



in alphabetical order

Sanabar Aidarova is a lawyer and is the Head of the Legal Department of the Center for Coordination of State-Guaranteed Legal Aid (free legal aid) under the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. She is responsible for provision of legal advice and qualified free legal aid in criminal and civil cases including children in conflict with the law, victims and witnesses. Sanabar is also responsible for the appointment of free legal aid lawyers from the pre-established registry. Sanabar has 15 years' experience in Jurisprudence.



Iris Aliaj is advisor to the Minister of Justice in Albania covering justice reform issues, juvenile justice, and access to justice through free legal aid guaranteed by the state.

Ms. Aliaj has been engaged with civil society for 11 years. She has been Executive Director of the Balkans Regional Rule of Law Network (BRRLN) for ten months. BRRLN is a network comprised of the bar associations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia as well as justice and media Civil Society organizations. The mission of BRRLN is to contribute to the rule of law, democracy and the protection of human rights by and through strengthening independent and effective defense bar associations in cooperation with civil society.



Ms. Aliaj has worked for more than ten years as a human rights lawyer at the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (NGO) in Albania to increase the access of poor and abused women in the justice system in Albania.

She has been providing free legal aid services to up to 15 victims of domestic violence per day. She was part of the team that prosecuted the first case on human trafficking in Albania and obtained compensation for the victim. She was also involved in various studies, monitoring reports, conferences and training sessions contributing to the democratisation and effectiveness of the justice system in Albania.

Ms. Aliaj has worked to undertake and support initiatives for improving legislation and lobbying for draft-laws and state policies in the field of protection of human rights, focusing on gender equality, discrimination, the fight against domestic violence, the fight against corruption and trafficking of human beings.

Svetlana Artikova is a lawyer and a public and political figure. Starting from 1980, Mrs. Artikova has held different positions at the Prosecutor's Office. From 2010 to 2014 she was appointed as a senator and chaired the Committee of the Senate (the Higher Chamber of the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan) on





Legislation and Legal and Judicial Reforms. From 2014 to 2015, Mrs. Artikova worked as the Deputy Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan. From 2015 to 2019, Mrs. Artikova was appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of the Senate. Since November 7, 2019, Mrs. Artikova is working as the Deputy Prosecutor General of the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Oleksandr Banchuk, Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine since September 2019. PhD in Law, expert lawyer, co-author of several draft laws of Ukraine, concept papers on Criminal Justice Reform, scientific and practical commentary to the Code of Administrative Justice of Ukraine. Mr. Banchuk was involved as an expert on legal reforms in Central Asia, Armenia and Georgia by the Council of Europe, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), World Bank, Penal Reform International (PRI).



Oleksandr Baranov, Director a.i., Deputy Director of the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision of Ukraine. In the past few years, Mr. Baranov was engaged in the development and expansion of legal aid centres for secondary legal aid provision in regions of Ukraine (currently around 100 centres).



Since 2017 Mr. Baranov has contributed to the establishment of PRAVOKATOR Law Clubs in Ukraine. He was one of the initiators of a comprehensive information and analytical system (CIAS) In Ukraine. Among others, Mr. Baranov is responsible for human and informational resource development in the area of legal aid, coordination of regional centres for secondary legal aid provision, as well as development of legal aid e-learning system and distance training programmes. He is member of several working groups, including on legal aid for internally displaced persons. Since 2019, Mr. Baranov is responsible for the national pilot programme on “Restorative justice for juveniles suspected of committing a crime” implemented in partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

Ivana Becić is a civil law judge and spokeswoman in the Basic Court in Podgorica, Montenegro. Judge Becić worked as an Executive Judge for four years, was a member of the Working Group on Amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security, which introduced new institutes on protection of the best interests of the child. Judge Becić





has extensive experience as a lecturer in numerous trainings for judges organized by the Judicial Training Centre for Montenegro. Ms. Becić has been appointed by the Ministry of Justice as President of the Disciplinary Commission for disciplinary responsibility of public bailiffs. She now works as a civil law judge and gladly approaches the application of institutes incorporated in Montenegrin legislation for the protection of the best interests of the child in family relations proceedings.

Valentina Boz is the coordinator of the *HELP in the Western Balkans* project under the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) develops and implements online courses on human rights for legal and other (justice) professionals (www.coe.int/help).



Valentina is an Italian lawyer with a law degree in human rights. She joined the HELP Programme in Strasbourg in 2012. Since 2016, she has been coordinating the “HELP in the Western Balkans project”, targeting Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia. She is based in the Council of Europe’s Office in Belgrade.

Vanja Branica, PhD in Social Work, Associate Professor at the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. She is responsible for courses related to Family Mediation, Theory of Social Work, etc. on the BA and postgraduate programme. She was also researcher in various studies and programmes, including “Awareness and sensibility for family mediation of social care experts and judges”. She is president of the Croatian association of family mediators and in the Croatian chamber of social workers and president of the Committee for professional development and lifelong education. Mrs. Branica is an experienced family mediator and supervisor in psychosocial work.



Claude Cahn is Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He has previously held UN human rights field posts in the OHCHR Brussels regional office (2017-2019), in Serbia (2015-2017) and in the Republic of Moldova (2009-2015).





Before joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Cahn was Head of the Advocacy Unit with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) (2007-2009). Between 1996 and 2007, he worked for the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) in a number of capacities including Programmes Director (2003-2007) and Acting Executive Director (2005). In the course of his career, he has been extensively involved in the development of equality law, in particular in Central and South Eastern Europe, as well as international law in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. Mr. Cahn has been involved in ground-breaking litigation concerning the access of Romani children to education and was closely involved in the UNICEF/IDLO work on access to justice for children. Other areas of experience include the rights of persons with disabilities, LGBTI rights and the human rights of older persons.

Mr. Cahn holds degrees in Law, History and Literature, including a PhD in Law from the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands). Mr. Cahn is married to Cosmina Novacovici and has two daughters, Sarah Kali and Johannah Shai.

Ines Cerovic is a human rights lawyer working on a range of child protection issues at UNICEF Serbia, with special emphasis on access to justice. Prior to joining UNICEF, Ines was director of a Serbian civil society organization Child Rights Centre and used to work as a consultant in diverse child rights areas in both international and national settings, with a special focus on the improvement of the rights of children in the justice system.



Laurent Chapuis is UNICEF's Regional Adviser for Migration and provides in this capacity strategic direction and technical assistance to countries where UNICEF implements dedicated refugee and migrant responses in the Europe and Central Asia region. Previously, Laurent has played management and advisory roles in child protection and migration with UNICEF in Greece, the Middle-East and Cambodia over the last 13 years. Prior to UNICEF, Laurent worked for ten years with rehabilitation services for women and children with disabilities with the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations in Cambodia, Palestine, Rwanda, and Congo. He holds two Masters' degrees, in Social





Policy (University of Manchester, 2004), and in Community Disability Studies (University College London, 1998).

Kremena Chobanova has a legal background - an LLM in Law from the Sofia University and specializations in European Private Law, Child Rights and Childhood Studies. Kremena joined UNICEF as a consultant in 2013 and since then has provided support for the process of juvenile justice reform, strengthening the capacity of professionals working with children participants in legal proceedings, participating in research initiatives and providing legal analysis. Kremena has completed specialized trainings for restorative justice approach and is a certified mediator for children in conflict with the law. Since 2016, Kremena is responsible for UNICEF Bulgaria’s programme initiatives focused on children’s access to justice as a Programme Officer.



Dr Louise Crowley is a qualified solicitor and Senior Lecturer in family law at the School of Law, University College Cork where she is the Director of the LLM (Children’s Rights and Family Law). Louise is the author of the leading Irish text *Family Law* (Roundhall Thomson). Her research focuses on the regulation of family formations and relationship breakdown and the nature of *inter parte* obligations post-divorce. Separately Louise has published widely on the shortcomings of domestic violence laws and most recently on the adequacy of Irish legislative reforms.



At University College Cork, Louise has developed the online, campus-wide bystander intervention initiative which seeks to educate and empower students to challenge the normalisation of sexual harassment and abuse and actively demand a zero-tolerance approach to such unacceptable behaviour. The Irish government is funding the roll-out of this programme across all Irish Higher-Level institutions over the next three years.

Marija Mitanoska Dimovska, a law graduate, works as advisor for comparative-legal analysis and human rights in the Sector for International Legal Cooperation at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of North Macedonia, currently engaged as an advisor in the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice. She is a member of the Expert Working Group of the Inter-Ministerial Body for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia. Her field of interest is protection of marginalized groups in society and protection against discrimination. Also, her interest is the condition of the penitentiary system in the





country, and she represents the Ministry of Justice in the Pardoning Commission, the working body of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Goran Djukovic was born on 7 October 1973 in Pljevlja, Montenegro. From 1999 he has been working at the Basic Court in Podgorica, for the first two years as a court apprentice, after which he worked as an advisor to the judge until 2008 when he was appointed as a judge of the Basic Court in Podgorica. Judge Djukovic is a judge works on criminal cases, juvenile justice and is president of the criminal department of the court.



Ljupka Simovska Donev, holds an MA in International Law and International Relations from the Faculty of Law “Justinian Prime”, Skopje. Ljupka currently holds the position of Junior Associate for Human Rights and Comparative Legal Analysis in the Ministry of Justice. She has wide experience in working on projects targeting violence against women and has good knowledge and experience of the national context, the best practices and possible solutions as well as the most rooted challenges in the area of VAC. Previously she worked for an NGO called “Women Lobby” on lots of projects including, “Fight against domestic violence against the women”, “Peace and tolerance”, “With creativity and dialogue against violence in secondary school”.



Ayşegül Yalçın Eriş is Deputy General Coordinator of the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM) which was established in 1995 in Ankara as an independent, impartial and non-profit association to assist refugees and asylum seekers living in Turkey. She is also General Secretary and Member of the Refugee Rights Working Group of Union of Turkish Bar Association.

Ayşegül graduated from the Ankara University School of Law. Before starting work with SGDD-ASAM, she spent 15 years as a freelance lawyer for companies on intellectual property rights and as well as for individuals on human rights. She started to work as a lawyer in the Protection Department at SGDD-ASAM and was then appointed as a project coordinator for the projects “Education Campus and Integrated Protection For The Syrian Refugees” and “Improve The Protection Mechanisms For Non-Syrian Asylum Seekers And Refugees Through Continuation Of Protection”. As of 2018, she took on the role of Deputy General Coordinator for the Association for





Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM). Ayşegül enjoys travelling and getting in touch with different cultures. She is a mother of two, aged 13 and 9.

Gordana Buljan Flander, Ph.D. is a psychologist and psychotherapist, currently working as a Director of the Child Protection Center of Zagreb, an institution specialized in working with traumatized children and their families. In 1997 she founded the Brave Phone, help line for abused and neglected children, and in 2002 initiated foundation of the Child Protection Center of Zagreb.



Ms. Buljan Flander’s work has been widely recognized, the most significant acknowledgement being the award by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in 2008 for the Centre’s multidisciplinary team and a Lifetime Achievement Award from 2018. She has co-authored nine books and numerous scientific papers regarding child development, parenting and child trauma. She also works as a professor at the University of Zagreb and is a court expert for abused and neglected children.

Aaron Greenberg joined the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia as Senior Child Protection Regional Advisor in July 2017. Prior to this, Aaron served for nearly a decade as chief of child protection in Georgia and then in Myanmar where he directed UNICEF’s support to government and NGO partners around social welfare, child care and justice reforms. He has experience in complex emergency contexts in both Eritrea and Sierra Leone. Aaron has also worked in the Strategic Planning Unit of the United Nations Office of the Secretary General; at Columbia University's Center for International Organization and Security; and for local government in his hometown of New York City in the US. He has an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia’s School of International and Public Administration, and a B.A. in English Literature from Union College.



Olivia Lind Haldorsson is a child rights advocate who has been working in the field of children’s rights and child protection for the past 23 years. Olivia currently holds the position of Senior Adviser and Head of the Children at Risk Unit at the Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat. In 2014 she co-founded ‘Child Circle’, a Brussels-based NGO focusing on child protection in EU law and policy. In her role at Child Circle, she among other things, played a central role





in the Promise project, which promotes the establishment of Barnahus across Europe. She is the author of the Barnahus Quality Standards. She also worked as an independent expert with a wide range of stakeholders on strategic advocacy initiatives and regional projects in the field of EU Justice and Home Affairs and EU External Affairs policy. Prior to that she worked with 'Save the Children' (EU Office), focusing on EU Justice and Home Affairs and EU External Affairs.

Dr. Sheeba Harma, works as the Regional Gender Adviser for the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional office.

Sheeba has had over eighteen years of development experience across South Asia, East Asia and African regions, engaged in senior management and leadership on gender in development. With UNICEF in South Asia, she has been intensely involved in the development of a Regional Gender Toolkit and Strategy for UNICEF in South Asia and integration of gender in all six Regional Headline Results for UNICEF across Health, Nutrition, Education, WASH and Child Protection. Prior to joining UNICEF, Sheeba has worked as Chief of Party heading up the USAID funded restructuring of the Afghanistan Ministry of Women's Affairs, and as the first female Director for the Colombo Plan, covering Gender Affairs programmes across 26 member states in Asia Pacific, including in Afghanistan where she led the US Government funded work on Access to Justice, Women Shelters and Children Support Centers across the country. She received her doctoral degree from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Delhi).



Jasna Pecanac is a Prosecutor at the Federal Prosecutor's Office since 2008. She coordinates the work of cantonal prosecutors in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina working on cases of children in contact with the law. Prior to that she has acted as Deputy Municipal Prosecutor of the Municipal Prosecutor's Office II Sarajevo, and Deputy Chief Prosecutor of the Sarajevo Cantonal Prosecutor's Office, dealing with juvenile delinquency cases. As a member of the working group, she drafted the Rulebook on the Implementation of Educational Recommendations in the FBiH and the Strategy against Juvenile Delinquency for BiH. She has been a member of the FBiH Government's Task Force on activities to reform the institutional treatment of children in conflict with the law.



Furthermore, Ms. Pecanac has authored many papers in the field of justice for children and provided training to various professionals. Contact e-mail: jasna.pecanac@pravosudje.ba.



Hatice Kaynak was born in 1971, in Ankara. She graduated from the Ankara University School of Law in 1993 and currently continues her PhD Degree at the School of Social Work in Hacettepe University. Since 1994, she has been working as a registered attorney-at-law and since 2013, also as a professional mediator. Ms. Kaynak also works as a part-time lecturer on family and children law in Ankara University School of Social Work. Most recently, she was appointed as the Head of the Child Rights Commission of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations.



Throughout her career, Ms. Kaynak participated in various policy-making procedures, such as those in the Turkish Grand National Assembly Justice Commission during the preparation of the Turkish Civil Code, Turkish Criminal Code, Child Protection Law and the Criminal Enforcement Law. Moreover, she has worked as a trainer, expert and consultant in various projects for juvenile justice professionals. Ms. Kaynak has also taken part in various researches on the rights of refugee and asylum-seeking women and children as well as on the protection of child victims and juvenile justice.

Goce Kocovski is program manager for legal aid and strategic litigation at the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA). He is in charge of overall management of the legal aid activities of the organization as well as legal research in the areas of access to justice, legal aid, justice for children and the legal profession. Mr. Kocovski participated in developing and establishing a victim support service for victims of violent crimes which included legal and psychosocial support to victims. He has authored among others several analyses and reports on justice for children. He earned his law degree in 2007 from the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje followed by a LL.M in Intellectual Property Law in 2015 from the University of Strasbourg and the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. He passed the BAR exam in 2010.



Dani Koleva joined UNICEF Bulgaria as a Child Protection Specialist in October 2018. Prior to that she worked as Policy Director of the National Network for Children in Bulgaria, an umbrella organization which unites more than 140 NGOs committed to children’s rights and supporting children and parents across the country. Dani has also worked as a Programme Director for ARK, EveryChild – Bulgaria and the European Children’s Trust including as a Programme Officer for Central and South Eastern Europe. She holds a master’s degree in public policy management and has more than 20 years’ experience in the field of development of preventative and alternative services for





children and families, deinstitutionalization, children’s rights advocacy and monitoring and evaluation. As part of her professional experience, she has provided evaluation input for the Open Society in Sofia, BAPID, FRGI, “Dimiter Berbatov” and “Tulip” foundation. In 2014, Dani was awarded together with 24 other children’s rights advocates by the President of Republic of Bulgaria with the Honored Mark for exclusive contribution and merits for protecting children’s rights in Bulgaria.

Darja Koturovic works as a Consultant for Access to Justice at the Ministry of Justice. She monitors the implementation of the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 23 by taking part in the work of the Council for Chapter 23.



Vera Borisovna Krugova has been a judge at the Supreme Court of Belarus since 2008, with over 20 years of experience in the role of judge. She is specialized in civil law, covering the interests of children. In addition to judicial work, she has teaching experience and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Ms. Krugova is a member of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and the National Council on Gender Policy at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.



Teona Kuchava is a legal professional with intensive experience in working on child’s rights, juvenile justice and children’s access to justice. Teona is a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Georgia Country Office. She has been actively involved in the reform of the justice system for children in Georgia. Her area of work includes provision of policy advice and technical assistance in the field of access to justice, supporting the revision of legislation, setting up child-friendly mechanisms and strengthening institutional and human capacity of the justice system.





Prof. Dr. Ton Liefwaard is Vice-Dean of Leiden Law School and holds the UNICEF Chair in Children’s Rights at Leiden University, the Netherlands. He is the Director of the Master’s Programme (LL.M) [Advanced Studies in International Children’s Rights](#). He also coordinates the [Leiden Summer School on International Children’s Rights](#). In 2015, he received the award for [best lecturer of Leiden Law School](#).



Ton Liefwaard teaches and publishes widely on issues related to international children’s rights, juvenile justice, child friendly justice, deprivation of liberty of children, violence against children and access to justice for children. Recent publications include: *Litigating the Rights of the Child* (Springer 2015, edited with J.E. Doek), *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Taking Stock after 25 Years and Looking Ahead* (Brill | Nijhof 2017, edited with J. Sloth-Nielsen) and the Reference Work *International Human Rights of Children* (Springer Nature 2019, edited with U. Kilkelly).

Ton Liefwaard is a Substitute Justice at the Court of Appeal in The Hague and a member of the Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (*Raad voor Strafrechtstoepassing en Jeugdbescherming*). He regularly works as a consultant for international organizations, including UN agencies, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Ton Liefwaard holds a Master and a PhD in law from the VU University Amsterdam. More information: [Website](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Linkedin](#)

Mr. **Gocha Lordkipanidze**, the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia since 2012, is responsible for a wide range of issues expanding from international law, human rights, representation in international courts to international arbitration. As a legal counsel of the Georgian negotiating team, he was instrumental in negotiating the EU-Georgia Association Agreement and led coordination efforts within the Ministry of Justice system in implementing the visa-free action plan with EU.



Mr. Lordkipanidze holds Harvard Law School LL.M. He has served as an adjunct Professor at International and Public Affairs School, Columbia University in 2009-2013 and as a Foreign Fulbright Scholar at Columbia Law School in 2007-2008. Prior to that he held various posts, including Georgian Prime-Minister’s advisor in foreign affairs and international law and Ambassador at Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.



Currently Mr. Lordkipanidze is a member of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission, a member of the Board of Directors of the ICC Trust Fund and a substitute member of the Venice Commission. Mr. Lordkipanidze is a professor of international law at the Georgian-American University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Vedrana Šimundža Nikolić works as Assistant Minister at the Directorate for Criminal Law of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia, where she oversees the drafting of criminal laws and by-laws, pardons, criminal and misdemeanor records, the international records exchange (ECRIS) and the victim and witness support services. Prior to this, she worked as a judge at the Criminal Department of the Split Municipal Court for 20 years.



Victoria Ohanyan works as a Programme Officer for UNICEF Armenia. She coordinates UNICEF’s programme in the field of access to justice for children, juvenile justice, prevention and response to violence against children in Armenia. Other areas of her engagement include the promotion of the child rights agenda in the broader context of human rights, legislative reforms, implementation of the CRC and its general comments, case law of the European Court of Human Rights related to child rights. Victoria is a lawyer and child rights expert with more than 15 years’ experience in justice reforms and child rights. Before joining UNICEF, Victoria worked for the Ministry of Justice, the Parliament and the justice system of Armenia, as well as with the EU, USAID and the Council of Europe. Victoria holds a PhD in law and is an invited professor at the Law Faculty of Yerevan State University. She is a trainer and author of publications.



Mikiko Otani, an international human rights lawyer based in Tokyo, is a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists and a Council member of the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute.

While practicing family law with focus on the rights of women, children and migrants, Ms. Otani has been active in the areas such as access to justice, child participation and human trafficking at the national, regional and international levels. She is the country representative of Japan for the Family Law and Family Rights Section of LAWASIA (The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific).





Ms. Otani is also active in academic, research and teaching works. She is a Member of the Executive Council of the Japan Chapter of the Asian Society of International Law. She has been a lecturer on international human rights at Soka University Graduate School of Law. She was invited to give lectures at the training seminars for lawyers of Cambodia, Mongolia, Iraq, Iran, Malaysia and the Philippines on international human rights law, women’s rights and children’s rights.

Ms. Otani was admitted to the Tokyo Bar Association in 1990. She holds a Bachelor of Law from Sophia University in Tokyo (1987), a Master of International and Public Affairs from Columbia University in New York (1999) and a Master of Law from the University of Tokyo (2003).

Gökçe Bahar Öztürk was born in Ankara. In 2014, she graduated from the School of Law at Bilkent University where she continues her Master’s Degree in Public Law. She worked as a criminal judge between 2016 and 2018 in Kayseri and since then she has been working at the Women & Children Unit of the Ministry of Justice Department of Victim Rights. She has particular experience in combating violence against women and children, including child marriages. Among other national and international initiatives, she worked as an RTA Counterpart in a Twinning Project entitled “*Strengthening Victim Rights in Turkey*” which was held in collaboration with the Government of Spain. She also gives lectures in the Justice Academy of Turkey on victim rights, violence against women and child marriages.



Emir Prcanović currently holds the position of Executive Director of the Association “Vasa prava BiH”, which is a leading NGO Legal Aid provider. He is responsible for the coordination of antidiscrimination cases in relation to strategic litigation within the organization. He has also coordinated substantive work related to eradicating statelessness as well as asylum and immigration team work and cases. Prior to becoming Executive Director of “Vasa prava BiH”, Prcanović has worked as Senior Legal Associate in the Department of Immigration of the Ministry of Security of BiH. From 2005 until 2007 he worked as Principal Lawyer responsible for the caseload of asylum and immigration within “Vasa prava BiH”, where he successfully litigated the first cases of asylum seekers and illegal migrants before domestic courts. He has represented cases and litigated in domestic courts and before the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Committee.





Mr. Prcanović has lectured in many legal clinics, seminars, roundtables with topics related to asylum, immigration, legal aid, statelessness and discrimination. In particular, his area of interest and in his professional work have been topics aimed to raise concern for human rights issues of national minorities, asylum seekers, migrants, members of marginalised groups, persons with disabilities, and women victims of violence.

Arpine Sargsyan is Head of the Anti-Corruption and Penitentiary Policy Development Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, in charge of developing anti-corruption, penitentiary and probation policy for the whole country. She is also qualified to cooperate with international organizations (UN, CoE etc.), ensure effective implementation of their recommendations and coordinate the work with the Council on Justice for Children. Ms. Sargsyan is also a national team-member of End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe Project. Ms. Sargsyan has a diverse professional background, dealing not only with anti-corruption, penitentiary, probation, but also justice for children and clemency (pardon) issues. She has been involved in the of implementation of many reforms of high importance for the Republic of Armenia (Law on Probation, Law on Pardon, Acts on Prison Health-Care reforms, Law on Whistle-blowing system, Law on Criminalization of Illicit Enrichment, Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, etc). Prior to that, Ms. Sargsyan was assistant to the Deputy Minister of Justice and worked five years in the private sector. Ms. Sargsyan holds a Master of Laws degree in International and European Law from Yerevan State University. Currently, she is studying for a Ph.D. in Criminal Law. Ms. Sargsyan is author of seven scientific articles and one legal guide.



Tatjana Katkić Stanic is a social worker with a total of 25 years of work experience in the field of children’s rights and child protection in the welfare and justice systems in Croatia.

Ms. Katkić Stanic started her professional development as a social worker-practitioner in daily work with children, youth and families in risk, and continued in managerial jobs as Head of the Social Welfare Center and Head of the Correctional Institution for Young Delinquents, then as Director of the Directorate of the Social Welfare System and Head of Sector of the Social Policy in the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy.

In her professional work, she tries to combine practical and management experience, implementing knowledge and skills acquired at the level of social policy decision





making in order to improve practice and advocate for better protection through strategic and legal proposals concerning exercising the rights of children, and youth, especially as a member of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child and member of the expert group on responses to violence against children in the Council of Europe.

Ms. Katkić Stanic is coordinator of the programme "For a Stronger Family" signed between the Government of Croatia and UNICEF with the aim to improve services and interventions for children, youth and families at risk. She is author and co-author of several publications, and educator in the area of domestic violence, and protection of children, young people and families. She is also a member of the Council for Children in Croatia, and counselor, a licensed family mediator and a mediator in international child abduction cases and also psychosocial treatment provider for family violence perpetrators.

Silvia Stici is a lawyer by profession holding a PhD in Public Law. She currently holds the office of Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Justice. She is the ministry's person of contact for children rights related policies and laws. Silvia is actively involved in improving the normative framework relating to children's probation programmes, as well as relating to detention of minors and mothers with children, their regime and educational programmes. She is actively involved in developing resocialization programmes for juvenile detainees, training the staff conducting resocialization programmes in line with the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).



Marilena Sypsa is an active humanitarian lawyer. She is a member of the Athens Bar Association and has received targeted training on providing legal assistance to vulnerable populations, with a focus on SGBV survivors and children at risk. She has been part of a street-work mobile unit, supporting homeless refugees and asylum seekers in the centre of Athens. She has worked for several years with unaccompanied minors, while currently she is offering her services as a member of a child protection multi-disciplinary team in an open accommodation site in Greece.





Vladimir Vukicevic works as a Consultant for Human Rights at the Ministry of Justice of Serbia. He monitors the implementation of the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 23 by taking part in the work of the Council for Chapter 23.



Justice Renate Winter (Austria) was a judge in Austria from 1981 until the start of her international career at the UNODC in Vienna. Her expertise covers juvenile justice, war crimes, crimes against humanity, gender issues, organized crime and restorative justice. She served as international judge of the Supreme Court of Kosovo, as part of the United Nations mission. She was appointed to the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2002 and has served as consultant in justice matters in more than 40 countries. Justice Winter was President of the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges and Magistrates, President of the Special Court of Sierra Leone as well as the Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone and President of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child (now again Vice-president) and for eight years has been team-leader of an EU-project "EU4Justice" in Georgia where she was awarded honorary citizenship by the President of the country. Justice Winter has published numerous articles in national and international press, media and professional journals and contributed to books for children. She is bearer of three distinctions from Austria.



Melisa Vardo was born in 1984, in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2008 from the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. She is currently attending the final year of Gestalt-psychotherapy education (supervised psychotherapist). Melisa spent four years of continuous training in community-based therapy while working at the PI Center for Mental Health Zenica. Since 2014 she is employed as an expert associate-psychologist, and since 2017 as an expert advisor at the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of Zenica-Doboj Canton in Zenica, supporting children victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings, but also children in conflict with the law. Melisa is the regular trainer of the PI Center for Education of Judges and Prosecutors in the FBiH since 2019. She participated in the production of brochures for children in criminal proceedings, records for the collection of data on children in contact with the law. Melisa was an educator on several occasions in the education of police officers and social workers working on youth delinquency and protection of children in criminal proceedings.





Stephanie Woldenberg is a Senior Protection Officer with the UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina where she is Head of Protection Unit and oversees UNHCR’s work related to free legal aid for asylum-seekers, refugees, persons at risk of statelessness, internally displaced persons and returnees. She holds an LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law, and Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Barnard College, Columbia University. She has worked with UNHCR in Montenegro, Serbia, Togo, Lebanon and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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