International Juvenile Justice Observatory

Report on Finland

‘Managing Victims and Witnesses of Crime in Finland’

‘Listen to the child-Justice befriens the child’ JUST/2013/JPEN/AG/4601
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Introduction

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) is an international Foundation of Public Interest based in Brussels (Belgium). Since its inception in 2002, the core mission of the IJJO is to defend the rights of children and juveniles in conflict with the law and at risk of social exclusion, including victims and witnesses of crime; to improve juvenile justice systems and public policies in the world; guarantee the implementation of international standards adopted by the United Nations and conduct the exchange of innovative best practices in the field. The IJJO’s activities cover all phases of action in the process of violence, from citizen security policies, social prevention of situations of risk and violence, and the administration of justice to children and young adults, to crime and penitentiary policies designed to achieve effective social integration and entry into the labour market. The Observatory’s main lines of action include research and innovation; cooperation and technical assistance; training and professional development; generation and management of innovation; awareness and advocacy.

Launched by the IJJO in 2009, the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ) is a network of juvenile justice institutions and experts coming from the twenty-eight Member States of the European Union. Managed from Brussels, the ECJJ produces outstanding initiatives and research thanks to the management and support of the IJJO’s secretariat and coordination. It acts as a pool of institutions composed of public administrations, civil society and universities mainly, providing and sharing knowledgeable inputs in the field of juvenile justice to assist European institutions (COE, EC, FRA among others) and policy makers in developing inspiring initiatives such as research, capacity-building and advocacy work aiming to improve the effectiveness of juvenile justice policies based on evidence.

In the last five years, the European Council for Juvenile Justice, as a knowledge sharing network, has developed research and policy papers such as the Three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice: ‘Measures of Deprivation of Liberty for young offenders: How to enrich International Standards in Juvenile Justice and promote alternatives to detention in Europe?’, ‘The Evaluation of the Implementation of International Standards in European Juvenile Justice Systems’ and ‘The social reintegration of young offenders as a key factor to prevent recidivism’. In 2013, the ECJJ published the White paper “Save money, protect society and realise youth potential: Improving youth justice

1 http://ejjc.org/green-papers
systems in a time of economic crisis". As part of its capacity-building activities, ECJJ members have the chance to follow on-line courses through the International School for Juvenile Justice. The most recent, entitled ‘Juvenile justice within Europe from an international perspective’, offered three modules discussing the ins and outs of juvenile justice (International and European standards, the issue of the minimum age of criminal responsibility, of pre-trial detention, diversion, restorative justice, social reintegration and after care, and more topics).

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory works not only to promote the rights of the children and young people in conflict with the law, but also aims to guarantee the promotion of rights of children victims of crime. IJJO believes that children victims of crime are particularly vulnerable, either through their personal characteristics or through the circumstances of the crime and should benefit from measures tailored to their situation. Therefore, one of the core missions of the organization is the establishment of the fair, effective and humane criminal justice system that respects the fundamental rights of suspects and offenders, as well as those of victims, and that is based on the principle that victims should be adequately recognized and treated with respect for their dignity.

Recently, the IJJO has been engaged into the following activities regarding the protection of the children victims of crime:

1. Meeting of Experts on the level of implementation in the different Member States of the Council Framework Decision 2001/220 / JHA - European Commission, on 18 and 19 February 2010. The International Juvenile Justice Observatory was invited to this meeting to address the specific problem of minor victims in court cases.

2. Report ‘Speeking Freely’- violence against minors in detention.

3. Project ’Ending Violence against Children in Custody’.

The IJJO has also developed the initiatives for the protection of child victims, in particular the protection of rights of victims during criminal proceedings, prevention of violence on children in custody and prevention of child trafficking.

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2 http://ejjc.org/ecjj-white-paper
4 http://www.violencefreecustody.org.uk/
The positions and the priorities of IJJO in order to improve the situation of **victims during criminal proceedings** include:

1. Interventions in order to reduce excessive delays and pending trial, as it may cause overwhelming emotional and psychological harm for the minor victim.
2. Solve the lack of experts (including psychologists) dealing with child victims in court.
3. Development of specific protection frameworks specialized for vulnerable groups of victims, to avoid a second victimization – the cases when the child victim is confronted with the offender during his/her testimony are of major concern.

For the prevention of **violence on children in custody** the IJJO has the following initiatives:

1. Project ‘*Speaking Freely*’: Political and legal analysis project intended to directly involve young people that have experienced detention in the research and advocacy activities.
2. Project ‘*Ending Violence against Children in Custody*’: project, designed to collect the data regarding the violence in detention in 5 European countries: Austria, Romania, Cyprus, England, Netherlands. An advocacy activity was also conducted during the project.

Finally, the initiatives of the IJJO in order to stop **child trafficking** include:

1. Definition of common standards that ensure the collection of sufficient and coordinated data to deal with a complex problem.
2. The best interests of the child should be a primary consideration for the Community legislation on child victims of trafficking.
3. The implementation of the legislation should be monitored on the regular basis.
I. Project ‘Listen to the Child – Justice Befriends the Child’

International Juvenile Justice Observatory has been engaged in the project initiated by Social Activities and Practices Institute of Bulgaria in collaboration with FONPC (Romania), ‘Il Fiore del deserto’ (Italy), ‘La Voix de l’Enfance’ (France) entitled ‘Listen to the Child – Justice Befriends the Child’. The project aims at improving the situation of child victims or witnesses of crime involved in legal proceedings through the introduction of an integrated approach towards children, based on the personalized assessment of their specific needs and which point of reference is the child’s best interest. In particular, the objectives of the project are:

- Create specialized child-friendly interviewing premises;
- To train a national specialized interviewing team;
- Create a sustainable program for continuing education for magistrates at the National Justice Institute;
- Introduce to the curriculum training program for the police officer;
- Propose Standards for hearing child victims or witnesses of crime involved in legal procedures.

The project is important for Bulgaria and Romania where there is an ongoing policy reform of justice systems, regarding the differentiation of juvenile justice systems, more attentive to respect the specificities of the children involved in legal proceedings.

Expected Results:

A major outcome will be a first time formation, of a common approach, clear methodology ad model for unifying the various psycho-social, medical, and legal researches in a holistic child assessment. One of the goals is demonstrate through its products opportunities for basing different intervention (judicial, protection and rehabilitation) on holistic assessment and the child’s best interest.

Another important goal is to prevent secondary victimization thanks a multidisciplinary approach, for building this goals a group of expert will produce specific work instruments, such as an educational toolkit (guidebook and training movie). All the materials will be made available in five languages. The project will advance the improvement of multidisciplinary and integrated practices as well as conceptualizing the practices around the child in all partner countries, as well as European Union level. An important goal is to contribute to the overall elimination of the ‘competency to testify’ assessment that is present in Bulgaria and Romania.
II. Legal Framework for Managing a Child Victim or a Witness of Crime in Finland

In Finland, the government assistance to victims of crime is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of the Interior together with the Police of Finland. Criminal cases are investigated by the police and adjudicated by general district courts, courts of appeal and the Supreme Court. The legislation applicable to criminal cases is for the most part the same for adults and children, though there are some specific provisions on children.

The starting point for the treatment of children is **Section 6 of the Constitution** according to which children must be treated equally and as individuals, with individual personalities and characteristics, and be allowed to influence matters relating to them to a degree which corresponds to their level of development.

**The Decree on Criminal Investigations and Coercive Measures** provides that when questioned during a pre-trial investigation the child must be treated with due respect having regard to his or her age and level of development. Where possible, the interview should be carried out by a police officer acquainted with that task. If need be, a doctor or an expert must be consulted before the interview (section 11). The age of 15 is central to criminal proceedings regarding victims, witnesses and offenders. In general, the participation of children under 15 years of age is limited to pre-trial investigations of a crime and children younger than that are rarely heard in court proceedings. Children as victims are legally represented by their guardians or other legal representatives. In crimes concerning a child older than 15 years of age, the child has independent or parallel rights. Child victims and child witnesses can be appointed support workers for investigations and court hearings.

In addition to the Constitution, the **Non-Discrimination Act** provides that State officials must in all their activities foster equality and consolidate administrative and operational practices that will ensure equality in preparatory work and decision-making. The Act covers discrimination on the basis of age, ethnic or national origin, nationality, language, religion, belief, opinion, disability, sexual orientation or other personal characteristics. The Act on Equality between Women and Men prohibits discrimination based on gender. General provisions on legal assistance by counsel or defence counsel as well as other support workers also apply to vulnerable children. There are provisions concerning interpretation and also in cases of speaking or hearing disabilities. According to the Child Welfare Act (Lastensuojelulaki/ Barnskyddslag) (417/2007) Section 25 persons in the police service should inform social welfare officials of children in need of protection.
In addition, the police have internal guidelines for meeting children which are drafted by their central administration. According to the Act on Checking the Criminal Background of Persons Working with Children (2002), in cases concerning work contracts of more than three months, the employer must ask the person for an extract of the criminal record if the work involves significantly raising, teaching or caring for or looking after a child or other personal contact with a minor in the guardian’s absence. Victims of crime are provided legal aid, compensation, social and health support. Moreover the interpretation is also provided for victims/witnesses of crime, which also corresponds to Articles 7 of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. Victims of a crime may be eligible for compensation paid from State funds for injury or damage caused by a criminal offence, such as medical costs, loss of income and personal property damaged in connection with the injury in accordance with the Act on Compensation for Crime Damage and the Tort Liability Act (2002). A child or adult victim can seek compensation from the State in cases where proceedings are delayed in accordance with the Act on Compensation for the Excessive Length of Judicial Proceedings (2009). In order to provide such compensation, the court takes various factors into account including the length of proceedings, the nature of the case (quality and extent), actions of the parties, officials and courts and the importance of the matter to the parties. Complaints can also be submitted to the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Chancellor of Justice who oversees public authorities and officials, including their compliance with constitutional and human rights. Everyone can file a complaint and it is possible to call for advice on how to complain. When the tasks of these two bodies overlap, a complaint will be forwarded to the authority most suitable to handle the complaint. For instance, the Chancellor of Justice supervises activities of advocates and the Parliamentary Ombudsman supervises limitations to liberty of movement and prisons.

Legal aid is given at the expense of the State to a person who needs expert assistance in a legal matter and who for lack of means cannot pay the expenses of having the matter dealt with, as provided for in the Legal Aid Act (2011) and is also in line with the Article 13 of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. Legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, the necessary measures and representation before a court of law and another authority, and the waiver of certain expenses of the consideration of the matter.
III. The Process and the Main Aspects of the System as to Managing Child Victims or Witnesses of Crime in Finland

Criminal proceedings in Finland start with pre-trial investigation of the crime, conducted usually by the police. Anyone can report a crime to the police in one of the following ways:

- to the police patrol when it arrives at the crime scene;
- in person - at any police station (regardless of the place where the crime occurred), where the witnesses identity can be checked, and, in the case of a violent crime, his/her injuries can be documented;
- by telephone to the 112 EU emergency phone number,
- by e-mail or fax (applicable only for less serious crimes) – electronically available forms to report an offence in English, Finnish and Swedish.

Those crimes for which the prosecution rests with the injured party, the so-called ‘plaintiff crimes’, are investigated only if the injured party requests the punishment of the perpetrator. The police must conduct an investigation when there is a reason to suspect that a crime has been committed. A child can report a crime in his/her own right, and even an outsider can report a crime. If a child is accompanied by someone else when he/she reports the commission of an offence, the report is marked as being filed by the child. In the case of crimes that are considered ‘plaintiff crimes’, in general the police investigate only if the plaintiff asks for punishment. In these cases, the child’s guardian or other legal representative has the right to request such punishment. If the crime concerns property which is under the child’s administration or which concerns transactions that he or she can make, the right to seek the perpetrator’s punishment rests with the child himself/herself. This is the case if the child is at least 15 years old and has earned property because he/she is working. Children of at least 15 years of age who have been victims of an offence and their parents/custodians both have the right to request the commencement of criminal proceedings. In some cases plaintiff crimes (such as petty assault) committed against children can be prosecuted even in the absence of the victim’s request.

According to The Criminal Investigations Decree (575/1988) Section 11, the investigation of offences involving child victims is undertaken by a police officer specialised in investigating children. The investigating officer when necessary, consults with a doctor or other specialist whether a child can be interviewed. When the police get information about a suspected crime, either through a report or in some other way, the investigating state official informs the child victim and his or her legal
representatives of his/her rights and actions that can be taken. Providing information to the victims of crime from the first interaction is in full compliance with the Article 4 ‘Right to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority’ of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. The official also informs the child if there is a possibility to ask for damages from the State. If the crime is a plaintiff crime, the victim is informed that, in general, he or she needs to ask for the punishment of the crime in order for the offence to be investigated. If a plaintiff crime is investigated on the grounds of public interest, even in the absence of the victim’s request, the child victim and his or her legal representatives are informed of this. When a person is questioned as part of an investigation, he or she must be notified of his or her role in the investigation and the suspected criminal act. According to the new Criminal Investigation Act (Chapter 6 Section 1), this information needs to be also given in the invitation to the investigation. Child victims, like adults, have the right to be assisted by a legal counsel in a pre-trial investigation. In practice, this is mentioned in the invitation to the investigation sent to the victim. When a person is questioned in a pre-trial investigation, the investigating officers take care that there is interpretation at public expense in a language that the person understands and speaks well enough. Interpretation is also be provided if the interviewed person has a speech defect or other similar problem. According to the new Criminal Investigation Act, invitations and notifications are sent in a language that the person understands. In general, the district court invites parties and witnesses to court proceedings. During the court proceedings, the judges of the case are in charge of steering the proceedings. Information on how a judgment can be appealed is given with the judgment.

According to Criminal Investigations Act (449/1987) Section 39a children under 15 years of age participate only in the pre-trial investigation. The examination of children under 15 years of age is recorded and can be used as evidence in court proceedings (where the guardians or other legal representatives exercise the rights of the child). If the child is 15 years old or above, he/she is heard in court. The general starting point is that children aged 15 or above will be represented by their custodian. As an exception, children aged 15 years or above can exercise rights together with their custodian. If the matter concerns property or another matter that a child who is aged 15 or over can administer by him/herself, he/she can exercise his/her rights alone. If the person suspected of the crime is the child’s parent or guardian or some other close relation, the child can be appointed a legal guardian (edunvalvoja) for the whole process according to the Child Welfare Act Section 22 (a similar
section is included in the new Criminal Investigations Act (805/2011). The investigating officer must request the appointment of a guardian when this is the case. Other officials can also apply for the appointment of a guardian on the basis of the Child Welfare Act. According to the Child Welfare Act (417/2007), Section 25 state officials working in fields such as social services, health care and education have the duty to report cases where a child is in need of assistance and where a child is suspected of being a victim of sexual offences.

In general the contact information, such as the address of the persons that have been heard during the pre-trial investigation, is included in the notes of those conducting such investigations. But this information can be left out when inclusion would put in danger the safety, welfare or rights of child and adult victims/witnesses. If the examination of a child or adult victim/witness has been recorded, a copy of this recording cannot be given to the suspect without the victim’s/witness’ permission. The right to privacy applies to all stages of the proceedings. The criminal code contains a general prohibition of the dissemination of information violating personal privacy, applying to children as well. Similarly to adults, in some cases the examination of the child victim or witness at trial may take place after ordering the removal of certain persons, for example, the offender as according to the Code of Judicial Procedure (4/1734) Chapter 17, Section 34. , or through the use of audio-visual means. Audio-visual equipment and separate rooms are available in all general courts. A child victim/witness who feels threatened or harassed by another person may seek a restraining order - a court order preventing a person from approaching or otherwise contacting the victim. The application for a restraining order is submitted either to the police or to the District Court in writing or orally. An application on behalf of the threatened person can also be submitted by the prosecuting authority, the police or a social service authority if the interested person is afraid to submit it by himself/herself. Children cannot submit such an application by themselves; but their guardians can file the application on their behalf. Civil servants may issue temporary restraining orders but full restraint orders are issued by District Courts. When it is suspected that a child has been a victim of violence at home or if the suspected offender is a family member, the police must make a child welfare report to the social welfare office. When a child or a young adult below 20 years of age reports as a victim of a sexual or other violent crime, the police can refer him or her to health care services provided by the municipal health care centres. The Family Federation, a Finnish social and health care organisation funded since 1941, provides free support and advice for children. Other support organisations include a rape crisis centre and the Finnish Association for Mental Health (SOS crisis centre).
A child is questioned by police officers who are specialised in working with children. The investigating officer consults with a doctor or other specialist as to whether a child victim can be questioned, as provided by the Article 22 of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA which obliges the Member States to ensure that victims of crime receive assessment in order to identify the specific protection needs. Also the atmosphere during the investigation should be such as to enable the child to speak freely. In addition to having the presence of their guardians, child victims and witnesses can have either an informal or appointed support worker to support them emotionally.

A court can appoint a legal counsel to a child, or adult, victim both during the investigation and at trial if they have submitted a claim against the defendant and the case concerns, for example, sexual crimes or domestic violence. The expenses for the legal counsel are covered either by the State (e.g. with respect to domestic violence) or by general legal aid. Children who are below 15 years of age and appear before the court may, in addition to a legal counsel, be allocated a so-called ‘support worker’ to provide them with mental support throughout the proceedings. A support worker can also be appointed to children aged 15 and above and adult victims if there are some special grounds requiring it, e.g. person been victim of sexual or other violent offences or offences related to life or health. In addition, the investigating authorities can allow a more informal support worker who could for instance be someone close to the victim or from Victim Support Finland. The new Criminal Investigation Act mentions explicitly that the victim has the right to have a counsel chosen by him or herself.

General rules in cases of decisions not to prosecute also apply to child victims. If the prosecutor has decided not to prosecute or the investigating authorities and/or the prosecutor have decided not to investigate or interrupt or stop investigating, the victim has the right to bring a charge, which is in full compliance with the Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. He/she also has the right to assume the prosecution if a public prosecutor or another victim has abandoned it. If the victim of the crime was killed through the offence, the surviving spouse and children have the right of the injured party to bring a charge, and if he/she does not have any of these survivors, the parents and the siblings have the right of the victim to bring a charge. In relation to criminal proceedings, the prosecutor would bring claims on damages on behalf of the
victim. The legal representatives of a child such as guardians represent the child also in relation to damages. Children of at least 15 years of age administer independently property that they have earned with work and could independently claim damages concerning that. In general the prosecutor brings the claim on damages on behalf of the child victim whether or not represented by a legal guardian. There is also the possibility to ask for damages that were caused by the offence from the State Treasury within three years from the final judgment or if the case has not been handled by a court within ten years from the crime. The State Treasury can pay damages for personal injury, and in certain cases also material damage if the damage has been caused by a convict or other person whose liberty has been restricted due to a crime, or a person who has been in detention or put into involuntary care. Also damages for legal expenses can be paid. In order to be able to ask for damages from the State Treasury the person must have reported the crime and claimed for damages if there have been court proceedings.

The participation of children who are under 15 years of age in criminal proceedings is often limited to the stage of pre-investigation to protect them from the burden of the judicial proceedings. Child victims below 15 years of age are legally represented by their guardians or other legal representatives. Children below 15 years of age can participate in the criminal proceedings as witnesses or plaintiffs if such participation is of central significance and the hearing would not cause suffering or harm to the child, injuring his/her development as according to the Code of Judicial Procedure (4/1734) Chapter 17 Section 21. If the child is below 15 years of age, in principle only the court questions the child, i.e., the other parties need to submit their questions to the court which will then address them to the child. A health care official can be asked to assess the investigation/interview recording of the child in order to properly understand the child.

The court may forbid the presence of a child who is below 15 years of age in a public court hearing, if being there would harm him or her. Children aged 15 years old or above, will be heard in court. The general starting point is that children aged 15 or above will be represented by their custodian. As an exception, children aged 15 years or above can exercise rights together with their custodian. If the matter concerns property or another matter that a child who is aged 15 or over can administer by him/herself, he/she can exercise his/her rights alone.

When children under 15 years of age are questioned as witnesses, their guardians have the right to be present during the examination. If a person under 18 years of age is questioned, an interview witness must be present unless a legal representative is already present.
IV. Data on the children subjected to various forms of violence

According to report on children’s and young people’s experiences of violence in Finland in 2013 (Lasten ja nuorten väkivaltakokemukset 2013, Lapsiuhritutkimuksen tuloksia 5) only a small proportion of violence and abuse of children are reported to authorities and self-reporting measures need to be implemented in order to attain a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon. During the survey 15 years old respectively, answered the questionnaire, which asked about the respondents’ experiences of general criminal violence, sibling and peer victimisation, parental corporal punishment, sexual abuse, violence and harassment connected to online activity and mobile phones, and witnessing domestic violence. The study also covered victimisation in the context of organised free-time activities, witnessing violence against family members in public, and reporting different kinds of violent acts to authorities, family members or friends.

The results indicate that violence against children is still more common and more commonly tolerated than violence against adults. However, a number of the study’s findings indicate a steady decline in the prevalence of violence since the 2000s. For instance, assaults, attempted assaults and threats have clearly decreased compared to the 2008, and peer violence is also reported less. The positive shift is evident among both 6th and 9th graders and both genders.

Attitudes towards corporal punishment have changed remarkably in recent decades and are reflected in children’s experiences of violent acts perpetrated by parents. Hair pulling remains the most common type of corporal punishment, being reported by just under half the proportion of 9th graders compared to the 2008 survey and a quarter compared to the 1988 survey. Some form of mild physical violence perpetrated by parents was reported by one in five 9th graders and just over one in ten 6th graders. In addition, compared to the 1988 and 2008 surveys emotional violence by parents has decreased considerably, but is, however, still relatively common. Violence between siblings remains the most common form of violence witnessed against other family members, and parental violence towards other children in the family was more commonly reported than violence between parents.

http://www.academia.edu/7977267/Lasten_ja_nuorten_v%C3%A4kivaltakokemukset_2013_Lapsiuhritutkimuksen_tuloksia
Despite rapid growth in the use of the internet and smartphones, internet-based harassment and violence have decreased. The ways in which children meet people and share contact information online have changed dramatically since 2008.

The results regarding child sexual abuse are also mainly positive. In general, the prevalence of sexual contact with children has decreased significantly since the 1980s and, correspondingly, the number of experiences categorised as abuse have also dropped. For 9th grade girls the prevalence of abuse declined from 7% to 4% from 2008 to 2013. For boys the prevalence remained unchanged at 1%.

Violence in the context of organised free-time activities was proved to be relatively common. The prevalence of violence in organised free-time activities was found to increase with age. A total of 16% of 6th graders and one third of 9th graders reported emotional violence perpetrated by an instructor or coach. In addition, depending on school grade and gender, 3% to 5% also reported physical or sexual violence and harassment. Boys reported violence in organised free-time activities more often than girls, and this was true for all types of violence; emotional, physical and sexual.

As regards reporting violent experiences, the role of friends and family, especially the mother, as trusted persons was emphasised. The most common reason for not telling others was that the incident was not considered serious enough. However, almost one in five had not told anyone about their experiences for some other reason, for example due to fear or thinking that telling someone would not do any good. As a considerable proportion of violence experienced by adolescents occurs in close relationships – partly committed by the very people that they should be able confide in – the results stress the importance of reliable professionals in discussing and processing violent experiences.
V. The Organizations providing support for victims/witnesses of crime in Finland

The actual victim services in Finland are organised by civic organisations. Ensuring the access to the victim support services which are free of charge corresponds to the Article 8 and 9 of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.

The main organisation for crime victims is “Victim Support Finland”. Victim Support Finland offers practical advice and support to victims of crime including a helpline (Mon-Tue 13:00-21:00, Wed-Fri 17:00-21:00), a legal advice helpline (Mon-Thu 17:00-19:00) and support workers. Victim Support Finland provides its services on a voluntary basis in cooperation with The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, the Finnish Association for Mental Health, the Mannerheim League of Child Welfare, the Finnish Red Cross, the Finnish Federation of Settlements, the Finnish Association Union and the Church Council. VS guides and supports crime victims, their close ones and witnesses of crime. VS services are strictly confidential, with the approach that is client-based in all cases, meaning that the client decides on what action to take. All VS services are free of charge (except local telephone costs.) Crime victims, their close ones and witnesses may obtain a support person provided by VS when necessary. The support person can accompany the victim/witness of crime when attending police hearings or court sessions and assist in applying for restraining order or compensation. With support person victim/witness of crime may discuss about his/her experiences and consider further actions. Support persons are carefully chosen and trained volunteers. The Mannerheimin League of Child Welfare and the Red Cross also have separate helplines. There is also an on-going development project 2012-2015 that aims to increase young victims’ support. State officials working in fields such as social services, health care and education have the duty to report cases where a child is in need of child welfare to the municipal child social services. Cases where a child is suspected of being a victim of sexual offences are reported to the police.

The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters upholds 14 shelters around the Finland (in addition there exist about 20 other shelters in Finland). The shelters are service centres in which persons either suffering from or threatened with family violence can find help in overcoming a crisis. All the parties involved in the family violence situation receive attention, the primary objective being
to safeguard the interests of the child at all times. The shelters are on duty round the clock. The organization also provides community care services. The community care services include:

- Alvari family welfare in the client’s home
- A Baby blues service for exhausted families with babies
- Counselling and groups for abusive men
- Family groups
- An SOS and counselling telephone service
- Discussion and action groups
- Kiddies’ clubs
- Child contact centre
- Housing services

Moreover, in Finland, there exist Organizations which provide some women-specific services:

**Tukinainen** – Rape Crisis Centre the support center for victims who have been sexually assaulted (NGO):

- provides help, support and guidance for persons who have been sexually assaulted, raped and/ or abused and for their families
- the therapeutic help of Tukinainen is free of charge for victims
- Tukinainen also maintains a legal consultation helpline (Juristipäivystys), which provides information and advice to victims of sexual offences and domestic violence.
- influences the professional and legal procedures, as well as the authorities and public opinion in order to decrease and prevent sexual assaults experienced by women and girls (about 90% of sexually assaulted are girls/ women)
- provides cooperation, consultation and training for professionals, authorities, organisations and educational institutions in a variety of fields
- supplements the social and health services as well as official system in its own special field, cooperate with other associations, ministries, works in Finnish network against trafficking

The centre maintains a free-of-charge emergency helpline which can be called: Mon to Fri from 9 am to 3 pm and at weekends and on holidays from 3 pm to 9 pm. Support is provided in Finnish and English.

**Monika – Multicultural Women’s Association in Finland** helps immigrant women and children who have been subjected to violence or the threat of it. Monika provides its services in English, Arabic, Dari, Spanish, Farsi, Persian, French, Swedish, Somali, Sorani, Thai, Russian and Estonian. Monika’s
national on-call helpline is available 24 hours a day. The number of the on-call helpline is 09 692 2304. The organization encourages migrant women to participate actively in social issues and provides services and guidance to victims of domestic violence. Further, it actively lobbies decision makers and provide training to social and health professionals. The Organization has an expert role in addressing issues around violence towards migrant women, multiculturalism, ethnic relations, empowerment and integration.

**National Women’s Line in Finland** offers national telephone- and Internet-advice as well as peer group activity for women who suffer from violence. Women’s Line is meant for every woman and girl suffering from abuse, threats or fear. Volunteered women trained by Women’s Line answer the phone. All calls are confidential and free-of-charge.

The **Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters** has also organised services for men in difficult life situations (Men’s Centre) and in dealing with their own violence. The shelters work also with children who have been victims of violence or have witnessed violence at home.

The **Finnish Association for Mental Health** provides crises assistance and support in order to prevent mental health problems and suicides.

**SOS Crisis Centre** offers short term crisis counselling and guidance in crisis situations for Finnish people and Immigrants, including asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and undocumented immigrants. Crisis counselling is made in Finnish, Swedish, English and if necessary through an interpreter in the client’s mother tongue. Counselling is cost free and it’s possible to make the contact anonymous. In order to make an appointment a referral is not needed, only the own experience of crisis is enough. Common reasons for the client to seek help from the SOS centre:

- Difficulties adapting to a new culture
- Marital relationship problems and family problems
- Suicidal thoughts
- Sudden losses
- Accidents, violence
- Mental health problems

At the moment, treatment and support for victims of crime is also organised by municipalities including help during crises. In addition, peer groups have been organised by municipalities and voluntary organisations. There are no provisions on the time frame of criminal proceedings specifically concerning children. However, there are general provisions on criminal proceedings such as the duty of the prosecutor to bring evidence to the court without delay, and to conduct
preparatory hearings at the court and to notify charges without delay as the Criminal Procedure Act (689/1997) Chapter 1 Sections 4, 6, 12 states. According to the Criminal Investigation Act, all police investigations, involving adults or children, must be conducted without unnecessary delay. In terms of ensuring a child-friendly environment, not all courts in Finland have rooms designed specifically to be child-friendly, but in these cases, normal offices could be used, rather than court rooms.
VI. Managing children victims and witnesses of crime and the assessment of their needs

Based on the US Child Advocacy Centre model, and in order to improve the investigative interviews and clinical treatment and support, the Finnish government implemented a pilot Barnahuset project (Child Advocacy Centre) in 2014. The project is carried out in cooperation between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The 'Children's House' - The Barnahuset Model provides services for child victims of sexual or other violence. This is a way of organising care for abused children in the investigation phase by bringing them to a single point where all professionals that need to be involved – health, social work, police and prosecutors – work together in a single team. It is increasingly in use across Scandinavia. In Finland's case there is an initial test going on of the model in the Turku region. The project provides a framework for official state cooperation, as well as a common physical space. It includes police investigation services under which the police can consult health care and social service officials, legal and psychological examinations, somatic examinations and cooperation with child welfare authorities from the child’s municipality. Their focus is intensive forensic interviewing and formulation of case analyses. The child's crisis treatment and need for further health care is assessed and the child is referred to further care. Also the whole family is supported and directed to further care. The house also gathers and produces research information and training for state officials. In practice, the police or the child welfare service contact the centre when abuse is alleged. The Barnahuset then calls a meeting with the police and the child welfare service. The meeting takes place at the Barnahuset with one of the staff members appointed as the child’s contact person. The reported case is then discussed and case-relevant information given by the child welfare service to the police. After the meeting the police consider how to proceed before calling another meeting to explain their decisions. The forensic interview is then planned in detail, where the police officer gains a valid information about the alleged offence and the mental health worker focuses on the child's psychological well-being, with contact between the prosecution and the judge leading the interview.

Representatives of the judicial system, social services, child psychiatry and medical services collaborate with focus on the child’s best interest. An interrogator/interviewer from the police meets the child alone, while in another room, social secretary, lawyer and prosecutor follow the interview via monitor. Two consequences are supposed to be fulfilled; firstly that the child does not have to
repeat her or his story for several persons, and secondly that the social services has an opportunity
to find out about the child’s social situation and the need for immediate protection. Apart from the
interest of legal system, the child’s narrative is important for the social services, as an authority with
responsibility for the child’s situation, to learn about how the child’s needs should be fulfilled not
only now, but also in the future.

At Barnahuset the forensic interview, medical examination and therapeutic consultations all take
place under the same roof. There is a specially designed interview room that allows the interview to
be recorded directly to DVD, with video links to a conference room at Barnahuset. The conference
room serves as a courtroom, with all legal representatives present (judge, prosecution, defence
lawyer and state-funded counsel to the complaint). The interview process and the presence of
observers in the monitor room are normally explained to children in developmentally appropriate
terms. The interviewer first conducts an interview in accordance with his/her professional skills and
when he/she considers it complete, the interviewer takes a break to consult counsel and the judge,
leaving the camera running. The judge gives both parties the opportunity to suggest topics or identify
contradictions that they want investigated. The interviewer than returns to the interview room to
address these issues and then consults the observers again. This process continues until the judge
and counsel are satisfied. The child then leaves the interview room, meets his guardian and the
interview is finished. The child can be re-interviewed, in which case the process will be followed, but
re-interviewing is very rare. At the Barnahuset some judges also allow representatives of the child
welfare service to monitor investigative interviews, however some judges exclude them from the
monitoring room. The process of the interview is the following:

Step 1. **Rapport:** The interview opens with discussion of a neutral topic to relax the child and settle
them in. The interviewer bridges this phase to the free narrative by stating the purpose of the
interview. This should be done in a way that is age-appropriate.

Step 2. **Free narrative:** In this second phase, the child is encouraged to provide a free account of the
events, with as little input from the interviewer as possible.

Step 3. **Questioning:** The aim of the questioning phase is to clarify what the child has said in his or
her free narrative account. This is the time for questions addressing any evidential matters, the detail
of any alleged offence and clarification (such as body parts, for example).

Step 4. **Close:** This phase consists of a summing up of the key points made by the child, along with a
return to more neutral topics to allow the child some recovery time before leaving the interview.
An extended forensic interview is a multi-session structured interview. This model recognizes that some children may need more than one session to talk about allegations of abuse and increases the number of interview sessions with the child to as many as four. An extended forensic interview is generally considered for children with special developmental considerations or children who are particularly anxious or frightened.

After the forensic interview of the child, a medical doctor can (if necessary and if he or she is present) consult and physically examine the child. The findings are documented by paediatricians through the use of a colposcope, state-of-the-art equipment that records the examination on a video. The House also provides treatment services for child victims of sexual abuse and their families. The child is assessed for therapeutic purposes. Barnahuset has very good facilities for medical examinations. A gynaecologist, paediatrician and registered nurse administer the examination. Barnahuset provides assessment and treatment in the child’s home area, if requested. Then an individual treatment plan is created and provided either at the facilities or, if the child lives outside of the capital area, as near to her/his home as possible.
VII. Training of professionals working with children victims/witnesses of crime

There is a 3-year-lasting SENJA-project going on. Within the project, the victim sensitive approach (vulnerable victims) is instructed to the police, the prosecutors and the court personnel. The goal of the Senja sensitiveness model is to provide information about the consequences of being subjected to domestic violence and sexual crime and to give advice to those working with crime victims in various stages of the legal process. Sensitive treatment encourages the victim to be active, makes the work of the authorities easier, prevents secondary victimisation and protects the legal rights of the victim, particularly regarding the trial. Senja-Internet pages have been published - Instructions in Finnish, Swedish and English are open – www.senjanetti.fi Instructions folders have been produced and distributed to all police stations, local prosecution offices, public legal aid offices and courts in Finland. Main tasks of SENJA-project:

- Educate employees such as police, police students, prosecutors, judges, legal aid personal, laywers who are working in proceedings and are facing sexually abused people. In the year 2010 almost 500 participants took part of the sensitivity training (until this day apr. 1000) and 300 (until this day apr. 700) of them were police officers
- Encure that Victims of sexual violence will not experience secondary traumatisation or secondary victimisation in proceedings
  - Minimize the risks of the unfair trial specially concerning victims of violent crime
  - Fullfill Human Rights of the victims
  - Share information for victims of sexual crimes and domestic violence
    - Information of their rights and possibilities of support, information of the support organisations
    - Information of the legal process, the legal assistance, the police reporting, the police investigation, the hearing

The professionals of jurisprudence receive the training in the following topics:

- How to face a victim of sexual violence/sexual abuse
- How to face a victim of domestic violence
- How to face a victim with intellectual disabilities of domestic violence and sexual violence/sexual abuse
- How to face of a young victim of sexual violence/abuse
Police officers receive a special training course concerning crimes against children every year. The course takes two weeks and it is aimed to the police officers who are specialised in investigating the aforementioned crimes. The National Police Board of Finland initiated special training for police officers and health care professionals conducting children’s interviews in the context of criminal cases as a pilot project in November 2009. Since then, the training has been continued and third training group will begin in the beginning of 2012. This training lasts for one year, and it aims at building up the professional skills of those conducting interviews with children by means of training days and work counselling. The training consists of theoretical and special information on conducting interviews in context of criminal investigations. It also includes the supervision of work which includes personal guidance given to each participant on conducting interviews. Also the pre-trial investigation process together with available forms of cooperation between various authorities will be introduced detailing for example what kind of assistance the police may request from the health care professionals. A prosecutor and an advocate specialized in offences against children will participate and they will share their perspectives on criminal investigation in these cases. The topics also include current legislation, instructions and practice in Finland as regards investigation into abuse and assault cases. The topics of human rights and fundamental rights are included trough the whole police training (Diploma in Police Studies, the Finnish Police Sergeant’s Examination, the Bachelor in Police Command and in addition to these programmes, continuing and supplementary training, including Specialist Studies). The training of practitioners working with victims and witnesses of crime is in line with the Article 25 of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA

**Support person for the child in case of confusion or anxiety:**

If the person has become a victim of sexual crime, domestic violence or an aggravated crime against his/her life, health or freedom, victim has, upon reporting the crime, the right to get a free counsel to assist him/her during the police interrogation. If he/she is already to be interrogated, the interrogation may possibly be moved to another day if the victim asks for a counsel. The counsel may be a public counsel from a legal aid office, a private lawyer or any lawyer who has the right to function in court. In addition to the counsel, victim has the right to get a free support person to
assist him/her morally both during the police interrogation and during the trial. With the support person victim may freely and confidentially discuss any feelings he/she encounters. However, the support person is not in a position to give legal advice. The support person may, for example, be a friend (excluding those who are likely to be used as witnesses) or someone from the Finnish Victim Support.
Conclusions

It is evident from the above research that Northern Ireland and Finland have comprehensive systems of protection for children and victims/witnesses of crime involved in criminal proceedings which are established through legislation, codes of practice, practice guidelines and policy statements and commitments. Those systems correspond to the requirements of the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. Moreover, those systems guarantee the appropriate treatment of children taking into account their welfare and best interests which is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In Northern Ireland, with respect to the general approach taken towards children, it is clear from publications that criminal justice agencies and the government are conscious of their obligations as established under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. The starting point is that any victim, suspect or witness under the age of 18 is effectively considered to be a child and as such subject to special measures, assistance or treatment under the youth justice system. Furthermore, the general policy taken by the government and the main services of police, prosecution and courts, is that children should be protected within the system but should be provided with sufficient opportunity to participate in the proceedings and to provide their views in accordance with abilities. From the perspective of child victims and witnesses the special needs of children are recognized and catered for through statute based protection measures as well as requirements imposed on authorities in the treatment of children. Thus child receive risk assessments, are offered measures to help them provide evidence and participate in proceedings whilst reducing secondary victimization. In implementing special measures a raft of policies and guidance have been developed to assist criminal justice professionals in identifying, assessing and supporting vulnerable victims and witnesses of crime, such as ‘Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Guidance on interviewing victims and witnesses, the use of special measures, and the provision of pre-trial therapy’ (CJSNI, 2012); ‘Victims’ Code of Practice’ (DoJ, 2011); ‘A guide to Northern Ireland’s criminal justice system for victims and witnesses of crime’ (DoJ, 2010); Victim’s Charter (DoJ, 2014). A victim or a witness of a violent crime can qualify for

A large number of monitoring bodies exist which review the operation of criminal justice authorities and the treatment of people within the criminal justice system. In particular, the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland is the main prosecuting authority for Northern Ireland and it is committed to making sure that the best interests of the victim or witness of crime are taken into account as far as possible.

In addition, victim support organizations such as Victims Support Northern Ireland and NSPCC Young Witness Service receive referrals direct from the police and are able to assist child victims whether they participate in proceedings or not. NSPCC Young Witness Service also gives an opportunity for children to contact trained volunteers, qualified Young Witness Worker or professional counsellors with backgrounds in jobs like teaching, healthcare and social work.

Where a child and family require support from coordinated action of more than one agency (e.g. education, health, housing, police) there exists the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), a meeting, where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, as well as housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Such conference aims to achieve effective early help by local agencies working together to:

- identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and
- provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to improve significantly outcomes for the child.

Within the MARAC process local agencies discuss identified high risk cases in the local area; share information; and agree a co-ordinated action plan.

It is also worth mentioning the Women’s Aid organization, providing support for women and children victims of domestic violence. In particular, Women’s Aid provides refuge accommodation to
women and their children suffering mental, physical or sexual abuse within the home; runs the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline; provides a range of support services to enable women who are leaving a violent situation to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children; provides a range of support services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence; runs preventative education programmes in schools and other settings; educates and inform the public, media, police, courts, social services and other agencies of the impact and effects of domestic violence; advises and support agencies in the development of domestic violence policies, protocols and service delivery, and work in partnership with relevant agencies to ensure a joined up response to domestic violence; works in partnership with relevant agencies to ensure a joined up response to domestic violence.

Similarly in Finland, taking into consideration the policies and tools utilized by the government in order to manage children and adult victims/witnesses of crime it is clear that obligations as established under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA are fulfilled.

The legislation for managing crime victims and witnesses is for the most part the same for adults and children, in particular: Decree on Criminal Investigations and Coercive Measures (1987); Non-Discrimination Act (2004); Child Welfare Act (2007); Act on Checking the Criminal Background of Persons Working with Children; Act on Compensation for Crime Damage and the Tort Liability Act (1974); Act on Compensation for the Excessive Length of Judicial Proceedings (2009) and Legal Aid Act. The age and level of development of the child is taken into consideration in examinations and a multi-professional approach is emphasised. The starting point of the Constitution is that children must be treated equally and as individuals, with individual personalities and characteristics, and allowed to influence matters relating to them to a degree which corresponds to their level of development. Under Finnish legislation, it is required to take into consideration the child’s age and stage of development during investigations and to provide for legal counsel and support workers as well as to appoint a legal guardian where needed. In Finnish criminal law, the best interests of the child are safeguarded through procedural rules such as allowing the use of recorded investigations as evidence. It is also possible to hear the testimony of children in court without the presence of certain persons such as the offender.
Just as in Northern Ireland, in Finland after reporting the crime children receive risk assessments, are offered measures to help them provide evidence and participate in proceedings whilst reducing secondary victimization. The investigation of offences involving child victims is undertaken by a police officer specialized in investigating children. All professionals working with the victims and witnesses of crime receive appropriate training in the framework of Senja project. Within the project, the victim sensitive approach (vulnerable victims) is instructed to the police, the prosecutors and the court personnel. The goal of the Senja sensitiveness model is to provide information about the consequences of being subjected to domestic violence and sexual crime and to give advice to those working with crime victims in various stages of the legal process. Sensitive treatment encourages the victim to be active, makes the work of the authorities easier, prevents secondary victimisation and protects the legal rights of the victim, particularly regarding the trial. Senja-Internet pages have been published - Instructions in Finnish, Swedish and English are open. Instructions folders have been produced and distributed to all police stations, local prosecution offices, public legal aid offices and courts in Finland. Police officers receive a special training course concerning crimes against children every year. The course takes two weeks and it is aimed to the police officers who are specialised in investigating the aforementioned crimes.

It is also worth emphasizing the Barnahuset project (Child Advocacy Centre) that was initiated in 2014. The project is carried out in co-operation between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The Barnahuset Model provides services for child victims of sexual or other violence. This is a way of organising care for abused children in the investigation phase by bringing them to a single point where all professionals that need to be involved – health, social work, police and prosecutors – work together in a single team. It includes police investigation services under which the police can consult health care and social service officials, legal and psychological examinations, somatic examinations and cooperation with child welfare authorities from the child’s municipality. Their focus is intensive forensic interviewing and formulation of case analyses.

In the same way as in the Northern Ireland, Victim support organizations, such as Victim Support Finland offers practical advice and support to victims of crime including a helpline and support workers, receive referrals direct from the police and are able to assist child victims whether they participate in proceedings or not. It is also worth to mention other organizations that provide the assistance to the victims of crime and violence:
- **The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters** - upholds 14 shelters around the Finland (in addition there exist about 20 other shelters in Finland). The shelters are service centres in which persons either suffering from or threatened with family violence can find help in overcoming a crisis.

- **Tukinainen** – Rape Crisis Centre the support center for victims who have been sexually assaulted.

- **Monika** – Multicultural Women’s Association in Finland helps immigrant women and children who have been subjected to violence or the threat of it.

- **National Women’s Line in Finland** offers national telephone- and Internet-advice as well as peer group activity for women who suffer from violence.

There are provisions on informing adults and children at different stages of the criminal proceedings. The provisions on police investigations, at which stage children are most often involved, are quite detailed and, in addition, there are police guidelines on investigating children. Multi-professional cooperation is possible for investigations. Children’s guardians, who are in practice the parents or other legal representatives, have in general the right to be present when children are being investigated. Children can also be appointed legal counsels and support persons for the entire process including appeals. The right to use one’s own language is also taken into consideration, and interpretation is paid for by the State. State officials are provided training on the criminal process involving children. For considerations of safety, the court may set a restriction order. If the victim is a child and the offender is one of the guardians, a legal guardian can be appointed, and the defendant guardian will not have the right to participate in the child’s investigation. The police must inform social welfare officials of children in need of child welfare.

Similarly to Northern Ireland, victims of a crime may be eligible for compensation paid from State funds for injury or damage caused by a criminal offence, such as medical costs, loss of income and personal property damaged in connection with the injury in accordance with the Act on Compensation for Crime Damage and the Tort Liability Act (2002). Moreover, a child or adult victim can seek compensation from the State in cases where proceedings are delayed in accordance with the Act on Compensation for the Excessive Length of Judicial Proceedings (2009).
Bibliography:


Legislation reviewed (Northern Ireland):

- Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, 4 May 2011
- The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Registration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, 17 December 2007
- Youth Conference Rules (Northern Ireland) 2003, 18 December 2003
- Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, 27 February 2003
- Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, 12 October 1999
- Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, 19 December 1989
- Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, 2 August 1989
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, 31 October 1984
Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, 18 February 1981

Prison Act 1953, 19 May 1953

Legislation reviewed (Finland):

Decrees:


Acts:


The Act on Compensation from State Funds for the Arrest or Detention of an Innocent Person (422/1974) of 31 May 1974.


The Criminal Code (39/1889) of 19 December 1889.


Useful websites

Northern Ireland:

The Bar of Northern Ireland: www.barlibrary.com

Compensation Agency: www.compensationni.gov.uk

Department of Justice: www.dojni.gov.uk

Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland: www.hscni.net

Judicial Studies Board for Northern Ireland: www.jsbni.com

Law Society of Northern Ireland: www.lawsoc-ni.org

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service: www.courtsni.gov.uk

NI Direct (government services): www.nidirect.gov.uk
Northern Ireland Prison Service: www.niprisonservice.gov.uk

Police Service of Northern Ireland: www.psni.police.uk

Probation Board for Northern Ireland: www.pbni.org.uk

Public Prosecution Service: www.ppsni.gov.uk

Victim Support NI: www.victimsupportni.co.uk  (Note: VSNI has a database of organisations offering support services)

Youth Justice Agency: www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk

**Finland:**


The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters: http://www.ensijaturvakotienliitto.fi/in_english/


National Women’s Line in Finland: https://www.naistenlinja.fi/en/

Rape crisis centre: http://www.tukinainen.fi/english/

The Finnish Association for Mental Health: http://www.mielenterveysseura.fi/en/home/support-and-help

Finnish police: http://www.poliisi.fi/

Senja sensitiveness model web-site: http://senjanetti.fi/en