

CFJ-EN NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2024



The CFJ-EN operational team

Editorial

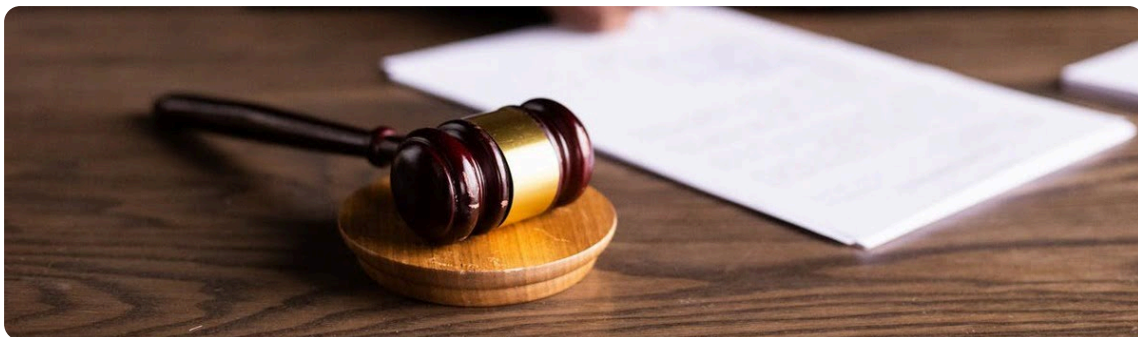
Having just celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we're now pleased to welcome the newly appointed College of European Commissioners for the 27 EU countries. In particular, we're looking forward to collaborating with Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth; Michael McGrath, Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law; and Glenn Micallef, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport.

This is the wish we would like to convey to them: that they prioritise child-friendly justice and establish meaningful spaces for dialogue with civil society organisations, including children and young people.

Meanwhile, our dynamic network of members has been particularly active in recent months, producing a wealth of insightful resources for policymakers and practitioners. In addition, partner organisations are hosting events on topics such as digital justice, ending violence in detention, child participation, child protection, sibling violence, and the right to identity.

Happy reading!

Mariama Diallo, CFJ-EN Coordinator



Case law

Mother compensated for daughter's death linked to air pollution

UK

The UK government has settled a claim brought by the mother of a little girl whose 2013 death from asthma was linked to air pollution near her home in London. Government ministers issued an apology, acknowledging that children like her should not suffer due to poor air quality. The mother continues her advocacy, pushing for “Ella’s Law” to improve air standards by 2030. This case highlights the ongoing need for public health protections against pollution and the importance of legislative action on air quality.

[Read the full article in *The Guardian*](#)

Recent events



35 years of the CRC!

On 20 November, we marked the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). The Child Rights Action Group (CRAG), which includes CFJ-EN, organised an event in collaboration with 'child rights champions' in the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová.

The event brought together policymakers, civil society representatives and children to reflect on and share experiences about children's rights. This inspiring gathering was essential for advancing the child rights policy agenda in the next political cycle.

Participants also signed a joint statement calling for 20 November to be marked annually in the European Parliament's agenda. This would provide a platform to assess children's rights, engage with young people, and celebrate the UN CRC anniversary.

As part of the day's activities, UNICEF launched its flagship report, [State of the World's Children 2024](#), followed by a roundtable discussion on the report's findings.

Upcoming events



Save the date - Barnahus Forum 2025

EUROPE

The Barnahus Forum 2025, taking place on 12-13 June in Tallinn, Estonia, will bring together Barnahus practitioners and the community that supports their work. This key event provides an opportunity to discuss practices, challenges, insights, and the ongoing development of Barnahus services across Europe.

The Barnahus model is a child-centred approach that provides comprehensive care and protection under one roof. It combines child protection, criminal investigation, medical assessment, and mental health support, ensuring that child victims and witnesses of violence receive balanced and professional interventions from a multidisciplinary team in a child-friendly setting.

Organised by the [PROMISE Barnahus Network](#) and the [Estonian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States](#) Expert Group on Children at Risk, the Forum invites your ideas and input to help shape the agenda.

More details on speakers, sessions, and participation will be shared in early 2025.

EFJCA webinar: Violence against siblings

EUROPE

[Register here](#)

The European Family Justice Center Alliance is holding a free webinar exploring sibling aggression and abuse, on 5th December 2024 from 14:30-16:30 (CEST). Led by experts Tanya Rouleau Whitworth, Corinna



Discussions will focus on prevention, screening, and intervention strategies, and how to incorporate

Jenkins Tucker, and Eva Van Kelecom, this session will define various types of sibling aggression—physical, psychological, property, and sexual—and discuss their far-reaching impacts.

these insights into professional training and policy development.

For more information contact info@efjca.eu

i-ACCESS MyRights final conference

EUROPE

[Go to event page](#)



Discover how digital innovation is transforming children’s access to justice at the i-ACCESS Final Regional Conference, held on 28–29 November 2024 in Sofia.

The events explores ethical AI, child-friendly technologies, and the lessons learned developing the AI-powered i-ACCESS chatbot, designed to help children navigate justice systems while protecting their rights.

While registration for in-person attendance has closed, you can still access session recordings and key resources by [visiting the event page](#) and registering your interest. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about child-centred AI solutions and their potential to improve justice for children.

Webinar series on the right to identity

GLOBAL



The series includes three 90-minute webinars with themes and speakers mirroring the expert meeting. Each session will feature leading experts and conclude with a CRC Committee member. The webinars will take place on 3rd December 2024, 18th February 2025 and 4th March 2025.

You can view the recording from the first webinar on 11th November,

The Identity Rights Working Group, co-chaired by Child Identity Protection (CHIP) and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, is hosting a webinar series on access to justice and effective remedies for children whose identity rights have been violated. This series follows an [expert meeting](#) that included members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UN agencies, NGOs, academics, and individuals with lived experience.

entitled "No justice without identity", here: <https://youtu.be/i76SnbjSrRQ>

Certificates of attendance will be issued by the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, University of Strathclyde, Scotland.

[Register here](#)

Members' corner

Ending Violence Against Children in Detention

GLOBAL

The CFJ-EN has endorsed *Ending Violence Against Children in Detention in the EU*, a new working paper by the [Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures](#), [Penal Reform International](#), [Terre des hommes](#), and the [Global Initiative on Justice with Children](#). This publication sheds light on significant gaps in data collection and protective measures for children in detention, providing targeted recommendations for policy enhancements across the EU.

Released in tandem with the **First Global Ministerial Conference on**



Ending Violence Against Children, this paper highlights the importance of reliable data and evidence-based strategies to prevent violence against children. It serves as a crucial resource for policymakers and advocates working towards SDG 16 and justice for children.

[Read the report](#)

Book Release - Child Participation in Portugal's Judicial Proceedings

PORTUGAL



CFJ-EN member Odete Severino Soares has released a new book exploring how judges integrate children's opinions into their rulings and the ways these decisions are conveyed back to the children.

The book underscores the importance of a child rights-based approach in judicial culture and highlights legislative and judicial progress in this area.

[Purchase here \(in Portuguese\)](#)

CYCJ: Reimagining Secure Care Project

SCOTLAND

The final reports of the [Reimagining Secure Care project](#) by the [Children and Young People's Centre for Justice](#) (CYCJ) outline a service design approach for secure care in Scotland. The focus is on reducing child detention for welfare or justice reasons.

This project was a collaborative effort involving children, families, and professionals. Together, they developed actionable ideas to achieve this goal, despite challenges in co-design.

CYCJ is now awaiting the Scottish Government's review. The government's decision will determine how key elements of the vision can be advanced as a foundation for meaningful, future-focused reform.

[Read the reports](#)

Resources



Podcast: “William ou le sens de la peine”

BELGIUM

In this podcast hosted by Belgium’s *Centre d’Action Laïque*, journalist Vinciane Colson examines the story of William, a young offender transferred to an adult court at 16—a practice the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has opposed for decades.

Through conversations with sociologist Isabelle Seret, co-author of *William ou le sens de la peine*, and child rights expert Jacques Fierens, the podcast explores the impact of this decision on William, victims, and society.

[Listen now \(in French\)](#)



Challenges in Trauma-Informed Practice for Children in Police Custody

UK

Our member, the [Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice \(CYCJ\)](#) recently spoke to both [1919 magazine](#) and the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, on the progress made in Scotland and what still needs to happen to stop the overcriminalisation of children. CYCJ also published a [research paper](#) which found notable gaps in trauma-informed practice for children in police custody in Scotland.

[Read the paper](#)



Young People’s Diversity and Digital Media: A Systematic Review (2010–2022)

PORTUGAL

This article, written by Ana Filipa Oliveira, Maria João Leote de Carvalho, and Carla Sousa, presents the YouNDigital project, which examines young people, their engagement with the news, and the dynamics of digital citizenship. It highlights how digital tools can foster creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, empowering youth from diverse backgrounds and closing gaps in citizenship experiences. The authors emphasise the need for co-creation, inclusive design, and tackling social and digital exclusion to strengthen democratic participation.

[Read the article](#)

Child-friendly video about family separation

BELGIUM

In 2023, over 20,000 divorces were recorded in Belgium, leaving many children caught up in difficult family decisions.

The [Belgian College of Courts and Tribunals](#), in collaboration with



several Belgian child rights agencies, has released a 90-second video to help young people understand their rights and how to express their views in cases of parental separation.

[Watch the video \(in French\)](#)



CFJ-EN

Child Friendly Justice
European Network

Child-Friendly Justice European Network

62 Quai des Charbonnages, 1080, Molenbeek

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