

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

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

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Conference Center

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High-level Launching
Conference
for the new Strategy
for the Rights of the Child
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Dipartimento
per le politiche della famiglia
Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri



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Présidence de l'Italie
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Marija Pejčinović Burić is the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the pre-eminent Pan-European international organisation in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Prior to being elected to her current position, Marija Pejčinović Burić was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, having served previously, on two occasions, as

State Secretary for EU Affairs. During her time as a Deputy in the Croatian Parliament, she chaired the delegation of the Croatia-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, headed the delegation of the Croatian Parliament to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and served on a range of foreign and European-themed committees, including in the position of Substitute Member of the Croatian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Earlier in her career, Marija Pejčinović Burić held a number of senior positions relating to the Croatia's EU accession process. She went on to be a Negotiator on several chapters in the context of Croatia's EU accession negotiations. She has written, lectured and consulted widely on European affairs, has served as a president and board member for a number of organisations and is a former Secretary General of the Europe House, Zagreb. Marija Pejčinović Burić holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Zagreb, and a Master in European Studies from the College of Europe.



Elena Bonetti, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy. Ms. Elena Bonetti is Associate Professor of Mathematical Analysis at the University of Milan. Graduated in Mathematics in 1997 at the University of Pavia, in 2002 Ms. Bonetti obtained a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Milan. She is committed to the Scout Movement and has experiences in the field of education and youth. On 5 September 2019, Ms. Bonetti was appointed as

Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family by the President of the Italian Republic. She was re-appointed on 13 February 2021.

Moderator for opening and closing



Giovanna Pancheri - A journalist and reporter for Sky Tg 24 since 2005, Pancheri covers the top political stories and Italian and international news. Born in Rome in 1980, Giovanna Pancheri began her career at Rai and in the print and communication sectors at the World Trade Center Association in New York, the UNESCO World Heritage Center in Paris, and as a Policy Officer for the European Youth Forum in Brussels. A reporter for Sky Tg24 since 2005, she was their European correspondent in Brussels from 2009 to 2016, covering the recession and migration from major countries in crisis, alongside many of the

major political events worldwide, from Brexit to the French elections, from news in Germany to the United Kingdom, from the diplomatic approach to crises in Georgia, Libya, and Ukraine, to the terrorist attacks in France and Belgium. From 2016 to 2020 she was correspondent for Sky Tg24 for North America, based in New York, and returning to Italy in January 2021. Her books include *Il buio su Parigi*. *Oltre la cronaca nei giorni del terrore* [Darkness over Paris. Going deeper than the news in days of terror] (Rubbettino 2017) and *Rinascita americana. La nazione di Donald Trump e la sfida di Joe Biden* [American Rebirth: Donald Trump's Nation and Joe Biden's Defiance.] (Sem 2021).



Tiny Kox is the current President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), elected to office in January 2022. He was born in Zeelst, Netherlands and graduated with a degree in Law from the University of Tilburg. He then worked at the Tilburg Law Centre until his election to the Tilburg municipal council in 1982. He served as leader of the local Socialist Party (SP) group in the Council until 1999. He was also General Secretary of the SP between 1993 and 2003. Mr Kox was elected to the Dutch Senate in 2003 and has been leader of the Socialist Party in the Senate since then. He has also been a member of the Dutch delegation to the PACE since 2003 and has held the roles of Vice-

President to the Assembly, General Rapporteur on the Budget and Intergovernmental Programme and Chairperson of the United European Left political group. Mr Kox lives in Tilburg and is married with two sons and three grandchildren.



Dunja Mijatović was elected Commissioner for Human Rights on 25 January 2018 by the Parliamentary Assembly and took up her position on 1 April 2018. She is the fourth Commissioner, succeeding Nils Muižnieks (2012-2018), Thomas Hammarberg (2006-2012) and Alvaro Gil-Robles (1999-2006). National of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she has been working to promote and protect human rights for the past two decades, thus acquiring extensive knowledge in the field of international monitoring, in particular as regards freedom of expression. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner for Human Rights, she has served as OSCE Representative

on Freedom of the Media (2010-2017), Director of Broadcast of the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001-2010), Chair of the European Platform of Regulatory Agencies (2007–2010) and of the Council of Europe's Group of Specialists on Freedom of Expression and Information in Times of Crisis (2005-2007). Dunja Mijatović has regularly given lectures in national and international fora and has been awarded several human rights prizes. She has also been active in supporting NGO activities in the field of human rights education and asylum.



Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou is a human rights lawyer at the Supreme Court of Greece and a consultant of the Council of Europe on human rights issues, including children's rights. She is the Chairperson of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and previously was the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Council of Europe for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) and Chairperson of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Responses to Violence against Children (CAHENF-VAC). She is also member of the Consultative Board of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) of the Council of Europe, Vice-President of the

Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Vice-Director of the Marangopoulos Foundations for Human Rights and al. member of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR). She holds a PhD (summa cum laude) from the Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and four Masters' degrees: in Family Law, Faculty of Law, University of Strasbourg (mention Très Bien), in Civil Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens (first-class honours), in International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens and in Labour Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens (first-class honours). She is the author or co-author of around 40 publications on human rights issues, including the book "The individual application under the European Convention on human Rights: Procedural guide", Council of Europe Editions, 2019 (co-authored with L.-A. Sicilianos, former President of the European Court of Human Rights).

High-level plenary session II – Member states and international organisations / INGOs



Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, a medical doctor in paediatrics, has over the last three decades devoted her life to the promotion and protection of children's rights. She was Head of the Paediatric Department and Director of the Hay Hassani Mother-Child hospital in Casablanca. Dr. M'jid was a member of the Moroccan National Council on Human Rights and founder of the non-governmental organization Bayti, the first programme addressing the situation of children living and working in the streets of Morocco. From 2008 to 2014, she served as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Dr. M'jid also worked as an Expert-Consultant for national and international projects, strategies and policies relating to child rights' promotion and protection. She has vast

experience in the development of national policies on the protection of the child, and has worked with several governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations. She also worked as a lecturer in Moroccan and international universities on child rights' protection, promotion, programming and monitoring, as well as social and development policies. A member of several regional and international non-governmental organizations and networks working for children's rights, Dr. M'jid was also involved in the training of social workers, law enforcement, teachers, judges and medical staff. Dr. M'jid holds a Doctorate in general medicine from the University of Rabat, a specialization in paediatrics and neonatology from the University of Bordeaux II and a Master's of Human Rights from the Human Rights Institute, Geneva. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honours for her strong commitment to protecting the rights of the child.



Afshan Khan is the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and the Special Coordinator for the Refuge and Migrant Response in Europe. She is based in Geneva. Ms. Khan has been an international public servant for over 30 years. Previously she was the Director of Emergency Programmes for UNICEF, and she has also held other senior positions including Director of Public-Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization; Associate Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa; and the UNICEF Representative in Jamaica. Ms. Khan has extensive field experience including assignments in Kenya; Mozambique; Democratic Republic of Congo; and Colombia. She also has broad United Nations-wide expertise stemming from assignments with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (IASC) in Geneva; the Executive

Office of the Secretary-General; and the United Nations Development Group. From 2012 to 2014 Ms. Khan took leave from the United Nations to become the CEO of Women for Women International. In that role, she was responsible for setting the strategic vision and mobilizing the necessary resources for women rebuilding their lives after war. Ms. Khan was born in Hyderabad, India, and grew up in Montreal, Canada. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from McGill University



Benoit Van Keirsbilck is the Director of the Belgian section of Defence for Children – International (DCI). He is Chief Editor of the Journal of Children's Law (Belgium) and member of the Advisory board of the UN Global Study on children deprived of liberty. He has been elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2021-2024).



Theoni Koufonikolakou is the Greek Deputy Ombudswoman for children's rights and the Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC). As an attorney at law, she has worked on human rights protection and domestic violence tackling cases. She has cooperated with NGOs providing legal aid to vulnerable populations. Furthermore, she has worked with the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) as a researcher and instructor in adult education, and the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI) in family protection cases. She is currently a PhD candidate with the Law School of the University of Athens and she holds a

Master's degree in Sociology.



Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca was the ninth President of Malta, after being active in politics for forty years and serving in parliament for 16 years. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Law and Humanities as Notary Public from the University of Malta. She was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University of Warwick, UK, and an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Leicester, UK. She has dedicated her life to the wellbeing of the most vulnerable in society, and contributed to

bring about effective changes in the social policies of Malta. Her major achievements while President of Malta include the setting up of The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, The Malta Trust Foundation, and the Emanuele Cancer Research Foundation Malta – foundations that she chairs. In April 2019, she was elected President of Eurochild, a pan-European network of children's rights organisations with over 176 members from over 34 countries. She is an internationally acclaimed speaker covering various areas, including children's rights, women, and vulnerable groups including migration. She is a Member of the Council of World Women Leaders; Adviser to Women Political Leaders; Patron and Ambassador of the International Girl2Leader Campaign; and, an Honorary Member of the Società Italiana di Storia della Medicina. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca is a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, a Champion for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDAlII) and a UNWTO Special Ambassador for Sustainable Tourism.



Maud de Boer-Buquicchio is Chair of ECPAT International since February 2022. She is a Dutch and Italian citizen, graduated at Leiden University (master's in law). She began her career at the Council of Europe in 1969 at the European Commission of Human Rights and was elected Deputy Registrar to the European Court of Human Rights in 1998. Between 2002 and 2012, she served as Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. From 2014-2020 she was the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children. Throughout her mandates, she has focused her work on the fight against discrimination and violence, and the

promotion of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, especially children. As DSG of the Council of Europe, she has spearheaded the development and adoption of three key Council of Europe Conventions, namely, the Convention on action against trafficking in human beings, the Convention on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. She launched the first Council of Europe programme "Building a Europe for and with children", advocating for a holistic and integrated approach towards the issue of eliminating all forms of violence against children and respect for children's rights. Her function as UN Special Rapporteur articulated around country visits and thematic surveys, addressing root causes and proposing institutional, policy and legislative responses to prevent and address the sale and sexual exploitation of children in its different manifestations. She is involved in the governance of numerous international child rights' related organisations and acts as consultant for various research projects. She has extensively published and given lectures in the above areas.

Plenary session and dialogue – “A Strategy adapted to a new reality: children in crisis and emergency situations”

Moderator



Jeroen Schokkenbroek studied law at the University of Leiden (The Netherlands) where he lectured in Constitutional and Administrative Law until 1993. Other past functions in that period include: President of the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists, representative of the ICJ with the Council of Europe and editor-in-chief of the Netherlands Human Rights Law Journal (NJCM-Bulletin). Since 1993, he has held various functions in the Council of Europe Secretariat, mostly in the field of Human Rights, including that of Head of the Human Rights Development Department and Head of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights. In November 2010, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues. From October 2013 to February 2014,

he also acted as Director ad interim of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation in the Directorate General of Democracy. He subsequently served as Special Adviser of the Secretary General for Ukraine until 1 July 2014, when he was appointed Executive Secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). Since June 2018, Mr Schokkenbroek is Director of Anti-Discrimination in the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe. Mr Schokkenbroek has published various books and articles in the field of human rights and constitutional law.



Elena Botezatu is a lawyer, currently leading the International Center La Strada Moldova. Her main areas of expertise include policy and legal research, project coordination, development and implementation of training programs, particularly for law enforcement representatives and teachers. She set the basis of the Issues Affecting Children Program, within La Strada, being responsible for ongoing monitoring of all activities related to the prevention and early intervention towards online child sexual exploitation of children, protection, and justice for children, victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, advocacy work, and capacity building activities for various professionals. Elena is the author of several thematic research on child safety online and online child

sexual exploitation of children.



Artur Degteariov is a Head of Section in the Police of the Republic of Moldova, responsible for the investigation of cybercrimes, in particular online child sexual exploitation and abuse. He has been with the unit since its establishment and has held a number of management positions over the years. He has also been instrumental in scaling up police operations for online crimes involving children. Artur currently serves as the member of the

Lanzarote Committee on behalf of the Republic of Moldova and has frequently represented the Committee at various events. He has also worked as an independent expert with a wide range of national and international structures on developing and providing training to prosecutors, judges, and law-enforcement professionals.

Theme I: Children in crisis and emergency situations - Strengthening child protection systems to safeguard children's rights

Moderator A: Ensuring children's access to quality mental health services

See page 5 - Bio of Ms Theoni Koufonikolakou, Chairperson of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)



Dainius Pūras is a professor of child and adolescent psychiatry and public mental health at Vilnius University, Lithuania. He is also a director of the Human rights monitoring institute – NGO based in Lithuania. Among positions he was holding, Dainius Pūras was a President of Lithuanian Psychiatric Association and Dean of Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University. Dainius Pūras was a member of the UN Committee on the rights of the child (2007-2011) and a UN Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health (2014-2020). Dainius Pūras has been and remains actively involved in national and international activities in the field of developing and implementing evidence-based and human rights based

health-related policies and services, with special focus on children, persons with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions and other groups in vulnerable situations and issues related to promotion of mental health and prevention of all forms of violence. His main interest is management of change in the field of health-related services regionally and globally, with main focus on operationalization of human rights-based approach through effective policies and services.



David Anthony, joined the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti from UNICEF New York where he worked managing policy analysis between 2010-17 and prior to this in New York DOC where he supervised the development of UNICEF's flagship publications and The State of the World's Children team (2004-2010). David has extensive experience in managerial and strategy development, partnerships and engagement at setting policy agendas and in translating them into practical action and results. Throughout his career he has successfully brought fresh thinking and strategies to some of the world's leading organizations, including the EU

and The Economist. David holds a Master of Science in Economics, University of London and Bachelor of Arts in Economics, University of East Anglia.



Mark Bale is a Senior Civil Servant with responsibilities for genomic science policy particularly genomic medicine and pathogen genomics. He was the Programme Director for the 100,000 Genomes Project. Since 2015 he has been partly seconded to Genomics England Ltd as Head of Science Partnerships supporting strategy, collaborations and public engagement. His responsibilities are for policy on emerging healthcare science areas and their ethical, legal and policy implications. This includes regenerative medicine, gene therapy, genome editing, rare diseases and bioethics. He also had professional and management responsibility for scientists in the wider Department. He represents the UK on bioethics, genomics, and biotechnology at international committees, including work on the EU 1+M Genomes Initiative. He was Chair of the Committee on Bioethics at the

Council of Europe from 2014-2016. Mark has a research background in microbial genetics and joined the Department of Health in 1999 after post-doctoral research on the safety of GMOs and pathogens.

Moderator B: Recognising and enforcing children’s environmental rights



Krista Oinonen is Director of the Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. She has gained over 20 years of experience in international human rights law. Oinonen is the Vice-Chairperson of the Council of Europe’s Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and has chaired many drafting groups under the Steering Committee. Oinonen has served in the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN Offices in Geneva in 2008-2011 and worked at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2004-2007. She has received her Master’s degree in Law from the University of Lapland in 1998 and joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1999.



Philip D. Jaffé is a full professor at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and the founding director of its Center for Children’s Rights Studies (CIDE) (2008-2020). In 2018, he was elected to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and Vice-Chair in 2021. He coordinated the completion of General Comment 25 on Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment. Currently, he co-coordinates the Working group on General Comment 26 on Children’s Rights and the Environment. A clinical and a forensic

psychologist trained in Switzerland and in the USA, his academic and professional activities have focused on the protection of the child, in particular concerning sexual abuse, and the participation of children. Still a practicing licensed psychotherapist and a court-appointed expert witness, he has also conducted clinical and training consultancies for a wide range of humanitarian organizations, both governmental and non-governmental. Beyond the traditional "teach, research, publish or perish missions" required by a leading university, his vision of academic life is to branch out in the community at large as a science practitioner and educator.



Joe O'Reilly is Deputy Speaker of the Irish Senate and Member of the Sub-Committee on Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Mr O'Reilly has been a Teacher for more than 20 years. In the past 3 years has been actively involved in the Parliamentary Assembly pilot initiative on child participation, with particular focus on reports on "The right to be heard – Child participation: a foundation for democratic societies" (Rapporteur: Baroness Massey, United Kingdom, SOC) and "Inaction on climate change – a violation of children’s rights" (Rapporteur: Ms De Temmerman, France, ALDE). In this context, O'Reilly worked closely with Foróige, Youth Development Organisation, Ireland.

O'Reilly is Outgoing Vice-President of the Council of Europe EPP Grouping, Former Vice President of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe, and Leader of Irish Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe 2009-2020. He is a Member of the Irish Senate for a Third Term, Member of Dáil Éireann 2011 – 2016, Former Member of Cavan County Council, and Mayor of County Cavan 2004 - 2005. He is also Senate Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Trade, Member of Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Member of Seanad Special Committee on The Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. Mr O'Reilly has a MA hons degree from University College Dublin, a Higher Diploma In Education from Trinity College Dublin, a Diploma in Primary Education from St Patrick’s College Drumcondra and a Diploma In Law from the Dublin Institute of Education.



Carles Lopez Rico is the President of Platform of Children’s Organizations of Spain as well as a Board member and responsible for supporting institutional relations in Third Sector Platform (both position since November 2019). Prior to joining of Platform of Children’s Organizations 2019, Carles worked as President and Head of political Advocacy in State Confederation of Student Associations (CANAE), as well as Member of the Board of Director (Scientific Journal “Educational Participation”) and Member of the permanent Board (State school in the Council), both position in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. Carles has a Master’s degree in Constitutional Law as well as on Parliamentary law, Elections and legislative studies. He is currently enrolled in a Doctorate in Constitutional Law (UNED). He participated in publications, conferences and courses related to challenges for public law in the improvement of social rights, participation process for empowerment ad educational matters.

Plenary session – Reporting back from day 1

Moderator



A graduate of Political Science and Political Philosophy from the Universities of Sofia (BG) and York (UK), **Irena Guidikova** has been working at the Council of Europe since 1994. She founded in 2008 the Intercultural cities programme and was the coordinator of the World Forum for Democracy between 2013 and 2017. She then led the cooperation programmes on anti-discrimination and inclusion at the Council and is currently Head of the Children’s rights and Sport Values Department.

Theme II: Child participation –Empowering children and overcoming obstacles to their right to participate

Moderator A: Promoting legal clinics as a means of strengthening children’s access to Justice



While serving as Ireland's representative on the Council of Europe's Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ), **Seamus Carroll** acted as Chair of the group of specialists that drafted the Council of Europe's Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice. He is currently chairing the committee of experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE).



Professor Ursula Kilkelly of the School of Law, University College Cork, has been researching children’s rights for over two decades, publishing extensively on legal enforcement and implementation at national and international levels. Her work focuses on children’s access to justice and experience of the justice system and she has a strong interest in the advancement of children’s rights through strategic litigation. In 2010, Ursula founded the Child Law Clinic at UCC, as a student led research service that supports lawyers and others to promote children’s rights and provide children with access to remedies. The Clinic has supported applicants before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Social Rights Committee as well as making submissions on law reform and advocacy. The Clinic is now taken by students on the LLM Children’s Rights and Family Law at UCC.



Dr. Antonios St. Stylianou studied Law at the University of Bristol, where he received his LL.B Law Degree with Honours in 2003. He pursued his doctoral studies in the field of International Law and Human Rights at the School of Law of the University of Kent where he was awarded his Ph.D. He has taught Law in London, before returning to Cyprus and appointed as a Lecturer in Law at the University of Nicosia. Dr Stylianou’s research interests concentrate in the fields of International Law, Law of the Sea, Human Rights and Rights of the Child, European Law, Terrorism, Energy Law (Oil and Gas) and the Law of international organizations. He has participated in a great number of international, regional and local conferences on the areas of his concentration and has presented a number of articles and speeches. He was a Member of the Steering Committee in Cyprus of the Council of Europe in the implementation of the “One in Five” Campaign for the promotion of the Lanzarote Convention. He is a Member in various National Committees, including the Geopolitics Council of the Republic of Cyprus. Dr. Stylianou is the national rapporteur for Cyprus on various European Union projects on human rights. He is currently the President of the Cyprus Ports Authority, having been appointed by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus, while at the same time a Lecturer in Law at the University of Nicosia and the Director of the Law Clinic of the University since 2009. Dr Stylianou has written extensively on issues relating to the Rights of the Child, Energy, Security, Geopolitics, Law et al. He is a member of various national and international associations and committees relating to his discipline.



Maartje Berger is Legal Advisor Children Rights and Child Protection at Defence for Children – The Netherlands and an expert on the implementation of children’s rights in youth law. As a researcher, project coordinator, trainer and lobbyist she regularly works together with children and young adults/experienced experts on topics such as child participation, deprivation of liberty and youth care. Recently Maartje worked with a broad team of European NGO’s in the EU project Focus on my needs. Working together for children in criminal proceedings about the implementation of the right of child victims and child suspects to an individual assessment. Furthermore, Maartje Berger is an independent mediator in penal cases (MfN registration), member of a complaints committee of a youth care organisation.

Moderator B: Understanding the challenges faced by the children as defenders of human rights



Jana Hainsworth joined Eurochild as Secretary General in January 2006. Eurochild is the key civil society network promoting children’s rights and well-being in Europe, bringing together almost 200 members from across 35 countries. Jana has extensive experience and expertise in EU advocacy, social policy, child protection, children’s rights and participation, as well as organisational development. Between 2015 – 2019 Jana served as President of Social Platform, uniting European civil society networks fighting for social justice and participatory democracy. Prior to joining Eurochild Jana worked in private consultancy in the field of communications and policy research in the social and environmental fields. She has also coordinated a network of youth long-term volunteer organisations in Europe. She has a Master’s degree in environment, development and policy and a bachelor degree in Natural Sciences. She has Belgian and British nationality and two daughters.



Michel Forst has extensive experience in the field of human rights, particularly with respect to human rights defenders, the rights of the child and extreme poverty. He has held a number of leading positions in the field of human rights, including the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, of which he was a member and then Secretary General for more than 10 years. He was Director General of Amnesty International, Director General of the League Against Cancer, Secretary General of Cimade (Inter-Movement Committee for Evacuees), Chief of Staff at UNESCO and Secretary General of the First World Summit on human rights defenders of human rights (Paris). From 2008 to 2013, Mr Forst was Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on

the situation of human rights in Haiti, and from 2012 to 2013, he was Chair of the Coordinating Committee of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. In June 2014, the President of the Human Rights Council appointed Mr Michel Forst, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. In March 2017 he was reappointed for a second and last term until 2020. Michel Forst has visited more than 60, countries in his capacity as UN Special Rapporteur at the invitation of UN member states or at the invitation of universities, cultural centers and CSOs. In his capacity he has held numerous meetings with ministers and state institutions in the capitals or with ambassadors in Geneva and New York to discuss the situation of human rights defenders. He has presented numerous country and thematic reports before the UN Human Rights Council and the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly.



Alex Conte is Executive Director at Child Rights Connect, the largest global network of national, regional and international organizations and coalitions working to promote and defend children’s rights. Alex has over 20 years’ experience as a human rights lawyer and advocate. He is on the editorial board of the International Journal of Children’s Rights. Alex has worked as a criminal law barrister, with international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and in academia as a professor of international law and human rights. He is an adjunct professor at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.



Konstantinos Papachristou is a Human Rights advocate, currently studying Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. He is the founder of the 1st online think tank for teenagers in Greece, Teens4greece, the 1st online think tank for youth in his country. He has gained vast experience by being involved and holding leadership positions with various international organizations and projects such as OECD, the United Nations, Covidunder19, Eurochild, Child Rights Connect, the Council of

Europe, and the State of Youth, while also being a Member of the Board of Directors for the Learning for Wellbeing Foundation.



Ms Sayek Böke graduated from the Economics Department of Ankara's Middle East Technical University in 1993. She got her M.A. and Ph.D from Duke University in 1996 and 1999, respectively. After working as an Economist at IMF, she held faculty positions at Bentley College between 1999-2001 as Assistant Professor, at Georgetown University in 2003 as adjunct professor, at Bilkent University between 2003-2014 as Associate Professor. She chaired the Department of Economics at Bilkent University from 2011 until she left academia to stand for parliamentary elections in 2015. She was elected to the Party Assembly of the Republican People's Party (CHP) of Turkey in 2014 and has been re-elected up to date and is currently a

Member of the Party Assembly. She served as the Deputy Chair responsible for Economic Policy from 2014 through 2017, served as the Party Spokesperson from 2016 through 2017, and since 2020 is the Secretary General of CHP. She has been elected as Member of Parliament, representing İzmir in both 2015 and 2018 parliamentary elections and is currently a Member of the Turkish Parliament. She is currently a member of the national delegation of Turkey at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where she serves as the First Vice Chairperson of the Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group and the Chairperson for the Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development Committee.



Brigitte van den Berg (Netherlands, ILDG) is a member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and its Rapporteur on children's participation. In this capacity, Ms van den Berg developed a booklet for children and guidelines for local and regional authorities aimed at increasing children's participation in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2010, at 20 years old, Brigitte van den Berg became one of the youngest locally elected officials in her home country of the Netherlands. Brigitte van den Berg is currently Alderman in the municipality of Beverwijk in the Netherlands, responsible for labour market, poverty, mobility, culture and education.

Theme III: Children and technologies - Ensuring the protection of the rights of the child in a fast-evolving technological context

Moderator A: Protecting children from online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

See page 8 - Bio of Mr Philip D. Jaffé, Member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)



Maria José Castello Branco is the vice chair of the Lanzarote Committee and a legal advisor at the cabinet of European Affairs from the Ministry of Justice in Lisbon, Portugal. She is also a member of the European network of the rights of the children.



Susie Hargreaves joined the IWF in 2011 as CEO. She is a Director of the UK Safer Internet Centre, a member of the National Crime Agency (NCA CEOP) Strategic Governance Group and an Executive Board Member of the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCCIS). Outside the UK, Susie is a Member of the World Economic Forum Global Coalition for Digital Safety, the International Justice Mission (IJM) Advisory Board and member of the 'Together to #ENDviolence: Leaders' Group'. Susie was a founder Board Member of the

WePROTECT Global Alliance. In 2016, Susie was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for Services to Child Online Protection.



Professor Ernesto Caffo is a Senior Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia). As today, he also covers the role of: Associate Professor at Yale Child Study Center; Member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors; Member of the Board of International Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He is also the founder

and the President of SOS – Il Telefono Azzurro Onlus and President of Foundation Child. Over his professional career, he has been a prominent figure in the studying and research of children's mental health. For over 20 years, he has organized with Foundation Child the International Training Research Seminar in Child and Adolescent psychiatry. Since 2000, he has covered several institutional roles in major psychiatry associations. From 2000 to 2006 he was Vice President of IACAPAP (International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions), from 2001 to 2004 Vice President of SINPIA (Società Italiana di Neuropsichiatria dell'Infanzia e dell'Adolescenza), from 2003 to 2007 President of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP). Moreover, since 2005 he is Member of the Board of ERICE NGO (Empowerment and Resilience in Children Everywhere) and Honorary Member of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). His first organization, foundation Telefono Azzurro, has been working for over 30 years in defense of children and adolescents. The association was created to listen to children's requests for help, a concrete response to the "right to be heard" recognized to the child by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Today, Telefono Azzurro manages a helpline (19696) and two hotlines (Childhood Emergency service 114 and 116000 Missing Children). In particular, the Emergency number 114 is available in 20 languages - included Ukrainian. It promotes prevention initiatives, through education

and awareness projects for students, educators, the public and policymakers. The Foundation works in an international setting to promote a culture of rights, cooperating with organizations and networks in activities of research, advocacy, and exchange of good practices. As underpinning of the organization there is the importance to help and to listen to children, for this reason Telefono Azzurro is particularly sensible to new challenges that may affect the younger generation.

Moderator B: Artificial intelligence: maximising opportunities while minimising risks



Vasiliki Charisi is a Research Scientist and a digital transformation and innovation Policy Officer at the European Commission's Joint Research Center, with a focus on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on Human Behaviour 14mphasizing on child development. Working at the intersection of Research and Policy, she combines an on-ground empirical user interaction research background, with qualitative and quantitative methods with children in Europe, Africa, Asia and in the United States and a global policy perspective on Human-centric design of intelligent technologies. Her activities involve collaborations with academia, International Organisations (UNICEF, IEEE) and Industry (HONDA Research Institute, LEGO). The outcomes of her studies and professional activities appear as scientific publications and policy reports as well as in the form of concrete interventions in product (robots) design. Vicky Charisi has an interdisciplinary background and she completed her PhD studies at the UCL, Institute of Education, UK. She currently serves as a Chair at the IEEE Technical Committee of Computational Intelligence, Cognitive and Developmental Systems, Task Force on Developmental Interactive Systems, and she has been featured in the list of 50 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics Hall of Fame for her activities in 2020.



Denise Amram, PhD in Law, is Assistant Professor of Private Comparative Law at LIDER Lab - DIRPOLIS Institute, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (SSSA). Coordinator of [the Permanent Observatory on Personal Injury Damages](#) and of the research line [ETHOS \(ETHics and law with and fOR reSearch\)](#), steering committee member of [Predictive Justice](#) project, and co-coordinator of the research line Family Law, she participates to several research projects funded under national and EU programs (e.g. [VALKYRIES](#), [LeADS](#)) and she serves as legal-ethical advisor for several research projects including sensitive data. Affiliate Researcher at the [EMbeDS Department of Excellence](#), she serves as honorary fellow at the University of Pisa. Adjunct lecturer for PhD, graduate and undergraduate courses on Data Protection, Family and Child Law, Ethics and AI, Private Law, Health Law, Comparative Private Law at SSSA, she enriched her experience undertaking teaching and/or research activities both in Italy (University of Pisa, University of Ferrara) and abroad, including France (Université Panthéon-Assas and Université Panthéon-Sorbonne), The Netherlands (Utrecht University), Ireland (University College Dublin), Malta (University of Malta), and USA (Columbia Law School, Harvard Law School Library). She authored / co-authored ~110 publications in Italian, French, English, and Spanish, including a [book](#) and 2 co-editions. Since 2010 Denise is attorney at the State Bar of Pisa, in 2020 she also received the ISO certified UNI 11697:2017 as Data Protection Officer. In 2018-2021 she served as Data Protection Officer at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and Scuola Normale Superiore as well. Her **research interests** include fundamental rights protection in the fields of data protection law, family law, tort and contractual liability in a national, EU, and comparative perspective.



Leanda Barrington-Leach is Head of European Affairs at the 5Rights Foundation, an international NGO fighting for systemic change that ensures the digital world caters for children and young people by design and default. 5Rights has three areas of work: data and privacy, child-centred design and children's rights. Leanda is based in Brussels, and was previously Adviser to the Secretary General of the European External Action Service focused on Strategic Communication and the fight against Disinformation.



Alisha Arora is an ambitious 15-year-old on a mission to leverage technology for good, Alisha serves as a UNICEF youth ambassador for technology and mental health. She is currently the youngest researcher at MIT's AI lab to diagnose mental illness and is working towards detecting suicidal ideation in social media content to prevent suicide with the support of Microsoft. As an ardent philanthropist she founded her own non-profit organization, The HopeSisters. Their passion for supporting children in foster care has led them to gain recognition on national television and from government officials.



Alain Berthoz is Emeritus Professor at the Collège de France (Chair of Physiology) former Director of the Perception and Action. Lab. CNRS / Collège de France). Engineer (Ecole des Mines. Nancy), he is an expert in Biomechanics, Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience Specialist of the physiology of multisensory integration, spatial orientation, the vestibular system, the oculomotor system, locomotion, and spatial memory. He has studied the neural mechanisms of eye movements, posture and locomotion, multisensory integration, spatial memory. He pioneered use of intracellular recordings in animal, functional MRI in humans and intracranial EEG neural recordings in patients. He has worked on of sensory-motor and cognitive pathologies in children and adults, and cognitive functions including recently psychiatric diseases (Schizophrenia, Autism, Alzheimer, Mild cognitive disorders, Cerebral Palsy etc.) and the neural basis of empathy. He has recently designed new paradigms for the study of the interaction with virtual avatars and the question of the neural basis of autoscapy and heautoscopy. He has been at the origin of the technical development of a number of biomedical equipments, motion capture, haptic force-feedback devices, eye movement measurement, virtual reality for the study of navigation and virtual avatars. He has worked with Japanese and European groups on neuro-inspired projects on humanoids (NEUROROBOTICS, ROBOSOM, ROMEO, KOROIBOT etc..). His lab has participated in more than 10 spaceflights on the MIR Station, SPACELAB and International Space Station for the study of the influence of gravity on perception, equilibrium and motor control. He has had also number of cooperations with humanities and social sciences on the "Art of memory " (a book with the Historian John Scheid on Pétrarque), artists (a recent book in press on Geometries of the brain and their expression in Arts), on Rethorics (with E Danblon from the chair of Rethorics in Bruxels), with Painters (Fabienne Verdier with a publication in press), with specialist of literature (two books with Carlo Ossola), with Philosophers (One book with Jean Luc Petit on Phenomenology a) and one edited book with Claude Debru from Ecole Normale Supérieure on Prediction and anticipation), with a specialist of the History of Theatre (Co-direction of a Thesis on the Biomechanics of Meyerhold with B Picon-Valin), with anthropologists (a symposium on Spatial reference frames with Philippe Descola), and a co-directed thesis with sociologists (Eric Brian and Marie Jaisson on violent gestures). He published more than 300 papers in International journals. Gave plenary lectures at many major conferences. He is a member of the French Academy of sciences and the Academy of Technologies, Academia Europe, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Belgium

Royal Academy of Medicine, Academy of Medicine of Bulgaria, International Academy of Astronautics. He has received several international prizes for his research. Recently he has obtained the Castang Price of the European Society of Child neurology (2015), the Hallpike-Nylén price for Patho-physiology of the vestibular system (2016), he has been elected recently at the Royal Belgium Academy of Sciences and Humanities (2016), and the Honoris Causa title of University of Salerno (2016). He is Officier de l'Ordre du Mérite, Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, Commandatore of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.



President Robert Spano was born in Reykjavik in 1972. He graduated with a Candidatus Juris Degree in Law from the University of Iceland in 1997. He subsequently read for a Magister Juris Degree in European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford (University College) graduating in 2000 with distinction. At Oxford, Robert Spano was awarded the Clifford Chance Prize (proxime accessit) for his scholastic achievements as well as the Civil Procedure Prize. After graduating in 1997, Robert Spano was appointed Deputy District Court Judge in the District Court of Reykjanes, serving in that role until 1998 when he became a Legal Advisor in the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Iceland. After his post-graduate studies at Oxford University, he was appointed Special Assistant to the Ombudsman serving in that role until 2004. From 2004 to 2013, Robert Spano was a full-time legal scholar in the Law Faculty of the University of Iceland, first an Associate Professor of Law and then, from 2006, a Professor of Law, serving as Vice-Dean of the Faculty from 2007-2010 and then elected Dean from 2010 until his election as a Judge of the European Court of Human Rights in 2013. He has written extensively in the fields of statutory interpretation, human rights law, constitutional law, as well as criminal law and criminal procedure. Robert Spano has published three books and approximately 80 articles and book chapters. He is an acknowledged expert in the field of digital rights, the internet and business and human rights having lectured widely on these topics in recent years. From 2009 to 2010, Robert Spano took leave of absence as a Law Professor and was provisionally appointed Parliamentary Ombudsman of Iceland by the Presidium of Parliament. He was again appointed Parliamentary Ombudsman in 2013 and served in that role before taking up his office in Strasbourg on 1 November 2013. Robert Spano chaired various commissions and expert committees in Iceland. He drafted numerous bills adopted by Parliament, primarily in the field of criminal law. He was appointed Chairman of the Standing Committee of Experts on Criminal Law of the Ministry of Justice in 2003-2008 and again in 2011-2013. In 2007, the Prime Minister of Iceland appointed Robert Spano as Chairman of a Special Commission entrusted with investigating human rights abuses in municipal and state childcare institutions from 1947-1992. In 2011, the General Assembly of the State Church of Iceland appointed him Chairman of its Commission mandated to investigate allegations of sexual abuse by the former Bishop of Iceland. Robert Spano, an expert on children's rights, was an expert to the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe in 2012 and also the Icelandic member of the European Committee on Crime Problems of the Council of Europe from 2012-2013. In 2012, he was appointed Iceland's ad hoc judge in the EFTA Court. Having been elected a Judge of the European Court of Human Rights on 25 June 2013, Robert Spano began his 9-year mandate on 1 November of the same year. He served as President of Section from 1 May 2017 until 30 April 2019 and as Vice-President of the Court from 5 May 2019 until 17 May 2020. He has been President of the Court since 18 May 2020.

Theme IV: National strategies for the prevention of violence against children - Addressing the blind spots

Moderator A: Strengthening inter-agency collaboration



Elona Boski leads on the European Social Network (ESN) partnership with the European Commission. In her role, she manages the policy team in relation to all thematic policies and coordinates the specific EU policy 'Children, Families and Youth Support'. Elona has long-standing experience in the field of (EU) asylum acquis and good knowledge in several areas of migration management thanks to her professional experiences mainly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), European Council and Refugees (ECRE), Odysseus Academic Network and postgraduate studies. In recent years, her focus of work was to effectively ensure the protection of children in migration including asylum-seeking and refugee children from violations of their rights.



Olivia Lind Haldorsson is a children's rights advocate who has been working in the field of children's rights and child protection for 25 years. She currently holds the position as Senior Adviser and Head of the Children at Risk Unit at the Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat (childrenatrisk.cbss.org). In 2014 she co-founded 'Child Circle', a Brussels-based NGO focusing on strengthening national child protection systems. Olivia has played a central role in the Promise project, which promotes the establishment of Barnahus and excellence in practice to hear, assist and support child victims and witnesses of violence (www.barnahus.eu). She is the author of the Barnahus Quality Standards and other practical tools to support Barnahus. She has also worked as an independent expert with a wide range of stakeholders on strategic advocacy initiatives and regional projects in the field of children's rights and child protection. Prior to that she worked with Save the Children International EU Office.



Dr. Carla Garlatti was born in Udine on 20 May 1957. In 1981 she graduated with honors in Law from the University of Padua and in 1986 she became judge. With respect to experience in the judicial field, from 1987 to 1994 she held the office of judge at the Udine Court, with specific competence in the field of family law, bankruptcy and company law. From November 1994 to November 1995 she was Judge in the criminal field at the Court of Milan. Then from 1996 to 2001 she served as Judge in the civil field at the Court of Venice, and she was also Vice-President of the Court of Assizes of Venice. From 2001 to 2008 she held the office of Judge in the civil field at the Court of Padua, with specific competence in family law, succession, rights in rem and protection of incapacitated persons. Subsequently, from 2008 to 2010, she was Adviser in the civil sector at the Venice Court of Appeal, with specific competence in matters of professional responsibility, intellectual property and patents, in addition to the application to the Section for Minors. From 2011 to 2016 she served as Judge in charge of the Ministry of Justice Legislative Office and in 2017 she became President of the Juvenile Court of Trieste. As regards further relevant experience, from 2011 to 2013 Dr. Garlatti was a member of the Commission, chaired by Professor Cesare Massimo Bianca, established at the Department for Family Policies "to study legal issues relating to family and draft of proposals for amendments to the relevant rules and also in order to

provide scientific technical support for the conclusion of the approval process of the draft law on the recognition of natural children and the development of draft legislative decrees delegated". In 2013 she was also a member of the delegation that participated in the mission in Palestinian Territories to provide "Technical assistance to the establishment of a Human Rights Unit at the Ministry of Justice" with a specific focus on family law. Moreover, she held the role of delegate to the negotiation in Brussels on the "proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters" and she has been the point of contact for "Network of judicial cooperation between the legislative offices of the Ministries of Justice of EU countries" (LEGICOOP). During the Italian Presidency of the European Union Council, she was President of the table that led the negotiations on "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1346/2000 on insolvency proceedings". She worked as a representative of the Ministry of Justice within the technical committee for the evaluation of European Union acts pursuant to art. 19 of Law 234/2012 and, with appointment occurred in 2013, she was part of the "Evaluation Group of Acts of the European Union" (provided for by art. 20 of Law 234/2012). In 2014 she was chosen as a member of the National Observatory for Childhood and Adolescence established by Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy with responsibility for family policies. In 2018, in Podgorica, Montenegro, she carried out training activities on the international aspects of family law addressed to Montenegrin judges in the framework of the project "EU Support for the Rule of Law II". In 2019, again in Podgorica, Montenegro, she provided training to Montenegrin judges on international judicial cooperation-protection of children's rights under the project "EU Support for the Rule of Law II". On 13 November 2020 she was appointed Italian Authority for Children and Adolescents. According to the Founding Law provisions, the Authority is an independent institution that has the task of promoting the rights of children and adolescents. In particular, the Authority expresses opinions on legislative proposals and government acts in this field and report to institutions the initiatives to be taken to ensure children rights' protection.



Andrej Del Fabro is the head of the Department for Child Friendly Criminal Justice at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia and a project manager for the implementation of the Barnahus model in Slovenia. Before that he worked as the Director-General of Family Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia and as a policy adviser in the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. He has a university degree in sociology - human resource management and a master's degree in political sciences. He is a former member of the Council of Europe Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child and the Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Children and Families.



Lucía Losoviz - Experience of more than 20 years in International NGO, rights of the child, advocacy, international cooperation, and humanitarian aid. Advanced knowledge in management and human rights, with a degree in Economics, Executive MBA, Master in Development and International Cooperation. She has held positions as Country Coordinator in Argentina and, later, head of the Department of Cooperation and Humanitarian Action at Save the Children Spain. She has worked as a consultant on human rights, child protection, and policies at Espirales Consultoría de Infancia. Until she was appointed General Director for Rights of Children and Adolescents at the Ministry for Social Rights and 2030 Agenda in Spain, she held the position of Head of Local Policies for Children and Participation at UNICEF Spain. She has coordinated and written various publications and guidelines on children's rights. She has participated as an expert in numerous conferences, seminars

and training courses.

Moderator B: Comprehensive and age-appropriate sexuality education for preventing violence



Elda Moreno is a human Rights lawyer with an expertise in children's rights, gender equality, environmental law and sport policies. She counts over 25 years of experience in international organisations leading teams and developing legal standards, public policies, programmes and campaigns in the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Elda designed two major transversal programmes in the Council of Europe on Gender Equality and the Programme "Building a Europe for and with Children", her strong expertise in advocacy and communication includes 15 years' experience as a speechwriter for high profile figures and the conceptualisation of several campaigns to fight violence against children. As the Head of Children's Rights and Sport Values Department (2016-2022), she was responsible for the European programmes for the protection of children's rights, the promotion of human rights in and through sports as well as for the fight against doping, match fixing and violence in sport. From 2014 to 2016, she was the Director of the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children in NY. Before joining the Council of Europe in 1995, she was an attorney in Spain specialised in human rights. She is currently on a sabbatical from the Council of Europe working as a consultant and writing fiction. Elda holds a law degree and speaks Spanish, English, French and German.



Thordis Elva Thorvaldsdóttir has worked with violence prevention for 15 years, as an author, activist and journalist. Her books, articles, films and plays have won various awards and honours. Between 2013 and 2018, she wrote three educational short films that are used in sex education in primary and secondary schools across her native Iceland. That, combined with her public speaking and equal rights activism, earned her the title Woman of the Year 2015. Thordis Elva's book about her own experience of abuse has been translated into 14 languages and the corresponding TED talk has been viewed over 6 million times. In 2020, she founded the Nordic Digital Rights and Equality Foundation (NORDREF) along with other Nordic experts in the field. She has spoken about the role of digital media and sexual education in furthering gender equality at the UN, EU and the Nordic Council of ministers.



Joanna Herat is Senior Programme Specialist at UNESCO HQ, within the Section for Health and Education. Working at UNESCO since 2010, she provides policy and technical leadership to improve health and wellbeing for young people through education with a particular focus on comprehensive sexuality education, school-related gender-based violence and the role of education in improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health. With 20 years of professional experience, Joanna has worked in countries across Asia and Africa, with 10 years focussed on community-based HIV interventions, and an early career specialisation in theatre-in-education programmes. Joanna holds a Masters in Anthropology of Development from the University of London.



Ms Elona Gjebrea Hoxha is the Executive Director of the Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD). She holds a PHD from Coventry University (UK) in natural sciences and has lectured at various universities in Albania for over 15 years. A Member of Parliament of Albania during 2017-2021, Dr. Gjebrea Hoxha was part of the “Children’s Friends” Parliamentary Group and Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs. She has extensive hands-on experience on human rights issues, with particular focus on women and children. In her positions as Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, National Anti-

Trafficking Coordinator, and National Coordinator of Global Initiative for Migration, Asylum and Refugees (2013-2017), Dr. Gjebrea Hoxha has been involved in addressing issues of women’s right and empowerment, gender-based violence, and anti-trafficking.

She was Rapporteur of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs Science, Technology and Environment during 2018-2021.

Plenary session – “Keeping track of what was found behind the horizon” (reporting back from day 2)

Moderator

See page 2 - Bio of Ms Giovanna Pancheri, Journalist

Closing session – “What do we take along on our journey towards a new era for the rights of the child?”

Moderator

See page 2 - Bio of Ms Giovanna Pancheri, Journalist

Maria-Andriani Kostopoulous

See page 3 - Bio of Ms Maria Andriana Kostopoulous, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)



Alfredo Ferrante is a member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) at the Council of Europe. Head of Unit at the Department of Family Policies of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers. With a bachelor’s degree in Political Science, he graduated from the Italian National School of Administration (SNA). He got a Master’s degree in EU Studies at La Sapienza University in Rome and a Master’s degree in International Relations from St. John’s University in NYC. Formerly chair of the SNA Alumni Association, he also held a PhD in Public Management from the Tor Vergata University in Rome. During his 20-year career in the public sector, he dealt with different areas of social policies, such as the voluntary sector, corporate social responsibility, disability and, since 2017, children’s rights. He has chaired the Ad-hoc Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Council of Europe from 2016 to 2018.



Regína Jensdóttir holds a law degree from the University of Iceland and a post graduate degree (D.E.A.) from the University of Strasbourg in international public law. Since 1998 she has been working for the Council of Europe and since 2010 she is the Council of Europe Co-ordinator for the rights of the child and heads the organizations’ Children’s Rights Division. In these capacities she follows the Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child, the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022 to 2027), and of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention) and its monitoring committee which follows how states put the Lanzarote Convention into practice. She has also led the development of the work on children’s rights in a number of areas such as violence against children, equal opportunities, child participation, child friendly justice and children’s rights in the digital environment.

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All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.



Presidency of Italy
Council of Europe
November 2021 - May 2022

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

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