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 LEBANON
INDEX

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE DISCUSSIONS .................................................................................. 3
Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 4
Discussion ................................................................................................................................. 5
What do the participants want from the 2021 World Congress? ........................................... 7
What contributions can the Lebanon National Working Group make at the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children? ........................................................................... 8
Key recommendations from the Lebanon Preparatory Meeting ........................................... 9
Annex 1: World Congress Concept Note .................................................................................. 10
Annex 2: Lebanon Preparatory Meeting Concept Note .......................................................... 18
Annex 3: List of Participants .................................................................................................... 20
The Lebanon national consultation meeting was organized by the Global Initiative on Justice with Children, which is led by a group of international organisations including Terre des hommes (Tdh), Penal Reform International (PRI), and the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (AIMJF).

The meeting was held on 13 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 a part of a series of meetings that are 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 meeting’s main objectives were to:

- Identify priorities for the World Congress on Justice With Children;
- Highlight and explore challenges & needs for children in the justice system;
- Propose recommendations on thematic issues, programmes, and activities that are relevant for children in contact and in conflict with the law in Lebanon and the MENA region.
Introduction

The Global Advocacy and Learning Advisor of Terre des hommes, Cédric Foussard, launched the meeting and briefly described the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children. He 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.

Mr. Foussard 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.

He 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.

Mr. Foussard 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. The common consensus arising from the meetings being that participation of children will be a huge part of the Congress.
## Discussion

### Non-discrimination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Children of different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds are treated differently by judges, internal security forces (ISF), and sometimes social workers.</td>
<td>- Training for judges, members of the internal security forces, and social workers (frontliners in general) to change mindsets and biases, so that confessions, personal convictions, etc. do not affect their work with children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Gender-Based Violence, especially from ISF officers who may sometimes blame girls for not protecting themselves enough from sexual exploitation.</td>
<td>- Mapping of different groups of children and how their access to justice is impeded because of their nationality or status, such as stateless children, Palestinian or Syrian children, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- No specialised training of officials that handle cases of CAAFAG.</td>
<td>- Changing the perceptions towards CAAFAG from offenders to victims in need of protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Penal laws dealing with CAAFAG are very harsh.</td>
<td>- Prioritising prevention over response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Uprisings and protests falling under military jurisdictions are increasing risks, as there is no visibility on what happens in the military courts.</td>
<td>- Knowledge on how to deal with CAAFAG (how rehabilitation is done, how the work with the family should be done, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- CAAFAG are perceived as offenders rather than victims.</td>
<td>- Amending the law and following up on its implementation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The Syrian crisis has had a big impact on the increasing number of children entering into contact with the law (including as victims and witnesses) and increased discrimination.</td>
<td>- Expansion of the community police with more child-friendly approaches to know how to talk to the child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The new economic situation is also a new problem.</td>
<td>- Create safe spaces for children, such as rehabilitation centres to house child victims of crisis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A child who commits a crime is also a victim, sometimes of the environment they are raised in, so it is important to consider this and where possible, remove children from environments that put them at an increased risk of engaging in criminal behavior.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-custodial measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- No alternative measures for children involved in terrorism crimes.</td>
<td>- Enforcement of decree-law of Law422/2002, especially on the implementation of alternative measures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Non-custodial measures issued by the judge are ineffective, as the child had already been held in pre-trial detention.</td>
<td>- To have a specialized General Prosecutor who can take decisions on alternative measures and coordinate with the child judge, which requires an amendment of the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- There are no rehabilitation centres in Lebanon.</td>
<td>- The NGO Mouvement Social is seeking political opportunities for the two measures of probation and community service that should then be piloted and tested- to be shared in 2021.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- There are no clear explanations of how the alternative measures to detention should be applied.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- No diversion in Lebanon.</td>
<td>- Law amendment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Use of the measure of restitution to the victim (work for the benefit of the victim) is not very common.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Public prosecution is dismissed only if private prosecution is withdrawn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Other areas of focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- No standardised information provided to children who enter into contact with the judicial system.</td>
<td>- Development of standardized informative sessions, contextualized to the different types of cases that the child might face, and used by all actors working with children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unprofessional reports submitted by the social workers to the judge.</td>
<td>- Ensuring accountability in the system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ineffective legal representation for children, due to a lack of lawyers specialised in child rights.</td>
<td>- Specialization of social workers and lawyers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Child participation is not mandatory.</td>
<td>- Mapping of the different existing initiatives in the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lack of coordination between all the actors concerned (NGOs and child judges).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Different jurisdictions concerned and a lot of actors involved, which makes it more complicated to specialise people and coordinate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No special provisions for child victims and witnesses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Children at risk are often not represented by a lawyer, and the decision that the judge makes cannot be appealed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Law 422/2002 states that if the child commits a crime with an adult, he/she undergoes the regular authority procedures concerning the prosecution, investigation, and trial.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The best interest of the child is not always interpreted in the same way by the child judge as by the social worker. The judge does not always take into consideration the report of the social worker.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**What do the participants want from the 2021 World Congress?**

In general, participants expressed their interest in being able to **learn from success stories in other countries** and see **how they can be related to the Lebanese situation (taking into account the cultural context)** and **how the solutions found** in other countries can be adopted and implemented in Lebanon.
What contributions can the Lebanon National Working Group make at the 2021 World Congress on Justice With Children?

The participants proposed that:

1. They can form a working group or task force to forge efforts and initiatives and propose recommendations that are realistic and applicable.

2. Some of the positive examples that can be presented during the World Congress are:
   
   a. The advocacy and civil society pressure on children's rights, whether on religious courts or child courts, which is resulting in the change of attitudes of judges, with judges becoming more sensitive and aware of the child’s needs. For example, judges more often consider the child’s situation when making decisions on custody, rather than forcibly placing them with a certain parent.

   b. The procedures for the execution of the community service measure developed by the NGO Mouvement Social that have benefited everyone.
Key recommendations from the Lebanon Preparatory Meeting

- **Training** for judges, social workers, internal security forces, and other officials to **increase their professionalism** and **eliminate underlying biases** when dealing with cases involving children in contact and/or conflict with the law.
- Provide **standardised information sessions** for children who come into contact with the law, so that they are aware of their rights, who the relevant actors are, and what the judicial process entails.
- The information sessions should be **designed to fit the national and local contexts**.
- **Better tracking of the systems** through which the child has come into contact with the law, **more accountability** from these systems, and **involvement of children in decisions** impacting their life.
- **Ensure the child is heard** and **provided with accountability to ensure** that their opinion was taken into account.
- **Promoting child-friendly practices in Lebanon**.
- **Better cohesion, coordination, and common platform** between justice officials and social workers so that decisions taken are in the **best interest of the child**.
- **Mandatory legal assistance** at the very first contact with the system (police) and before the first interview.
- **Focus on protection** for Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups because they are victims of exploitation by adults and armed groups, **especially those who have not committed a direct act**.
- **Amending the law** to have special provisions for child victims and witnesses, as well as to apply more **alternatives to detention**, including **non-custodial measures**, **diversion**, and **restorative justice**.
- **Better implementation of existing laws**.
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;
- Filling 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 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.

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
Hosted by:

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.

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.
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.

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: Lebanon Preparatory Meeting Concept Note

WORLD CONGRESS PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA) REGION

Strengthening justice for children in Lebanon – National Consultation

Context:

In 2019 and 2020, several Regional 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.

In 2020, a MENA Regional Preparatory Meeting will be aimed at being organized after holding consultations with different countries within the region, such as the one in Lebanon to be held on 13 November 2019.

The Lebanon Consultation for the Preparatory Meetings in the MENA region aims at:

- Gathering policy makers, academics and civil society representatives at the national level, with relevant work and influence in Justice for Children, to identify key areas of cooperation,
- Fostering thematic priorities and regional and global agendas on Justice for Children,
- Advancing national key points and making action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the next MENA Regional Preparatory Meeting in 2020 and later at the World Congress in 2021.

This consultation constitutes a unique opportunity to define national and regional key challenges, trends, and advocacy priorities in justice for children. Recommendations and proposals of topics, the agenda, and activities for the 2020 MENA Regional Preparatory Meeting will be consulted with the participants of this national consultation in Lebanon.

We welcome your participation and look forward to engaging in fruitful discussions with you.
SAVE THE DATE

13 November 2019, 9h30 to 11h30
Citea Hotel, Acharafieh, Beirut

Contact:

- **Cedric Foussard**, cedric.foussard@tdh.ch - Advocacy and Global Learning Advisor, Terre des hommes
- **Marta Gil**, marta.gil@tdh.ch - MENA Access to Justice Regional Programme Coordinator, Terre des hommes
- **Jennifer Troncoso**, jennifer.troncoso@tdh.ch - MENA Access to Justice Technical Advisor, Terre des hommes
### Annex 3: List of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Razan El Hajj Chehade</td>
<td>Responsible of Juvenile files</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ursina Weidkuhn</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Mabger</td>
<td>Child Protection Coordinator</td>
<td>IRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammad Nokkari</td>
<td>Judge at confessional personal court of first instance in Beirut</td>
<td>Sunni Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salam Schreim</td>
<td>Head of Juvenile Protection Department</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita Deaibess</td>
<td>Responsable de la Section Juvenile à la prison de Roumieh</td>
<td>Mol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aline Osta</td>
<td></td>
<td>Père Afif Osseiran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Tanios</td>
<td>Child Protection and Juvenile Justice coordinator</td>
<td>Mouvement Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samer Ghamroun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saint-Joseph University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amira Sukkar</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>UPEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassima Roumani</td>
<td>Legal Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>Himaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedric Foussard</td>
<td>A2J Global Advocacy Advisor / Coordinator World Congress Justice with Children</td>
<td>Tdh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marta Gil</td>
<td>A2J MENA Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>Tdh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer, Troncoso</td>
<td>A2J MENA Regional Technical Advisor</td>
<td>Tdh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franck Joly</td>
<td>Country Delegate Lebanon</td>
<td>Tdh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gelena Vujanovic</td>
<td>Program Coordinator Lebanon</td>
<td>Tdh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathalie Hobelka</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tdh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>