



# CFJ-EN

Child Friendly Justice European Network

July Newsletter

*Welcome to our very first newsletter which will be out on a monthly basis from September to bring you a snapshot of what is happening in and around the child friendly justice world. We hope that you enjoy our content, including the new brand we've developed to convey our vision putting children at the heart when it comes to child justice (and please follow us on [Linkedin](#) and [Twitter](#) too!)*

## Editorial

In November 2020, 40 children and young people in Europe were asked by our Members what child friendly justice meant to them and what they wanted to see included in the current EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. They mentioned with unequivocal words: **“a judicial system that understands the needs of a child”**; **“a judicial system where a child is an active participant and not just a passive subject; a judicial system which is not about a child, but with a child”**; **“a system in which a child is respected”**; **“[when] I think about the ideal of child friendly justice, it should be provided equally to everyone”**. Respect, active participation, equality, understanding, needs-oriented, collaboration. Core values are expressed in these words, which should inspire every intervention of practitioners working with children, as well as every statement made by policy makers when deciding on policies and laws which influence children’s lives. This resonates especially in these uncertain times impacting children due to the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and climate change.

With our 19 members across 17 European countries, the CFJ-EN, fully operational since April 2022, listens to children and young people and aims to transform their words into reality. **We have a common vision and a shared mission: a world in which justice systems are adapted to the needs, strengths and vulnerabilities of children and ensure the protection and fulfilment of all children’s rights.** The CFJ-EN commits to this mission by providing a dynamic and interactive space to our members, building bridges with other Networks and Alliances, closely collaborating with key regional institutions, namely the European Union and the Council of Europe, and sharing promising practices and proposing innovative ways of working with children who are in contact with justice systems, whether in criminal, civil or administrative proceedings.

I am more than honoured to have been entrusted to coordinate this vibrant Network along a highly dedicated team and committed member organisations which, in their respective European countries, face challenges every single day to ensure that child-centred justice is not just wishful thinking but a solid reality. Thank you all for your

continuous support and I wish you an inspiring and child friendly Summer time!

Mariama Diallo  
CFJ-EN Coordinator

## Policy Perspective

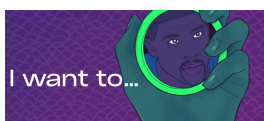


The Council adopted [conclusions on the EU strategy on the rights of the child, with a particular focus on the protection of children's rights in crisis or emergency situations](#). Calls are made upon the Member States to strengthen their justice systems, so that they are compliant with the rights of all children by:

- ensuring the best interests of the child is a primary consideration
- developing child-friendly proceedings (including ensuring provision of age-appropriate and child friendly information);
- ensuring the right of the child to be heard in proceedings;
- protecting the right of the child to respect for his or her private life;
- avoiding undue delay and ensuring enforcement of decisions;
- providing necessary support services to children;
- promoting inter-disciplinary cooperation;
- developing and applying alternatives to judicial action.

## Members' Corner

### Youthlab participation toolkit



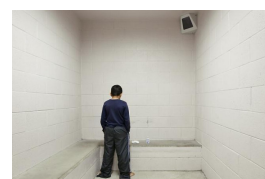
DCI Belgium, DCI Italy, DCI the Netherlands and Young in Prison were in Brussels in June for the closing event

### High level seminar on the rights of child victims of crime



DCI Italia led an online session in June on ECtHR case law with the

### Ending solitary confinement - webinar series



Last month, DCI Spain launched its series of three webinars as part of a

of the EU funded project Youthlab, which saw young people with experience with the justice system become trainers and produce the [Exchanging Perspectives toolkit](#).

President of the European Court of Human Rights, Robert Spano, amongst the keynote speakers. [Watch the full recording here](#).

2022-23 campaign to advocate against solitary confinement for children deprived of liberty and favour alternatives to harmful practices. [Read more about it here \(in Spanish only\)](#).

## Latest Publications



### Legal assistance for children - Publication for lawyers

The EU-funded [CLEAR-Rights Quality Standards and Step-by-Step Guide](#) for lawyers who represent children in conflict with the law published by DCI Belgium, TdH Hungary, TdH Romania, DCI the Netherlands and AADH is now available in five languages: EN, FR, DU, HU and RO.

### EU handbook on European law on the rights of the child

The European Union

### France - new guide and comics on restorative justice with children

The main objective of [the publication](#), available in French only, is the progressive generalisation of this new practice to establish a dialogue between victims and perpetrators.

### Launch of FRA research on Directive 2016/800

[The report](#) looks at the practical implementation of Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural

### UN report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrant children

In his [annual report](#), Felipe González Morales suggests that the situation of children in humanitarian crises should "always be the first consideration" and mentions the need to "guarantee the independence and effectiveness of these processes and to improve access to justice" in this context.

### Launch of the COE online HELP course on child-

Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe [have published the second edition of the handbook](#) for professionals working on legal issues such as migration and asylum, criminal justice and alternative proceedings.

safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings in nine Member States.

## **friendly justice in North Macedonia**

More than 100 lawyers in North Macedonia are registered to attend a [new online HELP \(Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals\) course on child-friendly justice.](#)



## **CFJ-EN**

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European Network

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