

DECLARATION OF OMEP EUROPEAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

Kristianstad, Sweden, 26th of April 2024

For 76 years, **OMEP World**, as an organisation, has promoted the rights of children through peace education, quality education and care, to ensure a future for children and childhoods on the planet through sustainable education.

Recent world events create a climate of uncertainty and anxiety for children living in regions where conflict, climate crises and poverty impact on their development and participation as active citizens. The **UNCRC** promotes the rights of the child, and for many children, a permanent home or shelter, quality education, access to health services, living in a safe and secure community, and a prospect of a future is denied. When children are denied basic rights, opportunities for play, decision making on matters important to them, and being valued as full participants in society seems like an insurmountable challenge.

OMEP in Europe is committed to supporting all children's rights but global challenges mean that not all children have equal access to the realisation of their full entitlement of rights.

OMEP in Europe will focus on promoting children's rights and challenge lawmakers, politicians and society to ensure that all children have a home, access to quality education, access to health services, live and grow up in a safe and secure community and have the promise of a future.

OMEP in Europe will undertake action in five themes to make progress in areas identified by European Member countries:

1. **Education for Sustainability** OMEP will actively promote the ECE Academy app across Europe for educators, parents and children to advance the knowledge and commitment to sustainable practices and behaviours that will ensure a future for children
2. **Young Children's Rights** OMEP will continue to advocate and educate parents, educators, and the society in need to ensure time for play for all children, to protect especially children in the risk of social exclusion and to support children's participation in ECEC settings and in families.
3. **OMEP response in demanding times of war and other crises is to work to promote education for peace and appreciation of diversity.**



4. **Strengthening OMEP as an organisation** will include changes to the way in which communication about OMEP can be shared and promoted in the region and globally.
5. **Educational Policies in ECEC** will approach to politicians, law makers, and civil servants at local, regional and national levels to remind them about respecting children's rights in all of their decisions.

This declaration from the **OMEP European Assembly and Conference in Kristianstad, Sweden** demonstrates our collective commitment to improving the lives of children through research, practice, policy and advocacy. **OMEP in Europe** has hope for a better future and makes a commitment to act to ensure this for all children.

Presidents and representatives of OMEP National Committees in Europe