



INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

Children's Voices People Today, Not Tomorrow

19 - 21 NOVEMBER 2025 👶 PALAZZO DE PIRO, MDINA, MALTA

PROGRAMME







WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER

09:00 Registration and Networking

Session 1: Children's Voices at the Heart of Participation

09:30	Inaugural Address H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca President of Malta (2014 - 2019)
09:40	Welcome Address
	Prof. Valerie Sollars
	Pro-Rector, University of Malta
09:50	Welcome Address
	Hon. Dr Michael Falzon LLD, MP
	Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights
10:00	Keynote Speech: Interpreting Article 12
	Raymond Zammit
	University of Malta
10:45	Coffee Break and Networking
11:15	Discussion
12:00	Lunch Break

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Session 2: Active Citizens from Childhood

15:00	Education for Children's Rights: Towards Citizenship Rights Today Audrey Bezzina University of Malta
15:30	Children's Local Councils: Article 12 in Action
	Andrea Catania & Angie Caruana
	The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society
16:00	Just Ask the Children
	Gernot Barton & Atis-Andreia Comanita
	Children and Youth Ombuds Office of Vienna (Austria)
16:30	Coffee Break and Networking
17:00	Protest: In the Best Interests of the Child
	Mary Grace Vella
	University of Malta
17:30	Children on the Move: A Child Rights Approach to Climate-Induced Migration
	Jane Spiteri
	University of Malta
18:00	Cultural Barriers to Article 12 of the CRC in Kazakhstan: Balancing Participation and Protection
	Kristina Ryabova
	OSCE Academy in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)
18:30	Discussion

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THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER

Session 3: Towards Child-Friendly Justice

09:00	From Legal Proceedings to Everyday Life: Expanding the Reach of the Child's Voice Daniela Farrugia University of Malta
09:30	From Baptism to Voice: Recognizing the Participatory Rights of Children in the Code of Canon Law Kevin Schembri University of Malta
10:00	The Principle of Listening to Child in the Italian Civil Law Marzia Rossi Università Marconi (Italy)
10:30	Coffee Break and Networking
11:00	Who is Hearing the Child? Ex-children's Voices in the Maltese Family Court Bernadine Satariano The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society
11:30	(Not) in the Best Interest of the Child? The Voice of Children in Belgian Asylum Centres Dirk Geldof Odisee, University of Applied Sciences (Belgium)
12:00	Discussion

13:00 Lunch in Valletta (self-funded) 15:00

Free Cultural Tour: St John's Co-Cathedral





Session 4: Cross-Cultural and Inclusive Participation

16:30	The Right to Religious Liberty and Freedom of Conscience in Children
	Maria Laetizia Cavuoto & Pasquale Lillo
	Università della Tuscia (Italy)
17:00	What Should a Child-Friendly Church be like: Beliefs and Expectations of the Faithful and Clergy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Khrystyna Shabat
	Ukrainian Catholic University (Ukraine)
17:30	Liturgies for Children with Autism or Divergent Behaviour and their Participation therein Dorianne Buttigieg
	University of Malta
18:00	Coffee Break and Networking
18:30	The Right of Children to Decide on their Future Digital Identity and Reputation Pasquale Peluso
	Università Marconi (Italy)
19:00	"I Drew Me as a Girl": Exploring Children's Identity Construction through their Drawings
	Josephine Deguara
	University of Malta
19:30	Discussion

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FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Session 5: Imparting Knowledge, Educing Agency

09:00	Listening to Children's Voices at School
	Suzanne Gatt, Charmaine Bonello & Rosienne Camilleri
	University of Malta
09:30	Absent Voices: How Malta's State Education System Marginalises TCN Children
	Jonathan Borg & Louise Chircop
	University of Malta
10:00	The Right to be Heard Even When Difficult: Rethinking Participation in Discipline
	Glen Attard
	University of Malta
10:30	Coffee Break and Networking
11:00	The Right to Participate in the Preparation of Curricula for Faith Education (Parishes/Schools)
	Carl-Mario Sultana
	University of Malta
11:30	Constructions of Cooperation and Difference in Inclusive Religious Educatio Practice-based Micro-Level Studies on Participation in Elementary Schools
	Katharina Kammeyer & Rebecca Grantz
	Technical University of Dortmund (Germany)
12:00	Religious Agency, Children's Rights and Education in a Context of Diaspora
	Marina Kiroudi
	University of Bonn (Germany)
12:30	Discussion
13:00	Lunch Break

14:00 Free Cultural Tour: St. Paul's Cathedral and Mdina Cathedral Museum





Session 6: Active Partners in Healthcare

15:00	The Right of (Young) Patients with Cancer to Participate in the Medical Decision-Making Process Weronika Kamińska-Skrzyńska, Krzysztof Sobczak & Katarzyna Żak-Jasińska Medical University of Gdańsk (Poland)
15:30	Managing the voices of doctors, parents and children Carlo Calleja University of Malta
16:00	Explaining Illness, Empowering Children Raymond Zammit University of Malta
16:30	Coffee Break and Networking
17:00	The Voice of the Child with Disability in Theory and Practice Anne-Marie Callus University of Malta
17:30	Children's Right to Participate: Perspectives from a Formal Residential Care Setting in Malta Noel Borg, Zvetlana Debono, Francesca Muscat & Alicianne Scicluna CareMalta Group
18:00	Children's Participation in Safeguarding their Mental Health Emilie Calleja Young Person from the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society Children's Council
18:30	Discussion
18:50	Concluding Observations Carl-Mario Sultana University of Malta
19:00	Concluding Message Stefan M. Attard Dean, Faculty of Theology, University of Malta

Official Dinner for Speakers - Other participants are free to join (€45)

