



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

## EXCO-COMMUNICATION: March 15, 2022

### STOP THE WAR!

The world and OMEP have been shocked by the development of a conflagration between Ukraine and Russia. This crisis alarms and hurts us, and has summoned OMEP to **DEMAND URGENT PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND DIALOGUE.**

Governments must comply with the United Nations Charter to **protect children's rights to the highest degree and as the highest priority**, through dialogue and negotiation.

We have received painful messages from OMEP Ukraine describing the heartbreaking situation of the people and children, also from colleagues in OMEP Russia who have relatives and friends in both countries, as well as from many of the National Committees. We stand in solidarity with the members of our Committees who have known how to work in peace, jointly and ecumenically, over cultural, ideological, political or economic differences.

As you know, OMEP has signed joint declarations calling for peace, along with other civil society organizations, which have been submitted to the United Nations. Posts were also published on social media, emphasizing our founding values. We will continue to do so, because OMEP's commitment is and will be to build a world of peace, dialogue, humanity, rationality and justice for all our children, their families and the peoples involved in this and any other conflict.

As Erasmus of Rotterdam said almost 600 years ago: "The most disadvantageous peace is better than a just war." No one wins from war, while the present and future development and well-being of our young children has been placed in imminent jeopardy.

I invite you to **make visible and insist on our message of PEACE** by sharing the posts.

Fraternal Greetings,

Mercedes

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022

From the first days of this new year 2022 we continue to work with unstoppable energy. In January, the meetings, planning, webinars, publications and preparation for a year that will be full of work, emotions and challenges began again. This is a year of many definitions, and our actions in terms of political advocacy and defense of children's rights, definitions of flagship initiatives and academic projects are developing.

1. **74th OMEP World Assembly and Congress in Athens.** The organization of our **WAC 2022** and the expectations generated by meeting again face to face after three years (we haven't seen each other since Panama 2019!) is enormous. Undoubtedly, each and every one of us will make every possible effort to get to Athens and participate in this central event in the life of OMEP. At EXCO we know that it will be difficult in many ways, but also that it will be a valuable and enriching effort, and that OMEP needs it, like the air we breathe! For this reason, on behalf of EXCO and the Committee of OMEP Greece, we enthusiastically reiterate our invitation to participate in person. **Please stay tuned for the NEWS in the WAC 2022 organization that will be published these days!!** [www.omep2022.org](http://www.omep2022.org)

2. **World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education - WCECCE.** This event will be organized by UNESCO, with the participation of OMEP, both in the consultative team and in the management team. The Conference will be Level 2, which implies the participation of Heads of State and Government, ministers responsible for ECCE in the Member States, high-level officials from UN agencies, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society, academia, trade unions, the private sector, and representatives of parents, youth, and other interested stakeholders. It will be held in the month of November, in Uzbekistan. OMEP will actively participate, giving visibility and seeking support to our flagship initiative of the **Decade for Early Childhood.**

3. In this first part of the year, the entire OMEP is dedicated to writing the **2021 Annual Report.** The timely presentation of this report is essential, not only because it complies with what our constitution dictates, but also because it is our **presentation letter as an organization** before the world. That is why we strive to improve the format, make better guides and continue to offer our support from the EXCO to the National Committees, working together with the representatives, project leaders, etc. so that the report really reflects the valuable activity and the enormous effort that we make every day. For this to be valued, it is necessary to be able to communicate it. And this is the official and recognized way to do it. Remember that we have developed a special platform to carry out the report: <https://omepannualreport.org/>

4. **Presentations for financial support to projects.** In the month of February, two OMEP projects were presented for the "UNESCO Participation Programme" call, which grants financing to associate organizations, with special emphasis on the African region. The opportunity was shared by colleague **Lisbeth Gouin**, OMEP representative at UNESCO Paris.

- a. The first project is entitled **"ESD in ECCE: Shaping a sustainable learning for African young children"**. It has precedents in Nigeria and Kenya, and for this edition Cameroon, Ghana and Burkina Faso joined as beneficiary committees. It focuses on various training phases for teachers, families and other stakeholders in issues of education for sustainable development, respect for cultural diversity, creativity and childhood citizenship. The coordinator of the project is in charge of **Oyindamola Sonola**, from the OMEP Nigeria committee.
- b. The second project is entitled **"Toy libraries project: learning life through play"**. Its background is in Kenya and is linked to an old OMEP world project: Play and Resilience. For this edition, Cameroon and Ghana joined as beneficiary committees. It is about building capacities and sharing criteria and experiences with parents, caregivers, community educators, through meetings and the creation of play spaces (toy libraries) with proposals of play that take place in a safe environment that physically and mentally strengthens children, in addition to defending their right to play. The coordinator of the project is in charge of **Lilian Okal**, from the OMEP Kenya committee.

**Nyamikeh Kyiamah**, VP for Africa, supervised and accompanied the entire process. **Odet Noa Comans**, from the OMEP Cuba committee, actively participated in the project presentation working group created by the World Presidency, providing invaluable knowledge to achieve this task.

We especially thank all of them and we will continue working on this important line of action.

**5. Networks with other organizations.** During these first months of the year, meetings were resumed with different organizations with which we maintain strategic alliances and of which OMEP is part, such as **Right to education initiative (RTE), EdHeroes Movement, Global Campaign for Education (GCE), UNESCO, Child in all Policies (CAP), Arcor Foundation**. They constantly take us into account for the events they develop, support our initiatives and value us as specialists in early childhood education and care. During 2022, we will continue to strengthen these ties and give visibility to our actions in this line, for which we will be summoning, inviting and encouraging you to share.

**6. Web page.** The communication team continues with the construction and enrichment of **our website** [www.omepworld.org](http://www.omepworld.org). For reasons beyond our control, we have had to change the webmaster, so we still have several improvements pending. We ask you to visit, share and review the information, to keep it alive and updated. Likewise, we continue on the **social networks** Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @worldomep and also on LinkedIn as OMEP World. **Don't forget to follow us and share!**

To conclude, I tell you that personally and professionally I am very happy because, despite the COVID-19 crisis and this very laborious presidency, I have been able to publish a book, written in collaboration with the former VP of OMEP Argentina, Gabriela Fairstein, called **Early Childhood Education and Care. Pedagogy from the nursery school**. The book deals with ECCE in the first three years of life and is available in Spanish at <https://www.planetadelibros.com/libro-educacion-y-care-en-la-primera-infancia/348802>

Warm regards,

**Mercedes**

## News from the first months of the year

### 1. START-UP MEETINGS 2022

During the months of January and February, the World President held **individual meetings** to establish the bases of the work, learn about the news in the region and open communication channels and collective work with:

- Each member of the **EXCO**
- Each OMEP **representatives** at the United Nations
- Each of those responsible for **global projects**
- Each member of **the presidency team**
- Each one of those responsible for initiatives such as **IJEC, Theory into Practice, the Blog "Rights from the start"**
- Strategic actors with whom OMEP maintains alliances, such as the **Right to Education Initiative, UNESCO, CAP, Arcor Foundation, PEHRC, EdHeroes Movement**.

## 2. FIRST REGIONAL VIRTUAL COFFEES 2022

In **February** (and they will continue in March), we held **virtual coffees** to present the new **Annual Report platform**, discuss the current situation of each committee and establish some work and communication agreements for 2022.

→ **European virtual coffee:** It was held on February 17, 2022, with the presence of 13 committees. It was led by Regional Vice President **Adrijana Visnjic** and former Vice President Ingrid Engdahl, who continues as a consultant to the team. It was also attended by Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, World President.



→ **African virtual coffee:** It was held on February 19, 2022, with the presence of 6 committees. It was in charge of the Regional Vice President **Nyamikeh Kyiamah**. It was also attended by the World President.



→ **Latin American virtual coffee:** It was held on February 23, 2022, with the presence of 16 committees. It was in charge of the Regional Vice President **Desireé López de Maturana Luna**. It was also attended by Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, World President.



### 3. PARALLEL EVENT OF OMEP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

- Within the framework of **CSocD60**, the parallel event was held: *“Hope Starts in the Cities. Building a Brighter Future for Migrant Children & Families Day by Day during the Pandemic”*, with the general coordination of **Maria Pia Belloni**, OMEP representative at the United Nations. **Jessica Essary**, representative along with Maria Pia, and Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, World President, who was in charge of closing remarks.

Link: <https://omepworld.org/omep-at-the-60th-session-of-the-united-nations-commission-for-social-development/>

### 4. OTHER PARTICIPATIONS OF THE WORLD PRESIDENT

- **Interview with the Right to Education Initiative (RTE) for the International Day of Education.** January 24.  
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQmBwljgTKM>
- **Children in All Policies - CAP - Assembly.** January 31.
- **PEHRC (Privatization in Education and Human Rights Consortium). Global Call / Mid-term review.** February 2, 10 and 11.
- **ECCE and privatization with Right to Education Initiative (RTE).** February 4.
- **3er. Anniversary of Abidjan Principles.** February 14.  
Link: <https://www.abidjanprinciples.org/en/home>
- **Start-up meetings with the CCNGO.** February 15 and 21.

### 5. SIGNED DECLARATIONS

- Global civil society priorities towards the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). **12 Key Ways for States to Get Back on Track.** [NGOCommittee on Migration \(NGO CoM\)](https://migratonnetwork.un.org/international-migration-review-forum-2022).  
To read more: <https://migratonnetwork.un.org/international-migration-review-forum-2022>
- Civil Society Declaration for the CSocD60. **Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihood, well-being and dignity for all”.**  
To read more: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x11sHQZS\\_wQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x11sHQZS_wQ)
- Key Recommendations. **2022 Human Rights Council Annual Day on the Rights of the Child.** Child's Rights Connect Taskforce on child's rights and family reunification and UNICEF.



To read more:

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2022ADRC%20key%20recommendations.pdf>

- **Call to protect children and families forcibly displaced from Ukraine.** Subcommittee on Children on Migration of the UN Committee on Migration.

To read more: <https://ngo-migration.org/task-force/refugee-children/>

## 6. CAMPAIGNS AND NETWORKS

- **January 4. Voices of OMEP Panamá.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2157732341045807>

- **January 8: Call for papers WAC 2022.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2160393707446337>

- **January 11, 13 and 14: News from the United Nations: children's rights affected by the environmental crisis.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2163322383820136>

- **January 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24: Campaign for the International Day of Education.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2172740732878301>

- **January 24: Interview with Mercedes Mayol Lassalle by RTE (Right to Education Initiative) on the occasion of the International Day of Education.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2173368172815557>

- **January 25: Call for articles IJEC.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2173922856093422>

- **January 28: IJEC access benefit for OMEP members.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2176098355875872>

- **January 31: Paulo Freire Competition.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2178641325621575>

- **February 8 and 15: Announcement of OMEP side event at United Nations CSocD60.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2184879481664426>

- **February 11: News OMEP New Scholar Award.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2187320101420364>

- **February 13: Abidjan Principles are 3 years old.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2188525684633139>

- **February 14: Practical uses for Abidjan Principles.**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/posts/2188574304628277>

## OMEP BLOG “Rights from the start”

Space for reflection and defense of early childhood education, with the voices of great leaders around the world.

**SUBSCRIBE AND SHARE!**

- **Music at the hospital, by Philippe Bouteloup, France.** “Specific interventions, ongoing workshops, concerts, shows, resident artists, cultural outings – that’s right, the word “hospital” today is not

necessarily a synonym of silence and sadness. However, this has not always been so clear and obvious. Because, theoretically, there is nothing further from the hospital world than music, which is by nature festive and loud". **To read more:** <https://omeworld.org/music-at-the-hospital-philippe-bouteloup/>

→ **Children learn by social modeling, by Eleonora Glavina, Croacia.** "During a typical day in kindergarten, 5-year-old Martha says to 5-year-old Carl: Let's go play mom and dad. You will read the newspaper, I will cook, and this is our baby. She takes Carl by the hand and takes him to the kindergarten "kitchen", putting the picture book in his hands, showing him where to sit, takes the doll and says: This will be our "baby". And so the game begins." **To read more:** <https://omeworld.org/children-learn-by-social-modeling-eleonora-glavina-%ef%bf%bc/>

## IMPORTANT DATES AND NEWS

### ANNUAL REPORTS 2021: Deadline **MARCH 20, 2022**

For National Committees, the new form focuses on activities, since last year we requested separate administrative data to update the information on the OMEP website and database (**if you did not comply, please do so urgently. You have received the data update sheet via mail**).

Platform to carry out the country report: <https://omepannualreport.org/>

### PAULO FREIRE ESSAY COMPETITION

Deadline: **June 9, 2022**

From the essays received, a winner and a second and third place winner will be selected, who will receive **USD 1,000, USD 750 and USD 500**, respectively.

The jury may award up to 5 special mentions.

More information: [https://bit.ly/convocatoria\\_FREIRE\\_IIN](https://bit.ly/convocatoria_FREIRE_IIN)

## OMEP INTERNAL CALL: World Team of Volunteer Translators

To improve our ability to share and exchange OMEP's ideas and actions on our website, blog and social networks we are creating a group of volunteers to help with translations of posts, short articles, statements and videos.

**If you want to be part of the World Team of Volunteer Translators**, sign up in the following form:

<https://forms.gle/xho1EKfvCk7qv7mQ9>