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SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES

Online Conference

Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

30th and 31st October 2024

9am-1pm CET/UTC+1

DRAFT PROGRAMME

27.09.2024

Day 1: Wednesday 30th October 2024

09:00 – 13:00 CET/UCT +1

09:00

Welcome

09:15

Opening of conference

Speakers:

- Ms Angela Maria Rosales, interim CEO SOS Children's Villages International
- Ms. Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission
- Representative of League of Arab States (tbc)

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 Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon 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:

- Dr Chrissie Gale, International child protection consultant
- Ms Mehrigiul Ablezova, Assistant Professor at American University of Central Asia Kyrgyzstan
- Ms Joumana Stephan Yeretian, Associate Professor at the Higher Institute of Public Health at the Saint-Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Charlotte Bredahl Jacobsen, Head of Research and Development, University College Copenhagen

11:00

BREAK

11:15

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:

- Ms Katerina Novokhatnja, Deputy Head of the Coordination Center for Development of Family-based care and upbringing Advisory body to the Cabinet of Ministers' Prime Ministerial office, Ukraine
- Aaron Greenberg, Senior Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, Child Protection, UNICEF
- Mathis Porchez, Economic and policy analyst, European Commission – DG EMPL on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee
- SOS Children Village's representative
- Young person with lived experience

12:45

Recap and close of day

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

Day 2: Thursday 31st October 2024

09:00 – 13:00 CET/UCT

09:00	Welcome and preview of programme
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr Lyudmila Kim, Liaison of the Uzbekistan-Columbia-UNICEF Initiative Adjunct Lecturer, Columbia University School of Social Work
09:45	Session 4: Sharing promising practices for strengthening families and protecting children Content: Professionals and persons using services will share promising and interesting practices, research findings, and methodologies from primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services and projects. Format: 3 parallel groups in English, Russian, and Arabic with simultaneous translation in all languages. Four practices will be presented in each group followed by Q&A sessions.
10.45	BREAK
11:00	Session 4 (continued): Sharing promising practices for strengthening families and protecting children
12:00	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.
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