



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის



ინსტიტუტის
სამინისტრო



განაშაულის პრევენციის ანასაპატიმრო
სასჯელთა აღსრულებისა და პრობაციის
ეროვნული სააგენტო



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “THE ROLE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS”

TOWARDS A COMMUNITY NEEDS CENTRED JUSTICE SYSTEM

12-13 OCTOBER 2023

TBILISI, GEORGIA

AGENDA

Day I

8:30 – 9:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE/TEA
9:30 – 10:10	Opening of the Conference Irakli Shotadze , General Prosecutor of Georgia Buba Lomuashvili , Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia H.E. Pawel Herczynski , EU Ambassador in Georgia Jesper Moller , UNICEF Representative in Georgia Stefan Sirbu , Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia
10:10 – 10:25	Keynote Presentation on the Role of Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters and Main Aspects for the Implementation of the Venice Declaration Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen , Leuven Institute of Criminology
10:25 – 10:40	Award Ceremony of Professionals Involved in the Diversion and Mediation Programme

Session I

Alternative Mechanisms to Juvenile Criminal Prosecution and Restorative Justice
Sharing the experience of Georgia
Justice Renate Winter, Moderator of the Session

10:40 – 11:00	Achievements of the Juvenile Diversion/Mediation Programme Londa Bichikashvili , Deputy Head, Department of Prosecutorial Activities, Supervision and Strategic Development Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia Lado Kheladze , Head of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation
11:00 – 11:30	Legislation, Quality Assurance, Practice and Challenges in Alternative Mechanisms to Juvenile Criminal Prosecution and Restorative Justice Moris Baramia , Head of the Diversion and Mediation Department of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation Nino Tkeshelashvili , Head of the Resocialization-Rehabilitation Department for Former Prisoners and Convicts of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation Ia Chkheidze , Senior Prosecutor, Department of Prosecutorial Activities Supervision and Strategic Development Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia

11:30 – 11:45	DISCUSSION Justice Renate Winter , concluding remarks
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee/Tea Break
Session II Alternative Mechanisms of Juvenile Criminal Prosecution and Restorative Justice Sharing International Experience Justice Renate Winter , Moderator of the Session	
12:00 – 12:30	Introduction of the Session Justice Renate Winter Diversion and Restorative Justice with Children: Inspiring Practices in Europe Silvia Randazzo , Child Justice Expert and Independent Consultant
12:30 – 12:45	UNICEF Vision on the Perspectives for the Development of Restorative Justice Ina Verzivolli , Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO)
12:45 – 13:10	DISCUSSION Justice Renate Winter , concluding remarks
13:10 – 14:10	LUNCH
Session III Alternative Mechanisms to Criminal Prosecution (Adults) and Perspectives for Development of Restorative Justice Dr. Ian D. Marder , Moderator of the Session	
14:10 – 14:40	Alternative Mechanisms to Criminal Prosecution (Adults) and Restorative Justice Dr. Ian D. Marder , Assistant Professor in Criminology, Maynooth University
14:40 – 15:10	Council of Europe - Presentation of Main Findings and Recommendations from the “Needs Assessment Report on Regulation of Victim Offender Mediation in Georgia” Main Findings of the Report on Regulation of Victim Offender Mediation in Georgia Maia Chochua , Council of Europe consultant Best practices on Regulation of Victim Offender Mediation and Recommendations Mirjana Visentin , Council of Europe consultant

15:10 – 15:30	DISCUSSION Dr. Ian D. Marder , concluding remarks
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee/Tea Break
Session IV Victim Support, Trauma and Emotion-Focused Approaches in the Restorative Justice Process Moris Baramia , Moderator of the Session	
15:45 – 16:30	Victim Support Services in Restorative Justice (International Experience) Victims' Needs and Restorative Justice Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen , Leuven Institute of Criminology Young Victims and Restorative Justice Dr. Annemieke Wolthuis , Restorative Justice Netherlands and substitute youth judge at the Court of Rotterdam
16:30 – 17:00	Trauma and Emotion-Focused Approaches in Restorative Justice Panel Discussion Dr. Annemieke Wolthuis , Restorative Justice Netherlands and substitute youth judge at the Court of Rotterdam Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen , Leuven Institute of Criminology Pia Slögs , Finnish Forum for Mediation
17:00 – 17:30	DISCUSSION Moris Baramia , concluding remarks
17:30 – 18:00	Wrap-up and Closure Justice Renate Winter

Day II	
9:00 – 9:30	REGISTRATION
9:30 – 9:40	The Work of the European Forum for Restorative Justice and Implementation of the Venice Declaration Maia Chochua, European Forum for Restorative Justice Edit Torzs, Executive Director of the European Forum for Restorative Justice Video message
Session I Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice Dr. Ian D. Marder, Moderator of the Session	
9:40 – 10:10	Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice (Adults & Juvenile Justice), Key Aspects for the Implementation of the Venice Declaration, Legal Framework, International Experience Dr. Ian D. Marder, Assistant Professor in Criminology, Maynooth University
10:10 – 11:10	Introducing the Role of Judges, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers in Restorative Justice Dr. Ivo Aertsen, Leuven Institute of Criminology The Role of judges, prosecutors, social workers, and mediators in the restorative justice – Experience of Georgia Ani Khubejashvili - Prosecutor Nino Katsitadze - Social worker Shorena Zedginidze - Mediator Eka Gabrichidze - Judge Reflections - Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen, Leuven Institute of Criminology
11:10 – 11:40	DISCUSSION Dr. Ian D. Marder, concluding remarks
11:40 – 12:00	Coffee/Tea Break

Session II
Restorative Justice and Rehabilitation-Resocialization
Role of Restorative Justice in Violent Crimes
Moris Baramia, Moderator of the Session

12:00 – 12:30	The Role of Restorative Justice in Rehabilitation-Resocialization Processes & Services in Relation to Persons in Conflict with the Law (Adults & Juveniles) Pia Slögs, Finnish Forum for Mediation Nato Jalaghonia, Manager of Diversion/Mediation Programme of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation Tinatin Zedginidze, Manager of Institutional Development of Mediation of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation Nia Kantaria, Head of the Resocialization-Rehabilitation Division for Convicts of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation Giorgi Topuria, Professional Supervisor of Social Workers of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation
12:30 – 13:10	Role and Practices of Restorative Justice in Violent Crimes (In Matters Involving Adults and in Matters Involving Children) Violent Crimes and Restorative Justice: Challenges and Opportunities Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen, Leuven Institute of Criminology Serious Youth Crime, Youth Gangs and Restorative Justice Dr. Annemieke Wolhuis, Restorative Justice Netherlands and substitute youth judge at the Court of Rotterdam The Applications of Restorative Justice with Children, Beyond Diversion Silvia Randazzo, Child Justice Expert, and Independent Consultant
13:10 – 13:30	DISCUSSION Moris Baramia, concluding remarks
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch

Session III
Restorative Justice Programmes and Training of Professionals
Maia Chochua, Moderator of the Session

14:30 – 15:00	Restorative Justice Programmes from an International Perspective and their Implementation Aspects, including on the Sentencing Stage (Adults, Juveniles) Justice Renate Winter Impact of restorative justice on sentencing and post sentencing stage Mirjana Visentin, Council of Europe consultant Restorative Justice in Probation: Benefits and Challenges Imants Jurevicius, Director of the Probation Service of Latvia Diana Ziedina, Head of Mediation and Community Involvement Coordination Department
15:00 – 15:50	Continuous Learning and Training for Practitioners of Restorative Justice, Experience of Georgia, International Approaches and Standards International Approaches and Standards Dr. Ian D. Marder, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Maynooth University Training Offer on Restorative Justice for Multidisciplinary Groups of Professionals: International Lessons Learned Silvia Randazzo, Child Justice Expert, and Independent Consultant Georgian experience: Nato Jalaghonia, Manager of Diversion/Mediation Programme of the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation Tinatin Zedginidze, Manager of Institutional Development of Mediation for the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation
15:50 – 16:20	DISCUSSION Maia Chochua, concluding remarks
16:20 – 16:35	Coffee/Tea Break

Session IV
The Role of Community in the Development of Restorative Justice
Ivo Aertsen, Moderator of the Session

16:35 – 16:50	The Role of Community & Awareness-Raising for the Development of Restorative Justice Pia Slögs, Finnish Forum for Mediation
15:50 – 16:20	DISCUSSION Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen, concluding remarks
17:10 – 18:00	Wrap-up and Closure of the Conference Concluding Observations & Recommendations by International Experts Justice Renate Winter Dr. Annemieke Wolthuis, Restorative Justice Netherlands and substitute youth judge at the Court of Rotterdam Silvia Randazzo, Child Justice Expert, and Independent Consultant Dr. Ian D. Marder, Assistant Professor in Criminology, Maynooth University Pia Slögs, Finnish Forum for Mediation Prof. Dr. Ivo Aertsen, Leuven Institute of Criminology

INVITED EXPERTS

PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

12-13 October 2023
Tbilisi, Georgia



Justice Renate Winter began her judicial career in 1981 in Vienna as judge of the Viennese Youth Court. She was international judge, vice president and president of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, and international judge at the Supreme Court in Kosovo. She was president of the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges and Magistrates.

She is working with international organisations, the Council of Europe, UN-bodies and the EU and provides advice to Governments, in particular concerning juvenile justice and child protection, women's issues, child soldiers, organized crime and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. She assists them with drafting laws, monitoring and evaluating their justice system. She has longstanding experience with EU projects on judicial reform and justice institutions in numerous countries. 2013 she became a member of the UN Child's Rights Committee, and was vice-president and president of the Committee. She continues to advise governments as well as IGO's and NGO's.

Ivo Aertsen is Emeritus Professor of Criminology at the University of Leuven (Belgium). He holds degrees of psychology, law and criminology from the same university. Before coming to academia, Ivo has been working for 12 years 'in the field', first in a prison with long term inmates and later with victims of crime, including a mutual support group of parents of murdered children. At the Leuven Institute of Criminology he has been leading the Research Line on 'Restorative Justice and Victimology' from 2001 to 2019. He has been chair of the European Forum for Restorative Justice from 2000 to 2004, and has coordinated a series of European research projects and international publications. He has been involved as expert in restorative justice related work in various countries and for international institutions such as the Council of Europe, European Union and United Nations. In Belgium, he has been actively involved as expert and facilitator for victims of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church during a period of 6 years. He is doing (action-)research on the relevance of restorative justice for various contexts of institutional violence and for environmental crime, as well as exploring the meaning of restorative cities. He is Co-Editor of The International Journal of Restorative Justice and General Co-Editor of The International Encyclopedia of Restorative Justice.



Dr. Annemieke Wolthuis is an independent senior consultant, researcher, trainer and mediator in the Netherlands specialized in children's rights, human rights and restorative justice. She is mainly working for Restorative Justice Nederland, but also for universities and (international) organisations. As from September 2023 she started for two days a week as a senior researcher for the Centre of Expertise Safety and Empowerment of the Applied University Avans in Den Bosch. She is also a substitute youth judge in the Court of Rotterdam. Previously she worked for the Verwey-Jonker Institute in Utrecht on European and national research projects in the field of law and for Defence for Children. She holds a PhD on restorative justice and children's rights and edited in 2022 a book with Tim Chapman on the subject: Restorative justice from a children's rights perspective. She is a member of the editorial board of the Dutch/-Flemish journal on restorative justice and for 6 years she was the vice chair of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (until June 2022).



Dr. Ian D. Marder is an Assistant Professor in Criminology, Director of Outreach and Engagement, and Deputy Director of the Research Centre for Criminology at Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology. From 2017-2018, he acted as Scientific Expert to the Council of Europe, working with the Council for Penological Cooperation to draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 concerning restorative justice in criminal matters, which was adopted in 2018. His work focuses mostly on research, policy and practice development in restorative justice and restorative practices, and more broadly in criminal justice reform.



Silvia Randazzo is an independent child justice expert, criminologist, currently engaged in a PhD at KU Leuven (Belgium), with comparative research on diversion practices with children in conflict with the law in Europe. She has been involved as researcher and project coordinator in several European and International multi-country projects, covering a range of child justice issues. As an international consultant, she has been conducting in-depth research, developing methodologies and research tools, drafting policy papers and training materials for professionals, by collaborating with several actors and NGOs active in the field, as well as with European and International organisations, such as UNODC Global Programme to End Violence against Children, and the Child Rights Unit of the Council of Europe. Silvia is strongly committed to what can and should be done to avoid unfair treatment, stigmatisation, (re)victimisation, and discrimination of children who enter in contact with the law. She is a member of the Child-Friendly Justice European Network (CFJ-EN) and co-chair of the European Forum for Restorative Justice working group on Institutional Abuse and Restorative Justice.



Mjriana Visentin is a human rights lawyer, having extensive experience as international expert on judicial reforms. In her capacity as the Council of Europe expert she has advised a number of governments on the regulation of mediation and restorative justice, including carrying out needs assessments and reviewing national legal frameworks in light of international standards, advising on complaint review and disciplinary action procedures for mediators, drafting standards for mediation rooms in courthouses in line with European Standards with a focus on protection of disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals. She has advised State members on the regulation of victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice mechanisms in respect of both adult and juvenile cases and has carried out extensive comparative analyses of victim-offender mediation regulation and practice in the Council of Europe member state (Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland, Italy, Turkey).



Pia Slögs, Master of Law and Restorative Justice, trained cross-border family mediator, has worked in mediation and restorative justice for over 20 years. Pia has worked both as a researcher and as a practitioner with victim-offender mediation, community mediation and family mediation. She has participated in building the national victim-offender mediation service in Finland and now works at the Finnish Forum for Mediation as Head of the International Programme.



Maia Chochua is a national consultant at the Council of Europe Project Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Georgia and a senior legal adviser in the EU-funded Project Advancing Reforms in the Justice Sector in Georgia. Maia is an elected Board Member of the European Forum for Restorative Justice and holds the position of Rule of Law Adviser at the DAI Europe Business Unit of Governance and Social Development. With twenty-four years of experience in justice sector reform, Maia has held senior roles within USAID and within European Union-funded projects supporting the justice sector and good governance in Georgia. Her expertise encompasses various critical areas such as judicial reform, liberalization of criminal justice policy, capacity building of criminal justice institutions, strengthening the bar association and legal aid

services, law enforcement and corrections systems, reforming the juvenile justice system, and promoting the application of restorative justice and restorative practices. Additionally, she has been instrumental in developing and implementing the Juvenile Justice Code of Georgia. Maia firmly believes that the widespread application of restorative justice and restorative practices is key to building safe societies. Furthermore, Maia is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar on Youth Violence, Safety and Justice.

Ina Verzivolli is an experienced Child Protection Specialist with more than a decade of dedicated experience championing children's rights and nurturing protective environments. Currently serving as a Child Protection Specialist at the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Ms. Verzivolli concentrates on child justice and violence prevention. Ms. Verzivolli has dedicated over five years to UNICEF. This experience gives her a deep understanding of child protection systems and policies. Her expertise extends to addressing crucial child protection issues affecting children in the region. She played a pivotal role in coordinating the implementation of Phase III of the preparatory action for the European Child Guarantee, a significant initiative aimed at tackling child poverty and social exclusion across Europe.

As the former Director of the Albanian State Agency on the Rights and Protection of the Child, she has been a tireless advocate for child rights, leading child protection reform in the country. In international circles, Ms. Verzivolli played pivotal roles in the Council of Europe, including as vice chair of the Lanzarote Committee and vice chair of the Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child. As Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child, she played a key role in creating recommendations for children's digital rights.



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