Leiden University
Summer School on International Children’s Rights

8th edition, Online from 28 June – 2 July 2021

Children’s rights as an intergenerational concern

For children, many questions arise in the midst of a global pandemic. What does the future bring? Will we see a decline in human rights, and with it, children’s rights? Will there be more inequality, violence, online exploitation, climate change and mass population movements, all to the detriment of children? Or can we hope to build back better from the lessons we have learnt? Can we hope for less inequality, better protection of rights for children, more attention to neglected groups and more focus on the legal empowerment of children in justice systems?

The 2021 Leiden University’s Summer School on International Children’s Rights takes a close look at the critical – and topical – issues and recent developments affecting children’s rights raised by these questions. Whereas the programme approaches children’s rights from a legal perspective, the various classes will bring reflections from other academic disciplines, legal systems, local perceptions and realities.

This year’s summer school, which is entirely online, brings together leading academic and professional experts from across the world. Our speakers offer inspiring and interactive panel discussions, joint-presentations, conversations and lectures. Following an introductory meeting around the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, themes to be discussed throughout the week include, among others, child protection in the digital environment; children in contact with the justice system and the impact of COVID-19; the modern day challenges impacting children crossing borders and making children’s rights real through access to justice. The final day of the summer school will reflect on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic for the future of children’s rights protection, also from the perspective of children themselves.

This summer school offers a unique opportunity for anyone seeking to learn from leading academics and experts in the field of children’s rights and international law. The course also offers opportunities for online networking with fellow students and practitioners from all over the world.

To foster interaction and allow for plenty of opportunities for attendees to speak with international experts in the field, and each other, a maximum of 40 participants will be admitted to this course. We hope to welcome you to a dynamic, enjoyable and interactive learning environment at this year’s summer school.
# Programme
## Frontiers of Children’s Rights Summer School

Online from 28 June – 2 July 2021, all times are CEST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>28 June</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>11.00-11.45am</td>
<td><strong>International Children’s Rights: Protecting Children’s Rights and Interests Across Generations</strong> Day led by <strong>Prof. Dr. Ton Liefaard</strong>, Vice-Dean of Leiden Law School, the UNICEF Chair in Children’s Rights; and <strong>Prof. Dr. Julia Sloth-Nielsen</strong>, Professor of Children’s Rights in the Developing World, Leiden University</td>
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<td>11.45-12.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and getting to know each other and Leiden University</strong> Prof. Dr. Ton Liefaard and Prof. Dr. Julia Sloth-Nielsen</td>
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<td>12.00-1.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>1.00-1.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Midday session</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.30-2.30pm</td>
<td><strong>The UN CRC: protecting children’s rights across generations</strong> Prof. Dr. Ton Liefaard and Prof. Dr. Julia Sloth-Nielsen</td>
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<td>2.30-3.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Closing session</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>29 June</strong></td>
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<td>11.00-11.45am</td>
<td><strong>Child Protection &amp; Children in Contact with the Justice System</strong> Day led by <strong>Prof. Dr. Julia Sloth-Nielsen</strong> and <strong>Afrooz Kaviani Johnson</strong>, PhD candidate, Leiden</td>
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<td>11.45-12.00am</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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### Midday session
**12.00 - 1.00pm**

*The role of non-state actors in child protection (interactive session)*

Tulika Bansal, Senior Advisor, Human Rights and Business Department, Danish Institute for Human Rights; and
Ida Hyllested, Regional Child Rights and Business Manager, UNICEF South East Asia Regional Office, Thailand

### Afternoon session
**1.30 - 2.30pm**

*Children in contact with justice systems: topical developments*

Dr. Yannick van den Brink, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Criminal Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

### Closing session
**2.30 - 3.00pm**

*Questions, reflections and take-away messages*

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**Wednesday 30 June**

### Making Children’s Rights Real: Access to Justice

Day led by Prof. Dr. Ton Liefaard and Prof. Dr. Ann Skelton, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and Professor at the Faculty of Law University of Pretoria, South Africa

**Morning session**
**11.00 - 11.45am**

*The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: an inside perspective on today’s children’s rights challenges*

Prof. Dr. Ann Skelton

**11.45 - 12.00pm**

Break

**Midday session**
**12.00 - 1.00pm**

*New momentum for access to justice: individual communications under the CRC*

Leaders in conversation with Benoit van Keirsbilck, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and Director, Defence for Children International; and
Alex Conte, Executive Director, Child Rights Connect on their work on the OP3 and the need for ratification

**1.00 - 1.30pm**

Lunch

**Afternoon session**
**1.30 - 2.30pm**

*Child protection in the digital environment: analysing the Committee’s new General Comment and exploring its practical potential*

Prof. Dr. Simone van der Hof

Professor of Law and Digital Technologies, Leiden

**Closing session**
**2.30 - 3.00pm**

*Questions, reflections and take-away messages*
### Thursday
**1 July**

The rights of children crossing borders & modern day challenges

Day led by **Prof. Dr. Peter Rodrigues**, Professor of Immigration Law and **Dr. Mark Klaassen**, Assistant Professor of Immigration Law, Leiden

**Morning session**  
*Child migration: key issues 2021*  
11.00-11.45am  
Prof. Dr. Peter Rodrigues and Dr. Mark Klaassen

11.45-12.00pm  
Break

**Midday session**  
*New frontiers in migration and children’s rights (conversation)*  
12.00-1.00pm  
Leaders in conversation with **Dr. Laura van Waas**  
Co-Director, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion

1.00-1.30pm  
Lunch

**Afternoon session**  
*Thematic issues related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and exploitation of children*  
1.30-2.30pm  
**Ms. Mama Fatima Singateh**  
Special Rapporteur on sale and exploitation of children

**Closing session**  
*Questions, reflections and take-away messages*  
2.30-3.00pm

### Friday
**2 July**

Covid-19 and the long-term impact for children’s rights

Day led by **Prof. Dr. Julia Sloth-Nielsen** and **Prof. Dr. Ton Liefaard**

**Morning session**  
*Covid-19 and the impact on children’s rights, according to children*  
11.00-11.45am  
**Dr. Bronagh Byrne**, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Programme Director, MSc Children’s Rights, Queen’s University Belfast

11.45-12.00pm  
Break

**Midday session**  
*Next steps: take aways from this crisis for the future (panel discussion)*  
12.00-1.00pm  
**Dr. Bronagh Byrne**  
**Kristen Hope**, Research and Advocacy Coordinator, Access to Justice Programme Terre des Hommes Foundation; and  
**Aoife Fleming**, United Nations Youth Representative for Sustainable Development

1.00-1.30pm  
Lunch
Afternoon session

1.30- 2.30pm

Closing lecture

Prof. Dr. Benyam Mezmur, Professor of Law, University of the Western Cape, member and former Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, member and former Chair of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Closing session

2.30- 3.00pm

Closing ceremony

Prof. Dr. Julia Sloth-Nielsen and Prof. Dr. Ton Liefaard