



*Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire  
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar  
World Organization for Early Childhood Education*

## **2019 DECLARATION on Children's Rights**

**from the OMEP European Meeting in Lisbon, May 16-18, 2019**

We, delegates from 20 countries, are gathered here in Lisbon for the OMEP European Regional meeting and International conference. OMEP works for early childhood education and care and the well-being of children from birth to 8 years. The theme for our conference is Education for sustainable development with the aim to contribute to a re-orientation towards a sustainable future. Education begins at birth, and children develop values, attitudes and behaviour from the start.

2019 is also the year of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the rights of the child. OMEP was an active partner in the process of writing the convention, and this year we will, together with children, celebrate the convention. Following the convention, children have the right to play, health, education and care, and it is our joint efforts that make this possible. Education relies on well trained and well respected teachers.

Children also have the right to express themselves in all matters that relate to them. Thus, children are important citizens with the right to participate in the development of our societies, and for a sustainable future.

However, today too many children in Europe and around the world are living under dreadful circumstances. Children in migration are among the most vulnerable, and on the doorsteps to Europe, there are children living in camps, even imprisoned. These children are living in extreme conditions, calling for immediate action. Governments have a special responsibility towards these children, to bring them to safety, to help and support them. For young children, every single day is of vital importance for their physical and mental health. OMEP was founded in 1948 around a common understanding of the importance of education for peace. Today, the respect and understanding of the equal value of all people and human rights still needs to be at the core of our actions.

State parties must recognise the rights of all children and especially for the most vulnerable and children at risk. We call on all governments to take immediate action to bring these children to a safe life.

**Ingrid Engdahl**  
Vice President of OMEP in Europe

**Antonio Ponces de Carvalho**  
President of OMEP in Portugal

---

OMEPE is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization concerned with all aspects of early childhood education and care. OMEPE was founded in 1948 and has consultative status with UN, UNESCO and UNICEF. OMEPE has 72 national committees in all regions of the world, 27 of them in Europe. [www.worldomepe.org](http://www.worldomepe.org)