

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL ON INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

10TH EDITION FROM – 1 JULY – 5 JULY 2024

FRONTIERS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL

As we mark the 10th edition of Leiden University's Summer School on International Children's Rights, we reflect on a decade dedicated to exploring how to protect children's rights amidst the complexities of our changing world. This milestone underscores our ongoing commitment to providing a meaningful platform for learning, collaboration, and reflection on the pressing issues impacting children globally. In our 10th year, we continue to address the critical challenges faced by children in the 21st century, focusing on the theme "*Children's Crisis in the 21st Century: Climate Change, Conflict, and Migration.*"

This theme delves into the significant challenges encountered by children due to environmental, social, and geopolitical changes. Climate change poses threats through extreme weather events, displacement, and disruptions to essential resources, while conflict not only endangers children's safety but also denies them a peaceful childhood. Migration, whether forced or voluntary, adds further complexities, exposing children to vulnerability, trauma, and uncertainty. This crisis highlights the urgent need to address the interconnected issues of climate change, conflict, and migration to safeguard the rights and futures of children worldwide. In these complex situations, children often emerge as active agents, resilient and resourceful, contributing to their communities despite adversity. Recognizing their agency is crucial, empowering children to shape their destinies and contribute to positive change. Acknowledging and amplifying their voices become essential aspects of addressing the multifaceted nature of this crisis, ensuring that their perspectives contribute to inclusive and effective solutions. Moreover, it becomes paramount to emphasize the need for state and responsible actor accountability. Access to justice for children hinges on ensuring that states and other relevant entities take responsibility for their actions, policies, and roles in addressing these crises. Accountability measures serve as a crucial mechanism for holding governments, institutions, and individuals responsible for safeguarding children's rights and well-being in the face of environmental, social, and geopolitical challenges. Thus we add a critical connecting thread – the importance of access to justice for children. Throughout the week, we will weave this theme into our exploration of the complex issues children face globally.

Building on Leiden University's distinguished role in international children's rights, our program brings together esteemed academic and professional experts from around the world. Engaging discussions, presentations, and lectures will shed light on the impact of climate change, conflict, and migration on children. Additionally, on the final day, we will bring in the topic of children's rights in the digital world, recognizing that discussing 21st-century children's rights issues would be incomplete without addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by digital technology.

With a maximum admission of 40 participants, our summer school offers a unique opportunity for those eager to learn from leading experts in children's rights and international law. The program facilitates networking with participants, including students, researchers, and practitioners worldwide. Join us for an enriching and interactive learning experience at Leiden University, deepening your understanding of the crises affecting children in the 21st century. We look forward to welcoming you to our dynamic and enjoyable learning environment.