

The UN Special Representative, Dr. Maalla M'jid, concludes her visit to Luxembourg emphasizing the need to act better and swiftly to prevent and end violence against children.

Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the issue of violence against children, concluded her visit to Luxembourg (October 17-20, 2023) at the invitation of OKAJU, the Ombudsman fir Kanner a Jugendlecher, within the context of the safeguarding conference co-organized with the Ministry of National Education, Childhood, and Youth - Child Rights Service.

During her visit, she was received by H.R.H. the Grand Duke and H.R.H. the Grand Duchess, as well as by the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies. She met numerous institutions, including the public prosecutor's offices of Luxembourg and Diekirch, non-governmental associations and organizations, children and youth, victims, and survivors.

She also consulted with political decision-makers, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of National Education, Childhood, and Youth, who are respectively members of delegations involved in coalition negotiations.

In these discussions, the Special Representative commended the efforts of all the stakeholders she met for implementing various prevention and protection mechanisms, attentive to the needs of children and youth. She was deeply impressed by their commitment and their proactive and cross-cutting approach.

Despite all the efforts made, it is clear that the support pathways for children and youth often still lack clarity, coherence, and continuity.

The perspectives and voices of child and youth victims and survivors are not sufficiently considered.

Following the discussions, the Special Representative recommended, among other things, to move away from a compartmentalized approach in favor of establishing an integrated, intersectoral, and multidisciplinary service chain centered on the child.

The ongoing negotiations for the formation of a new government present a unique opportunity to prioritize safeguarding, protecting, and promoting children's rights and to ensure that children and youth are protected from all forms of violence, that their rights are respected, and their voices are heard regardless of their origins and where they live.

This investment for and in children and youth will enable Luxembourg to finally meet its national obligations regarding child rights protection and thereby strengthen its leadership position in defending children's rights at the international level.

Luxembourg, October 20, 2023.

More information:

- <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/fr/>
- <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/fr/content/programme-2030-pour-les-droits-de-l%E2%80%99enfant> : Onjectif 16.2 : zéro violence à l'égard des enfants
- <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/fr/news/mme-najat-maalla-m%E2%80%99jid-du-maroc-repr%C3%A9sentante-sp%C3%A9ciale-sur-la-violence-contre-les-enfants>: portrait de Mme. Dr. M'jid
- https://twitter.com/UN_EndViolence - SRSRG account
- <https://linktr.ee/unviolenceagainstchildren>