

15-20 November 2021

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

Workshop programme

Dealing with child returnees from conflict zones: From short-term response to a comprehensive long-term vision

Date	Friday, 19th November 2021
Timing	12:00 - 13:30 CET
Organiser(s)	Irina Urumova
Institution	Peer Power Youth
Type of Workshop	Panel Discussion
Topics	Resilient Child Justice Systems in times of crises and pandemics Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in child justice.
Region	International
Language	English

Abstract

The number of countries that have repatriated children from the conflict zones in Syria and Iraq is growing and spans states from Kazakhstan in Central Asia to Kosovo in South-East Europe to Belgium and Finland in the European Union. While specific approaches to and models of dealing with child returnees have differed, there is a consensus on the importance of a child-sensitive and trauma-informed approach, and of meeting the children’s functional needs as a precondition of long-term rehabilitation and reintegration. Still, despite this consensus, the understanding of the practicalities of the work of prevention and justice practitioners and child protective services may often be lacking. This calls for an exchange of good practices among practitioners from states that have successfully repatriated children and those that are only planning or considering the possibility of repatriations.

Three key takeaways of the session

- Domestic good practices in short-term response and long-term planning for reintegration of child returnees identified
- Potential international networking and implementation partners identified
- Foundations for forging inter-organizational partnerships built

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Objectives

- Curb negative influences by adults in the child’s immediate surroundings (who may include the child’s parent or those wishing to marry the child’s mother, which is especially problematic in cases of children of deceased jihadi figures, where the mother is likely to receive proposals from radicalized individuals)
- Practicalities of ensuring a dual victim-perpetrator approach for children above the minimum age of criminal responsibility, who have committed prosecutable offenses
- Long-term rehabilitation planning considering that multiple trauma inflicted by having been raised in a conflict environment is a serious adverse childhood experience whose long-term effect is relatively little researched due to its novel nature.

Expected outcomes

- Bring together practitioners from prevention, justice and child protection areas to discuss good practices and their transfer and adaptation to other countries’ contexts.

Speakers

- **Moderator**

Irina Urumova, Independent Expert

- **Panelists**

- 1. Indira Aslanova**

Head of the Center for Religion Studies, Kyrgyzstan.

Indira Aslanova is a prominent religious studies expert from Kyrgyzstan. She is currently the Head of the Center for Religious Studies. She has served as a tenured faculty at the UNESCO Chair of World Cultures and Religions (Religious Studies Department). She is actively engaged in prevention-related research.

- 2. Olga Ryl**

Head of the CHANCE Center for Psycho-Social and Legal Support to Juveniles, Kazakhstan