

CRC Webinar Series on Protecting Children

Series #10 | Right to Justice for Children

22 Nov 2021 (Monday) 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm

This webinar carries 1 CPD point.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC") is a legally binding international agreement that sets out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of every child, regardless of race, religion or abilities. Two Articles of the UNCRC that are crucial to children in situations where they are alleged to have breached the law, namely Articles 37 and 40 (as summarised below), will provide a platform for discussion for this webinar on right to justice for children.

[Register online here](#)

Article 37 of the UNCRC touches on detention and punishment with regards to children:

- Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly, should not be put in prison with adults, should be able to keep in contact with their families, should not be sentenced to death or life imprisonment without possibility of release. No one is allowed to punish children in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 40 of the UNCRC provides for procedure on juvenile justice:

- Children who are accused of breaking the law have the right to representation and fair treatment in a justice system that respects their rights. Governments are required to set a minimum age below which children cannot be held criminally responsible, and to provide minimum guarantees for the fairness and quick resolution of judicial or alternative proceedings.

All over the world daily we see and read about children coming into conflict with the law and they are children who are not aware of their rights. Often there is a miscarriage of justice. The UNCRC provides for minimal standards of protection for children in conflict with the law.

The objective of this webinar is to discuss the relevant Articles and to examine the path Malaysia has taken to safeguard the rights of its children in this area and briefly discuss the path that other State Parties to the Convention have charted for their most valuable asset – their children.

Join the webinar and discover more about this interesting topic!

Speaker

Dr Nadzriah Ahmad is a senior lecturer and the Chairperson of the Child Law Centre at Universiti Teknologi MARA ("UiTM") Shah Alam in Selangor. She has engaged in many consultation sessions with high-level stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, in many areas concerning the protection of children in Malaysia. As a member of the Special Task Force Committees established by the Ministry, Dr Nadzriah has consulted on improvements to the legal framework concerning children in conflict with the law in the Child Act 2001 and examining the needs of vulnerable children in detention centres run by the Immigration Department of Malaysia. Her area of interest and specialisation is in the child justice system in Malaysia, and she is a strong proponent of adopting diversion as an alternative to the formal justice system to afford better protection and well-being of children.



Following the implementation of the diversion pilot for children in conflict with the law in Malaysia, Dr Nadzriah is now part of the Consultancy Team with Child Frontiers, a prominent international research organisation with a specific focus on children to conduct an evaluation study on "Country Led Evaluation of Child Justice Reform: The Diversion Pilot". In the child justice system, Dr Nadzriah has also participated in a thematic study on juvenile justice, with particular emphasis on interrogation practices for children in conflict with the law for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights ("AICHR").

As a Fulbright alumni, she was given the opportunity to be a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Penn Law, the University of Pennsylvania, for her post-doctoral research programme in the re-entry of children in conflict with the law in the child justice system.

As the Chairperson of the Child Law Centre, Dr Nadzriah is also passionate about protecting and advancing the legal rights of children in all fields and ensuring that all children in Malaysia – including undocumented, asylum seekers, refugee and indigenous children – are protected within the current legal framework in the legal system, in line with the requirements of the international law.

Dr Nadzriah has also published and written numerous articles and a book on diverse topics on children, particularly concerning children in conflict with the law in Malaysia.

Moderator

Kokila Vaani Vadiveloo has been in active practice for 12 years with a focus in dispute resolution.



Kokila was called to the English Bar in 2006. She was a paralegal in Clarke Wilmott, a solicitor firm in the United Kingdom prior to returning to Malaysia. She was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2008.

Her formative years were in Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill. She currently practises in the corporate and commercial litigation at Kumar Chambers with clientele ranging from private individuals to public-listed companies. Kokila is a familiar face often appearing on television and radio giving legal talks. She has been featured in the news representing several cases.

Her passion for Bar-related work doesn't stop here. After serving six terms as a Committee member in the Selangor State Bar and spearheading the 48-hour response turnaround time team handling complaints lodged by fellow practitioners, in late February 2021 she became the first female Chairman to helm the Selangor Bar Committee in its 56-year history.

This webinar is free of charge, but **advance registration is required**.

Upon successful registration, a link to the webinar will be emailed to registered participants only. Registration will close on **21 Nov 2021 (Sunday)**.

Please note that **no additional registration** will be accepted once the closing date has passed, or if the webinar is full (whichever comes first).

A Step-By-Step Guide to Join a Webinar via Zoom

Webinar via Zoom is an initiative by the Bar Council during the Movement Control Order.

Continue learning even while at home. We're here to inspire you, connect with you and learn with you. This guide will show you how to join a webinar smoothly.

01

For seamless streaming, download the Zoom app.



You will be given a webinar ID and a password to join the webinar once your registration has been confirmed.

02

Log in to Zoom, and provide your username.

For Members of the Bar or pupils in chambers, use the format below for identification purposes when prompted: **Full name (as per NRIC) | Bar Council membership number or petition number**.

For non-Members, provide your full name only.

03

Set up your space.



Find a spot which is comfortable and free from background noises. You may use an earpiece with microphone for clarity. Having a strong internet connection is equally important.

04

Please raise your questions only during the Question-and-Answer session.

Please take note that no speaking is allowed when the webinar is taking place.

If you wish to raise a question, please type in the Q&A box and the speaker will respond accordingly.

05

Please do not do these



Sharing screen recording and webinar ID and password links, and reproducing the content of the webinar on any platform.

Any unregistered person may be removed without prior notice and no CPD point will be awarded. Failure to adhere to this may result in disciplinary action by the Bar Council.

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