

CFJ-EN NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2024



Editorial

In a lifetime, some of us are fortunate enough to encounter truly exceptional and inspiring individuals. This was Bob for me—Robert Schwartz, a pioneer in child justice reform. Co-founder of Juvenile Law Center in 1975 and its executive director for over three decades, Bob was beloved by many. He showed humility, generosity, and tireless dedication to the people he worked with. Bob left this Earth a few weeks ago, but he certainly remains in our hearts. He told me at the very end: “Watching you in action has been a treat for me. I wish you well, my friend”. Lost for words, I asked him to send us some signs from the other side, now and then...

In his career, Bob represented children in Pennsylvania courts, brought class-action litigation over institutional conditions and probation functions, and spoke in over 30 states on matters related to children and the law. Bob's career was not limited to Pennsylvania, but included fighting nationally and internationally for youth's rights.

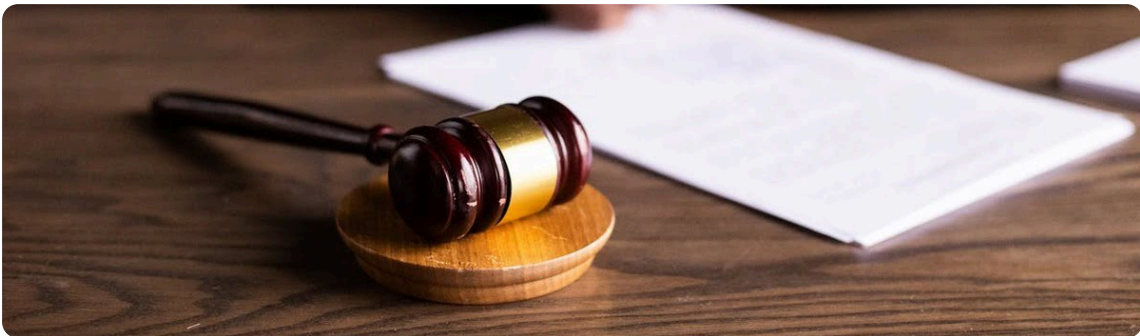
We must remember that, like Bob, we can and must believe in a better way to accompany children and youth in the justice system. Bob, thank you for your wise advice, which certainly had a positive influence on our Network, and on me!

While we take a necessary moment to commemorate Bob and the many champions of child justice in this field, we should remember not to rush, to take care of ourselves as we advocate for children’s rights. Every action counts, and our work for and with children and young people is best honoured by our commitment to stay focused on our objectives, all while acknowledging the tremendous efforts of—and support from—our colleagues, teams, partners, neighbours, and most importantly, our families and loved ones.

Having just concluded our inspiring Annual Seminar on Climate (In)justice, where young activists shone like bright stars throughout the two days of our event, we have compiled a wealth of resources for you to support your work this month.

More information on our Annual Seminar will be available in our next newsletter edition. Stay tuned!

Mariama Diallo, CFJ-EN Coordinator



Case law

CJEU, Case C-603/22

Fair trial: children subject to criminal proceedings must have the practical and effective opportunity to be assisted by a lawyer

Criminal proceedings were brought against three children before a Polish court. They were charged with breaking into the buildings of a disused former holiday centre.

The Court holds that children who are suspects or accused persons must have a practical and effective opportunity to be assisted by a lawyer. The Court notes that children must be informed of their procedural rights as early as possible, and no later than before their first questioning. This information must be communicated in a simple and accessible manner, adapted to their specific needs.

[Read the court press release](#)

Recent events



CFJ-EN Annual Seminar 2024

The CFJ-EN 3rd Annual Seminar, 'Climate (In)justice for Children - How Climate Change Affects Children's Access to Justice,' took place in Brussels on 10 and 11 October.

These two days were full of enriching exchanges and inspiration for the participants, thanks in particular to the presence of **six young climate activists**. During one workshop, the activists met with young people from a Belgian secondary school to discuss topics such as the climate, activism, and climate anxiety.

The event opened with a screening of the film *Planet B* by **Pieter Van Eecke** (2023), followed by a discussion with Pieter, the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights **Elisa Morgera**, and **Bo Vanhoorickx**, one of the film's main protagonists.

Around fifty criminology students from the VUB participated in the seminar and assisted the operational team during the event. Many thanks to them, as well as to CFJ-EN's partners in organising this event: [CICS.NOVA](#), [Terre des hommes](#), [Justice with Children](#), and the [VUB](#).

A key takeaway from the seminar was the urgent need for swift and collective action—by children, young people, civil society, experts, lawyers, politicians, and others—to achieve inclusive and effective climate justice.

We will soon publish a full report on the event, and will continue to focus on the critical issue of climate justice in the coming months.

Find out more



WEBINAR

Holistic approaches to child victims' rights in Europe

DURATION
1 hour 30 minutes

SPEAKERS
Edit Törzs
Levent Altan
Katarzyna Janicka-Pawłowska
Olivia Lind Haldrsson

CFJ-EN
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Annual Webinar 2024

On 4 September 2024, the CFJ-EN held its 3rd European webinar, bringing together experts to discuss **holistic approaches to child victims' rights in Europe**. This engaging discussion explored multi-agency strategies, safe justice for child victims, restorative justice, and child-sensitive practices.

Watch the recording

i-Restore 2.0 Closing event

Future Paths in Restorative Justice with Children

On 2 September, [Terre des hommes Romania](#), together with its partner, the [European Forum on Restorative Justice](#), organised the Closing Event of the project in Brussels. A key highlight of the event was the participation of children and young people who were involved in the project's child advisory boards in Romania, Estonia, Greece, and the Netherlands.



**FUTURE PATHS
IN RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE WITH
CHILDREN**

i-RESTORE 2.0 PROJECT CLOSING EVENT
2 SEPTEMBER 2024 | 9:30 - 17:00 CEST, BRUSSELS

More information & registration:
euforumrj.org/en/events

Logos: Terre des hommes, Republic of Central Social Insurance Board, rjn, Halt., European Forum on Restorative Justice, i-RESTORE 2.0, Co-funded by the European Union

Upcoming events



Executive Training on Civil Aspects of International Child Protection (ICPT)

The University of Geneva is launching an interdisciplinary and comprehensive executive training programme that addresses the complexities of international child protection. The programme covers legal issues, collaborative justice, and protective mechanisms, and is designed for professionals seeking to advance their knowledge in this field.

Period: November 2024 - April 2025

Duration: 16 hours of distance teaching

Language: English

Format: Distance learning

Deadline for registration: 1 November 2024

[Find out more](#)

Publications

CFJ-EN

CLIMATE CHANGE & CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE

CFJ-EN Handbook – 2024 Special Edition



EUROPE

New Handbook: Climate Change & Child-Friendly Justice

The first special edition of the CFJ-EN handbook on climate change and child-friendly justice includes a compilation of resources and key legal standards and case law.

[Read the report](#)

Protecting the rights of child victims in Europe A holistic approach



EUROPE

Protecting the rights of child victims in Europe: A holistic approach

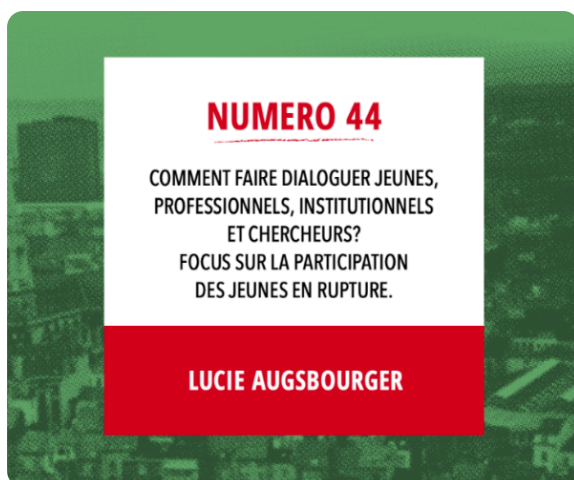
This position paper, led by the Child Friendly Justice European Network in close collaboration with Victim Support Europe and the European Forum for Restorative Justice, addresses the challenges child victims face in accessing justice and advocates for a stronger legal framework, particularly through the revision of Directive 2012/29/EU, to better protect child victims.

Developed with input from multiple disciplines and organisations, the paper identifies gaps in current practices and suggests improvements to enhance child protection across the EU.

You can read the [executive summary](#) here.

[Read the full report](#)

Other resources



FRANCE

Comment prendre en compte la parole des jeunes ?

How can we take into account the voices of young people and engage them in dialogue with professionals, institutions, and researchers to achieve real social transformation?

[Read the report \(in French\)](#)

UN

Human Rights in the administration of justice

In its report on human rights in the administration of justice, submitted to the UN General Assembly in August (page 16, para 46, footnote 141), the UN Secretary-General referred to the Working Group's [Justice for Children Policy Brief on Digital Justice](#). This UN report was submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/219.

[Download the report](#)



EUROPE

Supporting Families in the Digital Era: How to ensure safe and enriching online experiences for children and their Families?

This COFACE policy brief proposes concrete measures to ensure that families can access and navigate the digital environment in a way that reduces children's exposure to harmful risks online, without compromising their opportunities to benefit from the positive impacts of digital technologies.

It briefly analyses the following EU frameworks: the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the Better Internet for Kids Strategy, the EU Strategy for a More Effective Fight Against CSA, the Digital Services Act, and the AI Act.

Additionally, it highlights various safer internet initiatives from COFACE member organisations in nine different European countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, and Spain).

[Read the policy brief](#)

CREATING A CYCLE OF PROTECTION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE, CHILD-CENTRED COOPERATION TO IDENTIFY, SUPPORT AND ASSIST TRAFFICKED CHILDREN



EUROPE

Creating a Cycle of Protection: Guiding Principles and Key Considerations for Developing Comprehensive, Child-centred Cooperation to Identify, Support and Assist Trafficked Children

The Council of the Baltic Sea States and Child Circle have published a guidance note to encourage states to develop and strengthen comprehensive, child-centred cooperation between anti-trafficking and child protection systems.

It focuses on member states' obligations to identify, support, and assist trafficked children during criminal and child protection proceedings, as well as to prevent child trafficking.

The guidance note builds on the report *In Need of Targeted Support*, commissioned by the CBSS from Child Circle, which explored whether Barnahus or similar services could play a role in enhancing the identification, support, and assistance provided to trafficked children, while also supporting criminal investigations.

[Read the guidance](#)



GLOBAL

Youth Democracy Cohort: Youth Political Participation – Literature and Policy Review 1980–2023

This scoping study presents an in-depth exploration of youth political participation, focusing on the design and implementation of youth-related policies. The policy tracker study is based on a comprehensive literature and policy review, tracing key developments from 1980 to 2023. It covers three main areas: youth involvement in political affairs, participation in elections, and engagement in civil society, with an emphasis on democratic environments.

[Read the study](#)



EUROPE

2024 Justice Scoreboard

The European Commission has published the 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard (COM(2024) 950), and we are delighted to see that some of our recommendations for more relevant child justice indicators have been included.

[Download the scoreboard](#)

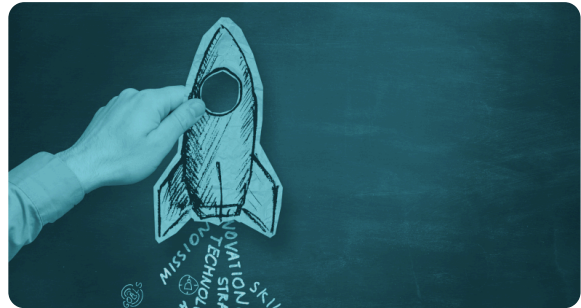


UN

Access to information on climate change and human rights

The UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change has published a report (A/79/176) exploring the specificities, challenges, and good practices related to access to information on climate change and human rights. It clarifies states' international obligations, both individually and as part of international cooperation, as well as the responsibilities of businesses.

The report offers concrete recommendations for states, businesses, and the United Nations



EUROPE

CBSS/Child Circle - Barnahus Resources

The Council of the Baltic Sea States and Child Circle have published various resources related to the [Barnahus model](#)

1. [*ISA: Acute Crisis Intervention*](#), which introduces a crisis support approach for child victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual purposes, and online sexual abuse during the first critical days following disclosure or an investigative interview.
2. The [*Handbook for Forensic Child Interviews in Presumed Cases of Trafficking*](#) is aimed at supporting

system to improve access to information, which is essential for ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, and effectiveness in decision-making processes on climate change at all levels.

We are delighted that our submission is mentioned six times in this report.

[Read the report](#)

professionals in conducting investigative interviews in presumed cases of child trafficking.

3. The report [*Creating a Cycle of Protection*](#) highlights the role Barnahus can play in addressing child trafficking and how states can incorporate Barnahus to enhance the identification, support, and assistance provided to child victims of trafficking.
4. The replay of the webinar [*How to Set Up a Child Advisory Board*](#) discusses the establishment of a child and youth advisory board, focusing on fair recruitment, creating safe spaces, and the importance of different levels of participation.



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