmed by the adopted Action Plan for Chapter 23. Call for action by the civil society is made on the premise that the government will carry on its commitment and establish this important body.





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