



European Pillar of Social Rights Commitment to Principle 11 on Childcare and support to children

Date: 30 September 2020

Pledge

Preventing and eradicating poverty is a high priority for the City of Ghent. To fight poverty, a record budget of 434 million euros is allocated to the city's Social Service. Together with the budgets that other City services deploy, more than 570 million euros are invested to tackle poverty during this legislative term.

One in five children in Ghent are born in a deprived family. Poverty is not a choice, this applies even more to children and young people. We believe that every child in Ghent has the right to protection of poverty. Poverty starts with a lack of financial means, but affects all life domains. Therefore, we carry out an integrated and holistic local anti-poverty policy, so that every resident, especially children and young people, can live in dignity and participate in our vibrant city life. For The City of Ghent, together with its numerous partners it is a key ambition to **guarantee the basic social rights** for all its inhabitants. By initiating the role of director and actor where needed, the City of Ghent ensures that innovative and efficient measures are taken to enhance equal opportunities for the most vulnerable residents, particularly children and youngsters. For example:

- We foster the **right to education and childcare** by strengthening the accessibility and quality of childcare for vulnerable families, and by providing and funding additional educational support for children in poverty;
- As a necessary precondition to benefit from education, we advance the **right to social security and assistance** by reaching out to every vulnerable family in Ghent. We build bridges between childcare, education and welfare, and offer tailor-made assistance, such as to young people and families in poverty;
- We further the **right to social and cultural self-development** by organising, jointly with Ghent citizens in poverty, accessible forms of participation and co-creation, by offering additional inclusive leisure time opportunities to all residents in poverty.

We warmly invite all interested parties to visit Ghent and learn more about our holistic anti-poverty policy or specific projects developed to guarantee the social rights of our children and youngsters.

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