



CONFERENCE ON SAFEGUARDING THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD: JUSTICE, PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

23 October 2025

Phoenicia Hotel Malta, The Mall, Floriana, Malta, FRN1478

08:30 - 09:30	REGISTRATION
09:00 - 09:20	OPENING SPEECHES Hon Minister Jonathan Attard, Minister for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector Mr Mattias Guyomar, President of the European Court of Human Rights
09:20 - 09:45	KEYNOTE ADDRESS 'Building Justice around Children' Prof Jennifer Davidson, OBE, University of Strathclyde
09:45 - 10:15	COFFEE BREAK
10:15 - 10:45	FEATURED ADDRESS 'Development of the Council of Europe's recommendations on the best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings' Mr Seamus Carroll, First Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings, Council of Europe



10:45 - 12:00	PANEL 1: ADDRESSING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN THROUGH A CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE SYSTEM <i>Introductory speech</i> Madame Justice Lorraine Schembri Orland, European Court of Human Rights <i>Moderator</i> Dr Andria Buhagiar, Office of the State Advocate <i>Panellists</i> • Judge Anna Maria Guerra Martins, European Court of Human Rights • Ms Anne Kayser-Attuil, Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe • Mr Justice Francesco Depasquale, President, Council of Europe Commission for the Efficiency of Justice • Ms Nicole Drew, Policy Analyst, Governance Partnerships, Inclusion and Justice Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development • Ms Antoinette Vassallo, Commissioner for Children, Malta • Dr James D'Agostino, Senior Lawyer, Office of the State Advocate • Dr Bernardine Satariano, Researcher, Foundation for the Well-being of Society
12:00 - 12:30	QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 15:15	PANEL 2: CHILD POVERTY AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN TRAFFICKING <i>Introductory speech</i> Dr. Juliana Scerri Ferrante, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Focal Point for European Region



	<i>Moderator</i> Dr Elena Swain, Office of the State Advocate <i>Panellists</i> • Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Special Advisor to EU Committee on Children's Interest and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child • Judge Saadet Yüksel, European Court of Human Rights • Ms Ruth Sciberras, Chief Executive Officer, Social Care Standards Authority • Dr Lynn Chircop Faure, Expert at Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of Europe • Dr Angele Sears-Debono, Legal and Policy Officer, DG-JUST, European Commission
15:15 - 15:45	QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
15:45 - 16:00	CLOSING SPEECH Dr Chris Soler, State Advocate