

# Covid-19, Children and the European Union

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# Key features of EU action

## COMPREHENSIVE AND PRACTICAL – GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP – CHILDREN’S RIGHTS BASED

- *It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection...solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child (Art 3(3) TEU)*
- *In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens. It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples...eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child...(Art 3(5) TEU).*

# The EU children's rights architecture

## Constitutional building blocks

General Principles  
EU Charter (7, 14, 24, 32)  
TEU (Arts 3(3); Art 3(5))

## Legislative building blocks

- EU Free movement/C'ship
- Cross-border family law
- Consumer protection
- Criminal co-operation
- Child protection
- Immigration and asylum
- Health and Safety



## Organisational building blocks

Commission - Children's rights co-ordinator  
EU Parliament - Children's Rights Champions  
EU Fundamental Rights Agency  
EASO

## Policy building blocks

- EU Agenda (2011-2014)
- EU Action Plan (2020-2024)
- EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of CRs
- Immigration and asylum
- Poverty and social inclusion
- External Action
- Online safety
- Education and training
- Health and well-being
- Child friendly justice

# What has the EU done to respond to Covid-19?

- Diversion of existing funds and action to respond to Covid-19
- April 2020: €20bn '[Team-Europe](#)' Package to support humanitarian effort to external regions, with a focus on those most at risk from effects of Covid-19.
- May 2020: €750bn 'rescue fund' to counter the economic damage of the coronavirus pandemic
- Proposed [Child Guarantee Fund](#) – due to be adopted in 2021
  - **Five key socio-economic areas:** free healthcare; education; childcare; decent housing; adequate nutrition
  - **Four key target groups:** children living in precarious family situations; children in institutions; migrants and refugees; children with disabilities and SEND

# How is EU action relevant to children in Ireland?

- Proposed €1.91 billion earmarked in EU ‘rescue fund’ grants to the Republic of Ireland
- Sustainable investment in anti-poverty initiatives - the Child Guarantee Fund
- Many children’s rights, protected by EU law are ‘on hold’



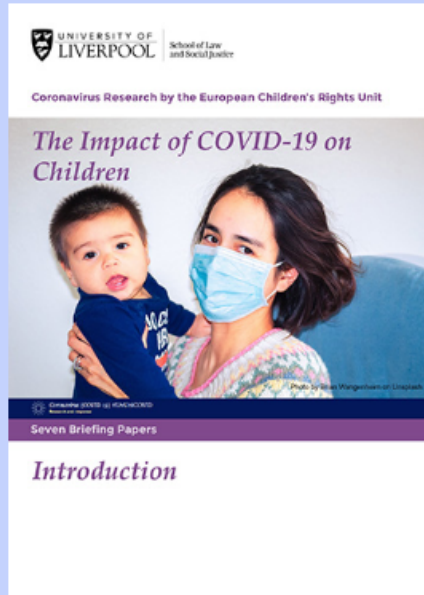
# Making EU measures work harder

- Financial accountability: Making sure EU funding reaches children where and when they most need it
- Legal enforcement: Making sure legislation is fully enforced to protect children's rights
- Upholding obligations to protect **ALL** children
- Optimising cross-national collaborations and policy exchange
- Improving on monitoring and evaluation of Covid-19 effects on children



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<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/research/european-childrens-rights-unit/campaigns/covid-19/>



## The Impact of COVID-19 on Children

### Introduction

The European Children's Rights Unit briefings cover the following topics:

1. Protecting Children Online During Covid-19 – Katrina Miles
2. The Impact of Covid-19 on Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Seamus Byrne
3. The Impact of COVID-19 on Educational Inequality and the Attainment Gap – Matilda Clough
4. The Impact of Covid-19 on Children's and Families' Access to Justice – Kerry Barry and Deborah Lawson
5. The Coronavirus Act 2020 and Child Detention under the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 – Nazia Yaqub
6. The Impact of Covid-19 on asylum seeking children – Helen Stalford
7. Children's Freedom of Assembly During COVID-19 – Aoife Daly and Rachel Heah

Taken together, these briefings highlight some overarching concerns about the impact of Covid-19 on children's rights in the UK.

- Download [Briefing Papers Introduction - The Impact of COVID-19 on Children](#) (PDF)