

## 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

#### Legal Aid & Children in the MENA region: addressing gaps and highlighting opportunities - A journey through Arab countries experiences

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, 18th November 2021</b>	
<b>Timing</b>	15:00 - 16:30 Geneva	16:00-17:30 Cairo, Amman, Beirut
<b>Organiser(s)</b>	Marta Gil, TDH and Leah Conklin, ILF	
<b>Institution</b>		
<b>Type of Workshop</b>	Panel discussion	
<b>Topics</b>	Building resilient child justice systems in times of crises and pandemic.	
<b>Region</b>	MENA	
<b>Language</b>	Arabic & English	

#### Abstract

Studies are still identifying the negative effects that Covid-19 had on all governments, private entities and judicial institutions, leading to the introduction of additional challenges to the child justice systems for children in conflict with the law, which added to the challenges created by the extremist groups in Iraq or lack of legal safeguards in some of the MENA countries, accordingly this session will start from an introduction which stresses on the need for child-friendly legal aid for accessing justice fairly, and the access to legal aid during covid-19 pandemic lessons learned and recommendations.

The session aims to provide the participants with country snapshots (In practice) covering Tunisia and Palestine ((re)prioritizing restorative justice principles and the standards for mediation processes and generally improving and expanding diversionary programming to involve not only the best interests of the child, but also the participation of the family and the community.

Moreover, the session will focus on access to legal aid in both Jordan and Iraq, focusing on children accused on national security grounds in Iraq and legal safeguards and judicial process limitations in Jordan.

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### Two key take-aways of the session

- The importance of accessing specialized child-friendly legal aid in the MENA region.
- Learning from other countries’ experience in scaling up legal aid provided to children and identifying flaws in the application to be addressed at the regional level.

### Objectives

- Raise critical debate on the importance of accessing specialized child-friendly legal aid in the MENA region
- Discussion on countries' practices pertaining to legal aid provided to children and youth to build upon on the main opportunities to scale up and flaws to address collectively at the regional level

### Expected outcomes

- Raised regional awareness on the importance of accessing specialized child-friendly legal aid.
- Identified the main opportunities and flaws to be addressed on child friendly legal aid in the MENA region.

### Speakers

- **Moderator**

- **Emad Al-Quraan**

- With a BA in law and MA in conflict resolution, a practicing lawyer, university lecturer and human rights activist. Engaged in development and humanitarian contexts since 2014.

- **Chat moderator**

- **Leah Conklin**

- She is the advocacy & communications director at the International Legal Foundation where she drives efforts to strengthen legal aid access at the international, regional, and national levels. Previously, she led communications for campaigns to protect workers’ rights, increase minimum wage, and hold corporations and politicians

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accountable to good governance standards. Leah earned her B.A. in Communications from Pace University and is currently an M.A. candidate in Refugee Protection and Forced Migrations Studies with the University of London.

- **Panelists**

- 1. Suad Jawan**

She is the Legal Coordinator (Southern Region) of the International Legal Foundation’s Palestine program where she provides client representation, leads the ILF’s clinical training program, and heads the ILF’s Women in Law and Leadership (WiLL) program which focuses on empowering and promoting women to take on leadership opportunities in the justice sector. Over the course of her career, Suad has represented hundreds of clients in criminal cases and trained more than 400 lawyers from the general assembly of the Palestinian Bar Association. Recently, she led regional trainings for lawyers in Tunisia and Libya on the comprehensive representation of juveniles and positive youth development. Before joining the ILF, Suad worked at the Land Authority Department and earned her law degree from Birzeit University.

- 2. Hanen Fathallah**

She is the legal director of the International Legal Foundation's Tunisia program. A nationally and internationally recognized authority in Tunisian legal aid, she has pioneered early access to counsel and effective pretrial advocacy in courts throughout Tunisia. She obtained her Master’s in Law from the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Tunis. An expert in a wide variety of specialty issues including human trafficking and advocacy at police stations, she is frequently called upon to train lawyers on best practices.

- 3. Simone Cicolin**

She is an engaged and dedicated professional working in international development and humanitarian contexts since 2013. She has significant experience in child protection, juvenile justice and migration. Her areas of expertise include but are not limited to program management and coordination, capacity building, case management for access to justice, partnership building, project development. In her career she has worked with donor agencies, local and international NGOs and the UN covering different positions in the delivery of services to vulnerable groups in her home country and then in the management of programs, provision of technical support in

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her international experiences.

#### **4. Farah Ishaqat**

She is a member of the Jordanian Bar Association. She accumulated over 8 years of experience working with the Jordanian legal system both as a lawyer as well as other legal roles with various national and international organizations, such as the Norwegian refugee council, where she acted as a Legal Coordinator, and Terre Des Hommes, where currently she is Access to Justice senior legal specialist for Jordan and Palestine delegation. She is working closely with the different professional parties in the child justice system, in building the capacities, advocating for the application of the restorative justice approaches (Mediation and Alternative to detention measures) based on the Jordanian Juvenile Law.

#### **5. Chaker MZOUGH**

He holds a PHD in law from Paris 13 University on Stock market law. He is Associate Professor at the University of Qatar (College of Law), Director of the Governance Research Laboratory and director of the PHD school at the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis and visiting professor at some foreign universities (Lebanon, France, Italy, Jordan, Algeria ...). He is a member of the Scientific Council of the Higher Institute of the Attorney Institute in Tunisia. He is the head of the Professional Master's Degree in Governance and Anti-Corruption and the Masterclass on Corruption, organized in collaboration with the Paris School of Economics. He is Director of the "Regional Master in Democratic Governance", organized by the EIUC (European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization). He is responsible for the Professional Master's Degree in Banking and Stock Exchange, member of the National Sectoral Commission of Private Law and Criminal sciences and representative of the Faculty of legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis at the Arab Integrity and Anti-Corruption Network of the United Nations Development Program.

He is also an international expert and evaluator for several national and international organizations on integrity and good governance and human rights.

He is responsible for several working groups and scientific projects in the field of good governance and the fight against corruption. He is a member of the editorial board of several journals. He is the author of several articles published in Tunisia and abroad.

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