

World Congress on Justice With Children

June 2-4, 2025
Madrid, Spain and Around the Globe



Advancing Child-centred Justice:
Preventing and responding to
Violence Affecting Children in the
Justice System”

Parallel Sessions



Baker McKenzie led and participated in various sessions at the World Congress, including:

First Contact: The real rights of children in contact with police

Speakers:

- Daniella Mandel, Baker McKenzie (Moderator)
- Stan Gilmour, Oxon Advisory
- Vicky Kemp, University of Nottingham
- Chris Tirrell, Google
- Brian Blalock, Youth Law Center
- Stephen Case, Loughborough University

Too often, vulnerable populations of children live in communities where they are overpoliced and, as a result, become more engaged with the criminal justice system than is good for them, for their communities and for our commitment to access to justice for all. To start to address these challenges, volunteers have been evaluating the laws in effect when a young person encounters law enforcement to help them better understand their opportunities and obligations. The result is a global resource called [Real Rights](#) that was launched during this panel in a robust discussion with law enforcement experts, child rights experts and volunteers who made Real Rights come to life.



Child justice is everyone's concern: Public and private sectors working together

Speakers:

- [Jaclyn Pampel](#), Baker McKenzie (Moderator)
- Agnieszka Purves, Google
- María Elena Sanz Arcas, Iberdrola
- Natalie Turget-Thomson, Street Rights

Great things can happen when you combine professionals from different perspectives. Sometimes, new and innovative solutions can come from uniting public interest professionals with members of the private bar and business community in pro bono service to the missions of the public interest organizations that can guide them. Sometimes, we are better together. This panel examined great examples of how professionals can come together across the public and private bar to make unique and creative contributions to advance child rights. They discussed examples launched during the World Congress like the ["I Am Here" Identification and Vital Documents project](#), the [Laws and Lawyering project](#), and the [Fulfilling Our Potential project](#) focused on kids turning 18 and making adult decision for the first time on their own.



Disaster reduction in detention in climate change

Speakers:

- [Natalie Dunne](#), Baker McKenzie (Moderator)
- [Luis Casals](#), Baker McKenzie
- Itziar Nacenta, Iberdrola
- Marine Braun, Child rights expert
- Olivia Rope, Penal Reform International

International standards govern when and whether children can ever be placed in detention. If children are cared for by the state, these norms and standards certainly require the highest level of care and safety for those children if and when they are taken from their caretakers and families and placed in any kind of detention. As we look at the many parts of the globe threatened by a warming planet and climate change, the facilities where we detain and care for children are no exception. This panel examined a recent [project](#) crafted with volunteers from the legal department of Iberdrola and Baker McKenzie which was launched at the Congress – an examination of the effect of climate on detention centers in different counties in different parts of the world. The report was released at the panel and shared around the globe to try to shine on a light on conditions where children are not being cared for in the way we owe them if we respect their safety, their potential and their human rights.



Satellite Events



Baker McKenzie is proud to have co-hosted the below satellite events for the World Congress:

- **Prevention and response to violence affecting children in the juvenile justice system** (19 and 20 May 2025, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Organized by Guardianship Public Prosecutor's Office of CABA and the Association of Women Judges of Argentina, this was a roundtable discussion (Judges and Youth), where the hope was to contribute to the advancement of child-centered justice by creating a space for dialogue between children, adolescents, judges and representatives of the Guardianship Public Prosecutor's Office of CABA.
- **Case Study: The impact of young people in conflict of the law as experts by experience** (3 June 2025, virtual event)
Since 2015, [Young Perspectives \(YOPE\)](#) has worked with young experts by experience and justice professionals in order to bridge the 'lived world' of children and youth, and the 'system world' of professionals. Through the YOPE Experts program, youth that experienced detention train and advise forensic professionals, aiming to foster a more child-friendly approach in the justice system. In 2024-25, YOPE carried out research to evaluate the impact of the program on youth, professionals and the system. In this event, lead researcher Elizabeth Vrieling shared the results of her investigation and, together with two YOPE Experts, discussed the role that young experts by experience can have in transforming the system.
- **Addressing Violence Against Children within Systems: Time for New Solutions** (10 June 2025, Hybrid (Washington, DC))
Organized by [ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty](#), lawyers and other advocates in the DC area were invited to gather together to discuss the themes and ideas discussed at the World Congress and their relevance within the US. Read the keynote address [here](#).
- **Global Solutions for Global Problems: Lanzarote Convention Against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation** (13 June 2025, Hybrid (Santiago, Chile))
Organized by [Defensoría de la Niñez](#), this event was a regional hybrid roundtable that brought together key child protection stakeholders from various countries, with the aim of encouraging the adhesion of non-Council of Europe states to the Lanzarote Convention. The event addressed child sexual violence as a global issue that demands coordinated international action and strengthened tools to combat it.