



SOS Children's Villages International  
Brigittenauer Lände 50,  
1200 Vienna, Austria  
T: +43/1/368 2457-0 | sos-kdi@sos-kd.org  
ZVR 083115702 DVR 0380172

Vienna, 16.01.2023

## Final Project Event "Applying Safe Behaviours: Preventing and Responding to Peer Violence" 24.04.2023, Brussels

Dear Child Rights Champion,

We would like to invite you to contribute to the discussions that will be taking place on 24 April 2023 at La Tricoterie<sup>1</sup> in Brussels, during the "Applying Safe Behaviours" final project event.

Over the course of the day, inputs and discussions steered and inspired by young people will address the need to make children and young people active agents in creating a safe environment for themselves and their peers, as well as the need to enable professionals who work with and care for children and young people to respond appropriately to peer violence.

The event is organised by SOS Children's Villages within the frame of the project, "Applying Safe Behaviours: Preventing and Responding to Peer Violence Amongst Children Without or At Risk of Losing Parental Care." The project is co-funded by the Rights, Equality, and Citizenship (REC) programme of the European Union, and has been implemented in Belgium, France, Italy, Romania, and Spain. The event kindly receives the support of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights. For further information, please see the attached overview of the project or the project webpage [here](#).

During the event, we will hear directly from young people who will share their key messages, and we will present the different capacity building and awareness-raising initiatives that have been developed and implemented within the project. In addition, we will disseminate a set of policy recommendations both at national and EU level on what key changes are needed to improve the prevention of and responses to peer on peer violence, from which we will ask participants to discuss and consider what you can do to realize these recommendations.

In line with realising SDG 16.2, and following the adoption of the EU Child Rights Strategy, this is a key moment to hear the voices of children and young people and to address the changes needed at policy, organisational and individual level in order to better support children and young people impacted by peer violence.

For more information on the event, please see the attached concept note and overview agenda.

Ahead of the event, we also invite you to explore some of the materials that have been developed within the project:

---

<sup>1</sup> [La Tricoterie](#), Rue Theodore Verhaegen 158, 1060 Brussels

- **E-learning module** on the prevention of peer violence amongst children and young people (**Trailer video** to promote the course here).
- **Explainer videos** on different issues related to peer on peer violence:
  - Why it is important for adults to be good role models for children and young people: <https://youtu.be/ss3JgpbNibk>
  - The importance of being respectful and accepting of one another: <https://youtu.be/8vpZtYyls00>
  - The importance of speaking to children and young people about violence: [https://youtu.be/l38DM\\_ObXMs](https://youtu.be/l38DM_ObXMs)
- **Children's booklet** made for children aged 8-11 years old by other children and young people on key topics related to peer on peer violence.
- **Practice Guidance** to inform and equip professionals to better support children and young people who may have been affected by peer on peer violence.
- **Awareness-raising videos** for young people aged 16-19 years on the impact of peer violence:
  - [Video 1](#)
  - [Video 2](#)

If you would like to attend the event, please contact [train4childrights@sos-kd.org](mailto:train4childrights@sos-kd.org) by 13 April 2023. There are a limited number of places left, and these places will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no participation fee, but attendees not based in Brussels will be required to pay for their own travel costs and accommodation.

Kind regards,



Florence Treyvaud Nemptzov  
Senior Project Manager



## Applying Safe Behaviours: Preventing and Responding to Peer Violence

### FINAL PROJECT EVENT – CONCEPT NOTE

24.04.2023, Brussels

Peer on peer violence is one of the most common ways that children and young people experience violence. Globally, 1 in 3 students aged 13-15 experience bullying<sup>1</sup>.

In order to realize SDG 16.2, which aims at a world free from violence against children by 2030, it is important to scale up simple but effective interventions that equip children, young people, and the adults who care for and work with them to make a difference and create a safer environment around them. We believe that the activities implemented within the “Applying Safe Behaviours” project are a good example of how this can be achieved.

However, adequately responding to situations of violence also requires stronger policy and institutional frameworks that enable effective responses to be activated. The past years have been marked by a significant political momentum to set an ambitious agenda to end violence against children and catalyse political and financial investments to support the realization of SDG 16.2.

At the EU level, the adoption in 2021 of the EU Child Rights strategy, which outlines actions for combating violence against children and ensuring child protection among key thematic areas, has contributed to further build momentum around that agenda. In particular, the commitment to present an initiative to support the development and strengthening of integrated child protection systems is very promising and carries the potential to set out a new course in the way different actors address the protection challenges children face.

In light of these policy developments, this is a key moment to discuss the need for urgently translating commitments into tangible actions and ensure all EU Member States set ambitious targets in order to tackle violence experienced by children in the most vulnerable groups.

### About “Applying Safe Behaviours”

Using information provided by children and young people, the EU co-funded project “[Applying Safe Behaviours](#)” has developed a series of capacity building and awareness-raising interventions which explore some of the reasons why they think peer on peer violence happens, where it happens, what they think would help prevent and protect them from peer violence, and what they would like adults to consider when supporting those affected by it.

A key objective of the project has been to make children and young people active agents in creating a safe environment for themselves and their peers. It is important to highlight that peer on peer violence happens everywhere and that factors in the wider environment in which children and young people live can heighten the risk of being affected, whether they are a target, initiator, or witness to the violence.

This project has also focused on enabling adults to prevent peer on peer violence and respond appropriately in cases where it does happen. This requires developing a multi-sectoral approach in which everyone involved has a shared understanding of the issues and the role they should play. As a first step, we invite everybody to invest one hour to go through [this short e-learning](#) on what peer on peer violence is and how you can support children and young people affected by it.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF 2018 Press Release

## What to expect at the final project event?

- ✓ The group of young people involved throughout the different project activities will share and discuss their key messages.
- ✓ The different capacity building and awareness-raising initiatives produced and tested during the project will be presented, including the first evaluation findings.
- ✓ A set of policy recommendations on what key changes are needed in order to prevent peer violence and create a safe environment among children and young people, and to improve the response and support they receive when impacted by peer on peer violence, will be disseminated.
- ✓ Participants will discuss and commit to how they will take the recommendations forward to turn them into concrete actions.

## Who we are

The event is organised by SOS Children's Villages International and SOS Children's Villages Belgium who are part of a project consortium with SOS Children Villages associations in France, Italy, Romania, and Spain. The project receives financial support from the European Commission DG Justice.

#endviolenceagainstchildren

#protectchildren

#safebehaviours

#train4childrights

*This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of SOS Children's Villages and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*

## Applying Safe Behaviours: Preventing and Responding to Peer Violence Amongst Children Without or At Risk of Losing Parental Care

### Final Project Event - Monday, 24 April 2023, Brussels Overview agenda (v4)

**08:30** Registration

**09:15** Welcome and official opening

**09:45** **Peer on peer violence: Let's talk about it! Key messages and recommendations from the project's International Young Expert Group**

*Panel discussion of young people with care experience with Q&A*

**10:45** Break

**11:10** **A hidden pandemic: Violence against children with a focus on peer on peer violence - What resources, solutions, commitments and investments exist and what is still missing in order to better prevent and respond to peer violence?**

*Panel discussion of topic experts and decision makers with Q&A*

- Ms. Caterina Chinnici - Member of the European Parliament (Video message)
- Ms. Marie-Cécile Rouillon – Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, European Commission
- Ms. Alessandra Bernardon - Official of the Department for Family Policies – Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy
- Mr. Coenraad de Beer – Head of Child and Youth Care Practitioner Support, SOS Children's Villages International

**12:15** Lunch

**13:15** **How can we better prevent and respond to peer violence?**

*Presentation of methodology and materials developed and tested in the project, by Dr. Chrissie Gale, Executive Director of Child Consulting Ltd. and young experts*

**14:10** **Experience the Safe Behaviours training programme**

*Training taster sessions from the Safe Behaviours training for professionals and the Safe Behaviours peer-to-peer workshops for children, to prompt reflection*

**15:00** Break

**15:30** **Recommendations for an informed, preventative and responsive approach to peer violence**

*Group discussions*

**16:40** **Commitments and next steps**

**17:10** End of event



**Applying  
Safe  
Behaviours**

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING  
TO PEER VIOLENCE