

ENGLISH



NEWSLETTER

International Association of Youth and Family
Judges and Magistrates

2026

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Children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility

In its last research, AIMJF has addressed the issue of “children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility: measures, rights, procedure, participation”.

The questionnaire focuses topics such as the existence of one or more minimum ages in each country, especially if *doli incapax* rule is adopted; how age assessment is made and the rights of the child in this context; the intervention of the police, if any; the measures that may be applied to children; the procedure observed in this context and by which institution; if any other kind of assessment is made; the legal and procedural guarantees of children regarding the measures that may be imposed; the role of the justice system in this context, if any; the assistance received by children; how the child participates; legal implications of the involvement of children with criminal offences and reforms in progress.

37 countries have joined this initiative: Argentina, Austria, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada (Québec), Chile, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England and Wales, Germany, Hungary, Isle of Man, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, North Macedonia, Norway, Puerto Rico, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA (California) and Zambia.

We thank the support of the CMJA - Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association for contacting some countries from where AIMJF still does not have members.

The national reports and the global analysis can be consulted in the following link: <https://chronicle.aimjf.info/index.php/files/en>.

Alternative conflict resolution in juvenile justice: restorative and community justice

Following its interest on access to justice, AIMJF begins a new series of research, now focusing on alternative conflict resolution. We will begin with juvenile justice and, next year, we will address child protection matters.

The Chronicle's Editor in Chief, Judge Eduardo Rezende Melo, from Brazil, invites all members interested in participating on this research, writing a national report, to make contact writing a message to aimjfchronicle@gmail.com. Individual invitations will be also sent to some members who are already collaborating with this initiative.

We remind that AIMJF organizes webinars to discuss important aspects identified in the research, as much as good practices, inviting the members who have collaborated in this study to share their experiences.

2026. Study tour in Montreal, Québec. June, 8th and 9th.

Judges Anne-Marie Otis and Mélanie Roy, seating in Montreal, have kindly organized a two-day program at the Palais de Justice.

In the first day, participants will interact with the Commission of children's rights, the Marie Vincent organization on child victims and with professionals dealing with serious post-divorce conflict and child neglect, explaining the nature of their interventions.

In the second day, the participants will have the opportunity to follow hearings both on youth justice and child protection and, in the afternoon, to discuss with professionals about proceedings and interventions in youth justice.

We thank both judges for their support and the Court of Québec for hosting this program.

2026 (June, the 10th and 11th). Conference on Protection of children rights in a changing world, Sherbrooke, Canada

From June the 10th to 11th, AIMJF will support an international conference organized by the University of Sherbrooke on the protection of children's rights in a changing world, in which many of AIMJF members will participate as key-note speakers: Benoit Van Keirsbitck, Jean Zermatten, Mona Paré, Eduardo Rezende Melo.

Link of the entire program:

<https://www.crujef.ca/activites/evenements-scientifiques/colloque-international-assurer-la-protection-des-droits-de>

2026. Comparative case study.

University of Sherbrooke, Canada

On June the 12th, from 9:30am until 1pm, AIMJF will host a bilingual (with simultaneous translation) comparative case discussion, both on child protection and youth justice

With the participation of judges from Canada (Québec), Belgium Brazil, France, Italy and Spain, AIMJF aims to highlight the importance of transnational judicial dialogue that goes beyond the mere sharing of a common legal history or tradition, as well as the existence of a formal hierarchy based on a treaty such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

AIMJF believes that, in addition to comparative law, foreign judicial decisions and organizational structures are important resources for informing deliberations within national courts.

Through this initiative, the AIMJF aims not only to contribute to a better understanding of contemporary issues in Canada and abroad, but also to invite the public to participate in this dialogue on an ongoing basis, both within the association and through the various activities it organizes.

Link for inscriptions: <https://observatoire-droits-enfant.recherche.usherbrooke.ca/2026/04/13/etude-de-cas-dans-une-perspective-comparative-protection-des-mineurs-et-justice-juvenile-12-juin-2026/>

■ AIMJF Elections

On June the 12th, AIMJF will organize its elections (8am-9:30am, Québec time), in person and online.

We invite all National Associations to express their interest in taking part of our General Committee.

Please contact our secretary general, Andrea Santos Sousa (aimjfsecretary@gmail.com)

All individual members willing to become a member of the Council can also send a message to our secretary general for more information.

Deadline: May the 30th.

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2026 (October, 26th to 28th). Study tour and European section meeting in Turin, Italy

Following the election of the new European section president, Judge **Lana Petö Kujundžić**, a study tour and the European section meeting will be held in Turin, Italy, with the support of AIMJF treasurer, Michele Termine, and the Italian Association.

The activities will take place in October, 26th to 28th 2026. The program will be announced soon.

Those who have interest in participating please send a message to the Chronicle's Editor in Chief, Judge Eduardo Rezende Melo, from Brazil:

aimjfchronicle@gmail.com

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