



Presidency of Ireland  
Council of Europe  
May - November 2022  
Présidence de l'Irlande  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Mai - Novembre 2022



**“Hear Our Voices: The Rights and Determination of the Best interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care Proceedings”**

**3 October 2022**

Farmleigh House Dublin

**Detailed Conference Programme**

Monday 3 October	
08:00-09:00	Registration in Farmleigh House
	Conference MC – Tanya Ward, CEO Children’s Rights Alliance
09:00-09:30	Opening address by Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
	Address by Christophe Poirel, Director, Human Rights Directorate, Council of Europe
09:30-10:30	<b>Hear my Voice</b> Keynote address by Lemn Sissay OBE Fireside Chat - with 4 young people with experience of care/family law proceedings in Ireland in conversation with Lemn Sissay
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00-12:00	<b>Balancing rights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benoit Van Keirsbilck, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2021-2024</li><li>• Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights</li><li>• Regina Jensdottir, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for the rights of the child and Head of the Children's Rights Division</li><li>• Carol Coulter, Executive Director, Child Law Project</li></ul>



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice



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12:00-13:20	High-level plenary session 1 – <b>Assessing the rights and best interests of the child in the context of care proceedings</b> Maria Corbett, CEO Child Law Project Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker, Tusla (Child and Family Agency) Marissa Ryan, CEO Empowering People In Care (EPIC) Diego Gallagher, Senior Solicitor, Office of Legal Services, Tusla (Child and Family Agency) Judge Paul Kelly, President of the District Court <b>Chair:</b> Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
13:20-14:50	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:50-15:20	<b>Children's view in developing future standards on child's rights in family proceedings</b> Barbara Németh, Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation Hungary and CJ/ENF-ISE consultant
15:20-15:50	<b>Evolution of the 'Best interests of the child' concept in Ireland</b> Dr Geoffrey Shannon SC
15:50-16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:15-17:30	High-level plenary session 2 – <b>The rights and best interests of the child in the context of parental separation and in family law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judge Colin Daly, Circuit Court</li><li>• Fiona McAuslan, Director of Family Mediation, Legal Aid Board</li><li>• Prof Ksenija Turković, Law Department, University of Zagreb</li><li>• Catherine Ghent, Solicitor</li></ul> <b>Chair:</b> Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children Ireland
17:30-17:45	Closing address by Minister Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Justice
18:00-21:00	Conference dinner/social programme in the National Museum Collins Barracks



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