

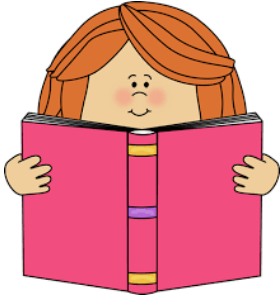


Child-friendly justice



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Who wrote this book

We are the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**.

We wrote this book.



We are called **FRA** for short.

We are an **organisation**.

An organisation is a group of people working together.



We help to make sure everyone in the **European Union** can use their **rights**.

The European Union is a group of 28 countries in Europe.



Rights are things that everyone has.

For example, the right to vote and the right to get married.

The justice system



Sometimes people break the law.

They hurt other people or take away things that belong to other people.

The justice system means how we find out who did it and how we put things right.



Lots of people help to do that.



They include police officers, lawyers and judges.





Sometimes people argue about things and cannot agree, so a judge has to decide what to do.



The justice system means how we find out what to do and how we do it.



Sometimes children have to take part in the justice system.



Sometimes children need to talk to the police or go to court.

That is called a hearing.

Problems in justice for children and how to fix the problems



Sometimes children have to go to court to say what people have done wrong.



Children need to feel safe from bad people.



Some countries do not have laws saying how to keep children safe.



FRA says that the justice system needs to make children feel comfortable and do what is best for children.

This is called child-friendly justice.



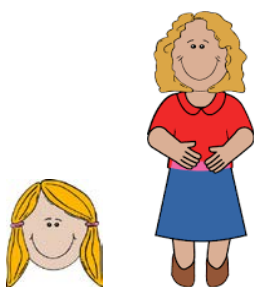
Sometimes children want to be with people they know.



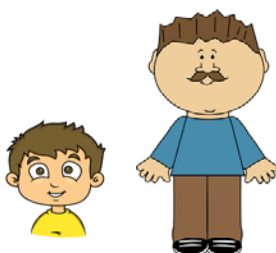
Sometimes children do not want some people to be there.



People should ask children who they want to be at hearings.



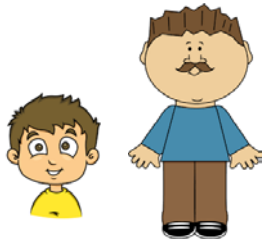
Sometimes girls want to talk to a woman.



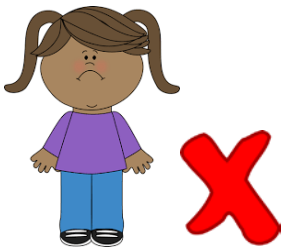
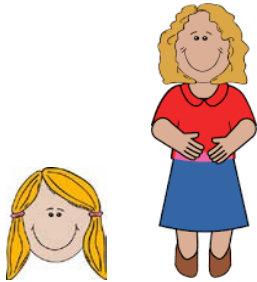
Sometimes boys want to talk to a man.



Sometimes boys want to talk to a woman.



We say that children should be able to choose who they want to talk to.



Not all children can take part in hearings.



Some children are better at taking part in hearings.

For example if they are older or know more or are more confident.

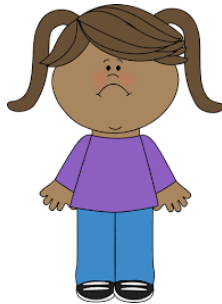


Some adults do not know when a child can take part in a hearing.

We say that countries need to teach people to know when a child can take part in a hearing.



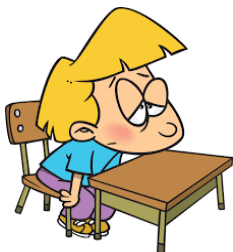
We say that children who can take part in hearings need to take part in hearings.



Waiting for a hearing to happen is hard for children.



We say that children should not wait many months for the hearing to start.



Very long hearings are hard for children.



We say that hearings with children need to be short.



Some children are treated worse than others because they are different.

Perhaps they are older or younger, have a disability, come from a different place or speak a different language.



We say that people need to treat all children fairly.



We say that countries need to make sure that people know how to treat children who are different.



We say that countries need to help children who are different.

Countries need to treat all children fairly.



Sometimes children have to talk about people who have done bad things.

They want to keep away from those people.



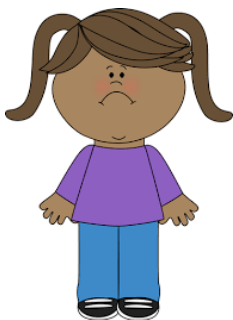
We say that countries need to keep children away from bad people.

- Children can be in different parts of the building.
- Children can hide behind a screen.
- Children can talk in a video.



Children filmed in a video do not meet the bad people the children are talking about.

We say that countries need to let children be filmed in a video.



Some children feel unhappy in police stations or in courts.

If a child is unhappy they may not say what they need to say.

Some countries have separate rooms that help children feel comfortable.



Children feel happier in a relaxing space.

Relaxing spaces make it easier for children to say what they need to say.

We say that all countries need these rooms for children in hearings.



People need to do what is best for a child.

People need to explain to children what is best for the children.

Sometime what is best for the child is not the same as what the child wants.

Children need to know what is happening.

People need to tell children what is happening.

People need to tell children in the right way so children understand.





We say that countries need special people who know what to tell children and how to tell children.



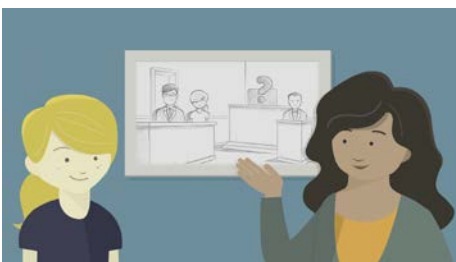
Police officers and people who work in courts need to know how to talk and listen to children.



We say that countries need to teach the police and people in courts how to talk and listen to children.



We say that people need to talk to children and listen to children the same way in all countries.



We say that all countries need special police officers and people who work in courts who know how to talk and listen to children.



People need lawyers to help them in hearings.

Lawyers need to know the laws about children.



We say that lawyers need to know how to talk and listen to children.



We say that all countries need to pay for lawyers to help children in hearings.



People who work with children have different jobs.

For example, they can be police officers or social workers or work in courts.



We say that all of them need to work together to help children.



It takes time and money to treat everybody fairly and do what is best for children.



We say that countries need to make sure that there are enough people to do the work and that they have enough time to do it.

This book was developed thanks to the support of Mencap Liverpool.