

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
**Database of NGO Reports presented to the UN Committee on
the Rights of the Child.**

Document Title:

Austria's NGO Report Regarding the Initial Report

Region:

Europe, Western Europe

Country:

Austria

Issued by:

National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of
the Child

Date of publication of NGO Report:

03/98

Date of presentation to presessional working group:

06/98

CRC Session

(at which related national state party report was submitted):

20th Session : Jan 99

Language:

English

Document Text

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Foreword

Austria signed the Convention and ratified it with reservation on 5. September 1992, which means Austria will perform the contract through passing its own laws within the meaning of the Convention (reservation as to its execution). The Convention is not directly applicable and the rights are not written down in the Constitutional Law.

The National Coalition for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter called „NC“) is a national umbrella body in Austria which represents a wide range of non-governmental organisations and independent institutions concerned with the right- and welfare of children.

According to Article 43 of the Convention, an international body of experts, known as the UN Committee on the Rights of the child, has been established to supervise the implementation of the Convention. For this reason, each country must report to the Committee within two years of ratification (and thereafter every five years) detailing the measures which have been made to give effect to the rights set out in the Convention and indicating any difficulties.

The Initial Report of Austria was ready in fall 1996, more than two years after the required date. NGOs have not been sufficiently involved in the process, for example the ombudsperson of Salzburg received the Initial Report to make comments on it within a period of one week. The NC demands, that NGOs and independent organisations will be involved from the beginning for the next report.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sees out the rights guaranteed to children and young people under the age of 18 in all areas of their lives and it imposes obligations on member states in this regard. The Convention has three guiding principles: firstly, Convention rights must be guaranteed to all children without discrimination; secondly, the child's best interests must govern all actions concerning the

child, and thirdly, the opinion which each child has the right to express must be given importance in accordance with the child's age and maturity.

1. Preliminary remarks

1.1. Basic attitude of the Initial Report

With its „Initial Report of Austria submitted in accordance with Article 44 of the convention on the Rights of the Child" (hereinafter called IR)~, the Federal Government reiterates its view that the Agreement of the United Nations on the Rights of the Child is of prime importance. Nevertheless, the Federal Government sees basically no need for political action. From the point of view of the NC, this position of the Federal Government accentuates its defensive and even inconsistent attitude towards the Convention.

1.2. Points of departure of the National Coalition

From the NCs point of view the Convention can only be understood adequately if the implementation of the rights of the child is regarded as a continuous task. In this respect, the NC thinks it particularly important that the Convention extends beyond the goal of Protection and accords equal importance to the goals of Provision and Participation.

The following sections thus present important supplements. They do not claim to be comprehensive.

As far as the creation of positive living conditions in Austria is concerned, the professional and social standards that have been developed in the country have to be the yardstick for the implementation of the Convention. Given the privileged position of children in Austria, it is also necessary to examine how far Austrian politics has contributed to the improvement or deterioration of the situation of children in other parts of the world. The selection of the articles actually chosen is not meant to constitute a ranking.

In addition, the individual members of the NC retain the right to present further suggestions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention establishes a positive meaning of the phrase „best interest of the child" that obliges governments not only to see to protective measures, but also to the provision of children. This sets up the obligation to work towards the creation of child-friendly living conditions in all matters pertaining to the interests of children.

1.3. Introduction

Austria has a federal state structure, being divided into 9 federal states (*Länder*), each state has its own local government, administration and parliament. The local legislator has to pass his own laws in fixed fields, especially important for the federal state. The rules about the jurisdiction (who has the regarding competence) are laid down in the Constitutional Law.

For example the setting-up of the ombudssystem for children and youth:

the federal legislator passed the basic law and each federal state had to pass its own law for the execution and the actual setting-up. That's one of the reasons why the 9 institutions of ombudsmen and -women in Austria differ slightly a bit (different number of staff, different budgets, different tasks, different rights and powers). The NC demands a high level of equipment, corresponding to international standards, for all 9 ombudsperson and of course for a Federal Ombudsperson.

Within the framework of local self-government, the administrative and financial responsibility for important social, economic and cultural services for children and families lies with elected representative bodies on the local level.

Although Austria is an affluent country, the insufficient funding available to political and administrative bodies at the levels referred to hampers the implementation of children's rights - measured against the socially possible levels - to a considerable degree.

The NC considers it imperative to examine the municipalities and administrative districts whether all relevant measures for children are pursued „to the maximum extent of their available resources". There should be more detailed reporting on the implementation of the obligations arising from the Convention - particularly with regard to the obligation set out in article 4 - on the level of the federal states and municipalities.

An important imperfection of the IR is, that it does not refer to measures taken by NGOs and independent organisations.

1.4. Information on the Convention (article 42) and Availability of the Initial Report (article 44, Paragraph 6)

The content of the Convention should be made widely known to adults and children (article 42). And although the NGOs and independent institutions did most of the work so far (e.g. postcards and booklets, brochures about several articles and themes of the Convention; more than US-\$ 3.000 of the sold postcards went to the programme of UNICEF for victims of landmines), the Convention is still largely unknown in Austria.

Because of the federal structure and the different responsibilities arising from it, all administrative levels have to be involved in the information effort: for example, the federal states, the schools as well as radio and television networks are concerned, and also the municipalities in the area of non-school youth services.

The NC recommends to develop a comprehensive concept and separate measures at all

levels for the spread of information in a real dialogue of state institutions, with Non-Governmental organisations and, of primary importance, with children and youth.

The NC regrets that the Government has neither presented the Initial Report submitted in 1996 to a wide public nor held public meetings on this matter, the IR is only published in English and is nowhere on offer.

2. General Principles

· Well-being of the child (article 3)

„The best interests of the child are considered in political decision-making." The NC believes this establishes at least the obligation to bring the interests of the generation to come in all matters to further public debate.

· Respect for the view of the child (article 12)

The NC thinks that article 12 is the provision containing the most substantial regulation of the children's right to participation. Child and youth welfare offices and services and schools are called upon to create and expand adequate opportunities for children to voice their opinions and to have them considered. The already existing rights should be extended, institutions and other services should be created and supported in order to enable children to actually make use of their rights.

· Support and Encouragement of all measures to promote children and youth organisations and activities (article 4)

In Austria there are no obligatory rules if and how to support youth organisations and activities. In Salzburg and some other federal states there are bills about the encouragement, but we need them for all 9 federal states.

Especially cities and municipalities should support, according to article 3, promoting the „best interest of the child". Children and youth should have the possibilities to participate in a variety of cultural programmes.

· The NC recommends to pass a detailed law about the encouragement of children and youth organisations and activities, where the state should be engaged to force and to make more money available for non-school activities, cultural programmes for children and youth and recreational activities, analogous to the development aid law.

· Law for the protection of youth

In Austria, with its federal structure at the moment every federal state has his own protection law and they all differ slightly a bit. The NC demands one modern~ general protection law for Austria, or an assimilation of the different laws.

· Mediation

The goal of every mediation should be to help parents (but also pupils and teachers, youth, ...) to find solutions together and to solve and avoid conflicts.

· Poverty of children (article 36)

Although Austria is an affluent country every 5th child lives under the line of poverty. If the parents have no self-confidence because of their poverty, in most cases the children have no

self-confidence, too. The NC demands a basic income for children, entitled should be the child itself, as a subject of law. Other possibilities to fight against poverty:

- sufficient possibilities of child-care-institutions
- initiatives to help and support people to re-integrate to the working process after period of rest
- attractive part-time jobs
- more social-supported flats with „family-friendly" conditions

The risk of poverty is much higher for children than for adults. More consideration to families with children within the law of taxation should be given, which is the same recommendation made by the Austrian Constitutional Court in 1997.

3. Fundamental rights

3. 1. Majority (See paragraph 65-66 in the IR)

In view of increasing earlier independence of the young people in Austria, a reduction of the age of majority, from 19 to 18, is requested. Austria is one of the last countries in Europe, where the age of majority is still 19.

Some reasons for the reduction:

- o education ends before the age of 19 and this means economic autonomy
- o in the protection field of the Convention for the Rights of the Child there~' are only young people under the age of 18
- o the right to vote for the Federal and the Local Parliament and the municipal council has already been reduced to the age of 18

The reduction of the age of majority does not touch the parents' obligation to provide maintenance.

3.2. Reduction of the age for the right to vote, participation of children and youth (See paragraph 79-80 in the IR)

After a lot of social scientific studies we know that there are no convincing arguments against a reduction of the age for the right to vote to 16 for all elections. In Austria there are a few forms of participation from children and youth. There are more projects with children, maybe there are some problems for adults to get (and remain) in contact with youth.

The NC demands to create the necessary structures **to** install participation. A certain part of the budget of a municipality has to be used for projects concerning children and youth.

Children and youth have to decide which form of participation should be used and how to call it. Adults should not show them a certain path but should be counsellors and give advice upon request.

Seven general principles should never be forgotten:

- 1) Volunteering of children and youth
- 2) Children must be guided within these projects of participation by a moderator

- 3) Written obligations in advance, to consider children and youth's opinions and ideas (obligatory)
- 4) Definition of their~joint goal
- 5) Survey and transparency, modern forms of communication
- 6) Public Relations
- 7) Legal basis of participation in the municipal code

Now most of the politicians do not consider the interests of children and youth, because the political pressure is missing - children and youth do not have the right to vote.

The arguments against an earlier right to vote are always the same:

children and youth are easy to influence, desultory in their decisions, they are not sufficiently competent, they don't see the truth of the world. These arguments seem to be like the list of the last analysis and opinion polls about adults. If we have a look at organisations such as Greenpeace and Amnesty International a lot of engaged youths can be seen, as these organisations fight for the protection of our environment, for the future and for human rights and youth can support them and be part of them.

The NC recommends a reduction of the right to vote on all levels to 16, they should also have the possibility to participate in plebiscites and referendums, and we need obligatory political education in th~ schools.

Participation of children and youth is necessary on all levels, not only in the field of the right vote.

3.3. Integration (See paragraph 306-322 in the IR)

The Austrian Federal Government has taken a lot of measures to integrate disabled children and youth in every day life. The government provides special schools and special kindergartens, special financial assistance (higher family allowance), mobile counselling teams for children and youth, and other benefits.

But article 23 and 28 do not demand separation, they demand integration of disabled children and youth. Since 1988 we have had various school pilot experiments in Austria, where the disabled children are given the necessary special attention but attend regular schools, with non-disabled children.

In 1993 a number of school laws were passed and so the educational and political goal was achieved: to secure the right of disabled children to education and participation in social life. Nevertheless, of all the measures taken to promote integration, the amount of pupils in some special schools is still increasing, the statistics differ from federal country to federal country.

It was an argument of the opponents in the developing process of the law for the Integration, that the cost would reach an unpayable height. But obviously Austria can finance a more expensive system - special schools and integration in regular schools.

At the moment Austria is far from complete integration as recommended in article 28 . 1 of the Convention.

Disabled children and youth together with their parents should have the real choice which kind of schools or kindergartens they want to attend. In Austria, with its federal structure it is important to eliminate the differences between the federal states. The goal has to be the greatest possible independence of children and youth.

With respect to the length of time of education, there is a discriminating difference: children and youth with special needs attending regular schools have a claim to 8 years of education (on proposal 9 years), pupils in special schools to 11 years and regular pupils to 16 years (inclusive 3 possibilities to repeat).

Although disabled children and youth have the right by law to attend regular schools, but it only covers the amount of time under the compulsory school attendance - this does not correspond to the Convention.

Before the integration law 18,000 pupils attended special schools in Austria, today, 5 years later the figure is nearly the same, plus 6,000 pupils with special needs visiting regular schools.

The NC recommends to continue on with integration, to increase measures to support disabled children and youth.

3.4. Therapy for youth delinquents

The NC demands therapies and different possibilities of education for youth delinquents paid by the State (federal states, insurance companies) to increase chances of re-integration in society.

3.5. Representation in front of the court

The NC demands obligate attorneys (in-fact) for children and youth in front of the court, these attorneys can be special educated lawyers or the ombudspersons in the federal states.

At the moment, the ombudsperson of Salzburg for example can not appear to the court (as said in the IR), he can just give recommendations and accompany youth to the court.

3.6. Obligatory rules for the establishment of playgrounds and rooms to move for children and youth

The NC demands more playgrounds for children, more rooms to move for youth in every age. Every new block of flats, every housing estate needs to have playgrounds in fixed sizes. Little possibilities to play produce aggressions.

As mentioned before children and youth have to be invited to participate in the planning process prior to the construction or design of school buildings, traffic, residential and leisure facilities.

Federal and states' law has to set up a framework to guarantee this aspect of participation.

3.7. Children and youth rights in the Constitutional Law and on basis of the European Union..

The Austrian board of ombudspersons and the Austrian Federal Ministry for the Environment, Youth and the Family ordered a comprehensive study about the possibilities to write down constitutional rights for children and youth in the Austrian Constitution (made by the Boltzmann-Institute for Human Rights).

The NC demands to take the results into serious consideration and to act after those.

The NC claims the anchoring of children and youth rights in European Law, installing of institutions concerned with the work for children and youth. Austria can work in this direction when we have the presidency of the European Union in the second part of the year 1998.

4. Alien children and youth

The rights granted in the Convention are indivisible, they have to be valid for all children and youth in Austria. This absolute prohibition of discrimination is laid down in article 2.

Lots of alien children and youth were either born in Austria and/or grew up here. Nevertheless the second immigrant generation has partly big problems with residence, e. g. if applications for prolongation of the residence permit are not asked for in time, they can not be handled before the expiry of the valid period (4 weeks before the expiry-date).

The NC demands a possibility to correct the proposal. The creation of a tolerance time is absolutely necessary.

In 1997 all applications for residence permission of unaccompanied youth were rejected. We demand obligate care of unaccompanied youth through special educated social workers and / or lawyers.

4.1. Arrangements of the youth welfare system

The measures taken to support the education, or eventually the necessary separation from their parents, are often not conducted. According to article 18.2 number 7 Aliens Act a residence prohibition has to be issued, if the family can not afford the necessary alimony. Due to the considerable costs of the work of the youth welfare system, the competent authorities can issue residence prohibitions if they severely interpret the law.

The NC requests a disposal of the unclear legal situation, rules analogous to the Aliens Support Act (Act about the support for impecunious refugees).

4.2. Right of a family

The Convention grants special constitutional rights to the children: the right that the parents look after the child (article 7.1), the right to have a regular and immediate contact with them (article 9.3), not to be separated from their parents against their will (article 9.1), applications

for bringing the family together should be treated kindly, decently and liberally (article 10 1).

Problems arise within the demanded „customary in a place accommodation", because of exhaustion of the annual allowance quota or because of the fact that the first application can only be made from the foreign country and the foreigner has to wait for the end of the procedure in the foreign country.

The NC demands no quotas for bringing a family together.

4.3. Criminal liability

The Aliens Act states that the authorities have to issue a residence prohibition and deport criminal youth - the family's situation is not normally taken into consideration.

The NC requests no deportations for criminal youths till the age of 18, the constitutional right of a family has to be taken into consideration in view of the Convention.

4.4. Reduction of the protective age of youth

In contrast to the rest of the Austrian law, the capacity to take legal action and liability and the protective age for youth is reduced in the Aliens Act to 16. Under article 1 of the Convention every person under 18 is described as a child.

Recommendation Young people need to be protected in a special way, this should be taken into consideration also from the Austrian Aliens Act through representation and escort of the youth. The protective age should be the same as the age of the capacity to take legal action and liability.

4.5. Remand pending deportation

Here the view should be on article 37 litera b: arrest, deprivation of liberty or imprisonment should be the last solution and only used for a short term. In the Austrian law system the remand pending deportation is an exception, normally it is forbidden to arrest youth in administration procedures.

Because of a ruling of the Austrian Minister of the Interior, youth under 16 will not be put on remand pending deportation, but there is still no legal prohibition under the new law (Aliens Act 1997).

The NC recommends a legal prohibition of taking 16 years. old youth on remand pending deportation. The conditions in the prison should be improved, youth have to be separated in their own ward, with sufficient care of psychologists and social workers, with possibilities to work and to learn. Another demand is a residence permission independent from their parents.

We demand the legal claim on nationality for children and youth born and/or grew up in Austria, independent from criteria like size of flat. income of the parents and so on.

5. Ombudsperson of the Federal Government

For the last few years, all ombudspersons, a variety of youth organisations and scientists have recommended an independent Ombudsperson for children and youth of Austria. At the moment there is such an organisation, but it is in the ministry of family and not independent.

Recommendations:

An organisation, which advocates for children and youth, which keeps an eye on their situation and which is absolutely independent, should be created.

Rights and powers for this organisation have to be:

- 1) Examination of laws, which touch the interests of children and youth
- 2) co-operation with the ombudspersons of the federal states

It should

- be a continuous controlling and initiative institution
- increase the appreciation of problems and of the know how of politicians
- have the right to hold lectures in front of committees of the Parliament
- concentrate on the observation of the international development of childrens rights

6. Abuse and neglect (article 19),
sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (article 34)
(See paragraph 256-277 in the IR)

Austria is one of the few countries which has a legal norm - according to article 19 - for non-violent education. But still we have many problems concerning abused and neglected children and youth.

A catalogue of recommendations was produced by a working group in Salzburg, which covers all important issues and is supported by the NC:

1. Prevention, as a principle of education in kindergartens and primary schools
2. Education and continued education, for judges, attorneys, police officers, doctors, psychologists, social workers, teachers,
3. Protection for victims
 - * lawyers for the victim; by law
 - * therapy for the victim paid by the delinquent and/or the State
 - * costs of the criminal procedure paid by the delinquent
 - * jurisdiction; better informed judges,...
 - * composition of the court; the judge should have the same sex as that of the victim; in the jury court at least 2 jurors with the same sex
 - * considerate interrogation; through expert witnesses, should not start before the age of majority, no confrontation with the committer, recording of the evidence
 - * special rooms for children and youth at the court

- * instructions from the investigating judge in an understandable manner
- * assessment of evidence; more importance on the testimony of victims
- * expert witness; obligatory examination of the committer, considerate interrogation and examination of the victim on the same day and through the same expert witness, more female expert witnesses
- * length of procedure. maximum length
- * compensation for the victim; also for psychological injuries, installing of a fund for compensation help for victims (non-bureaucratic compensation)
- * statutory period of limitation; beginning with majority
- * the punishment should correspond to the severity of the crime

Approach to committers, this is a part connected with the care for victims, we do not demand „help instead of punishment“, but we demand „punishment and help“

- * delinquents should pay, with the help of working programs, money to the victim
- * psychotherapy in the prison
- * information to the victim and the family before release of prison
- * right of instructions and control, probation; injunction of psychotherapy, separation of victim and delinquent

4. Alternatives, possibilities before the criminal procedures;

5. Hospital; groups for child-protection in the hospital (doctors, nurses, social workers and psychotherapists)

- * no costs for the victim in the hospital

6. Media, less sensational journalism, mind expansion reports, protection of the privacy of the victim, no hindrance in the process of revelation through media.

7. Alimony paid in advance

Continually there are problems with alimonies for children and youth paid by the state after separation or divorce of their parents.

The main criticism is the long term of the court procedure to fix the amount of the alimony. In a complicating procedure the court has to determine the capacity of the parent who is liable to provide maintenance and the needs of the dependent(s). This sometimes takes years.

Because of the connection between the title of execution and the alimony paid in advance there is sometimes a paradox situation of no alimony paid in advance, as the parent who is liable to provide maintenance is not capable. In these cases children and youth with the parent who has care and custody have to obtain public assistance (if the parent can not work and has no other financial aid).

Recommendations:

- Alimony paid in advance for children with an unknown father (e.g. children of prostitutes, children born due to rape or incest)
- At the moment with the age of majority no alimony paid in advance can be obtained, no matter if the dependent is still studying or still at school, but the paying of alimony has to be independent to the age of majority.
- Children of parents in prison obtain regular alimony paid in advance, after release from custody the alimony has to be newly established. Because of the often following unemployment it is lower than previously - here we need a change.
- Flat rates for all dependants
- The youth welfare agencies should pay the alimony in advance (for the court it is an alien activity), but they need more social workers to accomplish this additional task
- Mediation is a mostly successful method to avoid differences between parents about the alimony

8. Care **and custody for separated parents**

(See paragraph 191-195 in the IR)

Parents should have the possibility to look after and have joint custody. Care and custody for the single parent should be the norm, but under the following conditions parents should have the choice:

1) Application from both parents in case of a divorce by mutual consent

2) In a mediation procedure they have to arrange the conditions about care and custody, confirmation through the mediator

- participation of the children, according to their age

- agreement about the competence and about the education-method

- agreement about the residence of the child, all other conditions (visits, holidays, ...)

- alimony

- how to handle conflicts in the future

3) end of joint custody on application of one parent

9. Minorities

(See paragraph 517-520 in the IR)

In Austria, ethnic groups and minorities are protected by special laws (they grant general rights such as a ban on discrimination, encouragement of the national traditions, the languages, the culture, ...). All these rights are human rights, which should not depend on the number of people living there.

Some of the districts where minorities live have bilingual kindergartens and schools (as Austria has promised since 1919!), but still not enough.

All Austrian minorities (Slovenians, Croats, Hungarians, Czechs, Romas, Slovaks) strive for radio and television programmes in their own languages (a few do exist).

Recommendations:

more legal possibilities for participation on Local and Federal Government(s) and on the legislation

bilingual inscriptions

obligatory financial support for representing organisations, for cultural associations **V**.

real bilingual schools and kindergartens, where the language of the minority is not only taught

as a second language

10. Foster Care System

Well educated foster parents, with a social cover and an appropriate salary lead to happy and well poised children and youth. At the moment there are some pilot projects, the NC demands a regulation about the education, insurance and salary of foster parents by law.

11. Investigation

In many parts of the IR the focus is based on Vienna, it is the same with investigations in Austria: either they are about Vienna or about Austria. The NC requests more investigation, more regional projects, more long-term-studies.

12. Education

(See paragraph 374-409 in the IR)

In Austria there are not a lot of alternatives to the „normal" school system, the NC recommends more possibilities of choice and participation for pupils and their parents. We also recommend a modernisation of the school system, room for individual formation, for individual subjects. Some schools have already started going this way, but only a few.

13. Distress call for children and youth

The NC claims a distress call for children and youth free of charge, available for every child in the country.

At the moment the telephone numbers of the ombudspersons are at a normal price.

14. Psychological and Social Care

The NC claims a good availability of psychotherapists and social institutions also and especially on the countryside. They should work together and should be trained for the work with children and youth. The State has to support independent institutions. We need a suitable paid contract between the psychotherapists and the insurance companies.

Vienna/Salzburg, March 13th 1998

Recommendations

The NC recommends to develop a comprehensive concept and separate measures at all levels for the spread of information in a real dialogue of state institutions, with Non-Governmental organisations and, of primary importance, with children and youth.

General principles which have to be taken into consideration:

- Well-being of the child (article 3)
- Respect for the view of the child (article 12)

- Support and Encouragement of all measures to promote children and youth organisations and activities (article 4)

- Modernised law for the protection of youth

- Mediation

- Basic income for children

We demand

- a reduction of the age of majority from 19 to 18

- creation of the necessary structures to install and increase participation, a reduction of the right to vote on all levels to 16
to go on with integration, to increase measures to support disabled children and youth

- therapies and different possibilities of education for youth delinquents paid by the State

- obligate attorneys (in-fact) for children and youth in front of the court

- more playgrounds for children, more rooms to move for youth

- anchoring of children and youth rights in the Austrian Constitutional Law and the European Law

- an organisation, which advocates for all children and youth in Austria, which keeps an eye on their situation and which is absolutely independent

Problems to solve

1. Lots of alien children and youth were either born in Austria and/or grew up here. Nevertheless the second immigrant generation has partly big problems. We demand no quotas for bringing a family together, no deportations for criminal youths till the age of 18, a protective age of 18, a legal prohibition of taking 16 years old youth on remand pending deportation, the legal claim on nationality for children and youth born and/or grew up in Austria.

2. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse:

Prevention, Education and continued education (for judges, attorneys, police officers, doctors,...), support for victims (lawyers, therapy, the judge should have the same sex as the victim, considerate interrogation through expert witnesses, special rooms for children and youth at the court, more female expert witnesses, compensation for the victim, statutory period of limitation beginning with majority,...), alternative possibilities before the criminal procedures, protection of the privacy of the victim, and so on.

3. Continually there are problems with alimonies for children and youth paid by the state after separation or divorce of their parents.

4. Parents should have the possibility to look after and have joint custody (under a few conditions)
5. To increase the support of all ethnic groups and minorities in Austria.
6. A regulation of the education, insurance and salary of foster parents by law.
7. A distress call for children and youth free of charge, available for every child in the country.
8. A good availability of psychotherapists and social institutions also and especially on the countryside.

Appendix

Members of the National Coalition

(as of March 21st 1998, in alphabetical order):

Austrian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Movement (*Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs*)

Austrian Committee for Unicef (*Osterreichisches Komitee für Unicef*)

Austrian Federal Youth Council (*Österreichischer Bundesjugendring*)

Catholic Children Movement of Austria (*Katholische Jugendschar Österreichs*)

Conference of Ombudspersons for Children and Youth (*Ständige Konferenz der Kinder- und JugendanwältInnen (Österreichs), consisting of the Ombudspersons for Children and Youth in Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Upper Austria, Vienna, and Vorarlberg*)

Socialdemocratic Children Movement (*Österreichische Kinderfreunde*)

Standing Committee:

Paul Arzt (*Ombudsperson for Children and Youth, Salzburg*)

Gudrun Berger (*Austrian Committee for Unicef*)

Christian Klein (*Catholic Children Movement of Austria*)

Harald Koller (*Austrian Federal Youth Council*)

Kurt Nekula (*Socialdemocratic Children Movement*)

Franz Preishuber (*Ombudsperson for Children and Youth, Tyrol*)

Andreas Westermayer (*Austrian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Movement*)

Redaction

Sabine Klinglmair

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