

ANNUAL SEMINAR



CFJ-EN

Child Friendly Justice
European Network

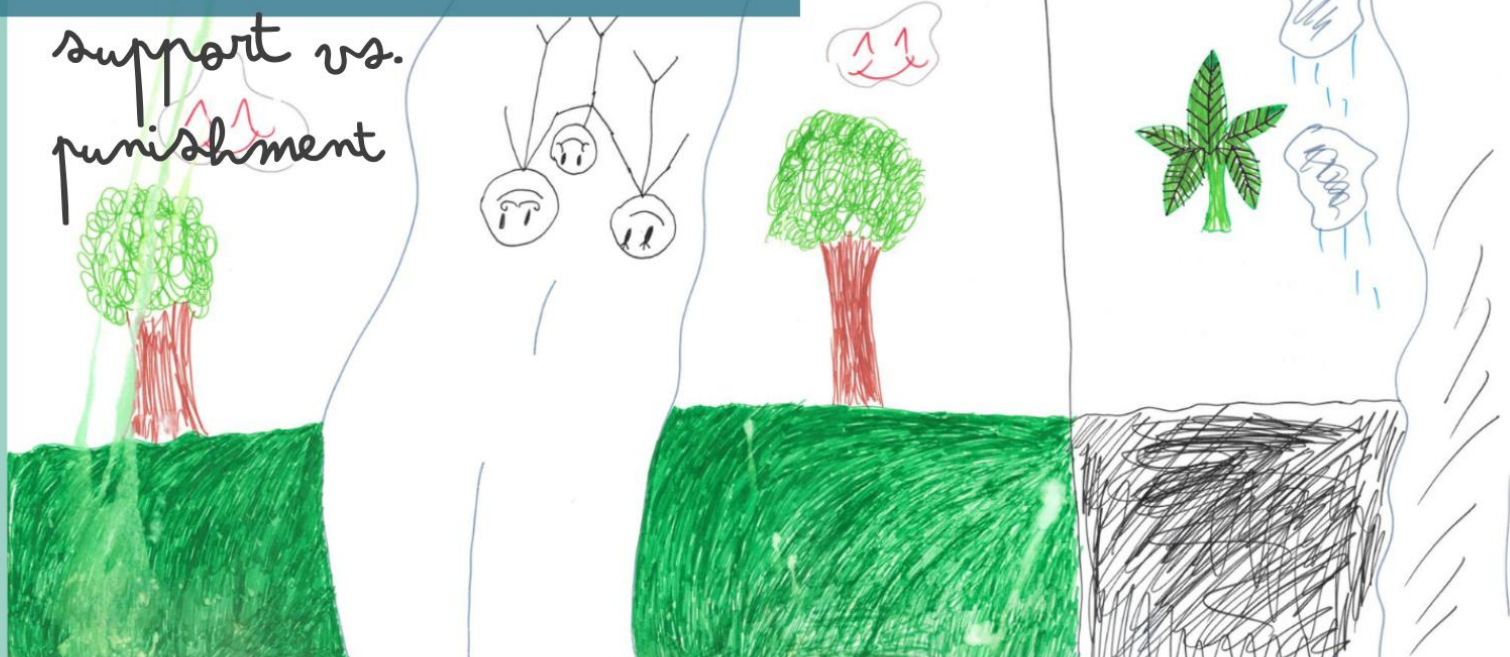
MEDIA KIT

22 - 24

OCTOBER 2025

ATHENS, GREECE | IN-PERSON

support vs.
punishment



**BRIDGING CHILD PROTECTION AND
CHILD JUSTICE:**
Enhancing collaborations for child-centred justice systems



Co-funded by
the European Union



Media support:



CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025

Media Kit

Event Details

Title: CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025

Theme: Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice:

Enhancing collaborations for child-centred justice systems

Date: Optional cultural event: 23 October; Annual Seminar: 22-24 October 2025

Location: In person at the InterContinental Athenaeum Athens by IHG

Address: Leof. Andrea Siggrou 89-93, Athens 117 45, Greece

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.be/e/cfj-en-annual-seminar-2025-bridging-child-protection-and-child-justice-tickets-1309546421599?aff=oddtcreator>

Agenda: <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025#agenda>

Venues

Annual Seminar 2025

InterContinental Athenaeum Athens by IHG

Leof. Andrea Siggrou 89-93, Athens 117 45, Greece

Academic Seminar

InterContinental Athenaeum Athens by IHG

Leof. Andrea Siggrou 89-93, Athens 117 45, Greece

Networking Dinner

Café Avissinia

Kinetou 7, Athens 105 55, Greece

Cultural Event

Theatro Mpellos

Kekropos 1, Athens 105 58, Greece

Event Description

Across Europe and beyond, children continue to face profound challenges in securing their right to grow up free from violence, neglect, and exploitation. The evidence is clear: almost half of all children worldwide experience violence each year, with millions subjected to physical punishment, psychological abuse, and even the deprivation of their liberty. These realities highlight systemic gaps in protection, particularly within the justice system, where punitive measures all too often replace child-centred responses.

As children become older, many lose vital access to protection services when they turn 18. This leaves them vulnerable to homelessness, exploitation, or re-entry into the justice system. Marginalised groups, including migrant children and LGBTIQ+ young people, are disproportionately affected, emphasising the urgent need for inclusive, integrated approaches. Research into the field of neuroscience has also demonstrated that early trauma has long-term effects on development. However, these insights are frequently overlooked in child protection and justice systems.

The digital environment adds further complexity: while offering opportunities for education and connection, it also exposes children to risks such as grooming, cyberbullying, and sexual exploitation. Without clear frameworks distinguishing between children in need of protection and those unfairly drawn into punitive pathways, vulnerable young people remain at risk of criminalisation.

Against this backdrop, a range of international and regional bodies, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe's Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice, the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021–2024) and the European Commission's Recommendation for Integrated Child Protection Systems, have called for stronger, more coordinated, child-centred protection mechanisms.

The Annual Seminar will bring together experts, policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to address these pressing issues. Through examining evidence, sharing best practice, and exploring innovative solutions, the seminar will seek to reinforce integrated child protection systems that prevent violence, minimise unnecessary criminalisation, and prioritise children's rights and well-being in the justice, social, health, and education sectors.

This event is not only a platform for discussion, but also a vital step towards ensuring that children, especially those most at risk, receive the protection and support they need, both today and as they transition into adulthood.

Mission of the Event

- Explore ways to strengthen the capacities and the roles of child protection systems in Europe
- Promote child rights-based responses and gatekeeping mechanisms to protect children in contact with the justice system
- Ensure continuity of care in protection systems for children in contact with the law
- Spotlight complex cases, where children face specific risks and child rights violations

Speakers

Our line-up brings together leading voices from European institutions, Greek ministries, and European networks working at the forefront of child protection and child justice. We invite members of the media to contact us for interviews (communication@cfjnetwork.eu).

- **Marie-Cécile Rouillon** – Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, European Commission
- **Sandra Aigner-Accardo** – Project Manager, Equality, Roma and Social Rights Unit, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
- **Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou** – Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights and member of GREVIO, Council of Europe

From Greece, we are joined by:

- **Eftychia Katsigaraki** – Head of Directorate of Juvenile's Criminality Prevention and Penitentiary Treatment, Ministry of Justice
- **Gelly Aroni** – Head of Unit for Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- **Aggeliki Kardara** – Writer and academic, expert in media and communication

Representing European networks:

- **Nantina Tsekeri** – Vice-Chair, Child Friendly Justice European Network & Director, Defence for Children International Greece
- **Mariama Diallo** – Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network
- **Ally Dunhill** – Director of Policy, Advocacy and Communications, Eurochild
- **Shawna von Blixen-Finecke** – Deputy Secretary General, Barnahus Network

And many more...

Alongside these key speakers, the seminar will feature contributions from a rich mix of experts, practitioners, academics, and young people from across Europe. Representatives from leading child rights organisations, victim support services, academic institutions, grassroots initiatives, and youth networks will share their insights and innovative approaches – from prison theatre to digital tools, youth advisory boards, and child-led advocacy.

Mock Trial

Step into the courtroom – on stage.

At this year's Annual Seminar in Athens, theatre meets justice in a one-of-a-kind performance directed by Aikaterini Papageorgiou, Artistic Director of Theatro Bellos. Renowned for her powerful work at the crossroads of art, justice and inclusion, Aikaterini will guide a dynamic mock trial theatre piece co-created with the Young Justice Transformers – young people from across Europe bringing their lived and professional experience of justice to life on stage.

This fictional courtroom drama, developed through workshops, echoes real stories of children in contact with the justice system. The performance will conclude with a staged verdict and a live audience discussion on justice, rehabilitation, and children's rights. Tickets are available for a €10 donation, which supports the participation of the young actors.

- **Date and Time:** 23 October, 20:00
- **Location:** Theatro Bellos, Kekropos 1, Athens 105 58, Greece
- **Book your ticket:** <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025#cultural-event>

For members of the media wishing to cover the event, please contact Eleanor Mears at communication@cfjnetwork.eu, putting Eulalia Marti in copy at eulalia.marti@cfjnetwork.eu.

Our Key Messages

Across Europe, too many children still end up in various forms of detention instead of receiving protection, support, and a listening ear. Our Annual Seminar in Athens – Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice – brings together leading voices from European institutions, ministries, networks, and grassroots organisations to chart a better way forward. Here are the key messages that will inform our discussions:

- Children should be protected, not criminalised.
- Stronger child protection systems mean children can feel safe when they interact with justice professionals.
- Justice must be child rights-based and trauma-informed.
- Continuity of care protects children through life transitions.
- When children are involved in complex cases, actions need to be coordinated, with multidisciplinary responses.
- Ensuring safe environments enable children to claim their rights freely.
- Children's views and opinions must shape protection and justice systems.

Social Media Channels

Find out the latest info on the seminar and spread the word by heading to our social media channels:

Please use the hashtag **#CFJEN2025** when mentioning the conference on social media and tag the CFJ-EN and our partners when posting about the event.

CFJ-EN

Facebook: @cfjeuropeannetwork

LinkedIn: @cfj-en-child-friendly-justice-european-network

Instagram: @cfj_en

Defence for Children International Belgique

Facebook: @Défense des Enfants International DEI Belgique

LinkedIn: @Défense des Enfants International (DEI) - Belgique

Instagram: @deibelgique

Defence for Children International Greece

Facebook: @Defence for Children International Greece

LinkedIn: @Defence for Children International Greece

Instagram: @defenceforchildreng

Ministry of Justice Greece

LinkedIn: @Ministry of Justice (Greece)

Theatro Mpellos

Facebook: @Θεατρο ΚΕΑ Μπελλος

Instagram: @theatrompellos

Social Media Posts

Below you will find suggested social media posts for you to use and adapt. Please tag CFJ-EN and our partners where space allows.

Sponsors:

☀️ [Organisation] is proud to support the CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025: Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice.

Join us in Athens, 22–24 October, to explore how collaboration can build truly child-centred justice systems.

🔗 More info: <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025>

#CFJEN2025

Speakers:

Excited to be joining the CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025 in Athens on bridging child protection and justice! I'll be sharing insights on [insert topic].

📅 22–24 October | Athens

🔗 <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025>

#CFJEN2025

General:

🔔 Don't miss the CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025: Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice: Enhancing collaborations for child-centred justice systems.

📅 22–24 October | Athens

📄 Register now: <https://www.eventbrite.be/e/cfj-en-annual-seminar-2025-bridging-child-protection-and-child-justice-tickets-1309546421599?aff=oddtcreator>

#CFJEN2025

Topic-based posts

Below is a selection of social media posts based on our key messages:

🔑 Children should be protected, not criminalised.

At the CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025, we'll explore how justice systems across Europe can prioritise protection, prevention, and child rights.

📅 22–24 October | Athens

🔗 <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025>

#CFJEN2025

⚖️ Justice must be child rights-based and trauma-informed.

This month, experts, policymakers, and young people will come together to share how child justice systems can truly serve children's best interests.

📅 22–24 October | Athens

🔗 More info: <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025>

#CFJEN2025

💡 Stronger child protection systems mean children can feel safe when they interact with justice professionals.

The CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025 will highlight why collaboration, continuity of care, and coordinated responses matter for every child.

📅 22–24 October | Athens

🔗 More info: <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025>

#CFJEN2025

🗣️ Children's views and opinions must shape protection within justice systems.

At #CFJEN2025, young people with lived experience will take the stage alongside experts from across Europe to drive change together.

📅 22–24 October | Athens

🔗 <https://www.cfjnetwork.eu/cfj-en-annual-seminars/2025>

Contact Information

If you encounter any issues during registration or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our team is here to help you with any questions or concerns you might have.

Team

Media Officer: Eleanor Mears

Media Assistant: Eulalia Marti

Coordinator: Mariama Diallo

Assistant Coordinator: Stefania Kulaj

Advocacy Officer: Marie Chapot

Contact

Media/communications:

eleanor.mears@cfjnetwork.eu

eulalia.marti@cfjnetwork.eu

mariama.daillo@cfjnetwork.eu

General support: support@cfjnetwork.eu

Tel: +32 (0) 2 203 79 08

Media

Press pass applications

To apply for a press pass, please send an email to info@cfjnetwork.eu including the following details:

- Full name
- Copy of ID card or passport
- Copy of press pass
- Media outlet / organisation
- Events you wish to attend (see agenda)
- Technical requirements (if any)

Photo / video policy

All participants have been asked to give or withhold their consent to being photographed or filmed. Their choice will be clearly indicated on their badge using a colour code.

Event Schedule

Wednesday 22 October 2025

20:00 – 20:30 Welcome and Opening Speeches

20:30 – 23:30 Networking Dinner (optional)

Thursday 23 October 2025

09:30 – 13:30

- **Opening Words**
- **Keynote Speech:** Rethinking justice and child protection through the lens of neuropsychology
- **Circle of Inspiration:** Large-group dialogue with leading voices on strengthening child protection systems in Europe
- **Circle of Inspiration:** Exploring child rights-based responses and gatekeeping mechanisms to protect children in contact with the justice system

- **Live Podcast 1:** A live conversation with experts and young voices on meeting the needs of children facing specific risks

14:45 – 17:45

- **Workshops (Sessions 1–8):** Small-group, interactive sessions on real challenges and solutions in child protection and justice
- **Keynote Talk:** Telling a different story: media, stigma, and children's rights
- **Wrap-up of the day's events**

Friday 24 October 2025

09:30 – 13:00

- **Human Libraries:** Meet “living books” – individuals sharing personal stories and experiences of child protection and justice, with opportunities for open conversation
- **Live Podcast 2:** Continuity of care across a lifetime, from early childhood to adulthood
- **Closing Plenary and Key Takeaways**

14:30 – 17:30

- **CFJ-EN Academic Seminar** (optional, open to Annual Seminar participants): Children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Media Access

Most sessions in the programme are open to the media. However, a small number will remain closed. **Journalists are asked to indicate in advance which sessions they would like to attend, and we will confirm access accordingly.** Please contact eulalia.marti@cfjnetwork.eu who will be present at the conference.

Venue & Directions

The CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025 will take place at:

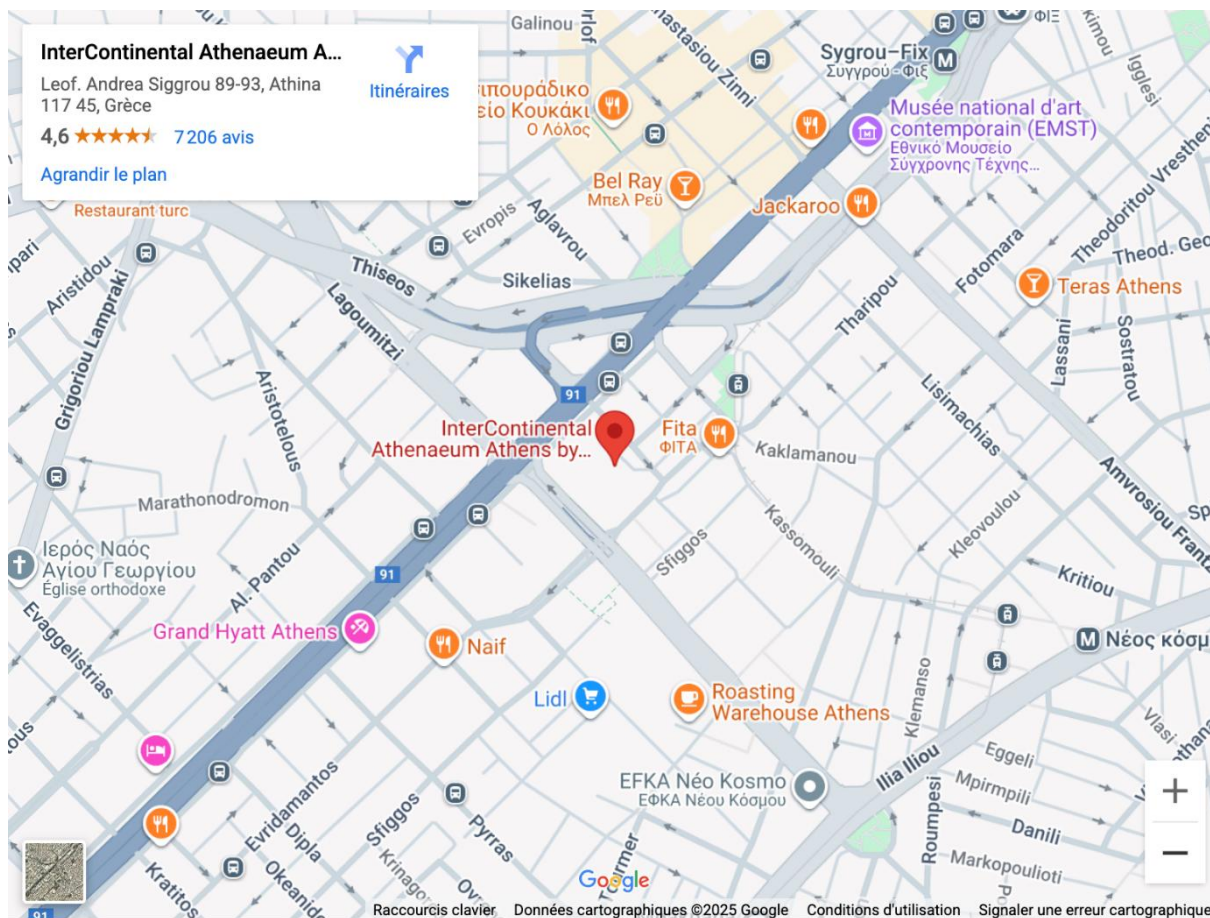
InterContinental Athenaeum Athens by IHG

Leoforos Andrea Siggrou 89–93

Athens 117 45, Greece

View on Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dPMZXgiUKNsEjWLi6>

The hotel is centrally located and well connected by public transport.



Public Transport Connections

- **Gephyra (Γέφυρα) bus stop**
Buses: 040, 106, 126, 136, 137, 550, A2, B2, 10
- **Playground (Παιδική Χαρά) bus stop**
Buses: 910, 1, 5
Trolleybus: 15
- **Kassomouli (Κασομούλη) tram stop**
Tram: T6
- **Sygrou-Fix (Συγγρού-Φιξ) metro station**
Metro Line 2 (Red Line / M2)

About Us

The Child-Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN) is an alliance dedicated to transforming justice systems across Europe to meet the unique needs of children. Established in 2019 by Defence for Children International Belgium and formally launched as a fully operational network in 2022 with support from the European Commission, CFJ-EN unites 40 experts and organisations from 21 European countries. Grounded in the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Council of Europe's guidelines, CFJ-EN works to ensure that justice systems are accessible, understandable, and responsive to the vulnerabilities of children. By coordinating efforts across Europe, the network amplifies its impact, sharing expertise, and driving large-scale initiatives to create a more child-friendly justice system at local, national, and European levels.

As a key partner of the European Union and other international bodies, CFJ-EN is committed to safeguarding children's rights and ensuring justice systems work for them, not against them.

Defence for Children International – Greece is the Greek national section of Defence for Children International (DCI), an international child-rights movement and non-governmental organisation established in 1979 in Geneva and represented in more than 47 countries. Defence for Children International – Greece is committed to securing a just and viable future for all children present in the Greek territory. It aims to ensure through its actions that children's voice is heard, and their rights are fully respected in practice.

Since its inception in 2016, it is one of the few human rights organisations specifically focused on children's rights in Greece. Its highest value is the pursuit of each child's best interests and the enjoyment of their childhood with dignity. To this end, its work is guided by the UNCRC, as well as other international, regional and local standards. As a national section of Defence for Children International, it pledges to follow DCI's mandate to 'promote and protect children's rights in accordance with international standards.' At the same time, DCI Greece autonomously develops its own programs in response to contextual needs of Greece.

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



Defence for Children International Belgium ASBL
62 Quai des Charbonnages, 1080 Molenbeek, Belgium
Company number: 0447.397.058 | RPM: Bruxelles | IBAN: BE89
0682 1223 2185



This media pack has been produced with the financial support of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the project