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### **SPECIAL REPORT: PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

The Ombudsman reiterates the issue of protecting the rights of children who are temporarily or permanently deprived of their family environment, by publishing up-to-date information, findings and data.

It highlights problems related to the operating model followed, distortions in the institutional framework, heterogeneity of practices, deficits in the envisaged structures, public authorities and services, which lead to unacceptable shrinkage in the safeguarding of the rights of children placed in institutional care structures.

It lists the necessary interventions, reforms and policies that will allow for the abandonment of the institutional care model and the transition to the model of family support and alternative care in the community.

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