

## 2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

**15-20 November 2021**

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

### Workshop Programme

#### Response to Institutional Violence through a Child Rights Helpdesk

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday, 17th November 2021</b>	
<b>Timing</b>	16:00 - 17:30 Geneva	15:00-16:30 London
<b>Organiser(s)</b>	Nantina Tsekeri - Director, Child Rights Expert	
<b>Institution</b>	DCI, Greece	
<b>Type of Workshop</b>	Training	
<b>Topics</b>	<p>Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in Child Justice Systems.</p> <p>Tackling violence within the Child Justice Systems and ensuring child friendly approaches for child victims, offenders and witnesses.</p> <p>Discrimination experienced by children and youth affected by migration, including refugees, unaccompanied foreign children and children of foreign parents.</p>	
<b>Region</b>	Europe	
<b>Language</b>	English	

#### **Abstract**

The proposed workshop touches upon the issue of Institutional Violence in the context of migration with a specific focus on children on the move when in contact with the Justice System. In times of crisis, such as the refugee one taking place in Greece in the last years, children might experience serious forms of institutional violence in their effort to navigate through the asylum system while at the same time they are lacking the opportunity to seek remedy into a restorative justice context.

DCIG through the operation of a Children's Rights Helpdesk in Greece, which offers legal and protection support services to children on the move and meditates between the justice system and the children, has developed valid expertise on how to enhance child participation in the processes, to activate the justice system into providing due response to children's claims for protection, as well as, to train practitioners on how to embrace their key role in such a context. Real cases that are addressed by the Children's Rights Helpdesk and brought a change in the justice system, lessons learnt when attempting to heal the justice system and make it more child friendly, as well as, good practices that could be followed by practitioners or Organizations who aim to develop emergency response programmes will be shared.

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### Three takeaways of the session

- Best practices on how as practitioners or Organizations can bring the children on the move and the justice system into a restorative process
- Best practices on how to enhance child participation and strengthen resilience on children
- best practices on how to work with State Actors in order to combat institutional violence

### Objectives

- Identify strategic ways to pave the way for restorative justice to happen

### Expected outcomes

Participants will:

- Obtain a clear understanding of what Institutional Violence is and how it impacts on children on the move.
- Develop skills to respond to crisis situations where children experience violence by bringing children and justice system closer
- Realise their role and the context they work in and identify strategic ways to pave the way for restorative justice to happen

### Speakers

- **Moderator**  
**Nantina Tsekeri**
- **Panelists**
  1. **Nantina Tsekeri**, Director of DCI Greece  
Nantina Tsekeri is a human rights lawyer and child rights expert. Her specialization is on children on the move and refugee law. She is the founder and Ceo of Defence for Children International (DCI) Greece. Nantina is also a strong advocate for the rights of children on the move and for her important work was one of the ten bold individuals who received the Child10 Award in 2020. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law and she is a PhD Candidate.

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- 2. Iris Matina Pappa**, Coordinator of Children's Rights Helpdesk DCI Greece  
Iris Pappa works at Defence for Children International Greece as the Coordinator of Children's Rights Helpdesk which offers child protection services, legal counselling and representation to children on the move and in urgent need. Before joining DCI Greece she was working in the third sector in the field of human rights and international development. She holds a BA in International Relations and an LLM in International Law and Security with a focus on Human Rights. Iris was acknowledged by the School of Law of Glasgow University as one of the top 100 female graduates of the last 100 years.