

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

When children in conflict with the law are given a second chance - Juvenile Penal Mediation Approach- Palestine

Date	Thursday, 18th November 2021	
Timing	13:00 - 14:30 Geneva	14:00-15:30 Cairo, Amman, Beirut
Organiser(s)	Thaer Khalil	
Institution	Attorney General Office, Palestine	
Type of Workshop	Panel discussion	
Topics	Tackling violence within child justice systems and ensuring child friendly approaches for child victims, offenders, and witnesses.	
Region	MENA	
Language	Arabic	

Abstract

Juvenile mediation is one of the most effective systems for restorative justice for children in conflict with the law. The juvenile protection bill in Palestine was endorsed in 2016, which has provided a leap in the Palestinian juvenile justice system in the West Bank, bringing it in line with international standards for safeguarding children’s rights. The workshop will highlight the juvenile mediation experience in Palestine from different angles; the legal framework, the community’s acceptance, the community mediator’s role, and most importantly its impact on children. The workshop will be facilitated by Terres des Hommes and will host five key speakers from the formal and non-formal actors.

The speakers are from different backgrounds and roles in the mediation process, and will unpack the following areas:

- Mediation from a legislative framework: providing a comparison between restorative justice in the MENA region and Palestine, with a special focus on juvenile mediation. The comparison will include statistics and methods of enforcement of the law.
- The role of the Ministry of Social Development in the mediation process: This includes endorsing the selection of the mediators, enhancing their capacity along with other actors, and supervising the reintegration program for the children in

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conflict with the law. Statistics will be provided for children who were reintegrated into society and those who exhibited recidivism.

- The role and experience of mediators: Challenges and successes, reflecting on the mediator’s own experience.
- Discussing communities’ acceptance to penal mediation and mediators’ role: How the community and community civil society organizations (community-based protection mechanisms) can be supportive to the outcomes of the mediation process.
- Sharing success stories from the Juvenile Prosecution Office, supported by statistics.
- Presenting a short video on juvenile mediation, followed by 30 min of open discussion.

Three key take-aways and one output of the session

- Encourage MENA Juvenile Justice Professional to become strong advocates for restorative justice
- Draw recommendations for enhancing child friendly justice system at MENA level
- Promote community based protection mechanisms

Output: Providing the participants from the MENA region a pioneering example of Mediation, which could be enhanced and adopted by other countries in the region.

Expected outcomes

- Participants’ knowledge of the differences and similarities of the Penal Mediation process between Palestine and other MENA countries is enhanced.
- Participants are acquainted with the mediation process from the mediators’ perspective.
- Evidence based data/ statistics shared.
- The experience between professionals in this field is exchanged at the MENA level.
- Providing the participants from the MENA region a pioneering example of Mediation, which could be enhanced and adopted by other countries in the region.

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Speakers

- **Moderator**

- **Mr. Thaer Khalil**

- Head of Juvenile Protection Prosecution. Has been working at the Public Prosecution Office for more than 20 years, and as a specialist in Children and Juvenile issues since 2016. He holds different certificates from international institutes on criminal sciences and from the Palestinian Affairs in the investigation of international crimes. He is also a certified trainer in child justice and a regional consultant expert for the UN on the co-leading preparation of regional consultation reports for children deprived of their liberty.

- **Chat Moderator**

- **Muna Abu Sneineh**

- A lawyer since 2003, and a legal and human rights consultant with over ten years of experience encompassing child rights, women's rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities. Provided four years of technical support and consultancy to the Ministry of Social Development, and simultaneously facilitated preparation of State Reports, prepared a draft of the Juveniles Referral System and participated in preparing and drafting Palestinian Juvenile Law.

- **Panelists**

- 1. **Adv. Sawsan Salahat**

- Lawyer and Head of Social Legal Department at Defence for Children International- Palestine. Regional expert in child rights within the justice sector and a technical advisor for DCI MENA Program. Researcher in child and women rights and activist in many national and regional child and women rights networks.

- 2. **Mr. Mohammad Karem**

- Has been working at the Ministry of Social Development since 2003, and currently holds the position of Director General of Family Affairs. Represents the MOSD in all programs and projects related to the child and family. MOSD's representative in the national team for the International Convention of the Rights of the Child.

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3. Mr. Bilal Salameh

Has been working at Al Najah University since 1982, as an Academic, Dean of Student Affairs and currently as the Director of Community Service Center. He was also endorsed by the MOSD as a Juvenile Community Mediator.

4. Mr. Rifat Kassis

Has over 30 years of experience in the human rights field, mainly child rights, working in the Middle East, Northern Caucasus, Central Asia and Europe. He founded the Palestinian section of the global child rights movement, Defense for Children International (DCI), co-founded the DCI movement in the Arab World and was elected International President of the movement for two terms. Furthermore, he was selected to be the State of Palestine candidate for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

5. His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ould Ali.

A Judge with the rank of appeal in the Palestinian Supreme Judicial Council, and Secretary General of the Judicial Council. He worked as a specialized judge in juvenile cases. He is the Head of the committee supervising the enforcement of the law by the Supreme Judicial Council, and he is a member of the National Council for Childhood in Palestine.