



**PROMISE**

## Speakers Presentation

### High level Meeting Launching the European Barnahus Movement

14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Brussels



**Anna M. Pettersson** works as a coordinator at the Barnahus in Linköping, Sweden. The Barnahus started in 2005 and she has followed the Barnahus development from the very beginning, first as a representative in the working group and then, from 2012, as coordinator. She is a social worker and has earlier mainly been working with children and adolescents within social services. As a coordinator, she is also a member of different development groups, dealing for example with genital mutilation, violence in close relationships, and the importance of routines for children within the target group.

She holds lectures about routines and the process of the Barnahus Model, how to identify children at risk within the target group and what to do once the children have revealed something.



**Bragi Guðbrandsson** is the Director General of the Government Agency for Child Protection Iceland since 1995. He is sociologist from the University of Kent, Canterbury, and has been actively engaged nationally and internationally in children's rights, child abuse and neglect issues for three decades. Prior to his present post he has been Counsellor to the Minister of Social Affairs in Iceland.

He is also the founder of the Icelandic Barnahus which has been an inspiration for child- friendly and multidisciplinary response to child abuse in many European countries.

Having worked extensively within the framework of the Council of Europe (CoE) as a consultant and expert, he was elected Chair of the Lanzarote Committee from 2014 – 2016.

He has been member of the Expert Group on "Children at Risk" within the Council of the Baltic Sea States from the onset of the cooperation, in which he served as Chair 2002-2003 and 2016 - 2017.



**Carl Göran Svedin** is professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Linköping University (Sweden) in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, specialised in child abuse and Neglect. He started the Treatment Unit for Abused Children 'BUP-Elefanten' and Barnahus Linköping and was actively promoting the development of Barnahus in the whole of Sweden. He is a board member and treasurer at the 'Nordic Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect' (NFBO) since 1998 and started the Swedish National Competence in Child Abuse 'Barnafriid' in 2015, where he is now the research leader.



**Claude Janizzi**, Chairman of the Council of Europe's Lanzarote Committee, is currently the coordinator of Luxembourg's children's rights policy at the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth.

He has held the following positions in the area of children and youth: school teacher, licensing inspector, Head of the Ministry of Family's Childcare department and Head of Luxembourg's Central Authority for International adoption.

At the same time he has been teaching at the National Training Institute for Educators, at the University of Luxembourg and currently at the National Training Institute for primary and secondary school teachers. At an international level, he served as head of Luxembourg's delegation to the UNCRC, as bureau member and vice-chairman of the Council of Europe's Lanzarote Committee since 2012 and as president of Child On Europe, a European network of National Observatories on Childhood in 2014/2015.



**Dr. Erio Ziglio** was responsible for the Health Promotion and Investment Programme at the World Health Organization (European Office) for 23 years.

In 2003 he was appointed as Head of the European Office for Investment for Health and Development till his retirement in 2014. He is currently Honorary Professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Tyrol, Austria and Guest Lecturer at the Management Centre Innsbruck.

In addition to his over 20 years of work with the WHO, he has 15 years of professional experience in the academic world both in Europe and North America.

He held lectures all over the world and published on the subjects of health promotion, health policy and planning, futures research, social determinants of health, health inequities and population health in sustainable development.



**Gordana Buljan Flander** (PhD) is a psychologist, psychotherapist and Director of the Child and Youth Protection Center of Zagreb. She has been working with children for over 30 years and was amongst the first professionals in Croatia who recognized the importance of the issue of child abuse and neglect. In 1997 she founded the helpline for abused and neglected children; in 2002 she initiated the foundation of the Child Protection Center of Zagreb - the only health care institution specialized in working with traumatized children in Croatia.

Besides working directly with children and families, she is active as an academic and wrote 7 books and several scientific papers. She works as a lecturer on many universities and is Court Expert for psychology, conducting trainings in domestic, regional and international settings, sharing experiences with other professionals in Croatia and worldwide.



**Hjörtur O. Aðalsteinsson** has been employed in Icelandic courts since 1977, first as a deputy criminal judge in the Criminal Court of Reykjavik until 1989, then as a criminal judge until 1992. From 1992 until 2004, he was a judge at the District Court of Reykjavik and from 2004 until 2006 at the District Court of South Iceland and since then he served this court as chief judge. He has been using the facilities at the Children's House (Barnahus) in Reykjavik since 1999 and is a strong supporter and advocate of this method of judicial process regarding children as victims.

He has just completed a 6 months sabbatical which she spent in Strasbourg, mainly studying the rights of victims in the court system of Europe.



**Janet van Bavel** started her career as a child and youth psychologist and worked as a psychotherapist treating children and adolescents who have been traumatized by all forms of child abuse and neglect. Twenty years later she took the opportunity to start a specialized Child and Youth Trauma Center (KJTC) for maltreated children together with a colleague from a youth care organization. The Center started with four therapists and employs nowadays twenty therapists with her as the manager since the opening.

In 2010, the KJTC became core partner in the Academic Collaborative Center on Child Maltreatment (AWK), where she works as project leader.

The Child Friendly Center (Barnahus) is one of the projects of the AWK. Other projects are scientific research (on methods of treatment such as the Horizon method, developed by the KJTC) and an education and trainings Center for professionals in the handling of CAN.



**Margaret Tuite** is the European Commission Coordinator for the rights of the child since 1 November 2011 in the unit responsible for fundamental rights policy in DG Justice and Consumers. From 2008-2011, she was Deputy Head of Unit for criminal justice. She has worked for the European Commission for 31 years, 16 of them in the justice and home affairs domains.



**Marta Santos Pais** was appointed as first Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence against Children and took her position on in 2009. As a high level global independent advocate, she promotes the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in the justice setting, in the home, in institutional care, in schools, in the workplace and in the community.

She has more than 30 years of experience on human rights issues, engagement in the United Nations and intergovernmental processes. She was a member of the UN Drafting Group of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its Optional Protocols and participated in the development of other key international human rights standards. Before her appointment as SRSG on Violence against Children, she was the Director of the UNICEF 'Innocenti' Research Centre, and before then UNICEF Director of Evaluation, Policy and Planning.



**Olivia Lind Haldorsson** is a children's rights advocate who has been working in the field of children's rights and child protection for 20 years in Brussels. She is the co-founder of 'Child Circle', a Brussels-based NGO focussing on child protection in EU law and policy. From 2002-2013, she worked with 'Save the Children' (EU Office), focussing on EU Justice and Home Affairs and EU External Affairs.

She also works 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.



**Ólöf Ásta Farestveit** was born in 1969 in Reykjavík, Iceland. She holds a BA in Criminology and another in Child Pedagogy from the Stockholm University, Sweden. In the following, she worked in a state treatment centre for youth and for a short time in an Icelandic prison and probation administration monitoring and helping young offenders. Since 2001 she has been a therapist and a forensic interviewer at Barnahus, becoming its Head in 2007. She has conducted over 700 forensic interviews with children aged 3-18 in instances where sexual abuse was suspected.

Additionally, she is the author of the book “Verndum þau” (“Let’s protect them”, Reykjavík, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2006, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2013) about how to respond to suspicions of neglect or violence against children and youth.

In 2016, she received a diploma in Family Therapy from the University of Iceland.



**Peter van der Linden** works as an EU project leader at Verwey-Jonker Institute on Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect where he coordinates the Service Exchange Meetings of the PROMISE project which promotes multidisciplinary interagency services for child victims of violence. He also works as Senior Adviser at ‘VanMontfoort’, a Consultancy for Child Protection Systems. Additionally, he works on national and international policy, research and implementation projects since he has been a researcher, prevention worker and social worker at the Confidential Doctors Bureau. He is the founder of NeSPCAN (Netherlands Society for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and Counsellor at the Executive Council of ISPCAN (International Society for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) which initiated and hosts the 15th ISPCAN European Regional Conference in the Netherlands in 2017.



**Rebecca O'Donnell** is an Irish lawyer working on EU law matters for over 20 years. She co-founded Child Circle, a Brussels-based centre of expertise focussing on child protection in EU law and policy. In the PROMISE Project, she focuses on the role of the international and European legal and policy framework in promoting the rights of child victims of violence. In the field of child friendly justice, she is also currently involved in the “Separated Children in Judicial Proceedings” and “My Lawyer, My Rights” projects. She also acts as an independent expert on child rights and regional standards, including consultancies for the European Commission, the Council of Europe, UNICEF and UNHCR.

From 2007 to 2013, she worked with Save the Children EU Office. Prior to that, Rebecca was a partner in an international law firm focusing on EU competition law.



**Resmiye Oral (MD)** is a Professor of Paediatrics, Director, Child Protection Program at the University of Iowa, who is board-certified in child abuse paediatrics. She has published numerous articles on Child Abuse and Neglect since 1993 after establishing the first multidisciplinary child protection team in Turkey, her country of origin.

She wrote a book and three book chapters, co-authored two training kits on child abuse. Her interests are international systems building to address child abuse and neglect, drug endangered children, shaken baby syndrome, adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care, and early intervention with child abuse to prevent negative consequences of abuse. She believes recognition of subtle findings of abuse and trauma screening of victims and their caretakers are of utmost importance. She gives 50-60 lectures a year to regional, national and international professional audiences on child abuse and neglect.



**Dr. Susan Bissell** has spent over 25 years working in various capacities for UNICEF focusing on children's rights. As of January 2016 she is leading the 'Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children' which primary purpose is to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children." From 2009 to 2015, she was Chief of Child Protection in UNICEF's Programme Division. Author of a number of research studies, she has worked with UNICEF in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Italy ('Innocenti' Research Centre), and New York City, and earned a PhD in public health and medical anthropology from the University of Melbourne (Australia).

On behalf of UNICEF Child Protection, she has accepted awards including an honorary professorship at Barnard College/Columbia University, the Dr Jean Mayer Global Citizenship award from Tufts University, the Flambeau D'or from Panathlon International, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



**Tuomas Kurttila** is the Ombudsman for Children in Finland. The Council of State appointed him to this post in March 2014. He holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Sciences and Theology.

Earlier, he worked, amongst others, as Executive Director of the Finnish Parents' League and as General Secretary of Finland's Advisory Council for Youth Affairs.

He is a co-author of "10 Questions in Upbringing" (2011) which set a new ground for the national discussion on children's upbringing in Finland.



**Turid Heiberg** has since September 2013 worked as the Head of the Children's Unit at the Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat (CBSS). She has worked with human rights issues for more than 30 years in Norway and internationally and with institutions such as the International Peace Research Institute (Oslo), the international Human Rights Institute (Oslo), different Norwegian university departments and human rights committees/centres, with community work, research, teaching/lecturing, journalism and advocacy. She has been Regional Director for Save the Children Sweden in South and Central Asia from 2008-2013. While being based in Asia, she was active in supporting the establishment of an inter-governmental institution to end violence against children in South Asia (SAIEVAC) and edited a report on the child-friendliness of South Asian governments.



**Věra Jourová** is currently European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before coming to the European Commission, she held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and also was involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. In 2003 she was appointed Deputy Minister for Regional Development, a position which she held for three years. Previously she worked as Head of the Department of Regional Development in the Vysočina Region, from 2001, and before that as Secretary and Spokesperson of the Třebíč Municipal Office, from 1995 to 2001. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) from the Charles University, Prague and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague (Czech Republic).



**Åsa Landberg** is an independent expert on Barnahus. She is a psychologist and psychotherapist specialised in the treatment of traumatized children. During ten years at Save the Children Sweden she played a key role promoting the Barnahus model as well as developing the Common National Guidelines and Standards for Barnahus in Sweden and evaluating them.

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