

# CFJ-EN NEWSLETTER

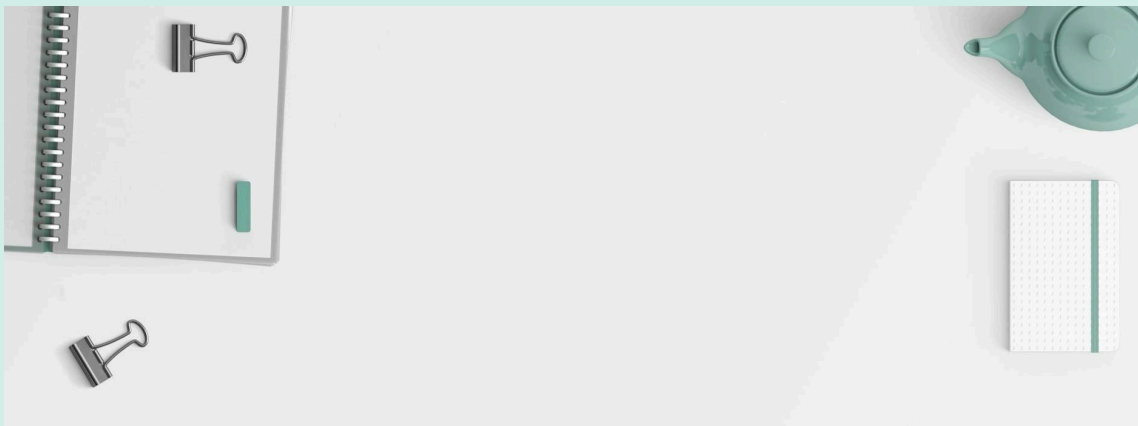


SPECIAL EDITION - ANNUAL SEMINAR 2025



The fourth Annual Seminar of the Child Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN) will provide a timely and crucial platform for discussing the complex interplay between child protection and child justice systems. The General Objective of the Annual Seminar is to promote a shared understanding of the critical links between child protection and child justice systems.

The seminar should raise awareness about the systemic nature of such violence, highlight vulnerabilities of children in the justice system, including in detention, and emphasise the urgent need for integrated, child rights-based approaches that strengthen both protection and justice responses. By fostering dialogue and sharing promising practices, the seminar can support the development of coordinated strategies that ensure that children receive the care and protection they need and are entitled to when they enter in contact with the justice system, whether as victims, suspects and/or accused, witnesses in criminal proceedings, as well as in the context of civil and administrative proceedings.



# General information

## Registrations are still open!

Registrations are open for the CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2025, titled “Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice: Enhancing Collaborations for Child-Centred Justice Systems.” This two-day event will bring together legal professionals, child protection experts, researchers, and practitioners from across Europe to explore how we can work together to create more effective, rights-based, and child-centred justice systems.

22-24 October 2025 - Athens, Greece

**Early bird until 15th July: €60**

Register here

## Breaking news:

### Early bird extension until July 15th!

We're pleased to announce that the **Early Bird registration period has been extended!** You now have more time to take advantage of the discounted rate. However, don't wait! **Early Bird registration will close definitively on July 15th.**

After that date, prices will increase up to 90€ and the discount will no longer be available.

**Secure your spot now through the following link:**

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

# Call for proposals

Do you have a powerful story, innovative tool, or a practice worth sharing?

**Submit your proposal by 15 July 2025 until 5:00pm CET**

We're looking for interactive contributions that place children at the centre of justice systems.

[Instructions](#)

[Submit your proposal here!](#)



## WORKSHOPS



- Four to eight workshops
- Two rounds of four parallel workshops
- 50 minutes each
- 15 - 30 participants

## HUMAN LIBRARIES



**Do you have an inspiring story to share?**

**Be a human library!**

- Two rounds of 1h15
- 10 unique "living books"

## CIRCLE OF INSPIRATION



- Two circles of inspiration (two sessions)
- Each 1h15
- Around 50 participants

## POSTER PRESENTATION



- Displayed in the different spaces of the venue throughout the 2.5 days of the event

- 1 st session: Strengthen the capacities and the roles of child protection systems in Europe
- 2nd session: Promote child rights-based responses and gatekeeping mechanisms to protect children in contact with the justice system

- Printed posters (A1 or A2) or other creative materials, such as brochures, project sheets, or business cards, to visually communicate your work

## Revealing our first guests!



### Huw Williams

Professor of Clinical  
Neuropsychology & Associate Pro-  
Vice Chancellor for Global  
Engagement, Health & Life Faculty,  
University of Exeter, UK

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** W. Huw Williams holds a PhD and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and is a qualified Clinical Neuropsychologist. He is a Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology and Co-Director of the [Centre for Clinical Neuropsychology Research \(CCNR\)](#) at Exeter University. He has held numerous grants in brain trauma, and has published over 100 articles (H Index 35). He is award winning for his work (Lifetime achievement award of the British Psychological Society - Neuropsychology) and was recently made a fellow of the Salzburg Academy. Current projects stress in Police Officers. He has been an advisor to various UKNI Government bodies (e.g. Ministry of Justice) and health agencies (NICE), and international bodies (UNICEF/UNODC/UNESCO). Leading on changes in assessment for Brain Trauma in all prisoners, and in areas for addressing adversity and neglect in childhood. For example, in context of the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, addressing needs of children in war settings, and in a review of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. He is the Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Global Partnerships for the University of Exeter's Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

# Recent events



## Madrid: 5th World Congress on Justice With Children, CFJ-EN WORKSHOP

### Advocating for Child-Friendly Justice in Challenging Times: Priorities and Struggles from Europe, Towards Global Strategies

CFJ-EN was honoured to host a workshop at the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children in Madrid, where we shared our upcoming campaigns on child-friendly justice, climate justice, and child victims.

The interactive session focused on effective advocacy for child-friendly justice. Key insights included the need to use and disseminate existing research (Silvia Randazzo), leverage data for awareness (Astrid Podsiadlowski, EU FRA), and ensure meaningful child participation in all advocacy (Helen Griffiths, OHCHR). Benoît Van Keirsbilck emphasized the importance of systems tailored to children's needs and access to justice. Elisa Morgera, UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, underscored the urgency of systemic change in a shifting climate landscape.

Our members Ludmila Andrade (YOPE) and Maartje Berger also shared perspectives on children in detention and those facing inconsistent punitive vs. educational responses. Special thanks to our co-moderator Silvia Randazzo, all speakers, and the Congress organisers for this enriching opportunity.



## **Malta:** Children of Prisoners Europe's 17th International Conference, "*Stigma Dismantled, Dignity Upheld*" - COPE Malta

CFJ-EN was honoured to take part in the 17th International Conference of Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE), "*Stigma Dismantled, Dignity Upheld*", held in Malta on 12–13 June 2025. Our Coordinator, Mariama Diallo, joined inspiring experts and practitioners working to uphold the rights of children with incarcerated parents across Europe.

The event featured powerful contributions on child-sensitive justice systems, the impact of stigma, and the importance of including children's voices in research and policy. Mariama shared CFJ-EN's perspective on the importance of language in creating more child-centred justice systems.

Her visit also included rich exchanges with key Maltese stakeholders, including the Commissioner for Children and Victim Support Europe, as well as a visit to Malta's adult prison.

We thank COPE, especially Liz Ayre, Paula Akyol, and Naike Rosini, for the warm welcome and congratulate them on a beautifully organised event in such a stunning setting.



## Tallin, Estonia: Barnahus Forum



Last week, CFJ-EN participated in the Barnahus Forum in Tallinn, Estonia, an inspiring gathering of practitioners, policymakers, and experts from across Europe and beyond. The forum reaffirmed our commitment to the Barnahus model: a multidisciplinary, child-centred approach to supporting children in contact with justice systems.

Key discussions focused on matters like: child protection practices within Barnahus, inclusion of children with disabilities, responding to online sexual violence, addressing harmful sexual behaviour and integrating EMDR therapy into Barnahus services. A highlight was the visit to the Barnahus centre in Jõhvi, where we saw firsthand the meaningful work being done for children.

It was also a pleasure to reconnect with our members and partner organisations, including SAPI BG and the Validity Foundation. We continue to champion justice systems that uphold children's rights and prioritise their voices and well-being.

## **Poland:** Discussing with children with lived experience of the justice system



Our team recently travelled to Poland (Warsaw and Glogow). In there we could visit a Barnahus centre and to discuss with children with lived experience of the justice system about the roles of professionals working with children and what justice means for them. At the same time we visited Slovenia (Ljubljana) where we met with other professionals.

In the Period June-December 2025, they will continue to meet to develop child-led awareness-raising material for children and professionals, which will be further disseminated in Poland, Slovenia and Belgium, as well as across Europe with the support of **Child Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN)**.

In addition, the CFJ-EN is currently developing train the trainer material with these 3 countries, in order to reinforce existing capacity building programmes for legal and non-legal practitioners. These initiatives are part of the CoE-EC project on child-friendly justice co-funded by the Council of Europe.

Thank you to **Marine Braun** and to the facilitators of **Association for Children And Young People CHANCE** in Glogow and Center za socialno delo Ljubljana and Institute of Social Welfare of the Republic of Slovenia for their support!







## Child-Friendly Justice European Network

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