

Terms of Reference: Child and Youth Advisory Group

2025 World Congress on Justice With Children

April 2024



1) BACKGROUND

1A) What is the World Congress on Justice with Children

Since 2009, Terre des hommes Lausanne Foundation ([Tdh](#)) and partners have been co-organising the World Congress on Justice with Children. These events are a unique chance to bring together the key actors in child and youth justice and child rights at international, national and local levels, to promote dialogue and cooperation on the central and current topics of children's rights to access to justice.

Organised through the Global Initiative on Justice With Children led by Terre des hommes Lausanne Foundation ([Tdh](#)) and in partnership with Penal Reform International ([PRI](#)) and the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates ([AIMJF](#)), the last World Congress took place from 15 to 19 November 2021 and put child participation at the centre: it was about justice WITH children. The 2021 World Congress involved engagement with children and youth to help shape the congress and act as a voice for justice with children. They advocated for non-discrimination and promoted impartial and child friendly justice systems by drawing from and sharing their own experiences with the justice system, in order to allow other children and youth to enjoy their right to have equal access to justice. With more than 4800 participants from 150 countries, this milestone event was hosted by the Mexican Supreme Court and co-organised with United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children ([SRSG-VAC](#)), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights ([OHCHR](#)) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)).

For the full list of Justice with Children partners, please see our website : justicewithchildren.org

1B) Where and when will the next World Congress take place?

The next World Congress on Justice With Children will be taking place on June 2 to 6, 2025 in Madrid, Spain in a hybrid setting (both in person and online through simultaneous national satellite events). The World Congress will bring together over 800 in-person participants and connect thousands of people online through the simultaneous satellite events in different countries, where children's participation will be also maximized. The World Congress will also bring together international organizations, governmental representatives, academics, NGOs, and children and youth, in order to effectively contribute to work towards justice for every child.

1C) What does the World Congress aim to achieve?

The 2025 World Congress on Justice With Children aims to:

- Advocate for big changes by learning more and improving how we prevent violence against children in the justice system.
- Develop and measure effective plans to prevent violence against children in justice systems
- Make sure children have a stronger voice in how justice systems work for them

Specific themes that will be considered during the 2025 World Congress include:

- Ending violence against children in child justice systems
- The impact of new and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, on child justice systems
- Access to justice in an era of climate crisis



**2) World Congress on
Justice With Children
Child and Youth
Advisory Group**

2A) What is the Child and Youth Advisory Group for the 2025 World Congress?

The World Congress on Justice With Children is shaped in collaboration with a group of ambitious child and youth representatives with knowledge and experience in child justice systems. They come from different parts of the world and together make the Child and Youth Advisory Group.

The purpose of this Advisory Group is to gather child and youth participants from all regions of the world in order to explore diverse views of the problems faced by children and young people across various justice systems globally, and advocate for changes. The 2021 Congress involved engagement with children and youth to help shape the Congress and act as a voice for justice with children. The 2025 Congress aims to build on this engagement by involving children and young people through the Committee in shaping the activities of the Congress. We make sure that children and the youth's voices count!

In previous years, child and youth participants in World Congresses have:

- Used theatre of the oppressed methodology to deliver their conclusions to the 2018 World Congress in Paris
- Contributed to the [2021 Declaration on Justice with Children](#), and co-created an animated video about the Declaration (watch it [here!](#))
- Participated in a podcast on [restorative justice](#)

2B) Why set up a Child and Youth Advisory Group (CYAG) for the 2025 World Congress?

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children have a right to be heard in all matters affecting them. Terre des hommes and partners believe that it is important to create spaces for children and young people with meaningful opportunities to participate in how the World Congress takes shape. In the lead up to the 2025 Congress, we are inviting children and young people who are passionate about increasing children's access to justice, improving child justice systems or who have lived experiences of being in contact with justice systems, to take part in preparations for the next Congress. This includes working alongside a range of adult professionals and practitioners, from civil society actors, to academics, university students and governmental parties, in order to ensure that the views and perspectives of children and young people are amplified and influence national leaders, decision makers and duty-bearers during the 2025 World Congress.

2C) Who can nominate themselves to be a Child and Youth Advisory Group Member?

YOU can nominate yourself or your supporting organisation can nominate you if you are:

- Aged between 15 to 25 years old
- Interested/Have experience in advocating for children's rights
- Are passionate about increasing children's access to justice, improving child justice systems or have lived experiences of being in contact with justice systems
- Speak English; or are supported by an adult mentor / organization who is able to accompany you in providing translation from English into your native language.
- Have access to an internet connection and sufficient data to participate in bi-monthly zoom meetings and a device (mobile, tablet, laptop); or are supported by an adult mentor / organization who can provide access to these resources.

2D) Why should I apply to the Child and Youth Advisory Group?

By taking part in the CYAG, you will:

- Develop better understanding of international child rights principles in general, and international guidance around child-friendly justice in particular.
- Learn new skills related to communications and advocacy, and be empowered to express your views and share your experience
- Have the opportunity to have your key messages conveyed to high-level decision-makers (Heads of State, Ministers of Justice, Senior members of judiciaries, justice system frontline practitioners : police, lawyers, etc)
- Have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully in shaping the agenda and development of the 2025 World Congress on Justice.
- Participate in the 2025 World Congress (either remotely or in-person)
- Connect with other children and young people from around the world with similar interests, thereby nurturing a community for peer-support and future action.

You will also receive a certificate of participation alongside other relevant support including letters of recommendation for academic or employment purposes.

2E) How are members of the Child and Youth Advisory Group chosen?

Nominations received as a part of the application process will be assessed by a selection committee, comprised of members of the World Congress Steering Committee, child and youth participation experts and young people.

All nominees will hear back from us by June 1, 2024

2F) I'm interested to join the Child and Youth Advisory Group. What do I do next?

If you are interested to join this exciting group, you can nominate yourself/your supporting organisation can nominate you by filling the application form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VNBZTHxZJx>

Nominations close on 22nd May 2024.

2G) What happens if I am selected to join the Child and Youth Advisory Group?

Members of the Child and Youth Advisory Group will be invited to regular (twice per month) online interactive workshops, which will include activities such as :

- Engaging with Learning about topics related to children's rights, children's access to justice and child justice systems across the world.
- Interacting with prominent child rights and child justice experts.
- Working collaboratively and creatively to shape the agenda, content and communications of the 2025 World Congress.
- Exploring actions taken by children and young people to reform justice systems in their countries.

2H) What happens if I am not selected?

Children and young people around the world are doing amazing work in their countries and communities. However, there are a limited number of spaces available for the advisory committee. Therefore, if you are not selected to be a part of the Child and Youth Advisory Group, we would encourage you to follow the 2025 World Congress on Justice for Children closely through our website and newsletter. We also encourage you to share your work with us, so that we can host a repository of networks led by children and young people in the justice space in the near future. Please also follow our social media pages to stay updated and do not forget to tag us on relevant social media posts.

Website: justicewithchildren.org

Social Media Tags:

LinkedIn: Global Initiative on Justice With Children
Terre des hommes foundation

X (formerly Twitter): @With_Initiative
@tdh_org

Contact

 [@with_initiative/](#) [@tdh_org](#)

 [Global Initiative on Justice With Children / Terre des hommes-Lausanne Foundation](#)

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