

13<sup>th</sup> International Seminar  
Athens, Greece 16–17 May 2025

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Restorative Justice for Children  
and Young People on the Move

## PROGRAMME



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA



Funded by  
the European Union

**13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR  
of the European Forum for Restorative Justice**

In cooperation with the University of West Attica – Department of Social Work and the  
Centre for the Study of Social and Humanitarian Crises

**CROSSING BORDERS – BUILDING FUTURES**  
**Restorative Justice for Children  
and Young People on the Move**

Conference Centre of Archaios Elaionas  
Ancient Olive Grove Campus  
University of West Attica  
Thivon 250 – 12244 Aigaleo

**ATHENS – GREECE**  
**16–17 MAY 2025**



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This event has been funded with the support of the Justice Program of the European Commission. The sole responsibility of the event and related printed materials lies with the EFRJ. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information delivered or contained herein.



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# 13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL EFRJ SEMINAR

The 13th International Seminar of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (Athens, 16–17 May 2025) focuses on the transformative potential of restorative justice and restorative practices in addressing the vulnerabilities faced by children on the move. Identified by UNICEF as among the world's most at-risk populations, these children (i.e. refugees, unaccompanied minors, internally displaced children, and others) face significant threats of violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

Drawing on the metaphor of an *odyssey*, a journey symbolizing both hardship and resilience, the seminar will explore how restorative approaches can address the unique needs of children on the move while creating inclusive spaces for dialogue and mutual understanding with host communities and institutions. This work aligns with Goal 16 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasises promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensuring access to justice for all, and building resilient institutions.

## Understanding Children on the Move and Their Challenges

Children on the move are impacted by migration and displacement in diverse ways, crossing international borders or relocating within their countries. In 2020, children under the age of 18 accounted for 13% of international migrants, meaning that 1 in 66 children worldwide lived outside their country of birth. This diverse group includes:

- Children in transit and migrant children.
- Children in need of international protection (e.g., refugees, asylum-seekers, unaccompanied minors, and stateless children).
- Internally displaced children fleeing conflict, violence, or natural disasters.
- Victims of trafficking or those displaced by political turmoil and climate change.

- Children indirectly affected by migration, such as those separated from caregivers or awaiting family reunification and children of migrants. These children often experience heightened risks of violence and exploitation in settings where they should feel safest (e.g. families, schools, and communities). Additional systemic challenges, such as racism, xenophobia, and ecological injustices, create further barriers to their safety and well-being.

## Restorative Justice and the Odyssey of Integration

The metaphor of an *odyssey* captures the complex journeys of children on the move, marked by trauma, resilience, and hope. Restorative justice and restorative practices offer pathways for these children to heal, rebuild trust, and foster inclusion. However, to be truly restorative, the “difficult others” or “significant others” in their lives (e.g. families left behind, traffickers, hostile host communities, or biased institutions) must also be part of the dialogue.

While the causes of migration (e.g. natural disasters, armed conflict, trafficking) are critical, to keep the scope of the seminar focused and impactful, we concentrate on the experiences of children on the move as they transition into life in Europe.

Restorative justice and restorative practices can address the **systemic barriers** faced by children on the move, such as:

- Institutional biases (e.g., in schools, housing, or healthcare systems that may inadvertently exclude or disadvantage children).
- Host community privileges and prejudices that may polarise relationships.
- Power imbalances in refugee centres or other settings where children are vulnerable to exploitation or neglect.

The seminar will focus on **arrival and integration** in Europe, addressing how restorative practices can foster supportive environments in schools, families, communities, and institutions. Key questions include:

- How can schools, families, and communities use restorative approaches to build inclusive spaces for children on the move?
- How can systemic biases in host institutions be addressed through restorative practices?

- How can the lived experiences of children on the move inspire new restorative justice practices?
- What role can restorative justice play in reducing polarisation and bridging cultural divides?
- How can restorative practices transform power dynamics in settings where children depend on authority figures?

## Objectives of the Seminar

The seminar aims to provide a platform for:

- Exploring the intersection of restorative justice and migration policies;
- Addressing integration challenges by promoting and facilitating dialogue between host communities and children on the move;
- Identifying actionable insights to promote inclusion, equity, safety and a sense of justice for children on the move;
- Highlighting innovative practices and systemic solutions to barriers faced by children impacted by migration and displacement;
- Encouraging multiagency cooperation between different institutions and services supporting children on the move as well as hosting communities.

## The Seminar in a Nutshell

- **1.5 day seminar** on child justice and migration
- **3 plenaries** featuring policymakers, activists, journalists & practitioners
- **8 workshops** (presentations, interactive & dialogue sessions) led by attendees
- **100+ participants** from diverse disciplines and sectors (child justice, migration, restorative justice, education)
- **1 photo exhibition** on migration stories from our local hosts
- **1 social dinner** and networking opportunities

## SCHEDULE OF THE WEEK

Thursday 15 May	Friday 16 May	Saturday 17 May
	8:45–9:15 Registrations	9:15–9:30 Welcome
	9:15–10:30 <b>Opening &amp; Interactive moment</b>	9:30–11:00 <b>Parallel workshops II</b>
	10:30–11:00 Comfort break	11:00–11:30 Comfort break
	11:00–12:15 <b>Plenary I</b>	11:30–13:15 <b>Plenary III &amp; Closing</b>
	12:15–13:30 Lunch	13:15–14:00 Lunch
	13:30–15:00 <b>Parallel workshops I</b>	
	15:00–15:30 Comfort break	
	15:30–17:00 <b>Plenary II &amp; Closing</b>	
18:00–20:00 <b>Annual General Meeting</b>		
20:00–22:00 Social dinner @ Myrtillo Cafe	21:00–22:30 Informal meeting @ Shedia Home	

# PRE-SEMINAR PROGRAMME

## Thursday 15 May

Address: Myrtillo Cafe, Park for Children and Culture (former KAPAPS)  
Trifilias & Lampsa Street, Ambelokipi 11524, Athens

18:00–18:15 Welcome and registrations (AGM)

18:15–20:00 Annual General Meeting of the EFRJ membership  
(open to all participants)

20:00–20:15 Welcome and registrations (dinner & seminar)

20:15–22:00 Opening social dinner  
(for registered participants to the seminar)

### **Social dinner @ Myrtillo**

The social dinner will serve as the informal opening of the 13th International EFRJ Seminar. Registered participants have been invited to sign up by 7 May. If you missed the deadline, please contact the EFRJ Secretariat.

The dinner will take place at the Myrtillo Cafe, a social cooperative where 90% of its staff belongs to vulnerable groups. Myrtillo is situated in the Park for Children and Culture (former KAPAPS) with buildings constructed after World War II with funding from Norway. For several decades, hundreds of young men and women with disabilities were trained in various trades and crafts, including machining, carpentry, watchmaking, tailoring, shoemaking, bookbinding, and more.

Myrtillo is located within walking distance from the Panormou metro station.





# SEMINAR PROGRAMME

## Friday 16 May

Address: Conference Centre of Archaios Elaionas, University of West Attica – Campus 2 (Thivon 250, Athens)

8:45–9:15 Registrations

9:15–10:00 Welcome

Moderator: Edit Tórsz, EFRJ Director

- Brunilda Pali (Belgium) – Chair of the European Forum for Restorative Justice
- Vasilios Ioakimidis (Greece) – Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of West Attica
- Gelly Aroni (Greece) – Head of the Unit of Integration & Support for Unaccompanied Minors at the Ministry of Migration & Asylum
- Alexia Stouraiti (Greece) – Ph.D. candidate and local host presenting the photo exhibition “Connecting the Dots” (see p.10)

10:00–10:10 Special address (video message)

- Najat Maalla M’jid (Switzerland) – UN Special Representative on Violence against Children

10:10–10:30 Interactive moment with the audience

- Emanuela Biffi & Bálint Juhász – EFRJ Secretariat

10:30–11:00 Comfort break

11:00–12:15 Plenary I (see p. 13)

Access to child friendly restorative justice for children on the move

Moderator: Maïa Chochua, EFRJ Vice–Chair

- Theoni Koufonikolakou (Greece) – Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Rights & former Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children
- Nantina Tsekeri (Greece) – Vice-President of the Child Justice Friendly European Network & CEO of Defence for Children International Greece
- Maria Michailidou (Greece) – Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

**12:15–13:30** Lunch

**13:30–15:00** Parallel workshops I (see p. 20)

**15:00–15:30** Comfort break

**15:30–16:45** Plenary II (see p. 14)

The criminalisation of migration and criminalisation of solidarity

Moderator: Brunilda Pali, EFRJ Chair

- Hibai Arbide Aza (Greece/ Basque Country) – Lawyer, activist and journalist dedicated migration and border conflicts
- Takura Donald Maconi (Zimbabwe/ Northern Ireland) – Policy Officer at ACSONI – African & Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland

**16:45–17:00** Closing remarks

**21:00–22:30** Informal meeting at Shedia Home (see p. 10)

## Meeting point @ Shedia Home

Travelling alone and looking forward to meeting other participants? Athens offers a variety of places where people can meet. However, since the Greek capital is big and it may be hard to find people around, we suggest a special meeting point, near Syntagma Square, where you can meet people from our restorative community on Friday night.

*Shedia Home* is a social enterprise café, restaurant, and gift shop in central Athens that empowers people experiencing homelessness through employment, upcycling art, and community engagement. It is also possible to have dinner at *Shedia Home*, but there are limited seats, so best is to book in advance, or choose one of the many restaurants in the area and come to *Shedia Home* only for a drink!

**When:** Friday 16 May from 21:00 to 22:30

**Meeting Point:** Shedia Home's café-restaurant (Kolokotroni 56 & Nikiou 2, Athens)



## Photo exhibition “Connecting the dots”

Alexia Stouraiti, one of our local organisers and a dedicated EFRJ member, unveils her powerful photo project, “Connecting the Dots”. You can see it in the networking area of the conference center hosting our seminar.

Back in 2018, Alexia traveled to a small town in Germany where she met and interviewed individuals with deep ties to both Greece and Germany. These conversations captured the rich tapestry of experiences among people who have moved across borders, or were born to those who did. Among the stories is that of an unaccompanied minor, offering a touching glimpse into the human side of migration.

But there's a twist: the portraits don't match the stories. Visitors are invited to guess who's who, highlighting our shared humanity and challenging preconceived notions. To guide the experience, symbolic “dots” were created—visual cues that help connect each story with the right face. The result? A thoughtful, interactive exploration of identity, migration, and connection. Hence the title: “Connect the Dots.”

**When:** any time during the 1.5 day seminar

**Where:** in the main hall of the Conference Center



## Saturday 17 May

Address: Conference Centre of Archaïos Elaionas, University of West Attica – Campus 2 (Thivon 250, Athens)

9:15–9:30 Welcome

9:30–11:00 Parallel workshops II (see p. 24)

11:00–11:30 Comfort break

11:30–12:45 Plenary III (see p. 15)

Living our values beyond restorative practices

Moderator: Claudia Christen-Schneider, EFRJ Secretary

- Rachel Quine (UK) – Restorative Practitioner and Founder of Understanding People (UP) project
- Annegrete Johanson (Estonia) – Restorative Justice Practitioner and Founder of the NGO RuaCrew
- Tim Chapman (Northern Ireland, UK) – Restorative Justice Practitioner and Lecturer at Ulster University
- Griet Defruyt (Belgium) – Assistant Manager in the Fedasil asylum centre in Poelkapelle

12:45–13:15 Closing

- Eftychia Katsigaraki (Greece) – Head of the Directorate General for Special Legal Issues and Human Rights at the Ministry of Justice
- Renate Winter (Austria) – Judge and International Expert on Justice for Children at the United Nations
- Brunilda Pali & Edit Törzs (Belgium) – Chair & Director of the European Forum for Restorative Justice
- Vasilios Ioakimidis (Greece) – Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of West Attica

17:00–19:00 Shedia's "Invisible Tours" (see p. 12)

## **Guided Social Walk in Athens**

One of *Shedia's* impactful initiatives, the "Invisible Tours" are guided walks through Athens led by individuals who are currently or formerly homeless and now work with *Shedia*. These guides offer a unique perspective on the city, sharing their personal stories and insights as they take you to key social and solidarity institutions (such as soup kitchens, shelters, rehabilitation centers, and day centers) highlighting inspiring programs and support networks.

Much like other social tours around the world, these walks give voice to the experiences of people who have lived on the streets. They talk about the challenges of homelessness, the importance of human connection, the support they received, and their fight for dignity and against social exclusion. The primary goal of the tour is to empower the guides, offering them both confidence and a source of income.

Note that the EFRJ is not responsible for the organisation of this tour. For more questions, contact [walks@shedia.gr](mailto:walks@shedia.gr). Register via the QR code.

**Cost:** €10 – The first 20 registered participants will have an English-speaking guide. Additional participants will be accompanied by an interpreter, with a shared extra cost of €50 (divided among the group).

**When:** Saturday 17 May from 17:00 to 19:00

**Meeting Point:** Metaxourgeio Metro Station

**End Point:** Shedia Home's cafe-restaurant



## PLENARY SPEAKERS

The full biographies of our plenary speakers can be read on the EFRJ website.



### Plenary I

#### Access to child friendly restorative justice for children on the move

This plenary session brings together leading experts in the field of child protection and child-friendly justice. **Theoni Koufonikolakou**, Greece's Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Rights and former Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), is a lawyer specialised in human rights, with a strong focus on children's participation and protection, democratic education, the rights of children on the move, and domestic violence. **Nantina Tsekeri**, Vice-President of the Child Friendly Justice – European Network (CFJ-EN) and CEO of Defence for Children International – Greece (DCI), is a human rights lawyer and a strategic litigator, internationally recognised for her expertise in children's rights and the protection of displaced and marginalised populations. **Mariella Michailidou**, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF Greece, brings extensive field experience from both the UK and Greece, focusing on the protection of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children, de-institutionalisation, family based forms of care, and the development of child-friendly justice systems. The plenary is moderated by EFRJ Vice-Chair **Maia Chochua**, lawyer and child justice expert, and a leading figure in advancing restorative (juvenile) justice in Georgia. Together, the panellists will explore access to restorative justice for children on the move, examining how justice systems in Greece, in Europe and beyond can become more responsive to the specific vulnerabilities of displaced and migrant children. Drawing on their extensive backgrounds in legal advocacy, human rights protection, policy development, research and direct fieldwork, the speakers will highlight practical pathways to ensure these children are treated not as offenders or "administrative cases", but as rights-holders entitled to participation, protection, and repair. The discussion will emphasise the need for child-centred approaches that are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and grounded in the principles of restorative justice, offering insights into how these frameworks can support children's recovery, integration, and empowerment within communities.

## Plenary II

### The criminalisation of migration and the criminalisation of solidarity

This plenary explores the criminalisation of migration and acts of solidarity through the lived experiences and professional insights of two dynamic speakers. **Hibai Arbide Aza**, a Basque journalist and former criminal lawyer based in Greece since 2014, has spent nearly two decades working at the intersection of migration, human rights, and civil liberties. His work as a correspondent and documentary producer spans Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, with a particular focus on the refugee crisis in Greece and the broader Mediterranean. From activism and legal advocacy to journalism, he continues to shed light on the human stories behind migration policies. Joining him is **Takura Donald Makoni**, Policy Officer at the African & Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI) and a recognised anti-racism leader. Born in the UK to Zimbabwean parents and raised across southern Africa, Takura draws on personal and professional experience to advocate for migrant and racial justice in Northern Ireland. With over 20 years of engagement in community building, the arts, and activism, he has become a prominent voice advocating for equality, belonging, and systemic change. EFRJ Chair **Brunilda Pali** moderates this panel, bringing her deep expertise in restorative and social justice, her interdisciplinary background, and her critical perspective on the intersections of migration, criminalisation, and solidarity.

Together, the panellists will bring powerful perspectives on the human cost of criminalising both migration and those who stand in solidarity, and explore how restorative justice can reframe these issues through dialogue, accountability, and human dignity. The plenary will be an invitation to connect individual experiences with broader systems of harm (border violence, racism, and state policy) while imagining possibilities for resistance, repair, and transformation in the face of systemic injustice.

## Plenary III

### Living our values beyond restorative practices

This plenary brings together experienced restorative justice practitioners who embody core restorative values in diverse contexts. **Rachel Quine** is the founder of the Understanding People (UP) project in the UK, a collective of experienced facilitators committed to addressing social inequalities and harm through radically respectful restorative practice. Her contribution will focus on the concept of “radical respect”, drawing on her over 15 years of experience in restorative practice, particularly in youth justice and education. **Annegrete Johanson**, a seasoned youth worker, mediator and trainer, and founder of the NGO RuaCrew, has been instrumental in developing restorative juvenile justice in Estonia, promoting the value of child participation and co-creating her work with young people and their families. **Tim Chapman**, a leading figure in the field of restorative justice in Northern Ireland and beyond, brings in his practice and academic experience to reflect on the importance of “radical empathy” in addressing power imbalances and navigating critical issues within restorative processes. From Belgium, **Griet Defruyt** shares her experience applying restorative practices in an asylum centre for unaccompanied minors (Poelkapelle, organised by Fedasil, the Belgian agency for asylum reception), where values like connection, collaboration, and dignity shape daily interactions with young refugees. As moderator of this panel, EFRJ Secretary **Claudia Christen-Schneider**, founder of the Swiss RJ Forum, brings her extensive experience as a restorative justice practitioner and researcher, with a particular focus on trauma-informed practice and values and standards in restorative justice practice.

Together, these speakers will explore how restorative values (respect, participation, empathy, and connection) can be lived and embodied in practice, especially in multicultural and high-stress environments responding to social harm. Grounded in a powerful true story of trauma, migration, and criminalisation, the plenary will highlight how restorative justice can offer positive change where systems fall short. Through personal reflections and practical insights, the panel will examine how trauma-informed and participatory approaches can support young people on the move and foster meaningful dialogue across divides. Participants will leave with tools and inspiration to adopt a restorative mindset in their own diverse professional contexts.



## PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

On the following pages, you will find the schedule (including time and room) for the 8 workshop sessions proposed by our participants. You may choose one session from each of the 2 time slots, with 4 parallel workshops offered in each.

Parallel workshops are 80 minutes long to ensure they start and end within the 90-minute time slot. The session formats vary and may include dialogue sessions, interactive workshops, or frontal presentations.

You do not need to pre-register for the workshops: you can choose which one to attend on the day. However, if a group becomes too large, the workshop presenter(s) may ask some participants to join a different session, based on a first-come, first-served policy.

### Key Themes

The call for proposals, launched in late 2024, highlighted some key-themes (listed below) to inspire workshop submissions.

#### 1. High-Quality Restorative Justice Practice and Training:

- *Overcoming Bias*: How can restorative practices counter discrimination and implicit bias and support inclusivity for children from diverse cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds?
- *Trauma-Informed Practices*: How can restorative practices address the trauma of migration and displacement for children and their families?
- *Access to Justice*: How can barriers such as selective referrals, language, and cultural differences be overcome to ensure equitable access to justice for children on the move?
- *Restorative Pedagogy*: How can restorative practices promote accountability and agency among children in multicultural contexts?

#### 2. Extending the Reach of Restorative Justice:

- *Addressing Hatred and Polarisation*: How can restorative justice counter hate crimes and hate speech and reduce societal polarisation?

- *Gender-Based Violence*: What role can restorative practices play in addressing the exploitation of girls and women during migration and after resettlement?
- *Institutional Abuse and Structural Violence*: How can restorative practices tackle systemic injustices such as racism or ageism in institutional settings?
- *Climate Change and Migration*: How can restorative justice respond to ecological injustices contributing to forced migration?

### 3. **Restorative Justice in Specific Settings:**

- *Communities*: How can restorative practices foster positive relationships between migrants and host communities?
- *Schools*: How can schools integrate restorative practices to support cultural integration and mutual respect?
- *Closed Institutions*: What are the best restorative practices for detention centres and other restrictive settings?

## Friday 16 May at 13:30–15:00 (PW I)

**Room 3A**  
**Floor -1**

INTERACTIVE (80')

**"Once upon a time...": The Power of Storytelling and Folktales with Refugee Unaccompanied Minors**  
(Ziori, GR)

**Room 3B**  
**Floor -1**

DIALOGUE (80')

**From Conflict to Connection: Supporting Children on the Move through Restorative Approaches**  
(Kanellopoulou & Michailidou, GR)

**Room 5**  
**Floor +1**

INTERACTIVE (80')

**Implementation of Restorative Practices in Refugee Centers in Flanders** (Huyzentruyt, Vandeputte & Defruyt, BE)

**Auditorium**  
**Floor 0**

PRESENTATIONS (25'\*3)

**1. Restorative Justice as a People-Centered Approach to Addressing the Needs of Children on the Move: Lessons from Thailand and Canada**  
(Sornprohm, TH)

**2. Transformative Potential of Restorative Justice in Addressing Vulnerabilities of Children on the Move** (Spetsidis, GR)

**3. Restorative Justice Practice for Preventing School Violence in Chicago Public Schools** (Kim, US)

## Saturday 17 May at 09:30–11:00 (PW II)

Room 3A  
Floor -1

INTERACTIVE (80')

**Rebuilding Lives: Restorative Tools for Children Exposed to Conflict and Trauma** (Chapman, UK & Gal, IL)

Room 3B  
Floor -1

DIALOGUE (80')

**Intergenerational Justice: Restoring Trust, Dignity, and Agency with Young Leaders** (Tsekeri & DCI-Greece Youth Ambassadors Cluster, GR)

Room 5  
Floor +1

INTERACTIVE (80')

**Restorative Practice Project Findings and Skills in Work with Children in Youth Justice and School Settings** (Carroll, UK)

Auditorium  
Floor 0

PRESENTATIONS (25'\*3)

1. **Restorative Justice and Alternative Measures to Detention for Migrant Children** (Parziale, IT)
2. **Children Deprived of Their Liberty on the Move in Scotland** (Emmerson & Morrison, UK)
3. **Criminalising Vulnerability: Territorialism, Punitive Narratives, and the Incarceration of Migrant Children and Young Adults** (Chalkia, GR)

## Parallel Workshops I

### Friday 16 May @ 13:30–15:00

Room 3A Floor –1

INTERACTIVE (80')

#### **"Once upon a time...": The Power of Storytelling and Folktales with Refugee Unaccompanied Minors**

- Olga Ziori, Child Protection Expert, Human Rights Lawyer and Accredited Mediator, Greece

Participants will learn to incorporate traditional folktales and personal storytelling to create safe spaces where refugee minors can express their experiences, reclaim their cultural heritage, and navigate the challenges of integration. Through hands-on activities, participants will explore how stories can dismantle stereotypes, humanise marginalised groups, and cultivate resilience and belonging among youth facing complex social and emotional barriers. This workshop equips educators, social workers, and community leaders with innovative tools to use storytelling as a catalyst for healing, connection, and social change in cross-cultural settings as well as building communities and restore collective memory.

Room 3B Floor –1

DIALOGUE (80')

#### **From Conflict to Connection: Supporting Children on the Move through Restorative Approaches**

- Panagiota Kanellopoulou, Access to Justice Project Coordinator at Terre des hommes Hellas, Greece
- Mariella Michailidou, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF Office in Greece

This panel explores how restorative practices can support migrant and refugee children across different systems and settings. Through a panel discussion, speakers will share perspectives from justice and NGO contexts

examining how restorative approaches can address conflict, promote healing, and strengthen inclusion. The session will include insights from the field of juvenile justice, including practices such as victim–offender mediation, as well as approaches developed within schools to build trust and foster belonging among children with migration backgrounds. Participants will gain an understanding of how restorative justice can be applied in diverse contexts, and how cross-sector collaboration can enhance support for children on the move.

Room 5    Floor +1

### INTERACTIVE (80')

#### **Implementation of Restorative Practices in Refugee Centers in Flanders**

- Wim Huyzentruyt, Trainer and Process Facilitator at the restorative organisation Oranjehuis – Ligand, Belgium
- Rino Vandeputte, working with unaccompanied minors, Teamcoach Oranjehuis – Ligand, Belgium
- Defruyt, Adjunct Manager at the refugee centre for minors Fedasil Poelkapelle, Belgium

People (staff and inhabitants) of refugee centres are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes in their behaviours when those in positions of authority do things *with* them, rather than *to* them or *for* them. Easier said, than done! This interactive workshop will inspire and strengthen participants to work restoratively in the challenging context of migration. Sitting in a circle format, the three workshop facilitators will share some key insights and elements in implementing restorative practices in Flemish refugee centres: the “why/ how/ what” of restorative practices in refugee centres (linked to the social discipline window and prevention pyramid); the impact on staff and inhabitants; the struggles and lessons learned through the process; and the hope for the future.

Auditorium Floor 0

### 3 PRESENTATIONS (25' each)

#### **1. Restorative Justice as a People-Centred Approach to Addressing the Needs of Children on the Move: Lessons from Thailand and Canada**

- Ukrit Sornprohm, Chief of Criminal Justice Policy and International Affairs at the Thailand Institute of Justice, affiliated with the United Nations
- Yvon Dandurand, Emeritus Professor at the University of the Fraser Valley in Canada, and Fellow and Senior Associate at the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform (ICCLR)

This discussion explores the transformative role of restorative justice in addressing the vulnerabilities of children on the move, with a specific focus on those in schools, detention centres, and protection facilities. Drawing on experiences from Thailand and Canada, it highlights people-centred approaches to fostering healing, accountability, and reintegration. By addressing multidimensional violence, inadequate care, and systemic barriers such as criminalisation and school dropout, restorative justice offers a sustainable framework for inclusive justice. Participants will discuss how to scale up restorative practices and enhance cross-sector collaboration to support children affected by displacement, trafficking, or institutionalisation, aiming to drive policy innovation and strengthen international cooperation.

#### **2. Transformative Potential of Restorative Justice in Addressing Vulnerabilities of Children on the Move**

- Nicholas Spetsidis, Project Coordinator of Union of Women Associations of Heraklion (UWAH), Greece

This workshop explores the transformative potential of restorative justice and its practices in strengthening child protection, particularly for children on the move. It addresses key challenges in post-abuse reporting and systemic failures that increase children's vulnerabilities (such as displacement,

violence, and neglect) drawing on findings from the ENCLAVE and CHILD PROJECT research. Participants will examine restorative principles that align with child-friendly justice and support healing, accountability, and empowerment. Emphasis is placed on fostering trauma-informed, multi-agency collaboration across sectors including social work, healthcare, policing, and forensic interviewing. Attendees will co-develop a “Child Safety Pathway” and practical action plans to embed restorative approaches in their work.

### **3. Restorative Justice Practice for Preventing School Violence in Chicago Public Schools**

- Caleb Kim, Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago and faculty affiliate with the Center for Human Rights of Children, Unites States

School violence remains prevalent in the United States, disproportionately impacting ethnic minority students in deprived urban areas. These students face higher exclusion rates, reinforcing the school-to-prison pipeline. In response, Chicago Public Schools have introduced restorative justice practices as part of their violence prevention strategy. When embedded in the curriculum, these approaches provide an alternative to zero-tolerance policies, improve teaching practices, and help create safer, more inclusive schools. However, implementation is hindered by limited funding, a lack of trained professionals, and persistent misconceptions. This presentation examines the history, impact, and challenges of restorative justice in Chicago schools, highlighting collaborative research efforts for improved practice and safer school environments.



## **Parallel Workshops II**

### **Saturday 17 May @ 09:30–11:00**

Room 3A Floor –1

**INTERACTIVE (80')**

#### **Rebuilding Lives: Restorative Tools for Children Exposed to Conflict and Trauma**

- Tim Chapman, Senior Restorative Justice Practitioner and Trainer and former Lecturer at Ulster University, United Kingdom
- Tali Gal, Chair in Child and Youth Rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

This interactive workshop explores how restorative justice and restorative approaches can support children affected by conflict, displacement, and trauma. It will examine how trauma disrupts the emotional and social foundations children rely on, and how restorative methods can help rebuild these. Drawing on experiences from Ireland and Israel, the session will explore the effects of conflict on children's well-being and moral development. Themes include trauma recovery, empathy, forgiveness, and the creation of safety and resilience. Case studies will highlight forgiveness programmes for Jewish and Arab children, and interventions for sexually assaulted youth, offering practical insights for long-term healing and inclusion and for countering polarisation and hatred.

Room 3B Floor –1

**DIALOGUE (80')**

#### **Intergenerational Justice: Restoring Trust, Dignity, and Agency with Young Leaders**

- Nantina Tsekeri, Vice-President of the Child Friendly Justice European Network & CEO of Defence for Children International Greece
- Members of the DCI-Greece Youth Ambassadors Cluster, Greece

This workshop creates a restorative space for youth leaders (aged 16–24) with lived experience of migration and justice systems to lead dialogue on justice reform. Centring their voices, it fosters intergenerational exchange that builds trust, promotes healing, and drives systemic change. Recognising youth participation and leadership as a restorative act, the session highlights the power of authentic engagement in creating inclusive, child-centred justice. Through storytelling, dialogue and collaboration with policymakers and key stakeholders, participants will offer lived insights and propose innovative solutions. Co-organised by the DCI-Greece Youth Ambassadors Cluster and operational team, this workshop demonstrates youth-led innovation as a catalyst for restorative justice, moving beyond tokenistic participation to an authentic partnership model.

Room 5    Floor +1

#### INTERACTIVE (80')

### **Restorative Practice Project Findings and Skills in Work with Children in Youth Justice and School Settings**

— Janine Carroll, Director, Trainer and Facilitator at Restorative Now, United Kingdom

What can restorative engagement in schools and youth justice settings teach us about supporting children on the move? These children, shaped by migration and displacement, often face profound early adversity, including the loss of loved ones, identity, and belonging. This workshop draws on practice with children experiencing dislocation to explore how restorative approaches can foster healing, trust, and understanding. It highlights both small-scale dialogues and wider restorative circles that build communication between children and adults. By connecting restorative practice with trauma-informed approaches, the session will examine the “Art of Engagement” and reflect on how inclusion, dignity, and agency can be meaningfully upheld.

Auditorium Floor 0

**3 PRESENTATIONS (25' each)****1. Restorative Justice and Alternative Measures  
to Detention for Migrant Children**

- Ylenia Parziale, Adjunct Professor of Juvenile Criminal Law at Niccolò Cusano University in Rome and Lawyer, Italy

Foreign minors often face significant disadvantages in criminal proceedings due to language barriers, limited legal understanding, and unstable support networks. Although international and European frameworks (such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child) promote child-friendly justice focused on rehabilitation and alternatives to detention, gaps remain. Italy's juvenile justice system, since 1988, prioritises education and reintegration, with restorative justice introduced in 2018. Yet, foreign minors remain underrepresented, accounting for just 18.3% of alternative measures. This presentation calls for reforms including cultural mediators, improved legal aid, expanded restorative justice access, and community engagement to ensure fair treatment and meaningful reintegration.

**2. Children Deprived of Their Liberty  
on the Move in Scotland**

- Lauren Emmerson, Social Worker at the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), United Kingdom
- Pamela Morrison, Practice Development Advisor at the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), United Kingdom

This presentation will introduce the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) and its work in supporting Scotland's Restorative Justice Action Plan. CYCJ focuses on the rights and needs of children, including those in secure care, often far from home. The presenters will explore research on children in conflict with the law, highlighting the impact of poverty, adversity, and systemic inequality. Data on children in secure care (covering gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, and distance from home) will be

discussed. The session will present a case on restorative practices for addressing issues associated with the movement of children from their communities and depriving them of their liberty.

### **3. Criminalising Vulnerability: Territorialism, Punitive Narratives, and the Incarceration of Migrant Children and Young Adults**

— Anastasia Chalkia, Human Rights Researcher at the Greek National Commission for Human Rights and Lecturer at the University of West Attica, Greece

Migrant minors face systemic discrimination, legal insecurity, and institutional neglect, which heighten their vulnerability. Having fled war and instability, they are often met with restrictive asylum policies that deny them basic rights and, in many cases, lead to their criminalisation. In Greece, an increasingly dominant narrative linking migrant minors to delinquency has fuelled punitive legal responses, contributing to rising incarceration rates despite international standards advising against the detention of children. Such trends promote exclusion rather than rehabilitation. Tackling these issues demands a critical examination of the legal and political frameworks that enable punitive measures, and a shift towards recognising migrant minors as rights-holders, not security threats. Restorative justice offers a constructive alternative, promoting inclusion, dignity, and reintegration.

# AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Organisers & Sponsors

The European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ), based in Belgium and founded in 2000, promotes access to high-quality restorative justice across Europe. With 350+ members (individuals and organisations), it engages in research, training, events, and policy work, supporting justice in criminal and other settings through partnerships with European institutions and networks. The EFRJ traditionally co-organises its events with its local members and partners.

This seminar is organised in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Social and Humanitarian Crises and the Department of Social Work of University of West Attica (UNIWA), hosted by the Conference Center of Archaios Elaionas in the Ancient Olive Grove Campus (*elaionas* means olive grove in Greek). To know more about the campus: [www.uniwa.gr/en/the-university/infrastructure/ancient-olive-grove-campus](http://www.uniwa.gr/en/the-university/infrastructure/ancient-olive-grove-campus).



The seminar is financially supported by the Justice Programme of the European Commission.



## Poster

### "Wherever I am, Earth is my home"

The drawing used for the seminar poster was created by the children of beneficiaries of the "ESTIA 2021" program, a housing initiative for asylum seekers that operated in Tilos, a small island in the Dodecanese, Greece. Over its three-year duration, the program provided accommodation for vulnerable families with children while they awaited asylum decisions. During their time on the island, the children integrated into the local community, attending school and learning Greek. This drawing was made in collaboration with their educator, Mrs. Maria Kamma, as part of Environmental Day activities. It depicts the earth, the sun—representing a universal connection—and various elements such as their school, symbolising inclusivity and openness to all, regardless of origin. Through their artwork, they conveyed the idea that no matter where we are, we can travel, play, and love. At the top of the drawing, they wrote in Greek: "*Wherever I am, Earth is my home.*"



## Supporters

We warmly thank Defence for Children International – Greece (DCI), the Child Friendly Justice – European Network (CFJ-EN), Terre des hommes Hellas (TdH), and UNICEF Greece Country Office for their valuable participation in the seminar and for their continued commitment to promoting justice and dignity for all children.

## Organising teams

We are grateful for the help and contribution for the following persons to make this event happen:

### Local organisers

Ioakimidis Vasilios – Professor & Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of West Attica / **Stouraiti Alexia** – Mediator LLB, Ph.D. candidate in Social Work at the University of West Attica / **Aleiferi Sofia** – EFRJ intern (based in Athens)

### EFRJ Secretariat

**Anda Zsófia** – Finance and Administration Officer / **Biffi Emanuela** – Programme Coordinator / **Hein Laura** – Policy Officer / **Juhász Bálint** – Training & Communication Officer / **Törzs Edit** – Executive Director / **Magarotto Silvia** – EFRJ intern (based in Leuven)

### EFRJ Board

Buonatesta Antonio / Chochua Maia / Christen-Schneider Claudia / Jaffé Lucy / Johanson Annegrete / Ollero Peran Jorge / Pali Brunilda / Patrizi Patrizia / Šachová Petra

### Programme committee

Biffi Emanuela / Chochua Maia / Christen-Schneider Claudia / Johanson Annegrete / Stouraiti Alexia

### Volunteers

Emmanouilidou Panagiota Eleni / Georgopoulou Aimilia / Kapsampeli Stella / Katsirou Sotiria / Mavroudi Lamprini / Nifora Aikaterini / Papadopoulou Dimitra / Rentifi Aimilia / Tzortzi Mariza / Vatousi Danae / Voumvaki Sofia

## PARTICIPANTS' LIST

This list includes the 103 participants (including speakers, organisers, and volunteers) of the seminar, coming from 20 different countries, and ordered (in alphabetical order) by country, current employer (when provided) and last name.

Last update (before printing): 07/05/2025.

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Emmerson	Lauren	Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)	United Kingdom
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Chibesakunda – Kaluba	Lombe Susan	Ministry of Justice – Civil litigation	Zambia

## EVALUATION FORMS

Your opinion is very important for us and for our donors, that's why, at the end of the event, we will ask you to inform us about your experience. If you click on the QR code, you find two surveys:

- EFRJ evaluation form on the event
- European Commission – EC survey on justice, rights and values

You can find it also on this webpage:

[www.euforumrj.org/evaluation-efrj-13th-international-seminar](http://www.euforumrj.org/evaluation-efrj-13th-international-seminar).



# PRACTICALITIES

## Addresses

- Conference Centre of Archaïos Elaionas (Ancient Olive Grove Campus), University of West Attica (UNIWA), Thivon 250, 12244 Aigaleo, Athens

### Local tip

In case you need to ask for directions, “PADA” is the Greek translation for “UNIWA”. Here is the Google pin for the Conference Center itself:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/goNp4CR8QAKYeQat9> (or scan the QR code)



- Myrtillo Cafe, Park for Children and Culture (former KAPAPS), Trifilias & Lampsa Street, Ambelokipi 11524, Athens
- Arethusa Hotel (where the EFRJ team stays), 6–8 Mitropoleos, 10563 Athens
- Shedia Home’s cafe-restaurant, Kolokotroni 56 & Nikiou 2, Athens

## Moving around

Athens is well-connected by metro, bus, and on foot. The seminar venue is located close to the Aigaleo metro station; from there, bus 829 drives to the UNIWA campus (PADA campus in Greek). Myrtillo is located within walking distance from the Panormou metro station.

Use Google Maps (or other apps) for transport schedules. Taxis and ride-sharing are widely available (e.g. the FREENOW app, popular in Greece). If needed, ask the organisers for the personal phone number of a local English-speaking taxi driver.

Visit the EFRJ website for more practical information.

## Wi-Fi at UNIWA

Internet: uniwa\_hotspot

Username: uniwa

Password: uniwa000!

## More questions?

Contact the EFRJ Secretariat or visit the EFRJ website:



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