



NEWSLETTER

International Association of Youth and Family
Judges and Magistrates

2024

CONTENTS

01.

Study Tour in Barcelona and Council Meeting

02.

Upcoming Study Tour 2024

03.

AIMJF RESEARCH

04.

AIMJF Survey Child Victims and Witnesses
Matters

05.

Webinars, AIMJF's Centennial Celebrations

06.

AIMJF's European Section

07.

Conference

Study Tour In Barcelona And Council Meeting

With the kind support of the Spanish Judicial School, AIMJF has organized a three-day study tour in Barcelona, Spain, in October 2023.

The program has consisted in welcoming reception by the director of the Spanish Judicial School, AIMJF's deputy president, Jorge Jimenéz Martin, and an introductory training on Spanish legal system, both in juvenile justice and family (and protection) matters.

Members from several countries, such as USA, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Brazil, have had the opportunity to visit the Spanish School, to follow hearings in juvenile justice, family and child victims matters and to discuss with local judges.

Besides legal discussions, visitors have also had the opportunity to visit institutions: a detention center for youth and an integrated center for child victims, adopting Barnahus model, this one located in Tarragona.

AIMJF has also organized two important events at the Spanish School: the European section's and AIMJF's council and committee meeting, with important decisions about future actions (see below)

Next Study Tour Programs: Mexico And Europe (Poland) In 2024

AIMJF's study tour program was suspended due to the pandemic, but from now on we intend to organize two study tours every year. One in October, always in Europe, during the European section's meeting, and the other one, always in May, in another continent.

For 2024, AIMJF, in partnership with Mexican members, and with a special thanks to Judge Sara Patricia Ore, proposes a three-day study tour in Mexico City, in the third week of May, between the 20 and 24th. Program to be specified shortly, but including training session in Mexican legal system, visit to local courts and to institutions.

In October, it was decided during the European section meeting that Poland will host the next meeting. City and program to be defined shortly.

By sharing information about countries and dates previously, AIMJF aims to allow a higher participation of our members in the study tours, strengthening the possibility of networking and to share knowledge and experiences. Save the dates, please!

As soon as the Mexican program is ready, inscriptions will be announced to our members.

AiMjF's Research On Child Participation In Juvenile Justice

AIMJF has published its new research on child participation in juvenile justice.

Members and collaborators from 55 countries, in all continents, have written a national report based on a guiding questionnaire, followed by a comparative analysis.

This is the second collaborative and comparative research organized by our association. The previous one, focused on child participation in family and protection matters, has involved 35 countries.

The increasing number of participants shows the interest of our members for a more participative experience in our association and the importance to increase opportunities for transnational judicial dialogue among judges and legal professionals all over the world.

Survey On Challenging Issues In Child Victims And Witnesses Matters: Preparatory Step For The Next Aimjf's Research In 2024

AIMJF intends to organize every year comparative research.

Following the two previous issues, on child participation, we intend to organize the next research on access to justice by child victims and witnesses, focusing all stages of the justice process and with regard to all relevant aspects.

In order to build a meaningful product for all members, we have developed a new strategy to prepare the guiding questionnaire.

Until now, all members willing to collaborate in the planning process of our researches were participating in a WhatsApp group, still open to other members. For those who are interested, please contact the Chronicle's editor in Chief, Eduardo Rezende Melo (aimjfchronicle@gmail.com). This group is still very important to check if all questions make sense in a multicultural level.

However, we have noticed that, if some challenging issues could be raised beforehand, or if some innovative experiences could also be informed previously, important aspects would be more explored in the research, providing a still more interesting picture of what is happening in the world.

For this reason, we have prepared a survey to allow members and other collaborators to share some aspects they would like to see addressed in our next research. We also expect that members could inform us if they are interested in writing a national report and also to participate in webinars around this issue.

Here is the link for your participation:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15xwQEHREBgV40eVLWgiPkAKVkv7XQ-pDznr8Moeju8/edit>

05. WEBINARS

In coordination with the researches, AIMJF intend to organize six webinars every year to discuss the outcomes, both the more challenging issues and the innovative experiences.

A coordination group has been created with the participation of:

- Chronicle's Editor in Chief, Eduardo Rezende Melo,
- AIMJF's Deputy Secretary General:
- Ursina Weidkuhn, and judge Emmanuelle Lajus-Thizon (from the French Association)

Webinars will be held in Spanish, English and French, with subtitles the following day, and we are planning to organize them in February, April, June and then in August, October and December.



AIMJF'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Youth courts associative movement in a historical and comparative perspective. AIMJF was founded in 1928, in 5 years' time we intend to celebrate its first centennial.

AIMJF represents the efforts of youth and family judges and magistrates to improve local and international standards regarding children's rights.

This same effort was developed at local levels, with the creation of several national associations around the world, who are also members of our international association.

AIMJF wants to highlight the importance of each and every national association, sharing their history, their development and transformations and their contribution to the improvement of legal standards in children's rights issues, both locally and internationally.

We believe that AIMJF shares the same challenges as its national equivalents and it is important to strengthen our mutual relationship in order to understand the contributions and potentialities of judicial associative movement for children's rights issues.

06. AIMJF'S EUROPEAN SECTION

New Presidency and Plans for the 2024-2026. During the meeting in Barcelona, Spain, AIMJF's European section has elected a new president.

01

Ellen van Kalveen, President AIMJF Europe

Ellen van Kalveen, from the Netherlands, succeeding judge Margreeth van Dam, from the same country. AIMJF wishes Judge van Kalveen success in the organization of activities in Europe.



02

Meetings in European Section from 2024-2026

The European section has already planned their meetings in the following years: **Poland**, in 2024; **England** in 2025 and **Switzerland** in 2026.

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In an integrated approach, every meeting will offer theoretical and practical discussions on legal issues and a study tour, which will be open to members from all continents.

10 Years of OPIC - Pathways of Access to Justice for Children



Wednesday, 10th April 2024
Friday, 12th April 2024



Academy Building -
Rapenburg 73 - Leiden

[Google Maps Directions](#)

10th Anniversary Symposium on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications

The Leiden Children's Rights Observatory, in collaboration with the Leiden Law Academy in partnership with UNICEF and the Petitions Section of the Office for the High Commissioner for the Human Rights, is to host a symposium to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OPIC).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the research team, AIMJF staff, and our IT partners for their unwavering dedication and expertise in the creation of this newsletter. Your collective efforts have been instrumental in delivering insightful content and innovative technical solutions, reflecting the highest standards of excellence and collaboration.

Our sincere thanks also go to the executive management of our associated partners, whose strategic guidance and support have been pivotal in realizing our shared vision. This newsletter stands as a testament to the power of teamwork and shared commitment, and we are deeply appreciative of everyone's contributions.

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