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*Our activities have started at full speed in September, and we are all hands on deck to prepare our **second Annual Seminar, co-organised with DCI Italy and taking place in person in Genova, Italy, on 26 and 27 October**, preceded by our Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings. [If you have not registered yet, the deadline is 1st October and you can do so via this form.](#)*

*On the Advocacy front, our Officer Lotte has been actively working on the open consultations on the **Victim's Rights Directive** and **LGBT Equality Strategy** as well as the **EU elections** (see Policy Updates below for more information).*

*We hope you had a relaxing summer break and if you are up for more reading there are plenty of Resources and Publications in this edition, including the brand new **General Comment 26 on children's rights and the environment.***

On behalf of the Operational Team,
Mariama Diallo, CFJ-EN Coordinator

Policy Updates



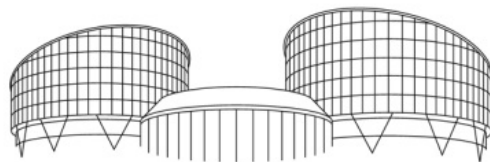
Proposal for a revision of the 2012 Victim's Rights Directive.

The proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision aims at strengthening the rights of victims of crime throughout the EU. The scope of the revision includes improving access to information and support for victims, ensuring that victims are treated with dignity and respect throughout criminal proceedings, and enhancing their rights to participate in them. The CFJ-EN is preparing a submission on behalf of its members for the provisions concerning child victims. **The proposal directive act is open for feedback for a period of eight weeks from 13 July to 26 September 2023.** Feedback can be provided by EU citizens, Non-Governmental Organisations, Academic/Research Institutions, and will be presented to the European Parliament.

EU Elections 2024: Child Rights Manifesto. The CFJ-EN is actively engaging with members of the Child Rights Advocacy Group in view of the 2024 EU Elections. A Child Rights Manifesto has been developed and shared with relevant policy makers. We hope to be able to influence the future EU Members of Parliament in ensuring that the rights of children are respected, including when they enter in contact with justice systems.

Consultation: Evaluation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. The CFJ-EN submitted its suggestions for LGBTIQ+ sensitive justice systems for children in Europe, based on our Challenge Paper published in 2022, to the open consultation for the mid-term evaluation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025) which closed on 18 September 2023. This evaluation will assess how the situation of LGBTIQ people has evolved, the progress made and which areas require more focus to fully implement the strategy by 2025.

Case Law



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

EthRC, Case Noorzae v. Denmark (2023) - Disproportionate expulsion of a settled migrant. The case concerns an order for the expulsion of a settled migrant, issued in criminal proceedings. The applicant had arrived in Denmark at a very young age and had lawfully resided there for approximately 18 years. The Court ruled that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the ECHR. Given his childhood, the expulsion of the applicant combined with a re-entry ban for 12 years was disproportionate.

CJEU, Preliminary ruling- Staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid (2023) - Best interests of the child, fluctuating approach. The case concerns a mother of an EU citizen, who is a child born and living in a third country who has applied for a derived right of residence in the Member State of which the child is a national. This case confirms the Court's fluctuating approach to the best interests of the child and inconsistent use of references to Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Upcoming Event



CoE: European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. The 2023 edition of this important European Day on 18 November will focus on learning from victims/survivors of childhood sexual violence to inspire policy change. An [online consultation to collect examples of victim/survivor engagement](#) has been launched. The information will encourage a deeper reflection regarding victim/survivor engagement.

Members' Corner



Netherlands: CFJ-EN at Leiden Children's Rights Summer School

In early July, the CFJ-EN Coordinator was invited by Leiden Law School to give a lecture at the Children's Rights Summer School in front of brilliant students, together with Prof. Ton Liefwaard, on child friendly justice systems in Europe. This visit also provided a great opportunity to discuss future collaborations between the CFJ-EN and the University of Leiden.



Portugal: CICS.NOVA reports on Social Media in



Hungary: Terre des Hommes - AI and access to information

Our member Terre des Hommes Hungary consulted children in Romania, Bulgaria and Greece to ask if children would like to learn about their rights and [access information on available services through a conversation with a chatbot](#). This consultation is part of the EC-funded project i-ACCESS My Rights.



Scotland: CYCJ launches Certificate on Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law

Our Member CYCJ



Europe: AADH and PILnet : Pro Bono Children Europe (PBCE)

Our new member AADH, in close partnership with PILNet launched a [European Child Justice Clearinghouse](#) to facilitate access to free quality legal assistance for NGOs working with children and their clients, including those working across borders, providing help with EU-wide legal research, operational legal needs, representation, legal drafting, legal translation, and more.

Juvenile Delinquency and COVID-19 and child protection

Our Member CICS-NOVA in Portugal has published two reports: "[Uses and Unlawful Acts Recorded in Youth Justice in Portugal](#)" to look into the use of social media by young people in criminal offenses that end up in the Portuguese child justice system (in Portuguese only); "[The impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the Portuguese child protection system](#)", focuses in particular on the work of the commissions for the protection of children and young people.

launched an [online, part-time Postgraduate Certificate on Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law](#). The course is for those who wish to improve outcomes for children and young people who are on the edges of, or in conflict with the law. The course offers the flexibility to grow knowledge, skills and continued professional development, whilst maintaining existing professional and personal commitments.

Resources and Publications



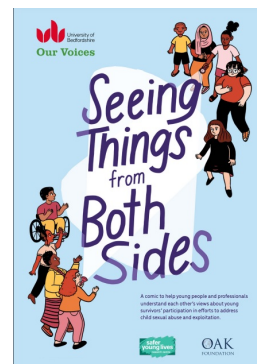
Global: General comment No. 26 on the effects of climate change on children's rights

On 28 August the [UNCRC published General Comment n°26 guidance on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change](#). Their message is loud and clear: administrative and legislative measures should urgently be adopted by states to tackle the effects of climate change on children's rights.



Scotland: Alright? animation on young people's experiences of legal representation

"[Alright?](#)" is an animation developed by [Clan Child Law](#) with children and young people in Scotland about their [experiences of legal representation](#) which articulates what they want from their lawyers, and from care and justice settings more generally.



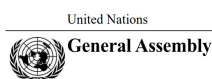
UK: Comic for children Seeing things from both sides

This comic is based on findings from a [research study carried out by the Safer Young Lives Research Centre at the University of Bedfordshire](#). A panel of 58 experts from 18 different countries were asked about the potential outcomes, and important elements, associated with the participation of young people in



Europe: CoE : Updated online course on child friendly justice

The online Council of Europe HELP course which our President Benoît Van Keirsbilck and our Coordinator Mariama Diallo contributed to has been updated. This is a great comprehensive introduction to CFJ that we highly recommend to practitioners and policy makers. [The link to the course can be found here.](#)



Global: UN - Annual report on Violence against Children

The UN has issued their [Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children \(A/78/214\) \[EN/AR/RU/ZH\]](#). In the report, the Special Representative describes how violence against children continues to be exacerbated worldwide by multiple and overlapping crises, reinforcing the urgent need for sound and sustained investment in integrated child-



Europe: EC Open consultation on integrated child protection systems

The European Commission has an open consultation supporting conversations with children and young people about rights, remedies when rights are not upheld and the role of lawyers. [Follow this link to take part in the survey for adults](#) and [click here to take part in the survey for children.](#)



Global: Smarter Financing for child justice

This [Policy Brief, developed by the Institute for Inspiring Children's future and co-signed by the CFJ-EN, sets out policy guidance and best practice for child friendly justice sector reform to achieve SDG16 for children in the 2030 Agenda.](#)

efforts to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse and exploitation.



Europe: FRA Fundamental Rights Report 2023

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights has issued their Annual Report which contains a mention on the CFJ-EN as a 'promising practice'. [See the full report on FRA's website.](#)



Europe: CoE Recommendation to strengthen reporting on violence against children

The newly released [CoE Recommendation](#) aims to strengthen national systems for professionals and volunteers for reporting all forms of violence against children, as essential elements of national strategies to combat and prevent violence against children.

sensitive and
gender-sensitive
protection and
violence prevention
for every child.

The CFJ-EN is part of the legal entity and enjoys the support of:

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This newsletter has been produced with the financial support of the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme (2021-2027) of the European Union. The contents herein are the sole responsibility of project partnership and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.



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