



“HEAR OUR VOICES: THE RIGHTS AND DETERMINATION OF THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD IN PARENTAL SEPARATION AND IN CARE PROCEEDINGS”

Conference

3 OCTOBER 2022



Detailed Conference
Programme



Presidency of Ireland
Council of Europe
May - November 2022
Présidence de l'Irlande
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2022





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Farmleigh House Dublin

Detailed Conference Programme

Monday 3 October

- 08:00 – 09:00** Registration in Farmleigh House
- Conference MC – Tanya Ward, Children’s Rights Alliance
- 09:00 – 09:30** Opening address by Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Address by Christophe Poirel, Director, Human Rights Directorate, Council of Europe
- 09:30 – 10:30** **Hear my Voice**
Keynote address by Lemn Sissay OBE
Fireside Chat – with young people with experience of care/family law proceedings in Ireland in conversation with Lemn Sissay
- 10:30-11:00** *Coffee Break*
- 11:00-12:00** **Balancing rights**
- Benoit Van Keirsbilck, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2021-2024
 - Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
 - Regina Jensdottir, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for the rights of the child and Head of the Children's Rights Division
 - Carol Coulter, Executive Director, Child Law Project
- 12:00-13:20** High-level plenary session 1 –
Assessing the rights and best interests of the child in the context of care proceedings
Maria Corbett, CEO Child Law Project



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
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Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker, Tusla (Child and Family Agency)
Marissa Ryan, CEO Empowering People In Care (EPIC)
Diego Gallagher, Senior Solicitor, Office of Legal Services, Tusla (Child and Family Agency)
Judge Paul Kelly, President of the District Court
Chair: Sinead Gibney, Chief Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

13:20-14:50

Lunch Break

14:50-15:20

Children's view in developing future standards on child's rights in family proceedings

Barbara Németh, Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation Hungary and CJ/ENF-ISE consultant

15:20-15:50

Evolution of the 'Best interests of the child' concept in Ireland

Dr Geoffrey Shannon SC

15:50-16:15

Coffee Break

16:15-17:30

High-level plenary session 2 –

The rights and best interests of the child in the context of parental separation and in family law

- Judge Colin Daly, Circuit Court
- Fiona McAuslan, Director of Family Mediation, Legal Aid Board
- Prof Ksenija Turković, Law Department, University of Zagreb
- Catherine Ghent, Solicitor

Chair: Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children Ireland

17:30-17:45

Closing address by Minister Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Justice

18:00-21:00

Conference dinner/social programme in the National Museum Collins Barracks



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