



**Additional comments for the „Austrian State Session“ - Regarding Issue 4.2.
„Children’s Rights Ombudspersons“**

For protecting and supporting the Rights of Children&Youth it is important to have strong and independent Children Ombudspersons. That means beside other criterias adequate infrastructure, funding, staff and premises in order to be independent of Government. This fact has been contained in The Paris Principles adopted by General Assembly Resolution 48/134 in Dezember 1993, the European Network of Children Ombudspersons in Oktober 2000 and the General Comment Nr 2 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In view of the current situation in some federal countries of Austria we want to point out contrary facts: A lack of budget, too few personal staff and namely not adequate office areas (for example situated in the same buildings with official institutions or not separated premises, not enough space for confidential consultations and badly adapted) reduce the efficiency of our Output of work. All these mentioned facts lead to higher up the threshold of contacting us.

We are very concerned about this development. Therefore we urgently ask the UN-Committee on the Rights of the Child to urge the Austrian government to comply with and guarantee the agreed standards.

We thank for your attention and consideration!

Submitted by the Children’s Rights Ombudspersons of the Austrian federal states on behalf of Dr.ⁱⁿ Andrea Holz-Dahrenstaedt, Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Salzburg, kija@salzburg.gv.at, 02.02.2020

