



Description of the webinar

Child Contact and Violence against Women

Intimate partner violence, violence against children and the interconnection between violence against women and violence against children are often aspects that are neglected in policy and practice. Women and their children face many pressing challenges in several countries, where the harmful effects of violence on the mother and her children are trivialized, where children are not recognized as victims of violence in their own right, and where intimate partner violence is often neglected when it comes to determining custody and visitation rights.

Recent reports^[1] identify common gaps and challenges at a national level in protecting children and their mothers from domestic violence, shortcomings being especially identified in legal proceedings, namely in custody proceedings and establishing visitation rights. Even though the best interest of the child is a concept that should be implemented at all stages of the process, this is interpreted and applied in a very biased manner with detrimental impacts on both women and children. In many countries, it is presumed that it is in the best interest of the child to maintain contact with both parents, regardless of the violence the child has witnessed or experienced or the potential risks for survivors. The lack of understanding of state authorities of the harm children experience as indirect and direct victims of violence often leads to the victim and her children to continue to be abused by the perpetrator.

Considering the current challenges, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies together with Women against Violence Europe Network (WAVE) seek through this webinar to provide a platform to share knowledge on the issue, and potentially to develop strategies to support women's NGOs to advocate for concrete policies at national level from a woman centred and children's rights approach.

The webinar will examine the following issues:

- The protection of children from violence in the context of intimate partner violence and custody and visitation
- Domestic abuse and child contact proceedings in family courts
- The impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children
- Children's rights and the Istanbul Convention

[1] See for example: [GREVIO's Mid-term Horizontal Review of GREVIO's Baseline Evaluation Reports, February 2022](#)





Child Contact and Violence against Women

Thursday, 9 June 2022, 11:00 - 13:00 (CET)

*Working language: English

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|-------------|---|
| 11:00-11:15 | Welcome and Introduction
Susana Elisa Pavlou, Director, MIGS and Vice-President, WAVE
& Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel |
| 11:15-11:30 | The impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children
Elena KOUNTOURA, Member of the European Parliament |
| 11:30-11:45 | Children's rights and the Istanbul Convention
Johanna Nelles, Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Council of Europe |
| 11:45-12:00 | The protection of children from violence in the context of intimate partner violence/domestic violence and custody and visitation
Enikő Pap, NANE Women's Rights Association
Rosa Logar, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna |
| 12:00-12:15 | Domestic abuse and child contact proceedings in the family courts
Shazia Choudhry, Professor of Law at Whadam College, University of Oxford |
| 12:15-12:50 | Discussion with the panellists and recommendations |
| 12:50-13:00 | Concluding remarks
Marcella Pirrone, President of WAVE |

