



## European Preparatory Meeting World Congress on Justice With Children

*Strengthening Justice for Children Worldwide*

### ABOUT THE WORLD CONGRESSES ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

[www.justicewithchildren.org](http://www.justicewithchildren.org)

**World Congresses on Justice With Children** represent dedicated spaces of interaction and participation for policy makers, academics and civil society representatives, which seek to:

- Promote a fair and appropriate justice for and with children worldwide,
- Encourage meetings between professionals to exchange on best practices, to foster scientific cooperation, to formulate policy recommendations and raise awareness on child justice.
- Support the operational implementation of international instruments and standards related to the rights of children and young people in conflict with the law and follow up with the UN Global Study on Children deprived of Liberty<sup>1</sup>.



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



Over 3 days, nearly 1000 people of 100 different countries participated in 28 workshops and more than 10 plenary sessions. This Congress results in the Paris Declaration on Prevention of child involvement in violent extremism. Previous edition: Geneva - 2015 co-organized by the Swiss Federal Ministry of justice and Lima - 2009 focusing on juvenile restorative justice.

The next World Congress will take place in Mexico City in Fall 2021. It is co-organised by the Federal Mexican Supreme Court of Justice. Provisional title is “*Access to justice for all Children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems*”.

Those World Congresses are developed through **The Global Initiative on Justice with Children** which is a joint program developed by a group of international organizations, composed by **Terre des hommes**, **Penal Reform International** and the **International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates**, to address the most current issues related to children in contact and conflict with the law. The Global Initiative has a double-pronged approach:

- a Justice With Children Global Milestone through **World Congresses on Justice for Children**
- a Global Community of Practitioners through The **Justice With Children** online platform

<sup>1</sup> <https://omnibook.com/view/e0623280-5656-42f8-9edf-5872f8f08562/page/6>



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## WORLD CONGRESS PREPARATORY MEETING

Europe

Virtual / Brussels

29 June 2020

### Context:

In 2019 and 2020, several Preparatory meetings have been planned to promote the Global Initiative on Justice for Children at regional and national level, and to identify the most relevant topics for the **2021 World Congress on Justice for Children in Mexico**.

Already two Regional Preparatory Meetings have been organized, in Merida-Mexico for North America, and in Buenos Aires-Argentina for Latin-America. Due to the Covid19 pandemic several other meetings are currently being arranged virtually 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 Europe 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,
- To study and exchange on the application of the EU Directive on procedural safeguards granted to children suspected or accused of crime,
- To study and exchange on the application of the EU Directive on victims' rights in relation to child victims,
- **Fostering thematic priorities** and defining trends related to Justice for Children,
- Formulating **action-oriented recommendations** for the next World Congress in 2021,
- Feed the reflection around the 2021-2024 **European Union Strategy on the right of the Child** and in particular parts related to child justice,
- Looking at the **impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the justice systems**, and what it means for children in contact with the law
- Support the Council of Europe to identify potential next steps in the implementation of the **Child Friendly Justice Guidelines**.

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



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Among the themes which will be addressed:

**Theme 1: Procedural safeguards in Europe for children in conflict with the law**

**Theme 2: Rights of child victims under EU law**

**Theme 3: Right to non-discrimination in access to justice for children**

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## **AGENDA – 29 June 2020**

### **13.00 – 13.30 – Welcoming Participants**

#### **13.30 – 13.40: Introduction**

**Cédric Foussard**, Advocacy and Global Learning Advisor, Terre des hommes Foundation

**Barbara Hintermann**, Director General, Terre des hommes Foundation

**Valeria Setti**, Commission coordinator for the rights of the child, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and Commission, European Commission

**Regina Jensdottir**, Head of the Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe

#### **13.40 – 14.30: Children in conflict with the law in Europe – Which Priorities?**

**Moderator : Barry Goldson**, *Charles Booth Chair of Social Science, Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, The University of Liverpool*

**Panellists:**

**Ingrid Gertrude Breit**, Team Leader – Procedural Rights and Confiscation, Procedural Criminal Law, Directorate General Justice and Consumers, European Commission

**Regina Jensdottir**, Head of the Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe

**Benoît van Keirsbilck**, Director, Defence for Children Belgium

#### **14.30 – 14.40: Short Break**





**14.40 – 15.30: Are the voices of Child Victims in judicial proceedings efficiently heard in Europe?**

**Moderator :** [Rebecca O'Donnell](#), *Director, Child Circle*

**Panellists:**

[Levant Altan](#), Executive Director, Victims Support Europe

[Olivia Lind Haldorsson](#), Senior Adviser and Head of Children at Risk Unit, Council of Baltic Sea States

[Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska](#), Team Leader, Directorate-General Justice and Consumers, European Commission

**15.30 – 15.40: Short Break**

**15.40 – 16.45: European Ideas to prevent discrimination and ensure equal access to justice of children in Europe**

**Moderator :** [Mariama Diallo](#), *Regional Programme Manager for Europe, Access to Justice, Terre des hommes Foundation*

**Panellists:**

[Ton Liefwaard](#), Vice-Dean for Education, Professor of Children's Rights & UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights, Leiden University, Leiden Law School, The Netherlands

[Astrid Podsiadlowski](#), Project Manager - Rights of the Child Technical Assistance & Capacity Building European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

[Saskia Bricmont](#), co-chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on the Rights of the Child, Member of the European Parliament

[Delphine Moralis](#), Secretary General, Terre des Hommes International Federation

[Cianán B. Russell](#), Senior Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe

**16.45 – 17.00 – Conclusions – Next steps**

[Cédric Foussard](#), Advocacy and Global Learning Advisor, Terre des hommes Foundation





## Date & Time

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Monday 29 June 2020 / 13.00 – 17.00 CEST

## Location

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The meeting will take place online via Go To Meeting. Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/337729037>

## Organizers

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Cédric Foussard, Advocacy and Global Learning Advisor, Terre des hommes Foundation

Mariama Diallo, Regional Programme Manager for Europe, Access to Justice, Terre des hommes Foundation

## With the support of:

