



2022 June 21st 9:30-12:30 Webinar

**Evaluation and determination of the best interests of the child in parental separation
and care proceedings**

Exchange of views and knowledge among specialists and professionals

Tuesday June 21st (9:30-12:30 CET).

Speakers and program

■ **Introduction of the webinar [9:30-10:20]**

- **Welcome speech** [5 minutes]. **Ruth Allen**, CSC-RC bureau
- **The role of the conference of INGOs** to facilitate the participation of organised civil society in the work of the Council of Europe. [6 minutes] **Gerhard Ermischer**, President of the Conference of INGOs. (confirmed)
- **The objectives of the CJ/ENF-ISE** regarding how the best interests of the child and his/her rights are protected by law, policy and practice in situations of parental separation and care proceedings. [4 minutes] **Seamus Carroll**, Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Best interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care Proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE).
- **The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child standards and principles** on child and adolescent participation (Comment on CG 14 and 20). [20 minutes] **Benoît Van Keirsbilck**, Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Presentation of the workshops and each speaker** [15 minutes]

■ **Workshops in parallel [10:25-11:25]**

Introduction of the theme by each speaker [about 20 minutes] followed by an exchange of views and experiences among participants. The floor is given first to the persons who have sent the text of their intervention (question, professional practice or testimony) in advance.

- Q1/ To what extent the recommendations from UN CRC CG 14 and 20 are implemented in the activities of family professionals.

Speaker: **Benoît Van Keirsbilck**, Committee on the Rights of the Child

Facilitator: Katerina Melissari, Child Protection Coordinator, Hope For Children – CRC Policy Center – Cyprus

- Q2/ The case of young children: elements to evaluate BIC of toddlers and infants (under 5-year-old).

Speaker: **Fabien Bacro**, Psychologist, university of Nantes, co-author of the consensus article 'Attachment goes to court: child protection and custody issues'

Facilitator: Dagmar Kopčanová, – Educational psychologist and researcher – EUROCEF – Slovakia

- Q3/ Promoting the rights and wellbeing of older children and adolescents experiencing the care system and separation from parents: good practice in resources, support and empowerment.

Speaker: **Carolyn Willow**, Director, Article 39, United Kingdom

Facilitator: Ruth Allen, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) United Kingdom

- Q4/ The defence of children and their possibility of recourse and support in cases of violence against their needs in parental separation and care proceedings.

Speaker: Ms. **Theoni Koufonikolakou**, Deputy Ombudsman on Children's Rights

Facilitator: Tapio Koivula, Junior Researcher and PhD student at the University of Lapland – International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP) – Finland

- Q5/ The participation of children and, specifically, adolescents in expressing their views in situation of parental separation or in care proceedings.

Speaker: **Nuala Mole**, Director at The AIRE Centre, Consultant for CJ/ENF-ISE

Facilitator: Margaret Tuite – Defence for Children International (DCI) – Belgium

- Q6/ Education of parents to raise awareness of the consequences of parental separation on children and to help parents in cooperating after parental break-up.

Speaker: **Galina Markova**, doctor of social work, Director of the Know How Centre for Alternative Care for Children, New Bulgarian University.

Facilitator: Bénédicte Colin – Federation of Catholic Family Associations (FAFCE) – Belgium.

■ **Conclusion [11:30-12:30]**

Two successive panel discussions [20 minutes each] with speakers about the main contributions and conclusions of the 6 working groups.

A/ Raising public awareness (parents, medias, INGOs) on child rights and needs in parental separation and care proceedings (Q 4, 5, 6); Facilitator: **Ruth Allen**, CSC-RC.

B/ Promoting a culture of child right amongst family justice professionals (Q 1, 2, 3); Facilitator: **Katerina Melissari**, CSC-RC.

General conclusion [10 minutes]: **Michel Grangeat**, Chair of the CSC-RC of CINGO