

2021 World Congress on Justice With Children

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

PREPARATORY MEETING REPORT SINGAPORE

INDEX

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE DISCUSSIONS.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Theme 1: Asia Pacific Regional Insights.....	6
Theme 2: Exercises to develop the landscape of children’s issues	7
Theme 3: Evaluating and fortifying ourselves as advocates	10
Theme 4: Vision.....	11
Concluding remarks	12
Annex 1: World Congress Concept Note.....	14
Annex 2: Singaporean Preparatory Meeting Concept Note	22
Annex 3: List of Participants.....	23

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE DISCUSSIONS

14 November 2019 – 09.30 – 12.00 SGT

School of Law, Singapore Management University (SMU)

The **Singaporean preparatory meeting** was organized by **the Global Initiative on Justice with Children**, which is led by a group of international organisations including **Terre des hommes**, **Penal Reform International (PRI)**, and the **International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (AIMJF)**.

The meeting was held on 14 November 2019 in preparation for the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children, entitled **“Ensuring Access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”**. This event is part of a series of meetings taking place at the regional and national levels to define key challenges and advocacy priorities for children, particularly children in conflict with the law, as well as to present recommendations and proposals of topics, the agenda, and activities for the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children.

The Singaporean preparatory meeting gathered a variety of participant groups, including representatives of the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), members of civil society organisations, policymakers, academics, and researchers.

The meeting’s main objectives were to:

- Establish thematic priorities and define key challenges, trends, and advocacy priorities in justice for children;
- Formulate action-oriented recommendations and proposals of topics, the agenda, and activities for the next World Congress in 2021;
- Support Singapore to identify potential next steps in the implementation of the Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines;
- Gather policymakers, academics, and civil society representatives, with relevant work and influence in Justice for Children, to identify key areas of interest;
- Exchange on practices, policies, and advocacy regarding child-friendly justice.

Introduction

The Regional Programme Manager of Tdh, **Mariama Diallo**, launched the meeting and briefly described **the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children**. She stated that the World Congresses are designed to address challenges concerning children in contact and/or conflict with the law. They provide dedicated spaces for **child rights experts** and **activists, policy makers, academics, and civil society representatives** to:

- **Promote fair and appropriate justice systems** for and with children worldwide.
- **Support the operational implementation of international instruments and standards** related to the rights of children and young people in conflict with the law.
- Provide space for professionals **to exchange best practices; foster scientific cooperation; formulate policy recommendations;** and **raise awareness** of justice for children.

Ms. Diallo further explained that the Global Initiative on Justice with Children will expand its focus on children in conflict with the law, to include child victims and witnesses of crimes, as well as children and young people affected by migration, including refugees, unaccompanied foreign children and children of foreign parents.

She gave a brief timeline of the previous editions of the World Congress held **in 2009, 2015, and 2018** that focused on **restorative juvenile justice, child-friendly juvenile justice, and reintegration and prevention of child violent extremism**, respectively. The World Congresses have been successful in bringing attention to urgent child-justice issues that require international attention.

The World Congresses have achieved various **milestones in child-friendly justice, gathering child justice actors, experts, legislators, and representatives of various NGOs and civil society organisations from several countries to have a discussion regarding child justice and give a concrete output to further improve child justice systems**. For instance, the last World Congress in Paris (2018) resulted in **the Paris Declaration on Prevention of child involvement in violent extremism**.

Ms. Diallo concluded the introduction by announcing that **the next World Congress will be hosted by Mexico** and will be a World Congress on Justice **With** Children. The Congress will be planned on the theme of **inclusiveness and non-discrimination**. Prior to the next World Congress, several national and regional preparatory meetings will have been held, of which this session was one of them. The common consensus arising from the meetings is that **participation of children** will be a huge part of the Congress.

Theme 1: Asia Pacific Regional Insights

The meeting started with a discussion on the different aspects of the Asia Pacific region.

Malaysia holds **over 200,000 stateless children, and 35,000 of those are in Kuala Lumpur**. The main challenge is that **undocumented children**, including **unaccompanied separated children** in the group of refugees, **have undetermined/unknown citizenship**.

Malaysia does not address the requirement of young children's care and lacks a solid support structure for children's services in detention centres. The state is facing issues of **abandoned babies**, which is further augmented by problems of religious divisions between **Muslims and non-Muslims** forcing abandoned children to live in shelters for their entire childhood. During the session, participants acknowledged **the universal acceptance of the dangers and negative outcomes that residential treatment does to children**.

In terms of globalisation, the participants expressed concerns on **children of globalisation**, a prevalent topic at the Geneva conference. This concern is currently an emerging topic in social work practice, and there is an emerging focus on examining trends to ensure that needs of children are taken care of. For example, **multicultural families** in South Korea are a good illustration of this concern. The different multicultural backgrounds within the family can subject it to discrimination and disintegration of families. In many cases, the ethnicity of children from multicultural families is challenged for instance where their mother comes from a neighbouring country. This impacts the children's development and opportunities. Furthermore, family disintegration occurs as the second generation of multicultural families face **high drop-out rates**.

The situation is similar in Singapore, in the case of **transnational families**. This issue has an impact on education making it more competitive, especially with the development of private institutions, yet there are fewer legal barriers than cultural barriers.

Key takeaways of the session

- There is a need to ensure children are provided citizenship.
- It is crucial to develop adequate and appropriate child services in detention centres.
- There is a need to address the issue of abandoned babies in the context of Muslim and non-Muslim division.
- There is a need to address issues of discrimination and disintegration of multicultural and transnational families, particularly focusing on the discrimination against children from these families.

Theme 2: Exercises to develop the landscape of children's issues

The next stage of the meeting was an [interactive exercise](#). Participants were divided into groups to work together and generate insights to share with the room. Through fast-paced discussions in small groups, [participants identified a series of concerns and proposed good practices to address child justice issues](#).

Several issues in Singapore and the Asia Pacific region that were considered included:

Law enforcement

The participants emphasised the **need for clarity and transparency when carrying out law enforcement on children**. Children's legal rights need to be clear and transparent during child justice proceedings involving children, especially when a child is arrested or placed in detention. Currently, children and caregivers are not fully aware of their rights when they come into contact with the justice system, particularly when a child is arrested. Additionally, detained children do not know where and to whom to turn for help, even though legal advice services are available for those in detention.

Use of force

Participants raised the issue of the use of force, stating that **the use of force and restraint by law enforcement officers should be re-examined when dealing with children and young people**. There is a need for **more accountability** from law enforcement officers. Children that come into contact with the law would primarily be better off in appropriate residential programs, and law enforcement officers need to be trained to recognize this. Some participants questioned the use of handcuffs and cable ties that are used to restrain children in prisons and are quite damaging to their wellbeing. Specifically, the participants expressed **a strong concern about children being cuffed to the chairs or the floor and the fact that this is permitted in the Singapore Children and Youth Act**.

Collaboration

Although child justice agencies are working together to understand the flow of the system, **they need to further strengthen their collaboration and cooperation**. Many NGOs are not government funded, and their programmes are developed and designed to address certain policies and trends. Despite innovation and increased social enterprise in recent years, there are still **not enough measuring tools for work assessment, and the NGO services are disjointed. NGOs are therefore, unable to work to their entire potential/capacity/efficacy**. Another concern raised by the participants was **the lack of cooperation among NGOs in terms of foster care transition to permanence**, as they focus on different aspects, which further make children in foster care unable to access the different available resources.

Public education

The participants agreed on the necessity of public education on child justice, as **people still lack knowledge about child justice workers and agencies in the justice system.**

Gender difference

The participants pointed out **gender discriminatory practices in the educational culture**, as boys can access the national service to develop and acquire different skills, while girls who turn 18 years old cannot continue their studies.

Foster care and reintegration

The participants emphasised an issue concerning children who are removed from their families and placed in institutional care, as **these institutions do not support children in long-term care.** They also expressed a concern about foster care transition to permanence, as some children are kept in long-term foster care, and there is **a lack of recognition for the rights of parties involved with foster care**, such as children, foster parents, and the family of origin. The participants also indicated that foster parents are concerned about children being returned without any oversight. **The foster care system requires more transparency in making decisions during proceedings.** They stated that governmental agencies have **insufficient measurement equipment in assessing the needs of child protection, so further research and tools are needed to enhance foster care services.**

In terms of reintegration, although the efforts to reunite children with their family of origin exist, **there is still a need to enhance the understanding of the best time for reunification.** Thereby, measurement tools are required to determine the best time to reunite children with their origin families.

Family support and tools

The participants agreed on **the lack of family supports and the disconnect between the core problems that cause children to separate from their family and the solutions.** They believed that if families are supported sufficiently, including assistance with their bills, job training, and housing assistance, among others, the rates of children in conflict with the law, child removal, and child homelessness would de-escalate. The participants also widened the scope of family support to include foster parents. They stated that the support for foster parents is needed particularly in feedback channels, as the parents are the ones who have lived with the foster child for such a long time and may have good insight of what the child needs. In terms of support tools, the participants pointed out that **evidence-based materials are required to help assess the situation of children in conflict and/or contact with the justice system, especially during removal of a child for protection purposes or to prevent the disintegration of families.**

The participants also pointed out the importance of addressing and **preventing children from engaging in self-harming behaviour**, especially in the case of children who are physically mature. **Programmes and information focusing on this issue are, therefore, required in a**

much more practical way. Given the severity of the issue of youth self-harming behaviour, parents tend to call the law enforcement officers to address this behaviour. Participants therefore suggested that the police should try to mediate rather than physically engage with children who are at risk of self-harming behaviour.

Good practices

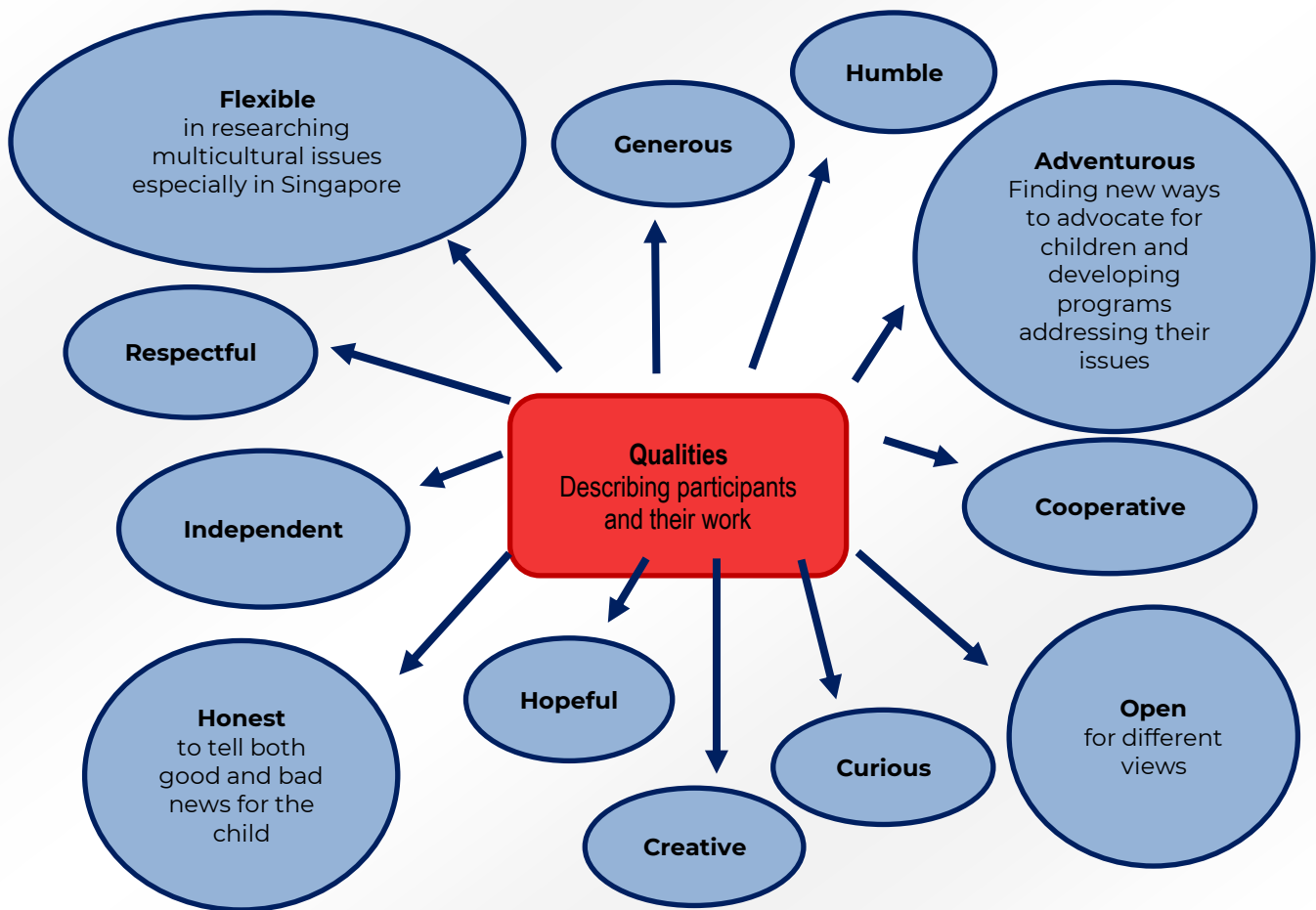
Some good practices in Singapore and the Asia Pacific region that were highlighted include two-year pilot programs for families, called the **Safe and Strong Families**, which promote reunification including through: measures of family-based care in line with the UN guidelines for family-based care, **diversity in agencies offering child care** in accordance with children's various needs, increased **resources and funding for developing projects on LGBT youth issues**, and **encouraging local children to be ambassadors for non-Singaporean youth from transnational families**. Young people can be resourceful at their schools and share resources and information available to support their counterparts from transnational families.

Key takeaways of the session

- There needs to be more clarity and transparency in law enforcement when dealing with children and young people.
- It is necessary to strengthen collaboration among child justice professionals and organisations and to enhance public knowledge on child justice.
- It is important to ensure gender equality in the context of education.
- The quality of foster care and reintegration must be improved, and there should be more support to families to help with reintegration.
- There needs to be more support tools to address and prevent children's self-harming behaviour.
- There is a need to promote good practices focusing on child justice in Singapore and the Asia Pacific region, such as the Safe and Strong Families project that integrates the work of diverse child care agencies, addresses issues concerning LGBT youth, and encourages local children to be ambassadors for non-Singaporean youth from transitional families.

Theme 3: Evaluating and fortifying ourselves as advocates

This part of the meeting was an exercise where participants chose qualities describing them and their work, which are as follows:



Key takeaways of the session

- Describing the nature of participants' works: flexible, generous, humble, adventurous, cooperative, open, curios, creative, hopeful, honest, independent and respectful.

Theme 4: Vision

In the final session, the participants identified the issues that they would like to see addressed at the next 2021 World Congress in Mexico.

Inclusiveness

As **transnational families cannot access services** due to their foreign origins, this issue leads to dysfunctions that cost the system more money. Members of transnational families, including children, should therefore be allowed to access services, in accordance with the theme of the upcoming World Congress on Justice With Children of inclusiveness. Children must have **access to services in the countries where they reside regardless of their birth registration** or place of birth. They should receive **universal access to services**.

Mental health service

A pilot study is needed to **understand access of mental health service for children and young people**.

Child participation

Although there is child and youth participation in many matters affecting them, **it is insufficient**, and there needs to be more concrete efforts in encouraging children and youth, including those living **with disabilities**, to be a big part of child participation.

Law enforcement training

There should be more **training for the police**, in order to enhance their interrogation skills with children, particularly young children.

Technology

The participants agreed that there needs to be **increased use of technology in exercising children's services**.

Ethical issues with children

It must be noted that **ethics of working with adults and children are different**. The child justice system actors should be aware of this point.

Skills development

The participants pointed out that there should be **information gathered from social workers and child justice practitioners** on good practices around the world, such as the **Barnahus** program, which is a multidisciplinary training focusing on child victims in Iceland. **Project Promise is another example of a good practice of a project implemented in multiple European countries**, where trained police officers **use audio and video to shorten interviews**

and avoid re-victimisation and re-traumatising children through repeated interviews and interrogations. Hence, this information and good examples of past projects developed in different areas could be used to **develop workshops in advance of the World Congress.**

Exchange

The participants agreed on a need to increase the **exchange of information, good practices, and ideas among practitioners on an online platform**, such as www.childhub.org, a European resources and platform for knowledge sharing among practitioners.

Sex abuse awareness

With regards to sexual abuse awareness, **local organisations working with the police in dealing with victims of sexual abuse** need to support police training through video resources that help the officers to understand the impact of such abuse on the victim and how best to handle them. Additional **resources such as sexual assault care centres** with comprehensive training for all, including police officers, are required. These measures could lead to academic degrees in public safety and security.

Concluding remarks

Today's meeting focused on child justice issues in the context of Singapore and the Asia Pacific region. The participants considered child issues in Singapore and the Asia Pacific, as well as the importance of ensuring that the circumstances of children in vulnerable circumstances, especially those from transitional families, are taken into account. Tdh and its partners will seek to put particular attention at the World Congress on Justice With Children to increase knowledge and provide information on the needs of children in the justice system; develop working stations on specific advocacy activities; and offer tailored trainings, while looking at how to involve children in external trainings.

Key recommendations from the Singaporean Preparatory Meeting:

- Facilitate **interagency collaboration** at the national and regional levels to ensure child-friendly justice.
- Raise awareness on the fundamental needs of children in contact with the law in terms of **mental health and psycho-social support**, in order for them to feel safe, connected, worthy, respected, and hopeful.
- Design **tailored trainings** for all actors in law enforcement.
- Ensure **gender equality** in education.
- Ensure **effective participation** for all children, including those living with disabilities, in a manner that empowers them.

- Ensure **equal access to children's services** for every child in Singapore and the Asia Pacific region, especially for children in multicultural and transnational families.
- Design and use **child-friendly information** to ensure children and all other parties involved, including parents and caregivers, are fully aware of their rights, obligations, and what is expected from them through different processes.
- Advance child justice service and programs by **incorporating technology**.
- Promote **individual needs assessments** for children in contact with the law and review their implementation.
- **Institute support programs and mechanisms** for the child justice system, especially in foster care service, youth self-harm cases, and families, in order to protect children from harmful situations and prevent them from coming into conflict with the law.
- **Develop workshops** in advance of the next World Congress by gathering information regarding child justice from practitioners around the world.
- **Create an online platform** where child justice professionals from around the world could exchange their works, research, advocacy, policies, and practices.
- **Develop support programs and mechanisms** not only for victims and perpetrators, but also for their families.

Contacts for further information

For any further information, please contact

- **Mariama Diallo**, Regional Programme Manager, Access to Justice, Terre des hommes Europe, Mariama.diallo@tdh.ch.
- **Cédric Foussard**, Global Advocacy and Learning Advisor, Terre des hommes Lausanne, cedric.foussard@tdh.ch

Organised by:



With the support of:



For more information on The World Congress on Justice With Children
www.justicewithchildren.org

Annex 1: World Congress Concept Note

WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

A one-week online event on child justice

15 to 20 November 2021

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

ABOUT THE WORLD CONGRESSES ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

World Congresses on Justice With Children provide dedicated and **interactive spaces for children and youth, policy makers and justice system stakeholders, academics, civil society and UN representatives**, and other experts and practitioners. They are designed to:

- **Promote fair and appropriate justice systems** for and with children worldwide.
- Provide space for professionals to **exchange best practices, foster scientific cooperation, formulate policy recommendations, and raise awareness of justice** for children.
- **Support the operational implementation of international instruments and standards** related to the rights of children and young people in conflict with the law.



The **last World Congress** took place at the UNESCO headquarters, in Paris-France (May 2018), with the theme “**Strengthening Justice Systems for children: Challenges, including disengagement from violent extremism**”.



Over 3 days, nearly 1,000 people from 100 different countries participated in 28 workshops and more than 10 plenary sessions. A key output was the Paris Declaration on the prevention of child involvement in violent extremism. See: <https://justicewithchildren.org/world-congress/>. Previous Congresses were held in Geneva (2015), co-organised by the Swiss Federal Ministry of Justice, and in Lima (2009), focusing on restorative justice for children.

The World Congresses are organised by the **Global Initiative on Justice With Children** to address the most current issues related to **children in contact and/or conflict with the law**. The **Global Initiative is led by** a consortium of international organisations, including **Terre des hommes**,

Penal Reform International, International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates and International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE). The Global Initiative is articulated through a double-pronged approach:

- a Justice With Children Global Milestone through the **World Congresses on Justice With Children**
- a global community of practitioners mobilised through the [Justice With Children online platform](#)

The next World Congress will take place online from the 15th to 20th of **November 2021** and is hosted by the federal Mexican Supreme Court of Justice, with technical support from UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG-VAC), The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Congress receives Pro-bono support from Baker Mackenzie and is held under the auspices of the Council of Europe. Its theme is **“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”**

“State Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child’s or his or her parent’s or legal guardian’s race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.”

- Article 2, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Context:

Children in contact with justice systems – as victims, witnesses, or offenders – need special care and protection. These children are amongst those who are the most vulnerable to having their rights violated. They may face deprivation of liberty that harms their physical and psychological well-being; be denied the right to legal representation and fair judicial proceedings; be separated from their parents, family, or guardians; and experience stigma from the communities that prevent their reintegration and healing. In addition, they may experience **discrimination from the justice system itself.**

Many children across the globe, in diverse contexts and settings, face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination due to a range of factors, including ethnic and/or religious origins; disability; socio-economic status; gender, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation; migrant status; or their status as survivors of human trafficking. Discrimination typically results in social exclusion and the lack of access to services and resources.

Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) identify equality and non-discrimination as fundamental principles for respecting, fulfilling, and protecting the rights of children. Non-discrimination is a common principle and foundation for almost all legal instruments, in both national and international law. However, structural discrimination, inequalities, and power dynamics act to constrain or restrain

equitable access to rights for all children. This is a daily reality for many children, who – not only excluded from basic services – are significantly more likely to be caught up in justice systems with weaker procedural safeguards, undermining the principles of equality and exposing them to a vicious cycle of social exclusion.

Discrimination also profoundly impacts children's rights to have their voices heard and their opinions listened to, particularly in matters that affect them. There is very little information about **children's perspectives or voices** in justice systems, on how they see or cope with discrimination and address it, and to what extent such discrimination impacts their ability to be treated equally with dignity and respect. Interviews with children undertaken to inform the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty revealed that children are acutely aware of discriminatory practices, with many reporting that they had faced harassment, stigmatisation, low self-esteem, and exclusion, all of which have negative consequences for the child's holistic development.

2021 World Congress Preparatory Meetings:

A total of 13 Preparatory meetings were held between 2019 and 2021, in person and virtually, both at the Regional level (including in North America, the Middle East and North Africa, Europe) and at the National level (including in Cambodia, China, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and the United States of America) to discuss and define the main topics and priorities for the 2021 World Congress. Participants demonstrated a particular interest in **the implementation of Article 2 of the UNCRC**, which focuses on the child's right to non-discrimination and equality. This will be the focus of the 2021 World Congress, which will explore the situation of children in contact with the law in the most vulnerable situations, such as children from religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ children, girls, migrant children, children with disabilities, and all those who experience discrimination in the administration of justice.

2021 World Congress Main Objective:

To address this complex issue, the 2021 World Congress will focus on **exchanging practice-oriented strategies to:**

- Reduce discrimination that undermines access to – and the quality of – justice systems; and
- Ensure that all children are guaranteed equal treatment in the eyes of the law.

It will share **promising practices** from diverse contexts and settings that tackle discrimination, prevent situations that lead children and youth to commit offences, and reduce child and youth contact with the justice system. It will showcase examples of effective responses to prevent recidivism through programmes focused on restorative justice, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

The 2021 World Congress will offer a dedicated space for **policy makers and justice system stakeholders, academics, civil society and UN representatives, children and youth** and other experts and practitioners to explore these challenging issues and to enhance our knowledge of – and commitment to the creation of – fair and appropriate child justice systems globally. It will provide technical expertise to support the operational implementation of international laws and standards related to the rights of children and youth in conflict with the law.

2021 World Congress Agenda:

Co-organised by the federal Mexican Supreme Court of Justice, the 2021 World Congress expects thousands of experts and child delegates to participate from all across the world. Over five days, academics, policy makers, judges and magistrates, and civil society representatives will participate in and contribute to global and regional plenary sessions and action-oriented workshops consisting of panel discussions, certified trainings, and policy-oriented working group meetings.

Based on the results of the different Preparatory Meetings, the 2021 World Congress will focus mainly, but not exclusively, on the following sub-themes:

- Systemic racism and the disproportionate criminalisation of children from indigenous, ethnic, and other minority groups;
- Discrimination due to gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity: fostering a gender justice approach;
- Discrimination experienced by children and young people affected by migration, including refugees, unaccompanied foreign children, and children of foreign parents;
- Discrimination due to disability and health conditions;
- Discrimination due to substance use and abuse;
- Criminalisation of children's online behaviour;
- Age limits and status offences;
- Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in child justice systems;
- Fulfilling children's rights in the contexts of legal pluralism;
- Building resilient child justice systems in times of crises and pandemics; and
- Tackling violence within child justice systems and ensuring child-friendly approaches for child victims, offenders, and witnesses.

Specific topics of the sessions will be defined in collaboration with the Scientific Committee and the Child and Youth Advisory Group of the World Congress. The call for abstracts was launched in the summer of 2021.

How to Participate

For the first time, access to the Congress will be possible online, which will provide greater access to the programme for professionals who cannot travel and will facilitate greater participation of children. We hope to reach a wider audience and to allow greater participation and involvement via digital tools. A recording will also be made available.

Partners

Terre des hommes Foundation – Helping children worldwide



Terre des hommes Foundation (Lausanne) is the largest Swiss organisation for child relief. With delegations in over 30 countries and its expertise in the domains of health and

child protection, Terre des hommes offers practical solutions and a better future for over one million children and their mothers each year. This engagement is financed by individual and institutional support, of which more than 85% flows directly into the programs. Terre des hommes was founded in Lausanne in 1960.

Penal Reform International



Penal Reform International (PRI) is an independent nongovernmental organisation that develops and promotes fair, effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems worldwide. It promotes the rights of detainees to fair and humane treatment, and campaigns for the prevention of torture and the abolition of the death penalty and works to ensure both just and appropriate responses for children and women who come into contact with the law.

International Association of Family and Youth Judges and Magistrates



IAYFJM is a worldwide organisation, dating to before the first World War and formally established in Belgium in 1928. It is dedicated to the study and exchange of information on issues concerning children and young people in need of care and protection and/or in conflict with the law, and their families. It aims to identify, publicise and promote best practice in these fields. The languages of the Association are French, English and Spanish.

International Institute for the Rights of the Child



The International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) was created in 1995. It is a recognized training centre in children's rights for all professionals working for and with children in Switzerland and abroad. The IDE is active in numerous awareness-raising activities to promote children's rights and to enforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a scientific centre, it is solicited by numerous networks of experts and institutions working for the respect of children's rights.

With technical support from:



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children is an independent global advocate in favour of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, mobilizing action and political support to achieve progress across the world. The mandate of the SRSG is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments and framed by the UN Study.



UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.

UNICEF works in the world's toughest places to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents – and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere. Across more than more than 190 countries and territories, we do whatever it takes to help children survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

Before, during and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is on the ground, bringing lifesaving help and hope to children and families. Non-political and impartial, we are never neutral when it comes to defending children's rights and safeguarding their lives and futures.

And we never give up.

unicef | for every child



The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) is the **leading UN entity on human rights**. The OHCHR represents the world's commitment to the promotion and protection of the full range of human rights and freedoms set out in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

The mission of the OHCHR is to work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realise their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented.



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, transnational organised crime, terrorism and corruption, and is the guardian of most of the related conventions. UNODC has the mandate to support Member States in preventing and responding to crime and violence and strengthening their justice systems, including the specific mandate to support Member States in ensuring that children are better served and

protected by justice systems. Under the framework of the Global Programme to End Violence Against Children, UNODC provides technical assistance to Member States at global, regional and country levels in the areas of crime prevention, child victims and witnesses, juvenile justice as well as children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups.



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Its goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.

Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD works on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges.



The Pathfinders are a group of 39 UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector. Their work is to accelerate action to implement the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). The Sub-group "Justice for Children, Justice for All" offers a new starting point to place children at the heart of an emerging global movement for justice.

Hosted by:



The Supreme Court of the Nation of Mexico is one of the depositary bodies of the Judicial Power of the Federation, in terms of the provisions of Article 94 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and the Organic Law of the Judicial Power of the Federation.

It is the highest Constitutional Court of the country and heads the Judicial Power of the Federation. One of its responsibilities is to defend the order established by the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States; to maintain the balance between the different branches and spheres of government, through the judicial resolutions it issues; in addition to resolving, in a definitive manner, matters of importance to society.

Under the Auspices of:



The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It works with its 47 member states to strengthen human rights, democracy and the rule of law throughout the continent and beyond.

It has successfully developed a rights protection system, the best-known mechanism of which is the European Court of Human Rights. The Court was established under the European Convention on Human Rights which has been ratified by all the member states of the Council of Europe.

With pro-bono support from:

**Baker
McKenzie.**

Baker McKenzie is an international law firm present in 47 countries. Its pro-bono department aims to deliver first-class legal services to the underserved and disadvantaged by fostering an environment that encourages and promotes service and promotes and sponsors activities that provide opportunities for all Firm personnel, independently, and in partnership with clients, in order to contribute to the well-being of the communities in which they practice and live.

Contact:

Cedric Foussard, – Global Initiative and World Congresses Coordinator cedric.foussard@tdh.ch

Internet: www.justicewithchildren.com

Twitter: @with_initiative

Annex 2: Singaporean Preparatory Meeting Concept Note

Context:

In 2019 and 2020, several Preparatory Meetings have been planned to promote the Global Initiative on Justice with Children at the regional and national levels, and to identify the most relevant topics for the **2021 World Congress on Justice With Children**.

Already two Regional Preparatory Meetings have been organised, in Merida-Mexico for North America, and in Buenos Aires-Argentina for Latin-America. Several other meetings are currently being arranged in Costa Rica for Central America, with the support of the UN Latin American Institute on Crimes and Drugs, and in Kenya for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Preparatory Meeting for Singapore aims at:

- Gathering policy makers, academics and, civil society representatives, with relevant work and influence in Justice for Children, to identify key areas of interest,
- **Fostering thematic priorities** and defining trends related to Justice for Children,
- Formulating **action-oriented recommendations** for the next World Congress in 2021.

The Global Initiative on Justice with Children with the support of UNICEF and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is organising a Preparatory Meeting for Singapore on the 14th of November 2019 from 09:30 to 12:00 at the:

- Singapore Management University (SMU)
School of Law
Meeting Room 5.04 (Level 5)
55 Armenian Street
Singapore 179943

This meeting will constitute a unique opportunity to define key challenges, trends, and advocacy priorities in justice for children. Recommendations and proposals of topics, the agenda, and activities for the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children will be formulated by participants of the Singaporean Preparatory Meeting.

Contact:

Cedric Foussard,

Advocacy and Global Learning Advisor, Terre des hommes

cedric.foussard@tdh.ch

Annex 3: List of Participants

N°	Name
1	Kathleen Leong (Ms) Senior Assistant Director (Corporate Service) Youth Residential Service, Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)
2	LIM Sok Ngin (Ms) Senior Assistant Director Central Youth Guidance Office MSF
3	Mdm SITI RUZIYA Nasir Senior Assistant Director Probation and Community Rehabilitation Service
4	Mr Nicholas Lee Chief Executive Trybe
5	Ms Sue Cheng Chief Service Officer of Singapore Children's Society
6	Ms Shailey Hingorani Head of Advocacy & Research, AWARE
7	Professor Seng Boon Kheng Head, Social Work Programme S R Nathan School of Human Development, Singapore University of Social Sciences
8	Mr Phua Chun Yat Head/Office of Organisational Transformation at AMKFSC Community Services Ltd.
9	Ms Jessica HOOI Manager cum Senior Occupational Therapist Allied Professional Services
10	Mr Robert Pollack Social Worker AWWA Transitional Shelter
11	Ms Adeline Chew Executive Director Serangoon Moral Family Service Centre
12	Ms Evelyn Lai Executive Director Viriya Community Services