

REVIEW OF ECTHR DECISIONS FOR 2025: ANALYSIS OF DECISIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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INTRODUCTION

CSO "Article 3" systematically analyses the practice of the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the ECtHR or the Court), paying particular attention to cases concerning children's rights.

In 2025, out of 859 decisions adopted by the ECtHR (in particular by the Grand Chamber, the Chamber and the Committee), 27 directly or indirectly are related to children. Analysis of the ECtHR's decisions makes it possible to assess the effectiveness of national mechanisms for the protection of children's rights and to identify key trends and systemic problems in different countries.

2. Main topics and analysis of decisions:

2.1. Right to life

Total number of decisions: 2

298/15 - Case of KOOMEN v. THE NETHERLANDS

Essence of the case: The applicants' son was fatally wounded by a police officer during a confrontation. The applicants claimed that the use of firearms was not 'absolutely necessary' within the meaning of Article 2 (right to life) of the 1950 Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (hereinafter referred to as the Convention), and that the investigation into the death did not meet the requirements of independence and effectiveness.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR concluded that the use of lethal force by the police officer was justified and met the criterion of 'absolute necessity' in view of the circumstances of self-defence. In addition, the investigation was independent, prompt and sufficiently thorough. Therefore, no violations of Article 2 of the Convention were found in either substantive or procedural terms.

35950/20 - Case of HASANI v. SWEDEN

Essence of the case: The applicant and his brother arrived in Sweden as unaccompanied minors and applied for asylum. The applicant's brother, A.H., had serious health problems, including mental disorder and documented suicidal tendencies, and was under the care of the municipal authorities. Upon reaching the age of majority, his placement with a foster family was terminated, his asylum application was rejected, and a decision was made to deport him. Shortly thereafter, A.H. committed suicide. The applicant claimed that the state authorities had failed to fulfil their positive obligation to protect his brother's life.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR examined the complaint under Article 2 of the Convention (right to life) in light of the state's positive obligations to prevent suicide. The Court noted that the authorities had been informed of A.H.'s mental state and his previous suicidal tendencies. At the same time, at the time of the events, he was living in an open environment with social support, was not undergoing compulsory treatment or in isolation, and there was no established real and immediate risk to his life of which the authorities were aware or should have been aware. In these circumstances, the Court concluded that Sweden had not violated its positive obligations under Article 2 of the Convention. No violation was found.

2.2. Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment

Total number of decisions: 3

41192/22 - Case of G.R.N. v. ROMANIA

Essence of the case: The applicant was 15 years old at the time of the events. He has a disability related to psychomotor disorder and claimed that his mother's partner had physically abused him at home. Following the complaint, an investigation was launched, which was suspended several times on the grounds of insufficient evidence and was eventually closed. The applicant's complaints about the ineffectiveness of the investigation were rejected by the domestic courts.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in its procedural aspect. The Court concluded that the domestic authorities had failed to ensure an effective, prompt and thorough investigation into the allegations of domestic violence against the minor applicant and had failed to take into account his particular vulnerability as a child with a disability.

59319/19 - Case of N.N. AND OTHERS v. GREECE

Essence of the case: The applicants claimed that they had arrived in Greece as unaccompanied minors but, due to shortcomings in the registration and age assessment procedures, had been registered as adults. They were not provided with timely access to information, an interpreter and a proper age assessment procedure. As a result of delays in their placement, they spent some time on the streets or in unacceptable conditions.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 3 of the Convention (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment). The Court concluded that the delay in identifying the applicants as unaccompanied minors and the failure to place them immediately in accommodation appropriate to their age had led to a situation of extreme vulnerability that exceeded the threshold of severity required for the application of Article 3.

46949/21 - Case of L. and others v. FRANCE

Essence of the case: Three minor applicants aged 13, 14 and 16 lodged applications with the ECtHR, claiming that they had been victims of rape by adult men. They complained about the ineffectiveness of the criminal investigation in France, in particular the authorities' approach to assessing their statements and the circumstances of the cases, as well as the failure to take into account their particular vulnerability as children.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found violations of Articles 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment) and 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the Convention in relation to all three applicants due to the ineffective investigation, in particular due to the inadequate assessment of the circumstances of the cases and the issue of consent, taking into account their age.

The Court also found a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with Articles 3 and 8, noting that the application of gender stereotypes and derogatory assessments of the applicant's behaviour had led to discriminatory treatment and secondary victimisation.



2.3. Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

Total number of decisions: 1

71671/16 and 40190/18 - Case of F.M. AND OTHERS v. russia

Essence of the case: Five applicants, citizens of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, claimed that they had been recruited and transported to russia, where they were subjected to labour exploitation. Their documents were confiscated, they worked without pay and were under the control of their employers. The second applicant was a minor at the time of the events. Despite appealing to law enforcement agencies, the applicants were not properly identified as victims of human trafficking, and no effective investigation was conducted.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 4 (prohibition of slavery and forced labour) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, noting that the state had failed to fulfil its positive obligations to prevent human trafficking and conduct an effective investigation.

The Court also found a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with Article 4 of the Convention, pointing to the discriminatory nature of the authorities' inaction towards migrant women, one of whom was a minor.

2.4. Right to liberty and security of person

Total number of decisions: 2

36989/21 and 7945/22 - Case of M.B. v. SLOVAKIA

Essence of the case: The applicant, a 14-year-old boy, was in a juvenile detention centre. During a permitted temporary stay outside the centre, he was arrested on suspicion of theft. The district court ordered his detention, citing the risk of reoffending and the inadequacy of alternative measures. The appeal court upheld this decision. The applicant was subsequently released, in particular in view of the possibility of his return to the educational institution and the expert opinion on his person. The Constitutional Court found no violation of his rights.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 5 of the Convention (the right to a speedy review of the lawfulness of detention). The Court emphasised that in cases concerning the detention of minors, judicial review must be carried out with particular expediency. In this case, the consideration of the appeal, the transfer of materials and the notification of the parties of the decision took longer than is required for a 'prompt' review, and the delays were not entirely justified by the conduct of the applicant or his defence counsel.

62466/19 - Case of K.G. AND S.G. v. POLAND

Essence of the case: The applicants were a mother and her minor son, Russian citizens who left russia in 2016, citing persecution, and travelled to Turkey. In 2017, they arrived in Poland and applied for international protection.

After returning to Poland in March 2019, they were placed in a secure centre for foreigners for the purpose of deportation. They remained there for about nine months. The mother suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and the child was 19 months old at the time of detention. Alternatives to detention were not properly considered.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 5 (right to liberty and security) and Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the Convention. The ten-month detention of the mother with a young child in isolation was not a measure of last resort and constituted a disproportionate interference with their family life.

2.5. Right to respect for private and family life

Total number of decisions: 17

27746/22 and 28291/22 - Case of X AND OTHERS v. SLOVENIA

Essence of the case: The applicants were a mother and her two minor children. The case concerned court proceedings between the parents regarding the determination of the children's place of residence and restrictions on contact with their mother. The domestic courts ruled to restrict contact and change the children's place of residence. The applicants claimed that during the proceedings, the courts had failed to properly assess the best interests of the children, had not given the children sufficient opportunity to be heard, and had failed to ensure effective representation of their interests in the proceedings.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (right to respect for private and family life), concluding that the domestic authorities had failed to assess the children's best interests with sufficient care and had not provided adequate procedural safeguards when deciding on their residence and contact.

The Court also found a violation of Article 6 of the Convention (right to a fair trial) in relation to the first applicant due to a failure to comply with the requirements of a fair trial.

37870/21 - Case of R.G. v. SUISSE

Essence of the case: The case concerned a dispute between parents over the custody of their son after their divorce. The court of first instance awarded custody to the mother, taking into account, in particular, the child's expressed wish to live with her. The Court of Appeal overturned this decision and awarded custody to the father, giving decisive weight to his greater ability to care for the child personally and noting that the wishes of a child of that age were not decisive. The decision was made without hearing the parties or the child and was upheld by the Federal Court. Subsequently, in new proceedings, custody was again awarded to the mother.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court concluded that the appeal court, in changing the custody decision, had failed to ensure a proper procedural balance of interests: it had not heard the child and had given exclusive weight to the factor of the father's availability, without carrying out a full and thorough analysis of other relevant circumstances. Although the decision to transfer custody to the father was not enforced, the situation continued for 18 months and constituted an interference with the applicant's right to family life, resulting in a violation of Article 8.

12119/14 - Case of L.D. v. POLAND

Essence of the case: The applicant is the mother of a boy born in 2006. In 2011, the father refused to return the child after a visit. The police did not intervene due to the absence of a court decision on the child's place of residence.

Subsequently, the court of appeal granted the mother custody and ordered the child to be returned. However, the enforcement of this decision was ineffective: attempts at forced return were unsuccessful, the proceedings were accompanied by delays, problems with jurisdiction and shortcomings in ensuring contact between the mother and the child. Over time, the child effectively remained with his father, and contact with his mother was gradually lost.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court concluded that the national authorities had not acted with due diligence and efficiency in the examination of the case and the enforcement of court decisions. Delays and shortcomings in the proceedings and enforcement of decisions contributed to a complete breakdown in relations between the applicant and her son.

57184/22 - Case of N.P. AND V.P. v. BULGARIA

Essence of the case: The applicants are a father and his minor daughter. In December 2019, the mother took the child from the United Kingdom to Bulgaria and ceased contact with the father, despite the fact that he had joint custody. Between February 2020 and June 2023, there was virtually no contact between the father and the child.

The father repeatedly applied to the courts to establish contact and apply interim measures, and also initiated proceedings for the return of the child under the Hague Convention. However, the national courts did not consider his requests for interim measures for a long time or postponed their decisions. It was only in June 2023 that the child was found and handed over to her father.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court concluded that the Bulgarian courts had not acted with the necessary speed and diligence in considering the father's requests for interim measures regarding contact. The prolonged inaction of the courts resulted in almost three years of no contact between the father and the child.

The Court did not find a separate violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy), considering that the issue of the effectiveness of the measures had already been examined under Article 8.

46198/18 - Case of DAVIDOVIĆ v. SERBIA

Essence of the case: In 2013, the applicant was awarded custody of her young child, but it took over four years for the final court decision to be enforced. Despite numerous attempts at enforcement, the imposition of fines and the imposition of a custodial sentence on the father, the child was repeatedly prevented from being handed over to the mother due to obstruction by the father and his relatives. The decision was only actually enforced in November 2017. The Constitutional Court of Serbia recognised a violation of the applicant's right to respect for family life for the period during which the decision remained unenforced, but did not award compensation for non-pecuniary damage, considering the finding of a violation and the previously awarded €500 to be sufficient compensation.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court concluded that during the long period of non-enforcement of the decision, the national authorities had not taken all measures that could reasonably be expected to ensure the effective exercise of the applicant's parental rights. The compensation awarded at the national level was not adequate and sufficient.

15956/23 - Case of KYRIAN v. THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Essence of the case: The applicant was the biological father of a child born during the mother's marriage to another man, so the mother's husband was considered the legal father. Biological paternity was confirmed by a DNA test. Initially, the applicant was able to see his son, and the courts granted him access rights. However, due to ongoing conflicts between the applicant and the child's legal parents, as well as the deterioration of the child's psychological state (anxiety, emotional instability), access became problematic.

Subsequently, the national courts concluded that establishing contact arrangements was not in the best interests of the child. They also denied the applicant the right to receive information about the child's health and development, citing his lack of parental responsibility and the interests of the child. The Constitutional Court upheld these decisions.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found no violation of Article 8 of the Convention. The Court noted that the national authorities had examined the case taking into account all the circumstances, relied on the conclusions of psychologists and focused their assessment on the best interests of the child.

Continued - 2.5. Right to respect for private and family life

The Court emphasised separately that the right to receive information about a child may exist as an autonomous form of contact, independent of personal communication. However, in this case, the domestic courts had provided sufficient and convincing grounds for the refusal and had struck a fair balance between the applicant's interests and those of the child.

18737/18 - Case of F.D. AND H.C. v. PORTUGAL

Essence of the case: The applicants were a father and his minor son. After a French court granted the mother sole custody, the father stayed with the child in Portugal and did not return him to France. The French authorities issued a search warrant for the child through the Schengen Information System and a European arrest warrant for the father. In February 2018, the Portuguese police detained the father, removed the child from school and, on the same day, handed him over to his mother by order of the prosecutor. There was no court hearing on the return, the father and child were not heard, and no risk assessment for the child was carried out.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court concluded that the Portuguese authorities had automatically executed the request for the search and return of the child without due process, without assessing the best interests of the child and without providing procedural guarantees for the applicants. Such interference was not 'necessary in a democratic society'.

2068/24 - Case of M.P. and others v. GRÈCE

Essence of the case: The case concerned the return of two children to the United States under the 1980 Hague Convention on International Child Abduction. The Greek courts found that the children's detention in Greece was unlawful and ordered their return to their father. The mother and children claimed that the courts had failed to properly examine the existence of a 'serious risk' to the children in the event of their return and had failed to ensure that the children were heard during the proceedings.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the Convention. The Court concluded that the domestic courts had not considered the question of whether it was appropriate to hear the children and had not provided any reasoning in this regard, and therefore the decision-making process did not meet the procedural requirements of Article 8. In such circumstances, the return of the children could not be considered 'necessary in a democratic society'.

51505/20 - Case of T.T. v. POLAND

Essence of the case: The applicant is the father, a British citizen. After a trip to Poland, the mother did not return her daughter to the United Kingdom. The Polish courts, in proceedings under the 1980 Hague Convention, found that the child's retention was unlawful and ordered her return to the United Kingdom. The decision became final in July 2019. However, for almost three years, the decision to return the child was not enforced. The mother hid the child, and numerous attempts by the authorities to enforce the decision were unsuccessful.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court found that although the mother's behaviour significantly impeded the enforcement of the decision, the national authorities did not act with sufficient diligence and coordination and did not take all measures that could reasonably be expected to ensure the child's return.



Continued - 2.5. Right to respect for private and family life

45644/18 - Case of VAN SLOOTEN v. THE NETHERLANDS

Essence of the case: The applicant challenged the decisions of the domestic courts to terminate her parental rights in respect of her child. She claimed that the authorities had prematurely abandoned the goal of family reunification, had failed to properly assess her parental capacity and had unreasonably concluded that the 'reasonable period' for the return of the child had expired.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for family life). The Court concluded that the authorities had given up too early on reuniting the mother with her child and had failed to adequately assess her parental capacity. In the process of deciding to terminate parental rights, insufficient attention was paid to preserving family ties.

The Court noted that there was no need to consider separately the complaint under Article 6 of the Convention (right to a fair trial), as the main procedural issues had already been covered by the analysis under Article 8.

42247/23 - Case of X v. ITALY

Essence of the case: The applicant was a child born after assisted reproductive technology was used in Spain. The birth certificate listed two mothers: the biological mother and her partner.

The public prosecutor's office challenged this entry. The domestic courts found it unlawful, noting that at that time the law did not provide for the entry on the birth certificate of a woman who had no biological connection with the child. The courts stated that a legal relationship could be established through adoption in special cases. Five years later, the entry was changed.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found no violation of Article 8 of the Convention. The Court noted that the state had provided for the possibility of legal recognition of the relationship between the child and the biological mother's partner through the adoption procedure. Since this mechanism was not used, the state did not violate its positive obligations.

13437/22 - Case of T.A. v. SWITZERLAND

Essence of the case: The applicant, a Swiss citizen born in Ethiopia, obtained an Ethiopian court decision to adopt a newborn child and brought her to Switzerland. The Swiss authorities refused to recognise the adoption, citing violations of international adoption procedures, the illegal importation of the child contrary to the prior refusal of the competent authorities, and the applicant's failure to meet the requirements of national law (in particular regarding health, financial capacity and age difference). At the same time, the applicant was appointed the child's legal guardian, and they continued to live together.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR recognised that the refusal to recognise the adoption constituted an interference with the right to respect for family life (Article 8 of the Convention), but that this interference was prescribed by law, pursued the legitimate aim of protecting the rights of the child and preventing abuse in the field of international adoption, and was proportionate. The Court noted that family life between the applicant and the child had not in fact been terminated, as the child remained in her care. The domestic courts had given relevant and sufficient reasons for their decision. No violation of Article 8 of the Convention had been established.

32514/22, 33284/22 and 15910/23 - Case of PETROVIĆ AND OTHERS v. CROATIA

Essence of the case: The case concerned three women who claimed that their newborn children had been unlawfully removed from state hospitals in Croatia in the 1980s and 1990s and given to other persons. The applicants were informed of the death of their children, but they doubted the accuracy of this information and pointed to inconsistencies in the medical records.

They repeatedly appealed to the national authorities to conduct an effective investigation, provide full information, allow exhumation and DNA testing, but their appeals were either rejected or left without a proper response, in particular with reference to the statute of limitations.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for private and family life) because the state did not provide an effective and comprehensive mechanism for establishing the fate of the applicants' children. The Court noted that the state's obligation in such cases is procedural in nature – to ensure a real opportunity to ascertain the truth.

The Court ordered the state to introduce a special mechanism for the individual examination of such cases and awarded the applicants compensation for their costs.

The Court did not examine Article 13 separately, considering it to be closely linked to Article 8.

84568/17 - Case of BILYAVSKA v. UKRAINE

Essence of the case: The applicant, the owner of a house in Bucha, filed a lawsuit to evict her adult children and their spouses, who lived in her house with her minor children (the applicant's grandchildren). She claimed that living together had become impossible: they prevented her from using the property, restricted her access to the premises and accumulated utility bills in her name.

The national courts refused to evict them, applying the provisions of the 1983 Housing Code and noting that the applicant had not proven the systematic nature of the violations and the ineffectiveness of preventive measures. The courts did not properly consider her arguments regarding the application of the provisions of the Civil Code.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention (protection of property) and Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for home). The Court concluded that the domestic courts had failed to ensure an effective and non-arbitrary resolution of the private property dispute, had failed to provide adequate reasoning for their choice of applicable law, and had failed to strike a fair balance between the interests of the parties. As a result, the State had failed to fulfil its positive obligations to protect the applicant's rights.

59144/16 - Case of K.M. v. NORTH MACEDONIA

Essence of the case: The applicant was 14 years old when a 39-year-old telecommunications company employee, while at her home, touched her body and made comments of a sexual nature. After the incident, she contacted the law enforcement authorities and received psychological assistance. The prosecutor's office did not classify these actions as rape, noting that they were not accompanied by violence or threats.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR concluded that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, noting that national legislation did not provide adequate criminal law protection for minors against sexual assault in the absence of physical violence or threats. The Court emphasised the positive obligation of the state to guarantee effective protection of the physical and sexual integrity of children.



Continued - 2.5. Right to respect for private and family life

15457/20 - Case of A.C. v. FRANCE

Essence of the case: The applicant, a migrant from Guinea, arrived in France and claimed to be an unaccompanied minor. The French authorities, citing the lack of documents, contradictions in his explanations and the results of a medical examination, recognised him as an adult and terminated his temporary guardianship.

The applicant claimed that the procedure for determining his age did not provide adequate procedural safeguards, as a result of which he was left without housing, support and effective protection.

Essence of the decision The ECtHR found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for private life), noting that the age assessment procedure did not provide sufficient procedural guarantees and that the presumption of minority had not been properly observed.

At the same time, the Court ruled that there had been no violation of Article 13 in conjunction with Article 8 (right to an effective remedy), as the applicant had access to domestic remedies.

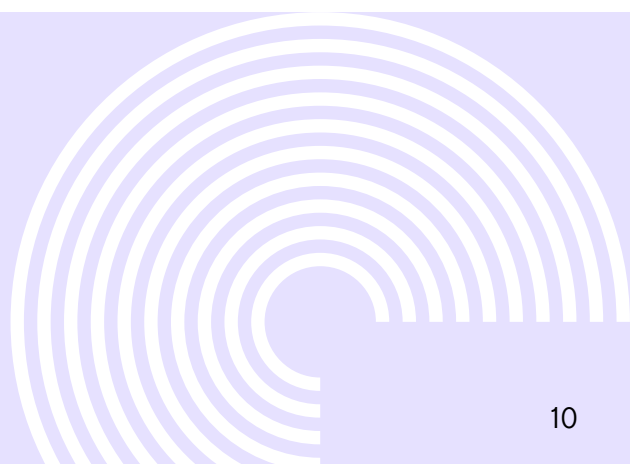
47836/21 - Case of F.B. v. BELGIUM

Essence of the case: The applicant, a Guinean national, sought international protection in Belgium as an unaccompanied minor. She provided a birth certificate stating that she was 16 years old, but the Belgian authorities conducted a medical age assessment, which found her to be an adult and deprived her of her status and the social protection that came with it.

She complained about the medical examinations being carried out without proper consent and about discriminatory treatment compared to persons who were recognised as minors.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found the application manifestly ill-founded and inadmissible. The Court noted that the allegations of lack of consent to medical procedures were not sufficiently substantiated in the context of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for private life).

With regard to discrimination, the Court examined the complaint under Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8 of the Convention (prohibition of discrimination) and found that the difference between unaccompanied minors and adult applicants was based on an objective criterion – age – and pursued the legitimate aim of protecting children. No violation of Articles 8 and 14 of the Convention was found.



2.6. Freedom of expression

Total number of decisions: 1

33421/16 - Case of KLIMOVA AND OTHERS v. russia

Essence of the case: The applicant, a journalist and founder of the online project supporting LGBT teenagers 'Children-404', administered a community on a social network where minors could discuss issues of sexual orientation and receive psychological support. She was brought to administrative responsibility for allegedly promoting non-traditional sexual relations among minors and was fined.

Essence of the decision: The ECtHR found a violation of Article 10 of the Convention (freedom of expression) because the interference was not necessary in a democratic society.

It also found a violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 10 (prohibition of discrimination), as the rules applied were discriminatory in relation to LGBT issues.

In addition, the Court found a violation of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for private life) in connection with interference in activities aimed at supporting the personal identity of adolescents. The Court emphasised that the project materials were a form of psychological support, not propaganda, and that the sanctions imposed were disproportionate.

2.7. Prohibition of discrimination

Total number of decisions: 1 separate decision and 3 decisions in which the issue of discrimination was considered in conjunction with other articles of the Convention (sections 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6)

29359/22 - Case of SALAY v. SLOVAKIA

Essence of the case: The applicant, who was of Roma origin, was initially enrolled in a zero class and later transferred to special classes for children diagnosed with mild intellectual disability, which by definition is considered a permanent condition. The basis for this was the results of psychological testing, which did not provide sufficient guarantees against cultural bias. The special classes were attended mainly by Roma children, and the transfer was in fact permanent and stable, with no real possibility of returning to the general education programme.

Essence of the decision: The European Court found a violation of Article 14 of the Convention (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with Article 2 of the First Protocol (right to education). The Court emphasised the systemic problem of disproportionate enrolment of Roma children in special classes, the risk of misdiagnosis due to imperfect testing methods and the lack of adequate safeguards against segregation. The State failed to prove that the measures taken were justified and proportionate.





CONCLUSIONS

An analysis of ECtHR decisions in 2025 shows that most cases involving children concerned Article 8 of the Convention (the right to respect for private and family life). Most often, these cases concerned the determination of a child's place of residence, contact with parents, international child abduction and non-compliance with court decisions. The key problems remain the length of proceedings and the ineffective enforcement of decisions.

The Court's emphasis on procedural guarantees is significant. Violations are often related not only to the content of decisions, but also to the lack of proper assessment of the best interests of the child, a formal approach to procedures and insufficient efficiency of the authorities. The Court emphasises the obligation of states to provide systemic guarantees and avoid procedural formalities.

Vulnerable groups of children – unaccompanied minors, victims of violence, children with disabilities and children from national communities – require special attention.

Thus, the requirements for states to actively and effectively ensure the rights of the child are being strengthened. The priority should be not only to improve legislation, but also to ensure its effective implementation, the efficiency of procedures and the effective enforcement of court decisions.

Our team regularly prepares legal reviews, articles, analytical materials, and thematic reports aimed at providing a deeper understanding of the mechanisms for implementing and protecting children's rights.

You can find these materials (mostly in Ukrainian) at the following links:

- legal reviews: <https://article3.ngo/category/pravovi-oglyady/>
- analytics and thematic reports: <https://article3.ngo/analytics/>
- author articles: <https://article3.ngo/avtorski-statti/>

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