

[To view an online version of this email, click here.](#)



2024: Triple Anniversary

As we this year celebrate the **35th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**, and the **5th anniversary of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, the CFJ-EN and its dedicated members are working at full pelt.

Whilst some of our members were busy putting on a series of insightful events around youth participation and children deprived of liberty, the CFJ-EN hosted its first-ever **Child Justice Caravan** in Brussels in December with Young Justice Transformers from Greece and the Netherlands. We also hosted an **Academic Seminar** in Leiden in April, in partnership with Leiden University.

Meanwhile, the Operational Team is preparing to host its third **Annual Seminar on “Climate in-justice for children: How climate change affects Children’s Access to Justice”**. The Seminar - scheduled for 10 and 11 October in Brussels - will gather together climate experts and child justice professionals to promote the human rights of children affected by the consequences of climate change. Furthermore, the event will enable collaboration between national and regional stakeholders, to guarantee that these children across can access justice effectively. Visit [our website](#) for more information and to register for this event!

In the midst of all these activities, our thoughts are with the countless children and young people worldwide affected by current conflicts, to which we desperately hope for a peaceful resolution... because justice starts with children!

Register for our Annual Seminar 2024

CFJ-EN ANNUAL SEMINAR

**10 - 11
OCTOBER
2024**

BRUSSELS | IN-PERSON

**CLIMATE
(IN)JUSTICE:
HOW CLIMATE
CHANGE AFFECTS
CHILDREN'S
ACCESS TO
JUSTICE**

**MORE INFO:
WWW.CFJNETWORK.EU**

SAVE THE DATE



The Child Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN) is pleased to announce that **registration is now open for our Annual Seminar**, scheduled for **10-11 October 2024 in Brussels**. This year, we are focusing on the theme of "Climate (In)justice: How Climate Change Affects Children's Access to Justice".

This seminar, organised in collaboration with [Terre des hommes](#) and [CICS.NOVA](#), aims to address the multifaceted impact of climate change on children's justice. Our discussions will cover essential topics such as:

- ◆ Impact litigation and children's access to justice
- ◆ Children's rights to free assembly
- ◆ Climate change and child justice systems
- ◆ Climate change and crimes committed by and affecting children

To register for the seminar and for more details, please visit our [sign-up page](#).

We look forward to your participation in making justice accessible for all children in the face of climate change and its consequences.

Policy Update



UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: the upcoming General Comment No. 27 will centre around the topic of Children's Rights to Access to Justice and Effective Remedies: According to the [concept note](#), this focus is crucial as access to justice serves as a vital tool in addressing inequalities, combating discrimination, and reinstating denied entitlements. Moreover, it enhances the accountability of both governmental and private entities in fulfilling their obligations.

Council of Europe: The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) welcomed the adoption, on 6 September 2023, of Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children. The committee also welcomed the publication of a Mapping study on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children, called "Barnahus: a European journey". The study was produced with the support of the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. [Click here for the minutes of the last CDENF Steering Committee.](#)

European Commission: on 23 April, the European Commission adopted the Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child. This initiative addresses the urgent need for better protection amidst reports of widespread violence and bullying affecting millions of children across the European Union. Key focus areas for improvement include enhancing literacy, promoting safe technology use, protecting mental health, and combating bullying, including cyberbullying, with an emphasis on training professionals and improving inter-sectoral cooperation.

Case Law

ECtHR case of H.T. and M.T. v. Greece (2024) - Degrading Conditions in Samos. The ECtHR has granted Interim Measures with regard to a mother and baby held in the Samos Closed Controlled Access Centre. The Court orders the Greek Authorities to house the applicants in safe and suitable accommodation. UN experts hailed the European Court of Human Rights judgment that Greece had violated a Syrian refugee's right to life when its coastguards shot at a vessel carrying migrants and asylum seekers in 2014. [Read the Press Release of the Legal Representative of the Applicants before the Court.](#)

Members' Corner



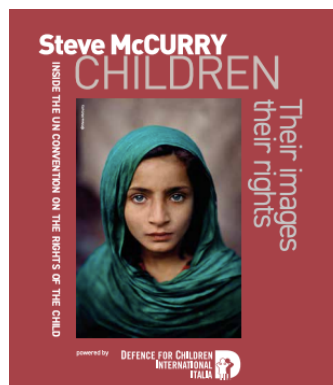
The Netherlands: The Campaign 'They are already Home' wins Hoogvlieder Award 2023

In the campaign 'They are already Home', Defence for Children Netherlands drew attention to hundreds of children who have been in the Netherlands for more than five years without a residence permit. They have grown up in the Netherlands, have made Dutch friends and speak the Dutch language. They are rooted. But no matter how Dutch these children may feel, they have no certainty that they will be allowed to stay. More info [here](#).



Scotland: Creative Conversations with CYCJ Episode 10: Diana Johns

Diana's research revolves around the experiences of marginalised or hard-to-reach groups, including young people who've been criminalised and/or imprisoned. [Join the creative conversation here.](#)



Italy: The world through the eyes of children: their images, their rights

CFJ-EN Member DCI Italy collaborated with the [photo exhibition "Children" by Steve McCurry](#), which was on display at the Palazzo Ducale in Genoa, Italy, from 25 November 2023 to 10 March 2024.

CFJ-EN in Action



Want to relive our 2023 CFJ-EN Child Justice Caravan with the Young Justice Transformers? Watch this [video](#).

The Child Justice Caravan is a programme run by the Network, enabling children and young people to visit European institutions, meet with key representatives from these institutions and become advocates for change in European systems of justice.

The last Caravan took place on 2-3 December 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. Six young people joined the programme - three from Young Perspectives (YOPE) in the Netherlands and three from Defence for Children (DCI) Greece. The 'Young Justice Transformers' met up with stakeholders to share their experiences and views about children who come into contact with the law.

[Click here](#) to relive this incredible and powerful experience!



Flashback to our CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2023 :

Read the [CFJ-EN Position Paper](#)

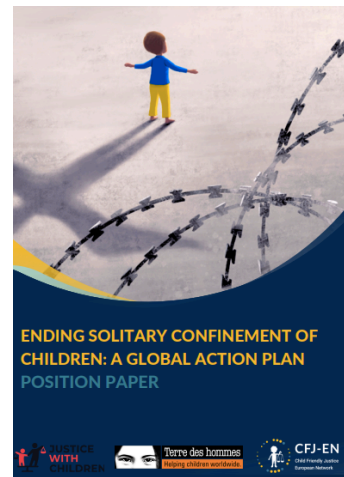
Read the [final report](#)

This paper emerged from a number of interesting exchanges during our seminar on "Transforming justice systems for children in migration". It proposes clear pathways for policy makers to opt for child-centred systems for children in migration. This means giving due weight to the views of children, seeing them as agents for change. It means ensuring compassionate and trauma-informed support, and involves creativity in fostering their access to justice.



The CFJ-EN Handbook version 2023 is now available in French

The second CFJ-EN handbook on child friendly justice includes a compilation of resources, key legal standards and case law, agendas and opportunities at European level for 2023-2024. To read the French version, [click here](#).



Solitary Confinement: [Recent Paper](#)

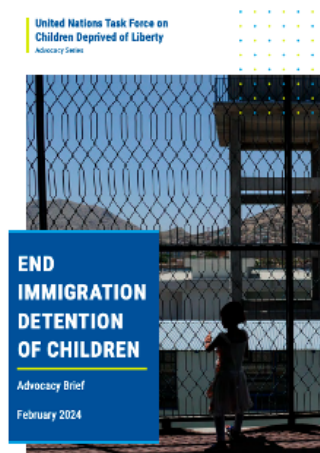
The signatory organisations are calling for the abolition of solitary confinement in favour of non-violent practices that are respectful of the fundamental rights of the child and in line with the principles of child justice. The paper is an overview of the use of solitary confinement on children and young adults around the world. It provides an analysis of the practice in relation with international and regional human rights standards.

Resources & Publications



New CRIN Report Exposes Hazards: Protecting Children's Rights in the EU and Beyond

CRIN's new report uncovers the links between hazardous chemicals and children's rights violations in the European Union (EU) and beyond. It sets out how EU chemical laws fail to uphold children's rights and invites EU decision makers to rethink how to better assess, regulate and restrict those chemicals. Children's rights violations linked to the exposure to hazardous substances have been neglected for too long. Decision makers now have the opportunity to make things right.



The United Nations Task Force: New Advocacy brief

The document, 'Implementing Recommendations for Children Deprived of Liberty', offers insights into the coordinated actions undertaken by various UN agencies, special mechanisms, and bodies, led by high-level representatives.

Additionally, it underscores both progress achieved and persisting challenges in ensuring the protection and promotion of fundamental rights within the context of deprivation of liberty for children

REFUGEE LAW INITIATIVE

Child-Friendly Judgments in Belgian Asylum Appeals - Article by Sara Lembrechts

This article reflects on the pioneering work of some Belgian asylum judges to include child-friendly language in eight of their judgments.

[Read the article.](#)



Disciplinary Sanction Regimes in Youth Detention Facilities

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights together with the Children's Rights European Academic Network organised a high-level Zoom-webinar on the topic of disciplinary sanctions in youth detention facilities in Europe.

[The recording is now available on YouTube.](#)

Upcoming Events



THE BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER
CELEBRATING & STRENGTHENING VICTIM SUPPORT

Annual Conference 2024

ZAGREB 22 - 23 MAY



12th International Conference



JUST TIMES

Restorative Justice Responses in Dark Times

Tallinn, Estonia, 29-31 May 2024

Victim Support Europe: Annual Conference - The bridge over troubled water in Zagreb, Croatia 22-23 May. [More info here!](#)

12th International Conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice - Just Times: Restorative Justice Responses in Dark Times in Tallin, Estonia, 29-31 May 2024. [More info here](#)

The CFJ-EN is part of the legal entity and enjoys the support of:

*Défense des Enfants International Belgique ASBL
Quai des Charbonnages 62, 1080 Brussels, Belgium*

<https://www.cfjnetwork.eu>
info@cfjnetwork.eu



*If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter you can [unsubscribe here](#).
If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you wish to receive it directly,
[subscribe here](#).*

*This newsletter has been produced with the financial support of the
Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme (2021-2027) of
the European Union. The contents herein are the sole responsibility of project
partnership and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European
Commission.*



**Co-funded by
the European Union**