



Launch of the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children

**Opening remarks - Ms ANNE BRASSEUR
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe**

Dear Members,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to participate in the official launch of the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children and I should thank you all for being here today and taking a public stand against this degrading practice.

I want to thank in particular the participants of the Living Library for having accepted to share their experience with us.

In recent years, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of cases of children confined in detention facilities for migrants. States often detain migrant children for reasons related to health, security or identity checking, but there is **no reason** and **no justification** for detaining a child. Despite the conditions in which they are kept, detention has a profound and negative impact on them, threatening their psychological and physical health and compromising their development.

I witnessed the effects of detention on children last year, during a visit to a police station where several minors were being held in very harsh conditions behind bars, without good cause. This type of situation is simply **unacceptable**.

It is therefore urgent to put an end to this practice and guarantee dignity to all migrant children. I am sure that through this important initiative of the Migration Committee coordinated by its general rapporteur, we will be able to ensure effective alternatives to immigration detention of children and to protect them against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of their immigrant status.

I wish you much success in this important task. Be ensured that I will follow your work closely.

Thank you.