



Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar  
World Organization for Early Childhood Education  
Organization Mondiale Pour L'Éducation Préscolaire

OMEPE

## Colour your rights: 30 years with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dear National Presidents of OMEPE

It is a pleasure and a great honour for the OMEPE Cyprus Committee to invite you to participate in the CREATIVE ART WORLD OMEPE Project for the 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which was endorsed during the meeting for World Projects at the OMEPE World Assembly in Panama, July 2019.

The idea to let children show us how they feel, understand and express their feelings about their rights through art was discussed and accepted first by the participants of different countries at the meeting and then voted by all presidents during the closing of the World Assembly as a world project. It is well known that artistic expression is a common non-verbal language for all, without exclusion nor discrimination. It is a way of communication among all people, no matter the age, the culture, the country of living, the religion, above all it is children's right to express themselves through art.

- Let the children tell us about their perception of their rights, globally.
- Become a way of communication between different member countries of World OMEPE.
- To create future connections for exchange projects.
- To become a tool to demonstrate to different governmental or nongovernmental organizations the multiple faces of OMEPE.
- To make influential people pay attention to early childhood needs.
- To gain interest from educators on the vision of OMEPE and make them become members in their country.

This project aims to give to the children the opportunity to participate actively in the application of their rights. Therefore, no specific article of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been chosen, because it is important to let children in each country, with the help of their educators, choose the article/s that they want to work with, depending on their needs and also on the importance of the application of a specific article in each country.

**Project creator and co-ordinator:** Dr. Maria Vassiliadou

**Curator of the exhibition in Cyprus:** Dr. Maria Vassiliadou

**Project realisation:** OMEPE Cyprus

**Participant countries:** All countries members of World OMEPE are welcome to participate.

**OMEPE Executive Committee representant:** Ingrid Engdahl, VP for OMEPE in Europe

**Project goal:** The goal of this project is to let children illustrate their perception of a specific article, freely promoting the expression of their feelings through the artistic activity. Therefore, we will be

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very grateful to all OMEP Presidents to promote the project among the educators in their countries and ask them to encourage children to participate.

**Project description:** Children from all countries will work on artwork. As it is mentioned above, the main aim of this project is to give children from all countries the opportunity to show their perception of their rights through artistic expression with a variety of ways, approaches and materials. Furthermore, to give to us, all OMEP members, the opportunity on the one hand to observe the reaction of the children in order to understand their needs and on the other hand to illustrate to different institutions/organisations the importance of the application of children's rights in all countries: in everyday life, social, family, school and cultural environment.

**Methodology:** Children can express themselves freely on what they understand, feel and think about the specific article of the Rights of the Child. Children can create a story, a picture or a poster based on children's rights or can prepare a visual presentation or a video. Every OMEP country committee can choose between two or three articles and give the opportunity to children to decide which one they would like to approach artistically. It is essential for each country to decide which articles of Children's rights are more important in their country.

**Artistic materials:** All artistic materials are accepted such as: acrylics, colour pencils, aquarelles, watercolours, oil pastels, collage, (clothes, paper, newspaper and other light materials thick materials are excluded for transportation problems) mixed techniques materials thick materials are excluded for transportation problems) mixed techniques, visual presentations etc. Children are also allowed to write text on their work.

The art works must be done on heavy paper (preferably on aquarelle paper) on size A3 that is 42 cm x 30 cm. The size can be smaller but not bigger. This is very important for the exhibition.

### THE PROCESS

#### Phase one:

Presidents disseminate the information and encourage educators /children to participate. National project leaders are appointed. Each OMEP national committee collects the artwork in digital form.

#### Phase two:

Each OMEP committee can select 10-15 artworks. It is important to have a sample of art works from different ages. Therefore, we would like to receive the artworks divided in two age groups: one until 6 years old and the second from 6 – 8 years old.

Each artwork must include the name of the child, the age, the name of the school optionally, the country and the title on the backside of the work.

It is also very important to have information about the article that children have worked on and maybe some of their own words.

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The selected artworks shall be sent to the World Project by the latest **December 18th 2020**, via email to [vassiliadoum@omep.com.cy](mailto:vassiliadoum@omep.com.cy)

### FINAL PHASE:

The artworks will be presented in multiple ways;

- As a virtual exhibition during the 72 OMEP World Assembly in Athens in July 2021, where the Art project leader Maria Vassiliadou will present the children's art virtually. Deadline: **July 12-14, 2021**.
- This virtual exhibition will also be available on the OMEP Cyprus webpage where all OMEP countries can have access.
- At a special exhibition with children's original artworks which is going to take place in Cyprus in **November 2021** with a special forum about Children's Rights where people from different important environments such as Universities, Ministries, NGO will be invited.
- To participate in this exhibition, national presidents choose 1-2 pieces of art and bring the originals to Athens in July 2021.
- The final aim of this project is to create an illustrated book with the children's works and make a story out of it. The final book's form will depend on the financial support that we will have from sponsors.

We are looking forward to receiving artworks from the children in your country!

For further information, please, do not hesitate to contact the World project leader at [pre.vm@frederick.ac.cy](mailto:pre.vm@frederick.ac.cy)

Warm regards,

**Dr Maria Vassiliadou,**  
**President of the Cyprus OMEP Committee**  
**Associate Professor of Artistic Education Frederick University, Nicosia CYPRUS**