



Online Conference

Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

30th and 31st October, 09:00 – 13:00 CET/UCT +1

Day 1: Wednesday 30th October 2024

09:00

Welcome

09:15

Opening of conference

Speakers:

- Angela Maria Rosales, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Programme Officer, SOS Children's Villages International
- Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion; European Commission
- Dr Salma Nims, Former Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women (2014 – 2022), Former Senior Social Affairs Officer (Gender and Social Inclusion), UN ESCWA

10:00

Session 1: Presentation of research findings from the "Global Report on Children's Care and Protection 2024: Understanding and preventing the separation of children from their family"

Content: The new global report is based on extensive research conducted in 8 countries. The lead international researcher and researchers from Denmark, Lebanon and Kyrgyzstan will present key findings on factors contributing to and the impact of child-family separation, on decision making in child protection systems and gatekeeping, and provide recommendations for research, policy, and practice.

Speakers:

- Rosalind Willi, Research and Learning Advisor, SOS Children's Villages International
- Dr Chrissie Gale, Director of Child Consulting Ltd., honorary research fellow, University of Strathclyde Dr Chrissie Gale, International child protection consultant
- Prof. Charlotte Bredahl Jacobsen, Head of Research and Development, University College Copenhagen, Department of Social Work, Denmark
- Joumana Stephan Yeretian, Associate Professor, Saint Joseph University of Beirut Lebanon
- Mehrigiul Ablezova, Assistant Professor at American University of Central Asia Kyrgyzstan

11:00

BREAK



Session 2: Exchange on effective policies, strategies, and systems to strengthen families, protect children, and prevent child-family separation

Content: Experts and a young person with lived experience will share learnings, experiences, and actionable recommendations on effective family strengthening policies, strategies, and systems. In an interactive panel discussion, they will exchange on how to accelerate child protection reform and scale up interventions for children, parents, care givers and extended families to prevent separation.

Speakers:

- Katerina Novokhatnja, First Deputy Head of the Coordination Centre for Family Upbringing and Childcare, Advisory body to the Cabinet of Ministers' Prime Ministerial office, Ukraine
- Aaron Greenberg, Regional Advisor Child Protection, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe, and Central Asia
- Mathis Porchez, Policy analyst, European Commission – DG EMPL on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee
- Maria Dantcheva, Deputy Director Programme, SOS Children's Villages International Office CEE/CIS/ME
- Darina Krapchanska, Young expert

11:15

Recap and close of day

Content: Summarize insights and recommendations for effective family support policies and practices.

12:45



Day 2: Thursday 31st October 2024

09:00

Welcome

09:15

Session 3: Core principles of working with families at risk

Content: The presentation will dive into key ethical considerations and guiding principles necessary for working with families at risk.

Speaker:

- Dr Lyudmila Kim, Liaison of the Uzbekistan-Columbia-UNICEF Initiative
Adjunct Lecturer, Columbia University School of Social Work

10:00

Session 4: Sharing promising practices for strengthening families and protecting children

Content: Professionals will share promising and interesting practices, research findings, and methodologies from primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services and projects.

Format: 2 parallel groups in English, Russian, and Arabic with simultaneous translation in all languages. Six practices will be presented in each group followed by Q&A sessions. On [this link](#) you can find overview of selected practices.

11:05

BREAK

11:20

Session 4 (continued): Sharing promising practices for strengthening families and protecting children

On [this link](#) you can find overview of selected practices.

12:25

Session 4 (close): Summary of highlights and insights from promising practices sharing session

Content: Rapporteurs from the three groups will present key learnings from the promising practices sharing sessions.

- Lubos Tibensky, Programme Advisor, SOS Children's Villages International, International Office CEE/CIS/Middle East
- Rusudan Chkheidze, Head of Programme, SOS Children's Villages International Office CEE/CIS/ME



12:45

Concluding remarks

Content: Review key takeaways from the two-day inputs and discussions, consolidate insights and recommendations for implementing effective policies, strategies, and practices to support families at risk and protect children.

13:00

End of conference