

Webinar: Disciplinary Sanction Regimes in Youth Detention Facilities

Date: 24th November

Time: 10 am - 1:30 pm

To register for the event please click here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScginLTaf-8IC57FA3sZBuPksp1xr5-xmNQ_-kKnmVSCvajxQ/viewform?pli=1

In collaboration with the Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN), the LBI-GMR is co-organizing a high-level webinar, aiming to illuminate the discrepancies between legal provisions and real-world practices in European youth detention facilities. Gain insights from seasoned professionals in academia and the field:

- Ton Liefwaard (Professor of Children's Rights and holder of the UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights at Leiden University)
- Helmut Sax (Child Rights Key Researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights)
- Ursula Kilkelly (Professor of law at University College Cork with expertise in international children's rights law)
- Mariama Diallo (Coordinator of the Child Friendly Justice European Network)
- Manuela Albl (Representative of the Austrian Ombudsman Board)
- Susanna Marietti (National Coordinator of ANTIGONE – Italian Human Rights NGO)
- Silvia Randazzo (Independent Expert Consultant on Restorative Justice)

In its most recent special report on juvenile justice in 2022, the Austrian Ombudsman Board (Volksanwaltschaft) has revealed shortcomings between the legal framework and the practical implementation of disciplinary sanctions in youth detention facilities. Initial research has shown that disciplinary sanction regimes in other states face similar challenges: Existing rules are being contested or are under reform to meet contemporary dynamics within the youth justice system. The interdisciplinary webinar will focus on those developments behind the bars by showcasing esteemed academics who will contribute with their scholarly perspectives and by including reports from experienced practitioners and civil society representatives from the youth justice field. After an introduction to the topic, including an expert key note, a contextualization, and an overview of relevant international (soft law) standards, three national disciplinary sanction regimes will be discussed and it will debate to which extent they comply with international child rights standards. The webinar will close with prospects of advancing alternatives to disciplinary sanctions.

The goal of the webinar is to gather information on the legal standards and the implementation practices of disciplinary sanctions in youth detention facilities in Europe. Moreover, it aims to identify best practice examples, to explore potential child-friendly alternatives, and to discuss how to prevent child rights violations in the context of disciplinary sanction regimes.

The results of this webinar will serve to explore a potential momentum and the need for a follow-up project on establishing a rights-based approach to the management of challenging behavior of children in the justice system, specifically regarding the application of disciplinary sanctions in youth detention facilities in Europe.

The webinar is organized by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights in collaboration with the Children's Rights European Academic Network