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October and November were very busy months for us as we held our second Annual Seminar, General Assembly and Steering Committee meeting, but at the same time we also published a [position paper on solitary confinement](#) and prepared for our first [Child Justice Caravan](#) this coming weekend which will see young people attend meetings at the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The highlight of the period was definitely our Annual Seminar 2023 "Transforming Justice Systems for Children in Migration" held in Genoa, Italy, on 26 and 27 October 2023 which brought together around one hundred participants. Every year we hold an [Annual Seminar on child friendly justice](#) in one of our members' countries to discuss child friendly justice with European experts. The General Objective of the 2023 Annual Seminar was to promote the human rights of children in migration in contact with justice systems and generate opportunities for collaborations among national and regional stakeholders to guarantee that children in migration can effectively access justice in Europe.

Save the date for the next seminar which will take place in Portugal in the second week of October 2024 and will focus on Children and Climate!

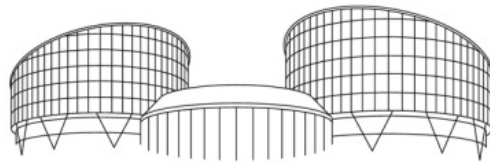
On behalf of the Operational Team,
Mariama Diallo, CFJ-EN Coordinator

Policy Updates



EC Open consultation on the LGBTIQ equality strategy. The CFJ-EN provided inputs to the evaluation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 of the European Commission, referring to our 2022 Challenge Paper 'Towards LGBTI+ sensitive justice systems for children in Europe'. It reminded the EC about the importance of gathering child justice and LGBTI+ experts and practitioners to examine the barriers that LGBTI+ children face when in contact with justice systems, and propose concrete actions to address these challenges.

Case Law



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

ECtHRC, Case A.D. v. Malta (2023) - Conditions of detention in various immigration centres of a vulnerable individual, due to presumed minority and health situation. The case concerns the holding of the applicant, a vulnerable individual due to his alleged minority and health situation, in different detention centres for different purposes over several months. The Court notes a violation of Article 3 in respect of the conditions of detention of the applicant (a vulnerable individual due to his presumed minority and health situation), as well as of Article 5 § 1, inter alia, in relation to his prolonged immigration detention in those conditions.

ECtHRC, Case C. v. Italy (2023) - Surrogacy Arrangements. On 31 August 2023, in the case of C. v. Italy, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) delivered a judgment concerning a four-year-old child born via a gestational surrogacy arrangement in Ukraine and subsequently deemed stateless in Italy. This judgment prompts reflection on surrogacy as a potential (indirect) contributor to statelessness and on possible legal remedies to avert new incidents of statelessness.

Upcoming and Recent Events



First CFJ-EN Child Justice Caravan. The first-ever Child Justice Caravan of the CFJ-En will take place from 2-5 December in Brussels, in collaboration with members DCI Greece and HOPE. It is an initiative proposed by the Network to children and young people to visit European institutions, meet with key representatives from these institutions and become advocates for change in European systems of justice and have their rights and needs better respected.

LBI-GMR Webinar - Disciplinary Sanction Regimes in Youth Detention Facilities. On 24 November 2023, LBI-GMR in collaboration with CREAN organised a very successful webinar where our coordinator Mariama Diallo delivered a session on “Applying Child-centred Justice in Detention Facilities – a Reality Check from the Field”. A great opportunity to launch our recent [publication on Solitary Confinement](#).

The Role of Local Authorities in empowering children in migration. On 22 November 2023, the Cities and Regions for Integration of Migrants network of the European Committee of the Regions held the seminar "World Children's Day: the role of local authorities in protecting and empowering migrant and refugee children". Organised in close cooperation with UNICEF, the seminar focused on ensuring the necessary capacity-building, and the exchange of best practices among cities and regions involved in vulnerable child protection in the context of migration.

European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. Each year, the Council of Europe invites its partners to focus on a specific topic on the occasion of the European Day. The 2023 edition of the European Day on 18 November focused on “Learning from victims/survivors of childhood sexual violence to inspire policy change”.

Members' Corner



Welcome to our new CFJ-EN Members!

In 2023, our Network enriched itself with 12 new active Members : 5 Full Members : Alliance des Avocats



Access to Justice for Children - Explanatory film

The German Children's Fund and the German Institute for Human



SAPI receives the "Savior of Childhood" Award

Congratulations to our CFJ-EN Member SAPI (Institute for Social Activities and Practices) in

pour les Droits de l'Homme, Child Rights Centre, Methoria, Terre des hommes Romania, Validity Foundation. 3 Associate Members : German Institute for Human Rights, Institute For Inspiring Children's Future, Penal Reform International. 4 Friends of the Network: Annemieke Wolthuis, Marine Braun, Odete Severino Soares, Silvia Randazzo. [To become a Member of the CFJ-EN, please click here.](#)



PRI Call for input: Violence and Health in Prison

As Secretariat of the Informal CSO Group on Health in Prison, Penal Reform International (PRI) is coordinating civil society input to inform an upcoming technical brief on violence and health in prison by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Please share any relevant research, initiatives, publications, or hyperlinks. In particular, they are seeking information about the specific experience of vulnerable groups, including : Children (especially those housed with adults). [To provide inputs, click here.](#)

Rights have [published an animated explanatory film for children](#). The film "Your Rights in Court" is aimed at all children who are directly affected by legal proceedings and is intended to encourage children to demand their rights. In addition, it should support everyone involved in the process in conveying information in a child friendly manner.



2024 Belgian Elections - Memorandum of DCI-BE

Belgium attaches great importance to the rights of the child and has therefore made several during the last legislature to improve respect for these rights, which are enshrined in the in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). DCI Belgium uses this Convention to remind governments of their responsibility to implement it and to ensure that all children can benefit from these rights. [To consult the Memorandum, click here.](#)

Bulgaria, [who has been awarded the 'Saviour of Childhood' award in the Children's Organisation category for its longstanding work in foster care](#). Together with UNICEF, SAPI has been actively working on the development of foster care since 2010, with the launch of the project "A Family for Every Child".



Monitoring violence against children in detention - a safeguarding blindspot?

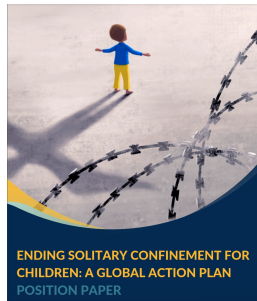
[In this expert blog](#), our individual Member Silvia Randazzo, independent researcher and child rights expert, sets out some of the main trends and challenges in monitoring the safety of imprisoned children, as found in an EU-wide study conducted for Penal Reform International and partners within the PRI-led Data MOSAIC project.

Resources and Publications



Europe: Climate in-justice for children: How climate crisis affects access to justice and children's rights

This [advocacy brief](#) builds upon the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) concerning the 2023 general comment No. 26 on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change.



Global: Ending Solitary Confinement for Children - A Call to Government

Our [position paper "Ending Solitary Confinement of Children: A Global Action Plan"](#) has been published. This joint effort would not have been possible without the hard work of Terre des hommes foundation Global Initiative on Justice With Children, Cédric Foussard, Marta Gil, Eva Gangneux and Mariana Pérez Cruz. We'd also like to extend a big thank you to all the contributors including our members Défense des Enfants International (DEI) - Belgique, Defence for Children Italia, Ludwig Boltzmann, CICS Nova.



Europe: The CFJ-EN described as a Promising Practice in the FRA 2023 Report

We are honoured to have been [mentioned in the FRA Annual Report for 2023](#) as a promising practice in the area of child friendly justice in Europe. A great sign of recognition from a faithful institutional partner.



Global: UNCRC Statement on article 5 CRC

The purpose of [this statement](#) is to clarify the concepts of parental guidance and evolving capacities of the child as enshrined in article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child



Europe: CFJ-EN Handbook - 2023 Edition

The [second edition of the Handbook to promote child friendly justice \(CFJ\)](#) is out! It was carefully prepared by the CFJ-EN, in close collaboration with Member The Aire Centre and two wonderful trainees



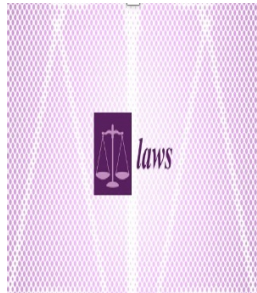
Europe: Mapping study on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children in CoE



Europe & Russia: FRA's third bulletin on 'The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine'

The latest Ukraine bulletin from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) explores the fundamental rights impact of the war on these children, the practical challenges they face and possible ways forward in their best interests. It highlights particular instances where the needs of children are not being met and their rights not fully respected, protected or fulfilled.

from Columbia Law School. It is the second in a series of annual handbooks on the effective adaptation of European justice systems (criminal, civil and administrative) to child friendly justice principles.



Global: Enforcing the Rights of Children in Migration

The ILA Study Group initiated its work by establishing key principles, including non-discrimination and the best interests of the child, to guide state practices regarding children in migration. It highlighted common rights violations such as arbitrary age assessments and inadequate reception policies, employing a multidisciplinary approach to demonstrate the harmful effects on child health. The study also assessed international instruments, legal fora, and jurisprudence, identifying gaps and formulating recommendations to empower migrant children in enforcing their rights and accessing justice.

countries

28 Council of Europe member States have established Barnahus and/or Barnahus-type services, and five more States are in the process of setting up Barnahus. In about half of the States that do not yet have Barnahus or Barnahus-type services, there is an ongoing public debate and/or State and civil society actors are advocating for Barnahus. These numbers are clear signs of the enthusiasm that surrounds the Barnahus model in Europe, and of the felt positive impact of the Barnahus model on child victims and witnesses, which has been increasingly evidenced and recognised.

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

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