



**Dipartimento  
per le politiche della famiglia**

Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri



Presidency of Italy  
Council of Europe  
November 2021 - May 2022

Présidence de l'Italie  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Novembre 2021 - Mai 2022

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**APRIL 2022**

# **BEYOND THE HORIZON: A NEW ERA FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**



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Professor Ursula Kilkelly



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- **Aims**
  - To support litigation on children's rights
  - To develop children's rights/legal skills among future lawyers
- **Features**
  - LLM Students research legal issues for lawyers seeking to litigate children's rights
  - Offers a creative space for students to develop and hone research skills and understand application of the law to children's lives
  - Secures remedies to children's rights violations in national and international courts and tribunals.
  - Advocates for reform



## Spotlight 1: O'Keeffe v Ireland, 2014

- Innovative combination of lawyer and academic expertise
- Success before the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR
- Follow on submissions to the Committee of Ministers and national implementation process, with further case-work

## Spotlight 2: Youtube and Child in Care

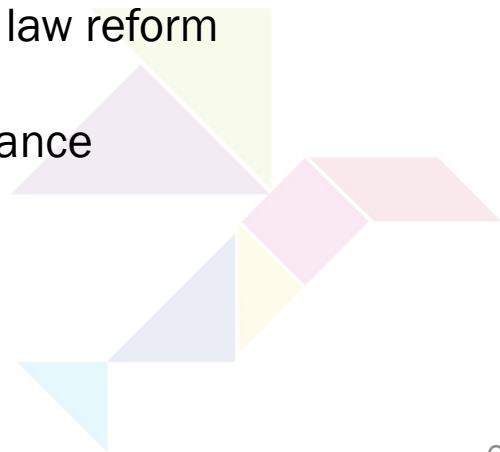
- Approached on behalf of a young person with their own Youtube Channel
- Authorities wanted to prohibit the broadcast
- Through research, supported a more nuanced interpretation of their rights under the law to maintain their channel

- **Student Learning**

...provided the unique opportunity to research further into our own Irish laws and the laws of international bodies, such as the United Nations and the European Union, and apply them to real life scenarios..”

“In contrast to other modules, the Child Law Clinic is more collegiate, there is more latitude to both engage and work with your cohorts, clinic work really is a team sport, unlike the more traditionally taught modules, there is no sense of being in competition other students.”

- **Challenges and Opportunities**
  - Balancing requirements of the learning experience with the needs of 'clients'
  - Need to ensure that student work is 'client-ready'
  - Great scope to broaden out beyond litigation to law reform
  - Long term approach to building capacity to enhance children's access to justice



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