VIENNA Charta FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A Vienna commitment to safe, fair and inclusive digital childhoods

Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO

Foundation of the Charta

- Starting point: 1 of 193 measures of Vienna's 2020–2025 Children and Youth Strategy

→ Part of the current government program (2025-2030)

→ officially passed by the Vienna City Council January 20, 2026

- Basis:
  - ✓ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - ✓ General Comment No. 25
  - ✓ Declaration „Vienna – City of Human Rights“

Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO

Who did it?

- KiJA and MRB Lead
- But to ensure a broad range of perspectives:
  - The Chief Executive Office - Group for Process Management and ICT Strategy
  - The Chief Executive Office - Division Management for Science, Research and Business
  - The Chief Executive Office - Competence Centre for Urban Planning, Smart City Strategy, Participation, Gender Planning
  - The City of Vienna - Education and Youth Department
  - Vienna Business Agency (*Wirtschaftsagentur Wien*)
- **And most importantly young people!**

Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO

Step by Step

Step 1: DIDAYS Student Day (October 24, 2024)

- Nearly 100 students aged 7 to 22 were surveyed on what matters most to them in the digital space.
- These findings formed the initial baseline principles for the Charta.

Step 2: School Workshops (March 13 – April 2, 2025)

- 5 workshops were held across 3 different schools, led by *Safer Internet*.
- Students explored digital children's and youth rights in greater depth, and the results were used to expand the core principles.

Step 3: Online Participation Process (May 5 – June 6, 2025)

- Hosted on the municipal platform www.mitgestalten.wien.gv.at, engaging over 200 young people.
- Focused closely on key topics such as protection against online hate, digital education/knowledge transfer, and equal opportunities online.

Step 4: Draft Presentation & Conference (June 25, 2025)

- Based on all prior results, the 1st draft of the Charta was created and presented at a conference in the *Volkshalle* of the Vienna City Hall.
- Final feedback from conference participants was gathered and integrated into the draft.

Step 5: Official Resolution in the City Council (January 20–21, 2026)

- Formally passed as a milestone by the Vienna City Council (*Gemeinderat / Landtag*).
- Establishes the Charta as a binding guideline and fundamental policy framework for the Vienna City administration to protect and promote children's rights in the digital age.

Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO

Topics – Impressions I

- **Equal treatment, inclusion and protection from discrimination**
  - *In an increasingly digital world, no one can be left out.*
  - *Everyone deserves to be treated equally and valued. We have to learn to use the internet consciously and carefully.*
- **Education and knowledge transfer**
  - *This should be covered in class, in a 'social skills' subject.*
  - *Bro, nobody watches the reels, let's be honest.*
- **Safety in the digital space, data protection and privacy**
  - *Many are online every day, often very early, on platforms not made for their age. Without safeguards and good education, they are defenceless against risks like cyberbullying, grooming or online hate.*
- **Right to Information**
  - *I'd like to find out, what the City of Vienna's plans for the future are.*

Topics – Impressions II

- **Digital Participation**
  - *On topics that affect children, so you can discuss them from your own perspective.*
  - *I think nothing should be decided until children and young people have been asked for their own opinion. I'd like to talk about how we can make sure nobody is disadvantaged.*
- **The Importance of the Economy**
  - *The City of Vienna should set clear rules and motivate companies to follow youth-friendly standards, especially on data protection, advertising and content*
- **Digital Health Services and Health Information**
  - *Mental health is very important because it's still not taken as seriously as it should be.*
- **Right to personal contact**
  - *Digital services are practical and make many things easier, but personal contact remains important, especially with sensitive topics or when you need support. The two should be combined well so everyone can choose the right path*

Impressions III the process

- **Houston we have a communication problem**
- **Finding participants**
- **Lack of younger children**
- **Teaching kids about jurisdictional law is a tough sell**
- **And many more…(but unfortunately we lack a bit time)**
  - Digital competence gap
  - No additional funding
  - Groundwork is very time-consuming and labor-intensive.

Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO

A Glimpse into the Future (with insights from yesterday's event)

- **Development of an Action Plan for Implementing the Charta**
- **Round Table (22th October 2026) with relevant departments of the City Administration**
  → Identify existing measures
  → Find new partnerships
  → Identify points in the Charta for which no measures are planned
- **Apprentices from the City of Vienna were involved.**

Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO

Thank you for your attention ☺



Stadt Wien

kija Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft wien

MENSCHEN RECHTSBÜRO