Youth for Hope - Research & Development Division

FUNDING PROGRAMME

European Solidarity Corps / Volunteering - ESC51

PROJECT TITLE

Youth for Hope – Research & Development Division of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center

HOSTING ORGANISATION: “HOPE FOR CHILDREN” CRC POLICY CENTER

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center (HFC) is an independent, international and humanitarian institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus, founded on the principle of promoting and protecting the rights of children, on the standards of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and European Union Law. HFC is the largest non-profit organisation in Cyprus in the field of child protection, employing approximately 110 professionals, including social workers, youth workers, psychologist, lawyers, educators, trainers, administrative staff etc.

HFC focuses on prioritising children’s well-being and education and takes measures for the prevention of any kind of violence against children while providing psychological and legal support.

HFC operates private shelters for unaccompanied children (in Nicosia and Larnaca); the Children’s House based on the Icelandic Barnahus model handling cases of sexually abused children; an R&D Division coordinating and implementing EU projects, research and advocacy initiatives addressing children’s rights; a foster care department supporting foster families socially and psychologically and evaluating candidate foster parents; an education and awareness department implementing non-formal educational activities in all levels of education in public and private schools; and a counselling centerfor children and national and international hotlines for families and children to provide psychosocial support.

HFC has initiated and established close cooperation with institutions and actors on an international and European level, including legislative, executive, and judicial instruments, and it is a member of significant networks to further promote the rights of the child on a global scale.

HFC has affiliations with the following:

- Observatory status at the Council of Europe’s Lanzarote Committee
- Participatory status at the Council of Europe’s Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs)
- Cooperating partner of the Council of Europe for the ONE in FIVE Campaign
- National focal point for the Separated Children in Europe Programme
- Focal point for the European Network of Guardian Institutions
- Member of the European Federation Missing Children Europe
- Participant in the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP)
- Founding member of PROMISE Barnahus Network
- Member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Euromed Network
- Founder and Coordinator of the Network CHAIRS of the CRC Policy Center
- National Focal Point for the European Juvenile Justice Observatory
- Member of the European Network of Child Friendly Cities
- Member of the Destination Unknown Campaign
- Founding Member of the INTEGRA network

HFC maintains offices in Hungary and USA and has representation in another 8 countries through the Chairs of the CRC Policy Center programme. The Chairs aim to engage academics and researchers in collaborative work to protect and promote the Rights of the

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Child through research, knowledge exchange and networking, professional development of a new generation of individuals informed, aware, and motivated to uplift the standards of the UNCRC. Currently, the Chairs of the organisation are based in Italy, Portugal, UK, Denmark, Hungary, Romania, Nigeria and USA.

DEPLOYMENT COUNTRY

Cyprus (Nicosia)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The main theme of the "Youth for Hope – Research & Development Division" project is *children's rights*, as well as associated challenging issues and implications for practice, such as social or cultural discrimination, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, bullying, missing children, children on the move, and other phenomena that challenge the implementation of children's rights.

The project applies a framework envisioning a volunteer-centered program for personal and professional development, and to enable the volunteers to contribute to the daily work of the institution in solidarity activities for the ultimate benefit of the local communities. The program offers 1 month of adaptation, and during the remaining months of the activity, the volunteers will support with various tasks within the Research & Development Division. This structure will enable the volunteers to develop specific skills and specialised knowledge related to project management and the lifecycle of social impact projects, as well as become reliable support for the staff for more complex tasks with great complementary value to the organisation and its beneficiaries.

The volunteers will be integrated in a multidisciplinary and interactive work structure within the R&D Division and will be encouraged to take creative initiative. Specifically, they will be involved in the following areas of tasks: support and administrative activities, where the volunteers will assist in the progress of the regular schedule and activities of the R&D Division; research tasks related to the promotion and protection of children's rights; and creative initiatives, such as assistance with the organisation and implementation of non-formal education workshops, organisation of national/international campaigns/conferences, and children's rights awareness training in schools, shelters or other educational settings.

VOLUNTEERING PERIOD

12 months starting in February 2026. Applicants must be available to commence in February 2026.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

14/01/2026

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodation shared with other ESC volunteers is arranged by the HFC. Food allowance is 180 € per month, and volunteers also receive personal pocket money of 7 € per day. Travel is reimbursed according to the distance bands outlined in the ESC 2025 Guide, and there is a monthly allowance of 50 € allocated for local transportation.

TRAINING DURING THE ACTIVITY

All volunteers receive on-arrival and mid-term evaluation training from the Cypriot National Agency. Also, training regarding the tasks and procedures of the institution is

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provided by HFC staff. Lastly, an online language support service is provided.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

We are looking for two young people to volunteer in our R&D Division whose academic background, skills and abilities match the following desirable attributes:

- 20-30 years old;
- University degree in Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Law, Education, or related field;
- Ability to work and live in a multicultural environment, and the ability to engage in intercultural communication;
- Willingness to work with young people from different nationalities and religions, and undertake grassroots initiatives related to children's rights and vulnerable groups;
- An interest and experience in desk and field research or willingness to learn;
- Demonstrated interest in supporting the staff in the implementation of the R&D Division's active projects related to topics such as gender-based violence, gender equality, child-friendly justice, hate speech, social integration of asylum seeking and refugee children;
- Enthusiastic, hard-working, flexible and ready to take initiative;
- Time management, organisation and problem-solving skills;
- Ethical person with no prejudices who respects non-discrimination and mutual respect principles;
- Good knowledge of English. Knowledge of other languages will be considered an advantage.

CONTACTS

If you are interested in our ESC volunteering positions and are available to start in February 2026 for a period of 12 months, please send your CV and motivation letter as a PDF to Dr. Emma Mesikämmen (mesikammen.e@uncrcpc.org) and Ms. Kallia Apostolou (apostolou.k@uncrcpc.org) by 14/01/2026.

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