

UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights

The UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights is a joint initiative of UNICEF Belgium and the University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law. The Chair was established in 2007.

The Chair acts as a knowledge broker of children's rights within the academic community and between the academic community and policy and practice, through teaching, research and service to the community.

The Chair holder offers courses in children's rights, both in Dutch and in English, to master students of the faculties of law, political and social sciences, and medicine. Children's rights training is offered to professionals and volunteers. The Chair co-organizes a bi-annual interdisciplinary international course in children's rights (Children's Rights in a Globalized World), which attracts professionals in children's rights from all over the world. The Chair is an active member of the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights.

The Chair has its own research programme, and actively stimulates a children's rights component in other research programmes. In its own research programme, emphasis is put on conceptual issues (in particular the mutual reinforcement and enrichment of the children's rights and the general human rights framework), and on economic, social and cultural rights of children. Migration and poverty have been singled out as priority topics for 2007-2012. Particular attention is also paid to children's rights in development and development cooperation. An interdisciplinary international conference on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by war will take place in October 2009. The Chair is member of the research group law and development, and conducts case-studies in the South. The introduction of a children's rights perspective in other research agendas is sought in particular by organizing expert meetings with scholars in other areas of study.

The Chair holder lends its expertise to the National Commission on Children's Rights, the NGO Platform on Children's Rights in Development Cooperation, the Flemish Knowledge Centre on Children's Rights, and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, amongst others. It seeks to support the advocacy and children's rights education work of UNICEF Belgium in particular.

More information can be found on www.ua.ac.be/childrenrights

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