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Distribution of children's magazines

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes standards and commits to a new approach to children, and according to Article 12. determines that a child has the right to freely express their own opinions and the right to his opinion taken into account in all matters and proceedings that directly concern him/her.

This right, which is also one of the basic principles of the Convention implies to ensure and allow to a child as well as to encourage a child to express its view. The Convention does not recognize any limit regarding the age of the child, health etc, it determines the right that should be allowed to a child.

Distribution of children's journals in elementary schools is just a way to enable children to exercise their rights guaranteed by the Convention.

Although school magazines are not mandatory for the teaching process, they offer possibility to children of different ages to check and extend the knowledge gained in school in various fields, to develop imagination, communication skills, critical thinking.

It is very important that evaluation of quality of journals, in the sense that they meet required standards and can be subject to distribution in schools, gives professional body.

But it is also important to provide children with a choice, to declare by themselves and together with their parents which magazines they will buy, of course, between those who have passed expert evaluation.

This way we teach them that they are subjects of the process in which they participate, we teach them that no matter how small the amount of the money is they should handle it rationally in the way that two children from the same house or two friends from the same bench from the school can buy different magazines and this way with same money both of them have two different magazines.

This way we teach them that they have the right and we make them more responsible in teaching process, because rights always means obligation.

Therefore I suggest to the competent Ministry in drafting instructions on the implementation of programs and activities of NGOs, other institutions and organizations which will amongst other things be determined by way of choice and offers of children's magazines in this process include the children in a way that children have the right to choose among all journals that received positive expert opinion.

Please inform the Institution on the measures taken within 10 days of receipt of the recommendation.

Ombudsman for Children
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