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To: Whom it may Concern

UNIVERSITY of THESSALY CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The University of Thessaly is a proud member of the United Nations Academic Impact [UNAI](#) network and one of its strategic objectives, as set out in its Strategic Plan, is mainstreaming the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in education at the Institutional level. As such, and in respect to SDG 4 (target 4.a), SDG 5 (targets 5.1 and 5.2) and SDG 16 (target 16.2), the University ranks highly the protection of children's rights. The Rector of the University of Thessaly, Professor Charalambos Billinis, signed on the 3rd of December 2024 a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF, and the establishment of a Child Rights Center at the University of Thessaly was officially announced.

The Center's main objectives are:

- The production of knowledge, research, data and documentation on children's rights in all relevant areas, such as, inter alia, social policy for children, child protection, quality-inclusive education, the transition from childhood to adult life,
- The dissemination of children's rights to the academic community and society at large, through all appropriate means and ways, such as workshops, conferences, public events and awareness-raising campaigns. In this context, UNICEF and the University of Thessaly will set up a *working group* to develop an annual work plan that will include the planning of relevant activities, while mobilizing their human resources and offering their expertise to carry out at least one action of the Child Rights Center per quarter.
- The integration of the dimension of children's rights in academic, teaching and research work, through the support of the human resources of the University of Thessaly, both teaching, research and administrative staff of the University, as well as students and graduates, in order to effectively apply the principles related to children's rights. In this context, UNICEF will support the design and implementation of professional development activities in related topics, in collaboration with the Central Administration, the Faculties and Departments of the University of Thessaly.
- The cooperation for the potential development of related programmes, focusing on research and teaching-learning.

The Child Rights Center of the University of Thessaly is already in operation and is involved in promoting educational programs and actions related to child protection issues.

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