Preparatory regional meeting
World Congress on Justice for Children

“Towards a fairer system of justice for children in North America”

Mérida, Yucatán - México

8th, 9th, 10th May 2019

North American Working group on Justice for children

Juvenile Justice Initiative

Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide.
A Preparatory regional meeting for the next World Congress on Justice for Children:

Objectives of the North American working group on justice for children.

As a follow up of the 2018 World Congress on Justice For children, an ad hoc working group of government officials, stakeholders, academics and experts from Canada, Mexico and USA has decided to join forces to develop joint initiatives to promote fairer justice for children in North America. The objective of this group is to foster regional cooperation among professionals from the three North American nations in order to develop coordinated actions, to exchange good practices, cooperate in scientific research, formulate specific recommendations, and to raise awareness on justice for children. In addition, this working group aims to foster the operational implementation of international rules and standards concerning the rights of children and young people in conflict with the law.

This North American Working Group on Justice for Children last met in the context of the World Congress of Justice for Children, which took place at the UNESCO house in Paris – France in May 2018. The World Congress on Justice for Children is a joint initiative of international non-profit organisation composed by Terre des hommes, Penal Reform International and The International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates in collaboration with other organisations such as Defense for Children International, and Child Right International Network. Similar regional meetings have been organised, in the past, in Washington DC – USA and Toronto – Canada, during which it has been agreed to work more precisely on restorative juvenile justice, solitary confinement, and alternative measures to deprivation of liberty. It is in this context that the working group decided to support the initiative of the United Nations General Secretary of conducting a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. In 2018, members of the group co-hosted a regional consultation in New York with the UN Special Rapporteur Manfred Nowak. Furthermore, the group has been very active in promoting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals which commits to promote peaceful, sustainable and inclusive society (SDG16). Achieving this ambitious vision, increasing access to justice for children remains at the forefront of international child rights agenda. In April 2018, Terre des Hommes and the United States Institute of Peace organized a joint conference in Washington DC: “Enhancing access to justice, peace and security
for children and youth across the globe”, to spark a dialogue between a range of stakeholders, explore promising practices, and to actively engage participants discussing and formulating action-oriented recommendations on the emergence trends in access to justice for children.

During its last meeting in May 2018 in Paris, the North American Working Group on Justice for Children, which is composed of Juvenile Justice Initiative (USA), Colectivo Ave (Mexico) and Terre des hommes, agreed to meet next in Yucatan, Mexico, from the 8th to 10th of May 2019. On Wednesday, May 8th a pre-event will be organised for Mexican nationals, then on Thursday, May 9th will take place a Regional Conference to facilitate the exchange of evidence-based promising community practices on justice for children in North America. This event will bring both a global overview of recent trends and evolutions of justice for children in North America as well as a special focus on alternatives measures to deprivation of liberty for specific groups such as children with mental health issues, and their supervision. Special attention will focus on restorative approaches in the context of diversionary measures. Finally, the conference will study the condition of detention of children in North America and how to prevent harmful practices such as solitary confinement.

On Friday, May 10th, during a closed policy-oriented event, the working group will define priorities as well as next steps for the group in a regional and global context, ahead of a next working group meeting in 2021, before the second edition of the World Congress on Justice for Children. Recommendations and proposals of topics, agenda and activities for the next World Congress will be formulated by the working group. Similar preparatory regional meetings are being organised in different parts of the globe in 2019 and 2020.
AGENDA Day I
Wednesday, 8th of May 2019
Pre-event for Mexican participants

“Human rights and children’s rights in Mexico: Current trends and challenges”

- 8:00 – 09:30 am. Registration of participants and welcome of authorities
- 09:30 – 10h15. Welcoming words
  Abog. Ricardo de Jesus Avila Heredia - President of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Judiciary Council of the Judicial Court,
  Cedric Foussard – Terre des hommes,
  Lise Gagnon – IAYMJ (Canada),
  Joaquín Torres – Red Colectivo AVE (MEX)
  María Dolores Fritz Sierra - General Secretary of the State of Yucatan,
- 10:15 – 10:20. Group photography
  Dr. Ricardo Bucio Mújica – Executive Secretary of the Sistema Nacional de Protección de los Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes en México (SIPINNA),
- 11:30-12:00. Coffee break
- 12:00 – 13.00. Plenary Session: Defending the rights of children in conflict with the law within the judiciary system: institutional responses in Mexico
  Lic. Juan Martin Pérez García – Executive Secretary of the Defense of the rights of children in Mexico Network (REDIM) and Executive Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Network to Defend the Rights of Children. (REDLAMYC),
- 13:00 – 14:00. Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30. Plenary session: Children in conflict with the law in Mexico: trends and law reform
  Dr. Rubén Vasconcelos Méndez – General Prosecutor of the State of Oaxaca,
- 15:30 – 16:15: Coffee break
- 16:15 - 17:30: Expert debate: Fostering access to justice and diversionary measures in North America:
  From “day-to-day justice” practices to community based programmes.
  Moderator: MD. Santiago Altamirano Escalante – (TSIJUC),
  Dr. Sofía Cobo Tellez - Researcher in the INACIPE,
  Dr. Rodrigo Ignacio Ortiz Eljure – General Prosecutor of the State of Yucatan,
  MTF Joaquín Torres – Colectivo AVE Representative,
- 17:30-18:00: Concluding remarks
  Cedric Foussard - Terre Des hommes,
  MTF Joaquín Torres - Colectivo AVE Representative,
AGENDA Day II
Thursday, 9th of May 2019

“Towards a fairer justice for children in North America”

- 8:00 - 9:00. Registration of participants and welcome of the authorities
- 9:00 – 9:20. Flag salute
- 9:20 – 9:50. Welcoming words
  
  Abog. Ricardo de Jesus Avila Heredia - President of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Judiciary Council of the Judicial Court,
  Cedric Foussard – Terre des hommes
  Lic. Renán A. Barrera Concha, Municipal President of Merida
- 9:50 – 10:00. Inauguration
  
  Lic. Mauricio Vila Dosal, Constitutional Governor of the State of Yucatan
- 10:00 – 10:15. Group photography and farewell of the authorities.
  
  Moderator:  MD. Santiago Altamirano Escalante – TSJYUC,
  Diane Geraghty – Loyola University of Chicago, USA,
  Discussants:
  Dr. Rubén Vasconcelos Méndez – General Prosecutor of the State of Oaxaca
  Lise Gagnon – Children’s Judge, AIMJF, Canada
  Dr. Alejandro Ramón Fuentes – Children Court of Durango, Mex.
  Lic. Juan Martín Pérez García – Executive Secretary of the Defense of the rights of children in Mexico Network (REDIM) and Executive Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Network to Defend the Rights of Children. (REDLAMYC).

- 11:15 – 11:45. Coffee break

- 11:45 – 13:00. Deprivation of liberty for children and young offenders: ending harmful practices and condition of detention
  
  Moderator: Cedric Foussard – Terre des hommes
  Experts:
  “Deprivation of liberty for children as last resort measure”
  Haitham Shibli – Deputy director – Penal Reform International – Jordan
  “Global report on pretrial detention”
  Sarahi García Martínez – National Director – Juvenile Justice International – Mexico
  “Pretrial detention for children: which alternatives for Mexico?”
  Pamela Velázquez Zambrano – Lead Investigator – Observatory – Instituto de Justicia Procesal Penal - Mexico
  Exchange with the room

- 13:00 – 14:30. Lunch
• 14:30 – 15:30. Expert debate: Alternatives measures to deprivation of liberty for vulnerable groups, including children with mental health issues
  
  **Moderator:** MTF Joaquín Torres – Red Colectivo AVE
  
  **Experts:**
  
  “Street children and situation of extreme vulnerability”
  Daniel Urdiain – lawyer – Baker & McKenzie
  
  “Mental health programs for children in contact with the law”
  Dr. Jorge Carlos Hevia Orozco – Neurosciences of conduct. Escuela de Carácter AC
  
  **Discutants:** Elizabeth Clarke – Juvenile Justice Initiative (USA)
  Zayuri Valle – Sinergia Yucatan

• 15:30 – 16:00. Coffee break

• 16:00 - 17:00. Innovative justice for children: How can we improve our systems to facilitate reintegration as well as social and professional inclusion?
  
  **Moderator:** MTF Joaquín Torres – Red Colectivo AVE
  
  **Experts:**
  
  “Child-friendly justice: promote reforms and improve systems”
  Tom Geraghty – Law Teacher – North Western University – Chicago – USA
  
  “Addressing Issues in Canadian Youth Justice”.
  Jessica McClay - Youth Justice and Strategic Initiatives Section - Justice Canada
  
  “Social and working reintegration of children in conflict with the law”
  Mtro. Víctor Roa Muñoz - Colectivo AVE
  
  Dr. Jorge Carlos Hevia Orozco – Neurosciences of conduct. Escuela de Carácter AC
  
  **Discutants:**
  
  Mtra. María Jesús Ocaña Dorantes – Red Colectivo AVE
  MD. Santiago Altamirano Escalante – (TSJYUC)

• 17:00-17:30. Closing Ceremony
  
  Cedric Foussard – Terre des hommes
  
  Lise Gagnon – Children judge, AIMJF, Canada
  
  Haitham Shibli – Penal Reform International, Jordan
AGENDA Day III
Friday, 10th of May 2019

North American Working group on Justice for children
Preparatory regional meeting for the World Congress on Justice for Children

- **9h00 - 9h15:** Welcome Addresses and objectives of the day
  Cedric Foussard – Terre des hommes
  Elizabeth Clarke – Juvenile Justice Initiative (USA)

- **9h15 - 09h45:** Defining North American Working Group on Justice for Children development and presenting history of activities: Purpose, past and future convenings, Policy Papers (Last Resort; Restorative Justice; and Solitary confinement)
  Cedric Foussard – Terre des hommes
  Elizabeth Clarke – Juvenile Justice Initiative (USA)

- **09h45 - 11h00:** Tour de table: participants’ priorities and activities
  **Moderator:** Diane Geraghty – Loyola University of Chicago, USA,
  Group work 20mn and then each country present during 15mn.

- **11h00 - 11h30:** Coffee break

- **11h30 - 12h30:** Defining North American working group joint actions in the context of global events - the preparation for the next World Congress on Justice for Children, Global Study release and CRC Anniversary
  - Overview of World Congress: Cedric Foussard
  - Anticipated release of Global Study on Deprivation of Liberty: Betsy Clarke
  - 30 year Anniv of CRC Nov. 20: Diane Geraghty
  Exchange with the Room

- **12h30 - 13h30:** Lunch

- **13h30 - 15h00:** Exchange with room on regional priorities and activities
  **Moderators:** Cedric Foussard - Diane Geraghty – Angela Vigil
  - Focus of North American Working Group
  - Preparation for next World Congress
  - Joint research & policy papers
  - Joint convenings
  - Joint activities of advocacy

- **15h00 - 15h30:** Coffee break

- **15h30 - 16h30:** Conclusions (Each nations presents)
ORGANISERS

COLECTIVO AVE (Adolescentes con Vulnerabilidad Extrema)
Collective of Organized Civil Society in favor of Adolescents in Extreme Vulnerability.

Children in Mexico suffer a vast range of situations where their rights are not safeguarded, consequently they are facing difficulties within their personal, family, and social development. Many of these children are suffering extreme vulnerabilities and need to be heard as well as supported in search of their personal well-being. La Red Colectivo Ave aims from December 2015 when the initiative presented itself:

- Promote and defend Children Rights,
- Advocate for child friendly Public Policies,
- Develop programs for the prevention of addictive and violent behavior, as well as conflict with the law.
- Lead programs of Treatment, Social-Cultural-Professional Reintegration, and Restorative approaches.

Main contacts:
MTF Joaquín M. Torres Aburto. (Escuela de Caracter AC).
Mtra. María Jesús Ocaña Dorantes. (Casa Crisal AC Project).
Mtro. Víctor R. Roa Muñoz (Youth Integration Centers AC).

Juvenile Justice Initiative, USA.

The Juvenile Justice Initiative was launched in 2000 as a collaborative of the Woods Fund of Chicago along with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, during the tenure of President Barack Obama on the Woods Fund Board. JJI is a non-profit, non-partisan, inclusive statewide advocacy organization that establishes broad-based collaborations to achieve concrete improvements and lasting changes for youth in the justice system, consistent with the JJI mission statement – to transform the juvenile justice system in Illinois by reducing reliance on confinement, enhancing fairness for all youth, and developing a comprehensive continuum of community-based resources throughout the state. JJI’s statewide approach to systemic reform for youth in the justice system begins with research and analysis, following a circular path linking policy development, policy education, network and coalition building, policy advocacy and policy evaluation and implementation assistance.

Main contact:
Elizabeth Clarke, President, Juvenile Justice Initiative
Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh) is the largest Swiss organization for child relief. With delegations in over 30 countries and its expertise in the domains of health and child protection, Tdh offers practical solutions and a better future for over one million children and their mothers each year. This engagement is financed by individual and institutional support, of which more than 85% flows directly into the programs. Tdh was founded in Lausanne in 1960.

Main contact:
Cedric Foussard, Advocacy and Global Learning Advisor.

Penal Reform International

Penal Reform International (PRI) is an independent non-governmental organisation that develops and promotes fair, effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems worldwide. It promotes the rights of detainees to fair and humane treatment, and campaigns for the prevention of torture and the abolition of the death penalty, and works to ensure both just and appropriate responses for children and women who come into contact with the law.

International Association of Family and Youth Judges and Magistrates

IAYFJM is a worldwide organisation, dating to before the first World War and formally established in Belgium in 1928. It is dedicated to the study and exchange of information on issues concerning children and young people in need of care and protection and/or in conflict with the law, and their families. It aims to identify, publicise and promote best practice in these fields. The languages of the Association are French, English and Spanish.
CO-ORGANISERS

Contact: Magistrate Santiago Altamirano
LOGISTICS

Main contact: Cedric Foussard – cedric.foussard@tdh.ch

➔ How to get to the conference room day 1 and day 2?

Supreme Court of Yucatan (Tribunal Superior del Estado de Yucatán). Auditorio Víctor Cervera Pacheco.

➔ How to get to the conference room day 3?

University Marista de Mérida. “Sala de Usos Múltiples”
→ **Conference logistics:**

- Please note that the conference will enjoy **interpretation in English and Spanish**
- On Thursday, May 9th, the Merida Town hall will be happy to invite you to a welcome cocktail, at 8:30pm in Merida Town hall Headquarters
- The Supreme Court of Yucatan will be pleased to invite you for lunch on Wednesday, May 8th and Thursday, May 9th 2019 in the same headquarters.

→ **Hotels**

Special price has been negotiated with **Hotel Wyndham Mérida.**

![Hotel Wyndham Mérida](image)

Hotel Windham: $ 1,403.00 + taxes with breakfast included
Room with two beds king size.
Arrival date: the 7th of May – departure date: the 11th of May

**How to go to the Hotel Wyndham Mérida:**

[Map of Mérida with the location of the hotel]