Declaration on child helplines in Europe

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution on child helplines, which are seen as an important tool for children. In 2003 alone around 123 000 calls were documented on abuse and violence against minors in Europe. Child Helpline International (CHI) is an international network representing 72 helplines worldwide, present in 30 European countries.

Parliament felt that children should have the opportunity to talk to someone about their issues and concerns and to receive assistance in finding solutions, and therefore recommended that:

- the European Union support child helplines as an essential part of the child protection system and that this be recognised by the Commission and the governments of Member States;

- EU child helplines have a common toll-free telephone number;

- the European Union support CHI as a platform for EU child helplines to network and liaise on regional issues and that CHI be provided with assistance for this;

- children's rights networks and NGOs working on behalf of children play a role in policy development at national and European level and be eligible for EU funding like other human rights sectors.