



Letter of Support to the Recommended Minimum Accreditation Criteria for Lawyers Defending Children in Conflict with the Law

November 2022

To all relevant European decision-makers and the legal community, including the national and local BAR associations,

The project *CLEAR-Rights: Enhancing legal assistance and access to justice for children in conflict with the law in Europe* is a two-year project (January 2021 to December 2022) co-funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union. The CLEAR-Rights project is coordinated by the Regional Office of Terres des hommes for Europe in Hungary, in collaboration with 5 partners: PILnet in Hungary; Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights (Alliance des Avocats pour les droits de l'homme) (AADH) in France; Defence for Children International (DCI) in Belgium; Terre des hommes Romania; and Defence for Children International - ECPAT in the Netherlands. Its overall objective is to improve equal access to a lawyer for children suspected or accused of crime, through strengthening access to quality and specialised government-funded legal aid and pro bono legal assistance, in line with Articles 6 and 18 of Directive (EU) 2016/800. One of its specific objectives is to increase the awareness of policymakers and service providers on the right of children suspected or accused of crime to access quality legal assistance and benefit from a permanent legal assistance system.

The six partner organisations in the CLEAR-Rights project invite all relevant European decision-makers and the legal community, including the national and local BAR associations, to consider introducing, reviewing, or improving the criteria that a lawyer should comply with for accreditation to provide effective, child rights centred legal assistance to children in conflict with the law.



The project CLEAR-Rights: Enhancing legal assistance and access to justice for children in conflict with the law in Europe is co-funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014- 2020). The content of this Open Support Letter represents the views of the authors only and their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.





The complete **CLEAR-Rights Recommended Minimum Accreditation Criteria for Lawyers Defending Children in Conflict with the Law** can be found [at this link](#). The CLEAR-Rights project identified thirteen minimum criteria for the accreditation of a lawyer as a specialist in child justice in the key areas of education, certification or license, values, work experience, and continuous training that can be adjusted according to country-specific circumstances. The (minimum) numbers that are mentioned can be adjusted according to country-specific circumstances.

The CLEAR-Rights partners are collecting support for the Recommended Minimum Accreditation Criteria from individuals and organisations who are dedicated to enhancing legal assistance for children in conflict with the law from multiple sectors. The support letter is open for signatures until December 9, after which it will be shared with the relevant European decision-makers and the legal community, including the national and local BAR associations.



The project CLEAR-Rights: Enhancing legal assistance and access to justice for children in conflict with the law in Europe is co-funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014- 2020). The content of this Open Support Letter represents the views of the authors only and their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

