Doc. Elina Pekkarinen

Elina Pekkarinen, the Ombudsman for Children in Finland, works to promote children's rights in Finland. She monitors and assesses societal decision-making and brings to public attention the shortcomings and areas for improvement she observes in the position of children.

Currently Pekkarinen is the Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children ENOC. ENOC is a not-for-profit association of independent children’s rights institutions (ICRIs) gathering 44 institutions in 34 countries within the Council of Europe member states. Its mandate is to facilitate the promotion and protection of the rights of children, as formulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Pekkarinen has an academic background in social work and holds the title of docent in the University of Helsinki. She is particularly well-versed in issues related to child protection and youth crime.