

2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

15-20 November 2021

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

Workshop Programme

Building a culture of participation in justice and recovery for child victims and witnesses of violence

Date	Wednesday, 17th November 2021	
Timing	16:00 - 17:30 CET	15:00 - 16:30 London
Organiser(s)	Shawna von Blixen, Olivia Lind Haldorsson	
Institutions	PROMISE Barnahus, Council of the Baltic Sea States	
Type of Workshop	Panel discussion	
Topics	Tackling violence within child justice systems and ensuring child friendly approaches for child victims, offenders, and witnesses.	
Region	Europe	
Language	English	

Abstract

This session introduces how Barnahus in Europe have involved children in their work, and explores ways of embedding child participation into safe and informed pathways to justice for children. The session draws on a Promise paper on building a participatory culture in Barnahus and the Lundy model of child participation. The Lundy model encourages decision-makers to address the qualities of rights-based participation using four concepts: Space, Voice, Audience and Influence.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has underpinned the development of Barnahus and children’s right to participation, protection and provision of services for children who are victims or witnesses of violence. Children’s right to express views on all matters affecting them, and to have them given due weight, commonly described as child participation, is embodied in Article 12 of the CRC and applies to all children capable of forming a view.

Barnahus (which means ‘a house for children’ in Icelandic) is a child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency model responding to child victims and witnesses of violence. Barnahus strives to ‘operationalize children’s rights to receive adequate support and protection and to have access to child friendly justice’ (Guðbrandsson 2017, pg. 5).

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To support the establishment of Barnahus models across Europe in compliance with European and international law, the PROMISE Barnahus Network develops training and tools, including support to building a participatory culture in Barnahus and similar services.

The Promise Barnahus Network promotes respect for the participatory rights of the child by ensuring that she/he is heard and receives adequate information and support to exercise these rights. The right to participation, along with the child’s right to receive information in Article 13 of the CRC, is set out explicitly in European Barnahus Quality Standard 1.2 - Right to be heard and to receive information: Children’s rights to express their views and to receive information are respected and fulfilled.

This right applies across all aspects of the Barnahus model and specifically highlights CRC Article 12 which states both that the child has the right to express his /her /their views freely in all matters affecting them and these views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity (1) and that the child should be provided with the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child (2). In sum this means that in any children who are involved with a Barnahus have the right to express their views and have them given due weight at an individual and collective level.

With or without a Barnahus or similar type of multidisciplinary interagency service organized under one roof, the exchange of experience and practice can be inspirational and instructive for all professionals worldwide who are working in the field of child-friendly justice.

Three key take-aways of the session

- The Lundi Model of child Participation can be applied in multidisciplinary interagency child-friendly justice models such as Barnahus.
- A platform for opportunity to contribute to the expanding experience and knowledge in the provision of space, voice, audience and influence
- Fulfilment of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the context of multidisciplinary and interagency services for justice and recovery, notably via Barnahus

Objectives

- Share and learn from inspiring practices and useful tools

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- Networking

Expected Outcomes:

- Participants to increase their knowledge and awareness of the Barnahus model for the provision of both justice and welfare under one roof for child victims of violence and have access to practical tools.
- Inspiration for exploring the adoption of the approach locally.
- Participants have concrete ideas and inspiration from others in the field to apply to their own work in providing children with space, voice, audience and influence.

Speakers

- **Moderator**

Shawna von Blixen

PROMISE Barnahus Coordinator. An experienced project manager. She has extensive knowledge of how the Barnahus model has been adapted in different national contexts, and plays a leading role in coordinating and providing advice through bilateral and network exchange.

- **Chat Moderators:** Olivia Lind Haldorsson and Shawna von Blixen

- **Panelists**

1. Olivia Lind Haldorsson

Head of children at Risk Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States. A children's rights advocate, with more than 20 years experience in the field of children's rights and child protection. She has worked as an independent expert in this field with a wide range of stakeholders on strategic advocacy initiatives and regional projects.

2. Laura Lundy

Co-Director, Centre for Children's Rights and Professor in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen's University, Belfast. She is Joint Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Children's Rights, an expert in children's rights to participate in decision-making, the right to education and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in law and policy.

3. Louise Hill

Head of Evidence, Children 1st. An experienced researcher in qualitative and quantitative research projects on a wide range of child welfare areas. She is a child rights practitioner, and holds a PhD focused on participatory research

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design with children living with parental alcohol misuse and implementation of children’s rights.

4. Alketa Lasku

Regional Child Protection & Safeguarding Advisor for Europe, Terre des hommes. Has an academic background in Clinical Psychology and 12 years of working experience in child protection and psycho-social field, program design, team and financial management. She has a strong technical expertise on developing child welfare programmes, drafting and delivery of training curricula for child welfare professionals, advocacy and lobbying.

5. Mary Mitchell

Lecturer in Social Work, the University of Edinburgh. A qualified social worker, a senior fellow of the Higher education Academy, teaches across undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Currently, the Principle Investigator for the evaluation of Scotland’s first Barnahus: Child’s House for Healing.