

ANNUAL SEMINAR



CFJ-EN
Child Friendly Justice
European Network

AGENDA

22 - 24

OCTOBER 2025

ATHENS, GREECE | IN-PERSON

support vs.
punishment



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



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the European Union



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



Media support:





WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER (OPTIONAL)

Venue: Cafe Avissinia
7 Kynetou Monastiraki, 105 55 Athens, Greece

8:00 – 8:30 pm	Opening Greetings • Nantina Tsekeri, Vice-Chair, Child Friendly Justice European Network, and director of Defence for Children International Greece • Mariama Diallo, Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium • Eftychia Katsigaraki, General Director, Criminologist, General Directorate of Special Legal Affairs, Hellenic Ministry of Justice, Greece
8:30 – 11:30 pm	Networking Dinner

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

Venue: Athenaeum Intercontinental
89-93 Syngrou Avenue, 11745 Athens, Greece

8:30 – 9:30 am LOBBY	Registration & Welcoming Participants
9:30 – 10:00 am YPSILON ROOM	Opening words Welcoming Words: Mariama Diallo, Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium • Marie-Cécile Rouillon, Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, European Commission, Belgium • Nantina Tsekeri, Vice-Chair, Child Friendly Justice European Network, and director of Defence for Children International Greece • Eftychia Katsigaraki, General Director, Criminologist, General Directorate of Special Legal Affairs, Hellenic Ministry of Justice, Greece Screening of the video 'How we see it' - How children perceive the justice system, SAPI Bulgaria
10:00 – 10:30 am YPSILON ROOM	KEYNOTE SPEECH Traumatic Brain Injury, Neurodevelopment, and the Path to Violence: Implications for Justice and Rehabilitation Huw Williams, Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology & Associate ProVice Chancellor for Global Engagement, Health & Life Faculty, University of Exeter, England

10:30 – 10:40 am	Finding your circle time
OMIKRON ROOM	CIRCLE OF INSPIRATION Strengthen the capacities and the roles of child protection systems in Europe <i>Moderation:</i> Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights & GREVIO, Council of Europe, Greece <i>Speakers:</i> • Marie-Cécile Rouillon, Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, European Commission, Belgium • Sandra Aigner-Accardo, Project Manager, Equality, Inclusion and Sustainability Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Austria • Ally Dunhill, Director of policy, advocacy and communications, Eurochild, Belgium • Isaura Castillo, Lawyer, Office for the Defence of the Rights of the Child, Mexico • Axel Le Hô, EU Project Assistant, Validity foundation, Hungary • Shawna von Blixen-Finecke, Deputy Secretary General, Barnahus Network, Sweden
10:40 am – 12:00 pm	CIRCLE OF INSPIRATION Promote child rights-based responses and gatekeeping mechanisms to protect children in contact with the justice system <i>Moderation:</i> Cédric Foussard, Child Justice Expert, France <i>Speakers:</i> • Leen Ackaert, Leen Ackaert, Secretary of the Supervisory Committee for Youth Institutions, Flemish Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner, Belgium • Gelly Aroni, Head of the Unit for Integration and Support of UAMs, General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, Ministry of Migration & Asylum, Greece • Maartje Berger, Children's rights expert and mediator, Restorative Justice Nederland • Els Dumortier, Professor, Department of Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium • Cecilia Popa, Cyber and Criminal Justice specialist, Romania • Silvia Randazzo, Independent Child Justice Expert, Belgium • Annemieke Wolthuis, Children's rights consultant, senior researcher and Mediator, Restorative Justice Nederland
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm LOBBY	Coffee/Tea Break



12:30 – 1:30 pm YPSILON ROOM	LIVE PODCAST 1 Spotlighting complexity: meeting the needs of children facing specific risks <i>Moderation:</i> Mariama Diallo, Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium <i>Speakers:</i> • Paula Akyol, Project Director, Children of prisoners Europe, France • Efthymis Antonopoulos, Junior Policy Manager, Victim Support Europe, Belgium • Sandra Jovanović Belotić, Training & Capacity Building Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, Serbia • Miina Kokoi, Expert by Experience, Abducted Children Finland NGO Board Member, Missing Children Europe Youth Board Member, Finland • Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights & GREVIO, Council of Europe, Greece
1:30 – 2:45 pm LOBBY	Lunch Break
2:45 – 3:35 pm	WORKSHOP SESSIONS <i>Workshop 1</i> Sorry, we are closed! Detention for young children in conflict with the law? YPSILON ROOM Helmut Sax, Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights & Sebastian Öhner, Children's and Youth Advocate of the City of Vienna, Austria <i>Workshop 2</i> Taking a child rights-based approach in complex transnational cases involving unaccompanied and separated children from Ukraine OMIKRON I ROOM Elisa Pothée, Programs Coordinator, Kids in Need of Defense Europe, France & Jyothi Kanics, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Europe, KIND, Switzerland <i>Workshop 3</i> From Voice to Dialogue – Rapid Skills Lab on Parent-Teen Mediation OMIKRON II ROOM Robin Brzobohatý, Deputy Director & Martina Cirbusová, Director, Mediation and Education Centre Brno, Czech Republic <i>Workshop 4</i> Continuity of Care in Fragmented Systems: Learning from SHiFT's Relational Model in the UK ATHENAEUM CONFERENCE CENTRE Ella Armstrong, Learning and Insights Lead & Sam Fern, Head of Practices, SHiFT UK
3:35 – 4:00 pm LOBBY	Coffee/Tea Break



4:00 – 4:50 pm	WORKSHOP SESSIONS <i>Workshop 5</i> Challenges, best practices and the role of NGOs in continuity of care OMIKRON I ROOM Ludmila Andrade, International Coordinator, Young Perspectives, The Netherlands <i>Workshop 6</i> Best national Child-friendly justice practices in Greece ATHENAEUM CONFERENCE CENTRE Eftychia Katsigaraki, General Director, Criminologist, General Directorate of Special Legal Affairs, Hellenic Ministry of Justice, Greece <i>Workshop 7</i> Protection of child victims of trafficking OMIKRON II ROOM Efthymis Antonopoulos, Junior Policy Manager & Chrysanthi Materi, Policy Intern, Victim Support Europe, Belgium <i>Workshop 8</i> Linking Child Protection with Child Justice: Policy and Practice towards a Coordinated Response YPSILON ROOM Dóra Kiss, Access to Justice Regional Coordinator Europe, Albana Izeti & Fjolla Hoxha, Access to Justice Program Managers in Albania & Kosovo, Terre des hommes, Hungary, Albania & Kosovo
5:00 – 5:30 pm YPSILON ROOM	KEYNOTE TALK Telling a different story: media, stigma, and children's rights <i>Moderation:</i> Nantina Tsekeri, Vice-Chair, Child Friendly Justice European Network, and director of Defence for Children International Greece Angeliki Kardara, PhD, Author, Instructor, and Trainer, Centre for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (KEDIVIM), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
5:30 – 5:45 pm YPSILON ROOM	Wrap-up of the day <i>Moderation:</i> Mariama Diallo, Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium



THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER (OPTIONAL)

Venue: Theatro Bellos (Θέατρο Μπέλλος)
Kekropos 1, Athens 105 58, Greece.

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	CULTURAL EVENT Mock trial with the Young Justice Transformers <i>Moderation:</i> CFJ-EN / Iris Pappa, Senior Program Manager & Head of Children's Rights Helpdesk, Defence for Children International Greece
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FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

Venue: Athenaeum Intercontinental
89-93 Syngrou Avenue, 11745 Athens, Greece

9:00 – 9:30 am	Welcoming Participants
9:30 – 10:45 am YPSILON ROOM & OMIKRON ROOM	Human libraries • How we see it – Lora Petrova, Social Pedagogist and Coordinator of CFJ sub-Grant & Zvezdica Kovacheva, Executive Director, SAPI Bulgaria • Responses to the risks of serious harm posed by aspects of a child behaviour within a child protection approach – Donna McEwan, Practice Development Advisor & Randal McTaggart, Deputy Director, Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scotland • Korydallos Prison Theatre – Aikaterini Papageorgiou, Artistic Director, Theatro Bellos, Athens & Director and Facilitator, Korydallos Prison Theatre Workshop, Greece • Children in Court and psycho-educational tool – Ioanna Drousiotou, Children's House Coordinator & Clinical Psychologist, Hope of Children CRC Policy Centre, Cyprus • Legisland Game – Teodora Rebeja, Programme Manager, Terre des hommes Moldova, and Jaloba Madalina and Cirlan Daniela, members of Terre des hommes Moldova Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB), Moldova • The Heart Centre - Jane Mulcahy, Founder of the Heart Centre, researcher, speaker and trainer, Ireland • Child Rights Education – Fanni Mátyók, Founder, WellBee - You and your future, Hungary • Young Justice Transformer – April van Pareen, Young Perspectives, The Netherlands • Storybook on Child-Friendly Justice – Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium
10:45 – 11:15 am LOBBY	Coffee/Tea Break



11:15 am – 12:30 pm YPSILON ROOM	LIVE PODCAST 2 Continuity of care across the life course: from early childhood to adulthood <i>Moderation:</i> Manu Krishan, Global Study Programme Coordinator, Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy <i>Speakers:</i> • Donna McEwan, Practice Development Adviser, Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scotland • Jane Mulcahy, Founder of the Heart Centre, researcher, speaker and trainer, Ireland • George Nikolaidis, Head of Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, Institute of Child Health, Greece • Huw Williams, Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology & Associate ProVice Chancellor for Global Engagement, Health & Life Faculty, University of Exeter, England
12:30 – 1:00pm YPSILON ROOM	Closing Plenary & Key Take-Aways <i>Moderation:</i> Nuala Mole, Senior Lawyer, The AIRE Centre, England <i>Speakers:</i> • Ton Liefwaard, Professor of Children's Rights and Head of the Department of Child Law and Health Law - UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights, Leiden University, The Netherlands • Benoit Van Keirsbilck, Chair of the CFJ-EN, director of Defence for Children International Belgium and member of the UN Committee on the Right of the Child, Belgium • Young Justice Transformers

Visual Showcase – Poster Presentations (Throughout the event) LOBBY Between Advocate and Interpreter: rethinking role of the child's representative in proceedings SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland The impact of YOPE Experts Young Perspectives, the Netherlands Threads of Protection: A PROMISE to deliver Justice for child victims across borders and systems Child Circle, Belgium Reimagining Justice Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scotland Rights based responses to Criminal Exploitation of Children Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scotland Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice through Restorative Approaches: Insights from Georgia and European Practice European Forum for Restorative Justice, Georgia



Participation as a Cross-Cutting Principle: Empowering Children and Youth for Protection and Decision-Making

Defence for Children International Greece

Global Innovations on Youth Violence, Safety & Justice

Salzburg Global, Austria

Incredible Me: Integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support into Child-Centred Justice

Defence for Children International Lebanon

The Global Working group on SDG16+ Justice for Children: 2026 – 2030

Cédric Foussard, Child Justice Expert, France

Meaningful participation in Child-friendly Justice

Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium

Child-Friendly Justice in Action!

Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER – 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm (OPTIONAL)

Venue: Athenaeum Intercontinental - 89-93 Syngrou Avenue, 11745 Athens, Greece

CFJ-EN Academic Seminar 2025 Children below the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

PANEL DEBATE

Objectives:

- Presenting the initial findings of our Mapping MACR project
- Engaging in a panel debate about research on responses for children below MACR in Europe
- Discuss research gaps and opportunities for collaboration

Moderation:

Jennifer Davidson, Executive Director of the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, Scotland

Panellists:

- **Ton Liefwaard**, Professor of Children's Rights and Head of the Department of Child Law and Health Law - UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights, Leiden University, The Netherlands
- **Els Dumortier**, Professor, Department of Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- **Manu Krishan**, Global Study Programme Coordinator, Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
- **Donna McEwan**, Practice Development Adviser, Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scotland
- **Helmut Sax**, Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, Austria
- **Huw Williams**, Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology & Associate ProVice Chancellor for Global Engagement, Health & Life Faculty, University of Exeter, England

2:30 – 3:45 pm
YPSILON ROOM



	• Benoît Van Keirsbilck, Member of the UN Committee on the Right of the Child, Belgium • Angela Vigil, Partner and Executive Director of the Pro Bono Practice at Baker McKenzie, USA • Mariama Diallo, Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm LOBBY	Coffee/Tea Break
4:15 – 5:15 pm YPSILON ROOM	PANEL DEBATE CONTINUED
5:15 – 5:30 pm YPSILON ROOM	Wrap-up of the day Mariama Diallo , Coordinator, Child Friendly Justice European Network, Belgium

The CFJ-EN is part of the legal entity of



Child Friendly Justice European Network c/o Défense des Enfants International – Belgique

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