Voices of Children in Poverty

Caritas considers the family as “the first and vital cell of society”, and the right for children to live in united family and in a moral environment conducive to their integral human development.

The economic crisis that strikes many European countries has an impact on families; **25 million children** in the European Union are at **risk of poverty or social exclusion**, while all children should be entitled to the same fundamental human rights, regardless of their origin or country of residence.

Economic and social policies as well as the organization of the work world should be continually evaluated in light of their impact on the strength and stability of family life. The long-range future of this nation is intimately linked with the well-being of families, for the family is the most basic form of human community.

Caritas believes that family is the natural place where children should grow in confidence and self-esteem, and be able to integrate fully into the wider society in which they live.

Tackling child poverty needs to be a priority of the EU and its Member States. As a pillar of social welfare, families deserve a strong support. Investing in more inclusive societies where all children can realize their own potential is crucial.

**Children grow up now; they can’t wait till the crisis is over!**

This exhibition wants to draw attention to the challenge of family and child poverty. Listening to children and their parents, acting on the ground to assist them, Caritas translates their concerns into policy proposals at national and at European level. Our proposals are translated into concrete European policy proposals but they need to be turned into policy decisions in your country.

You can help to eradicate poverty by asking your country to take action in line with the presented proposals.

[Please note that in this Exhibition, the testimonies from the children do not necessarily correspond with the photos, but are given as an example of the problematic in question.]