



Winner of the
World Justice
Challenge
2021

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

Strengthening Justice for Children Worldwide



The Global Initiative was Launched for the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Our work addresses current issues on children in contact and/or conflict with the law.



We connect practitioners worldwide through World Congresses, regional and national advisory meetings and produce research on child justice.

led by:



Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide.



Child-centred justice means:

- ▶ Advocating for children's rights effective implementation in justice systems.
- ▶ Child participation in formal and informal justice settings.
- ▶ Reducing deprivation of liberty for children worldwide, in favour of non-custodial measures.
- ▶ Fair and non-discriminatory access to justice for all children.

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Our strategy has five priorities based on the outcomes of the World Congress on Justice With Children 2021.



1. Digital Justice

The use of digital justice procedures must ensure full understanding of children's rights and consider their ability to participate meaningfully in all aspects of the system.

Global objectives:

Promote the creation of procedural safeguards for children in the context of digital transformation of justice.



Virtual Courts

As a result of the pandemic, the judiciary started using technological tools to conduct hearings. Questions remain about equal access to justice and new protection measures needed for children in a modified digital justice system.

Accomplished:

- Informative webinars.
- Reality snapshots- Judges and magistrates interview research.

Planned:

- Policy brief.
- Challenge paper on Procedural Safeguards



Artificial Intelligence

To what extent do transformational technologies (AI) impact access to justice for children in conflict with the law?

Accomplished:

- Working group of experts on digital justice and transformational technologies (AI) for children in conflict with the law.

Planned:

- Research project: artificial intelligence.

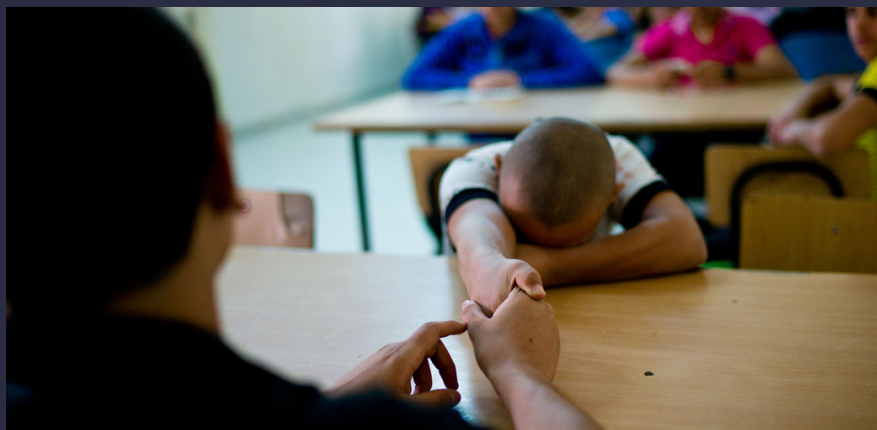


2. Justice in Times of Crises

Adopt a legal and policy basis for innovative and resilient justice processes and procedures for children during emergency contexts to enable sustainable access to justice for all children.

Global objectives:

Conduct research leading to the drafting of a paper on children in conflict with the law during crises.



Health Crisis

COVID-19 created a global emergency, posing challenges for justice sectors and detainees. Rapid actions to encourage authorities to release children from custodial settings have been taken to protect them from the virus.

Accomplished:

- COVID-19 campaign.
- World Justice Forum Award.

Planned:

- Policy brief.



Climate Crisis

JWC addresses specific questions about the functioning of justice systems and protection of children from climate change.

Accomplished:

- Comment on draft GC26 UNCRC's
- Committee with CJAG.

Planned:

- Paper: the impact of climate change on the children's justice system.



Security Crisis

Planned:

- Paper for Practitioners: Access to Justice for Children in Armed Conflict (Ukraine).



3. Neurosciences and Child Justice

The justice and health systems need to collaborate in the area of mental health for children in conflict with the law, especially in prevention and sentencing.

Global objectives:

Continue the neurosciences and brain injury research line and make the results more accessible through policy papers and online training courses.



Neurosciences and Child Justice

Children with neurodisabilities are more likely to be in conflict with the law. Specialists say this can be prevented through early support.



Accomplished:

- Research and advocacy strategy on preventing children with neurodisabilities from becoming entangled in the criminal justice system.



Planned:

- Experts workshop.
- Online course.
- Report of research.



Traumatic Brain Injuries and Sentencing

The mental health of children already in conflict with the law must be supported with appropriate care.



Accomplished:

- Policy Paper: Brain Science and How It Affects Children Accused Of Crimes.



4. Community Empowerment

To improve access to justice for all children it is necessary to integrate the community, encourage intergenerational dialogue and fight against non-discrimination.

Global objectives:

Continue conducting research on restorative justice and legal pluralism, which incorporates a child participation perspective, and make the results accessible through policy papers and online training courses.



Restorative Justice

Accomplished:

- Report: International day of dialogue in Madrid.

Planned:

- Policy paper.
- Course for professionals.



Child participation

Transition from justice for children to a child-centred justice / justice with children.

Accomplished:

- CYAG World Congress..

Planned:

- Research project: 'Real rights'.

Ongoing:

- Paper: Systemic child participation in justice.



Fair access to justice and non-discrimination

Ongoing:

- Project: Real rights of children in contact with the police.
- Towards LGBTQI+ sensitive justice for children.



Legal pluralism

Support the administration of justice at community level and the collaboration between different legal systems, integrating best practices while ensuring the respect of procedural guarantees.

Planned:

- Paper: Legal pluralism and children.



5. Ending Child Detention

Prioritise non-custodial measures through a restorative approach, diversionary mechanism and psycho-social support, with the aim of the full reintegration of children in conflict with the law into society, avoiding deprivation of liberty for children as much as possible.

Global objectives:

Ensure that deprivation of liberty is a measure of last resort for the shortest period of time.



UN GSCDL (UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty)

Follow up on the recommendation of the Global Study of children deprived of liberty.

Planned:

- Blog series: Unexpected consequences of deprivation of liberty on children.
- Paper: Ending solitary confinement for children in conflict with the law.



Promoting Non-Custodial Measures

Ongoing:

- Research: International comparative law on non-custodial measures.



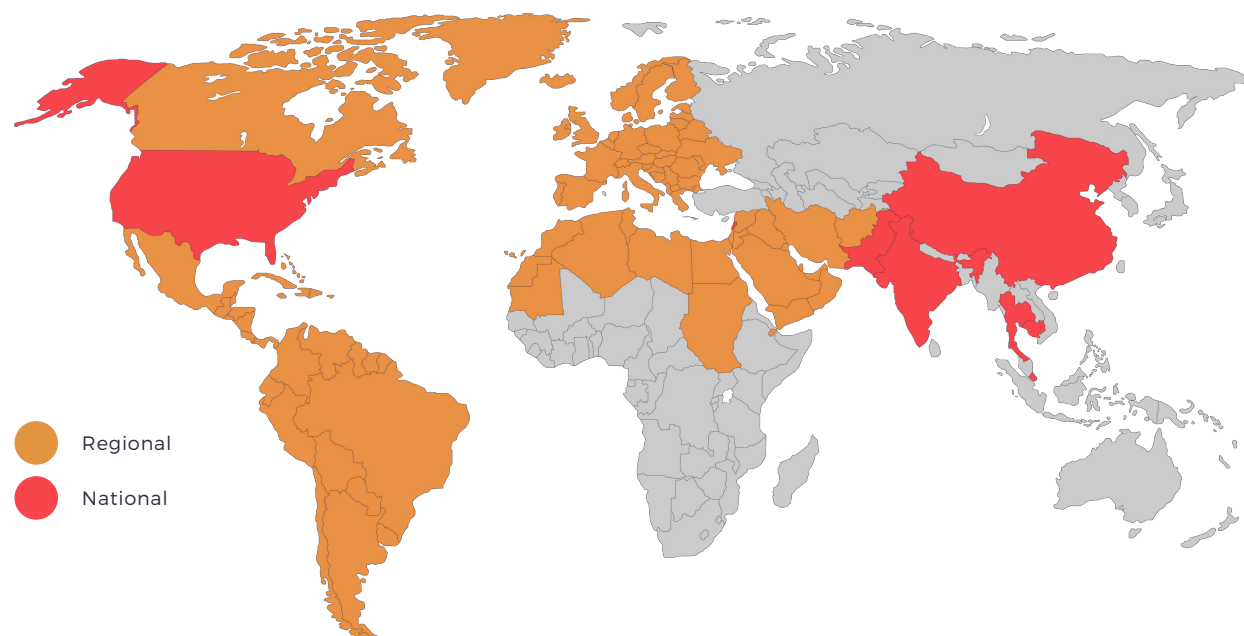


Before each World Congress, the Global Initiative gather regional and national partners to define the strategy and agenda.

The consultations aim to:

- Promote local cooperation and a strong network of experts and practitioners;
- Identify challenges, trends and promising practices in child justice;
- Formulate policy recommendations for law reform;
- Support the implementation of international norms on child friendly justice.

Advisory Meetings Towards 2021 World Congress



Regional Advisory Meetings Towards 2025 World Congress



Eight meetings around the world and a gathering of political stakeholders, academics, and civil society representatives in a hybrid event in 2025.

Participants: stakeholders from Academia, representatives, of as much as possible and the Judiciary, Non-Governmental organisations, child lawyers and advocates, activists and children and young people.



High level political forum (Geneva - Switzerland)

Participants: diplomatic missions and States representatives.

WORLD CONGRESSES

Lima (2009)



4 Day Event



800 Participants
From 70 Countries

FOCUS: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The 2009 Congress reaffirmed the principles of child justice and the fundamental rights of the child. Experts worldwide collaborated on the Lima Declaration on Restorative Juvenile Justice.



Geneva (2015)



5 Day Event



900 Participants
From 80 Countries

FOCUS: CHILD JUSTICE REFORM

The 2015 Congress examined prevention and reintegration. Experts developed the final declaration on juvenile justice to strengthen juvenile justice standards in the face of globalisation.



Paris (2018)



3 Day Event



1,000 Participants
From 102 Countries

FOCUS: DISENGAGEMENT FROM EXTREME VIOLENCE

Held at the UNESCO headquarters, the 2018 Congress looked at the challenges, strategies and experiences of strengthening justice systems for children.



Mexico - online (2021)



5 Day Event



4,800 Participants
from 150 countries

FOCUS: INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

The 2021 Congress defined key principles on: inclusive justice systems for all children without discrimination, resilience in the face of crises and pandemics, and child-friendly justice for all children in contact with the law.

The World Congress Consortium together with the Child and Youth Advisory Group (CYAG) drafted the Global Declaration on Justice With Children: "Ensuring access to justice for all children: Towards non-discriminatory and inclusive justice systems" signed by UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, among others.

Host



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CHILD PARTICIPATION

Children and young people with lived experiences of the justice system took part in the organisation of the 2021 World Congress and the drafting of the final Declaration. The Global Initiative advocates at international level for a more systemic approach to children's participation in justice systems.



