



MEP Adam Kósa and international children's NGO Lumos, founded by J K Rowling, are delighted to invite you to their joint conference

'From the Kennedy Law to the Berlin Wall: Ending the Institutionalisation of Children'

which will take place in the
European Parliament on the 6th November from 13:00 till 15:00
(room 6Q1 of the József Antall Building).

The conference will mark the beginning of a year-long campaign to end the institutionalisation of children, starting with the 50th anniversary of the US Kennedy law that began the deinstitutionalisation process in the US and ending with the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall, which sparked a wave of deinstitutionalisation across Central and Eastern Europe.

The conference aims to:

- raise awareness among key decision makers and human rights advocates about the negative effects of institutionalisation, and the alternatives which exist.
- celebrate the success of decades of reform in institutional care from both a European and American perspective.
- present examples of good practice, highlight the risks and challenges in a deinstitutionalisation process.
- gain specific commitments from Parliamentarians, Commission officials and civil society to prioritise ending the institutionalisation of children.
- include the voices and opinions of children and young people with disabilities in discussions

The programme will include presentations by prominent disability and children's rights professionals, politicians, civil servants, diplomats and campaigners from Europe and the US. The conference will also be addressed by children and young people with disabilities.

Please find enclosed a draft agenda with more information on the conference programme. The language of the conference will be English with international sign language interpretation and captioning provided for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

We would be grateful if you would confirm your availability to Irina.Papancheva@lumos.org.uk before the 27th October. A standing lunch will be served at 12.15 in front of the conference hall. Please note that places are limited. We encourage all interested parties to confirm their attendance at the earliest opportunity.

We look forward to seeing you at the event.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Kósa MEP

Georgette Mulheir
Chief Executive Officer, Lumos