

CONNECT
TO PROTECT
children & youth at risk

CONFERENCE
IMPACT REPORT
2026

ORGANIZED BY

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Connect to Protect:

International Conference on Child Protection and Prevention of Violence took place on 5-6 October 2026 at the Royal Olympic Hotel in Athens, Greece, organised by IASIS NGO.

The conference brought together more than

360+ participants

30+ countries

110+ speakers

5 continents

Researchers, frontline professionals, policymakers, public authorities, civil society organisations and young people contributed to a shared discussion about preventing violence and strengthening protection.

Its purpose was to connect the knowledge held across different disciplines and institutions with the practical realities of children's lives. The programme examined how support can reach children earlier, how services can work together and how children's views can influence decisions about their safety and future.



Message from Co-Founder & General Director of IASIS NGO

Dear colleagues and friends,

I look back on Connect to Protect with pride and gratitude. Bringing people from around the world to Athens to share their knowledge and experience was an important achievement for IASIS and everyone who contributed to the conference.

On 5 and 6 October 2026, more than 360 participants from over 30 countries came together with a shared purpose: to improve the protection and support available to children and young people. Researchers, professionals, public authorities, international organisations and young people discussed difficult questions openly and learned from one another.

I am particularly proud that this exchange took place in Greece. Our country has valuable experience to share, from supporting unaccompanied children to developing prevention and community services. The conference brought this work into an international discussion and gave professionals access to knowledge and approaches from other countries.

The discussions reflected challenges we encounter in our work every day. Children and families need support that is available early and continues when their circumstances change. Professionals need resources and reliable cooperation between services. Children need to understand decisions affecting them and have a meaningful say in those decisions.

The young people's contributions made these priorities especially clear. They spoke about trust, respect and opportunities for the future. Their experiences reminded us that the value of our work is felt in the help people receive and the relationships they can depend on.



For IASIS, the conference is a starting point for continued work. We are developing the Connect to Protect Network and a webinar series to maintain the exchange of research and practice, discuss common challenges and explore joint initiatives. We will also use what we learned to inform our own services and partnerships.

I warmly thank our team for the commitment and care behind the organisation of these two days. I also thank the young people, speakers, participants, partners, sponsors and volunteers whose contributions gave the conference its value.

This report records what we shared, what we learned and the priorities we take forward. My hope is that the connections made in Athens will develop into lasting cooperation and better support for children and families. Every child deserves to be seen, heard and to belong. This remains the purpose guiding our work and our next steps.

Nikos Baltas
Co-Founder & General Director of IASIS NGO



Message from the Scientific Lead

Dear colleagues and friends,

In developing the scientific programme of Connect to Protect, our aim was to bring research, professional experience and young people's perspectives into a shared discussion about how protection works in practice. Looking back on the two days, I believe the value of that exchange lies in the connections it helped us examine: between trauma and behaviour, safety and participation, family support and social conditions, and professional decisions and children's experiences.

Across the presentations, one question kept returning:

how does what we know change what we do?



The programme also encouraged us to look critically at our own interventions. Protection can be necessary and still cause distress. Decisions about removal, placement, treatment or justice require attention to how children understand and experience the process. Reducing additional harm must therefore be part of the design, delivery and evaluation of support.

Children's participation was central to this discussion. Several contributions distinguished between asking children for information and allowing their views to influence decisions. The young people who spoke made this responsibility concrete. They described the importance of being heard, finding someone they could trust and having opportunities for a different future.

As researchers and practitioners, we also have a responsibility to be precise about evidence. The conference included established interventions, emerging findings, service evaluations and approaches still under development. These contributions offer different kinds of knowledge. Reach, satisfaction and promising observations matter, but claims about effectiveness require appropriate evaluation and follow-up.

This report brings together the questions and priorities emerging from that exchange. It cannot yet establish whether the conference has changed services or improved outcomes for children. It can provide a basis for examining those changes over time.
Our next steps at IASIS are to sustain the scientific dialogue through the Connect to Protect Network and webinar series, explore research cooperation and support further exchange between universities, frontline services and policymakers. Young people's perspectives must remain part of that work.

I warmly thank every contributor for sharing knowledge, discussing uncertainty and engaging with difficult questions. Our shared responsibility now is to carry this learning into decisions and practices that children can experience as safer, more understandable and more supportive.

Dr Stefanos Alevizos
Scientific Lead, Connect to Protect
Psychologist and Postdoctoral Researcher
IASIS NGO



Why the Conference Was Needed

Children and young people encounter risks across family life, schools, communities, care settings and digital environments. Violence, exploitation, displacement, discrimination and mental health difficulties can overlap, while the services responding to them often operate through separate systems.

Connect to Protect addressed the difficulties created by these divisions. A child may receive attention from several professionals while still experiencing gaps in support, repeated assessments or uncertainty about what happens next.

The conference also examined the distance between policy commitments and implementation. Research, legal frameworks and promising approaches are available, but their value depends on whether services have the resources, relationships and responsibilities needed to put them into practice.

These concerns shaped a programme that connected prevention, protection, recovery and participation. It encouraged contributors to examine both the support children need and the way that support is delivered.



Who Took Part



The conference community reflected the range of people and institutions involved in children's lives.

Participants included:

- psychologists
- psychiatrists
- psychotherapists
- social workers
- educators
- special education professionals
- lawyers, judges
- police officers
- probation professionals
- staff working in child protection and community services

They joined university researchers, public health specialists, digital safety professionals, programme managers and organisational leaders. Representatives of ministries, municipalities, social welfare services and independent children's rights bodies contributed perspectives on public responsibility and service delivery.

Students, doctoral candidates and early-career researchers took part alongside established academics and experienced practitioners. Young people with experience of protection and support services brought their own priorities into the programme.

This professional range created opportunities to examine issues from several positions. Researchers could discuss findings with those delivering services. Practitioners could explain the challenges of implementation. Institutional representatives could hear how decisions and procedures are experienced in everyday life.











International Reach

Participation extended across Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and North America.

The programme included contributions associated with United Nations bodies and mechanisms, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, WHO, IOM and ITU. The Council of Europe and international networks working on victim support, child-centred justice, public health, migration and digital protection were also represented. Academic connections included universities such as Yale, Harvard, Columbia, the University of California, Berkeley, New York University and Washington University in St. Louis. European, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand institutions contributed further perspectives, alongside universities and research centres in Greece and Cyprus. Civil society participation brought experience from organisations working in different legal, social and humanitarian settings. These included services supporting families, children in alternative care, displaced children, victims of violence and young people facing exclusion. The international dimension allowed contributors to compare approaches while recognising differences in resources, institutions and local needs. It also created opportunities to identify shared questions that extend beyond national boundaries.

Greece as Host and Contributor

Holding Connect to Protect in Athens provided a meeting point between international expertise and knowledge developed in Greece. Greek contributions addressed trauma, family relationships, community mental health, school-based prevention, juvenile justice and the protection of unaccompanied children. Presentations described both research and practical work through services, youth centres, mobile units and partnerships. The presentation of the Greek National Strategy 2025-2030 connected national priorities with the wider discussion on preventing violence and strengthening child-centred justice.

This exchange gave Greek professionals and organisations an opportunity to share their experience with an international audience. It also brought approaches from other countries into discussion with the realities of delivering support in Greece. For IASIS, the conference extended its community work into a wider setting for scientific exchange and cooperation. The aim was to build connections that could support learning and service development beyond the two-day event.





How the Programme Worked

The programme combined eight keynote addresses, more than 30 sessions, five practical workshops and a Poster & Project Showcase, across four programme spaces. Olympia Hall hosted keynote addresses, high-level discussions and thematic sessions. Templars Hall and Abbey Hall provided parallel programmes, while the Conference Ground Floor accommodated the showcase and practical workshops. Most activities took place in person. Selected speakers contributed through live online connections or recorded messages, extending the range of perspectives available to participants. Simultaneous interpretation supported discussion across languages. The different formats served different purposes. Keynotes developed major questions and frameworks. Parallel sessions allowed closer examination of specialised topics. Workshops focused on application, while the showcase provided space for research and practice projects alongside the main programme.





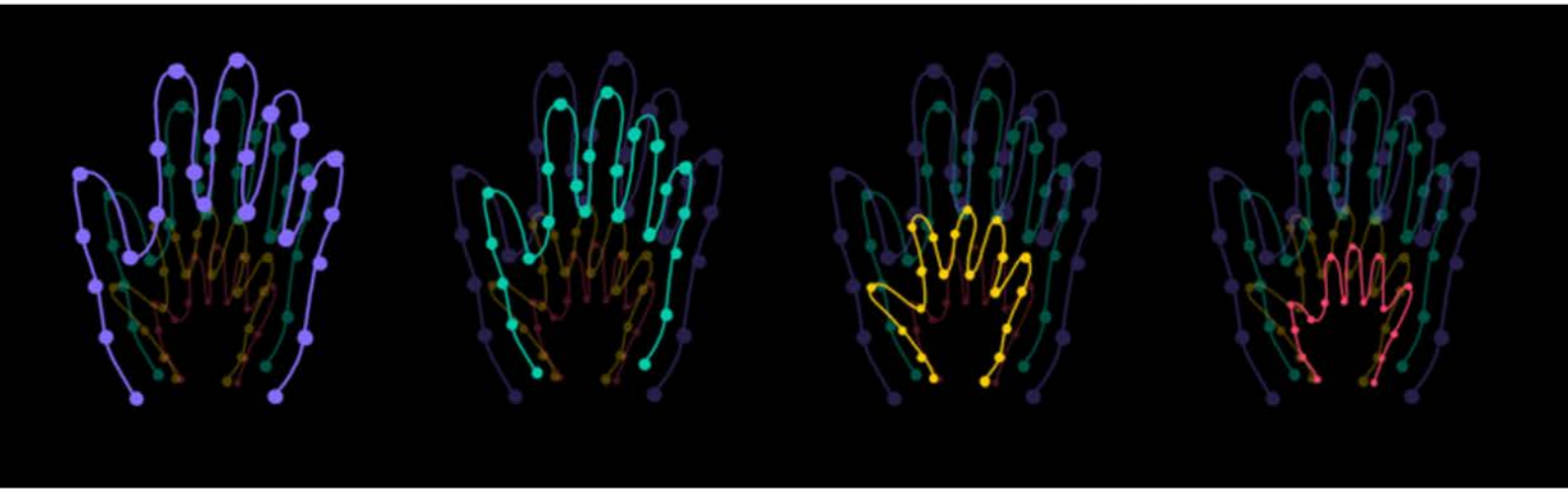
What Was Discussed

Trauma

Mental Health

Recovery

Contributors examined how traumatic experiences can affect emotions, behaviour, relationships and development. Discussions connected early recognition with appropriate support for children and caregivers. Sessions also addressed needs that can remain unnoticed, including hidden injuries, communication difficulties and the effects of adverse experiences. Community-based care and cooperation between health, education and social services were recurring priorities. The programme encouraged attention to the conditions surrounding distress, including family circumstances, poverty, discrimination and insecurity.



Safer Protective Interventions

A central question concerned the consequences of professional action. Speakers examined how removal, changes in care, justice procedures and other interventions can add distress even when their purpose is protective. This discussion encouraged services to consider preparation, communication and continuity alongside the decision itself. It also highlighted the importance of recognising unintended harm and creating opportunities to improve practice.



Children's Participation and Inclusion

Participation appeared across discussions of family life, care, justice, research and technology. Contributors examined how children can understand processes, communicate their views and influence decisions. They distinguished between gathering information from children and involving them in shaping what happens next. Sessions also explored barriers linked to disability, inequality, discrimination and differences in communication. Creative activities, play and accessible resources offered examples of ways to broaden engagement.



Violence, Victim Support and Justice

The programme addressed sexual abuse, gender-based violence, racist violence and the experiences of children within justice processes. Contributors examined multidisciplinary assessment, communication, forensic practice, diversion and restorative approaches. Discussions considered how services can protect dignity, support participation and reduce secondary victimisation. The programme also addressed situations in which children have experienced harm and have harmed others. These contributions showed the need for responses that combine protection, support and developmentally appropriate accountability.











Presentations examined parenting, family stress, parental substance use, serious mental illness and separation. They considered how assessment can inform support while avoiding assumptions based on diagnoses or labels alone. School and community initiatives illustrated approaches to prevention and psychosocial care. Contributions described work connecting families, teachers, youth services and specialist professionals. These discussions highlighted the importance of help that is close to everyday life and available before difficulties become crises.

Families, Schools and Community Support



Displacement, Migration and Belonging

Sessions explored the experiences of children affected by conflict, emergencies and migration, including unaccompanied children. Legal protection, accommodation, education and psychosocial support were discussed alongside relationships, agency and belonging. Contributions examined how children can understand unfamiliar systems and maintain support through transitions. The discussion extended beyond immediate reception to questions about community inclusion, disappearance, institutional care and the transition to adulthood.

Digital Safety and Emerging Technologies

Digital protection was examined through research, education, regulation and operational experience. Topics included grooming, sextortion, harmful online communities, hate, artificial intelligence and the circulation of child sexual abuse material. Contributors discussed the responsibilities of platforms and the importance of safety by design. The programme also recognised the role of digital connection in access to information, relationships and support. Different approaches, including age-based restrictions, were presented within a wider discussion about rights, prevention and accountability.









Young People's Contribution

Young people contributed perspectives on approaching services, experiencing judgement, building trust and finding opportunities for the future. Their interventions gave practical meaning to concepts discussed throughout the programme. Access became a question about whether help was available close to home or school. Participation became a question about whether adults would consider their views. Continuity became a question about who would remain available during difficult changes. They also highlighted the importance of being recognised beyond a problem or past event. Their contributions directed attention towards relationships, aspirations and the conditions that allow young people to feel they belong. Their presence created an opportunity for professional and policy discussions to be informed by lived experience. Continuing that contribution requires feedback and further opportunities for influence.



Research, Tools and Practice Experience

The programme brought together established research, emerging findings, service evaluations and approaches under development. Presentations introduced methods for assessment and decision-making, resources for participation, digital safety education and professional training concepts. Community and school programmes offered experience of implementation, including staffing, engagement, partnership working and sustainability. This range made it possible to discuss both what an approach aims to achieve and what is required to deliver it. It also highlighted the importance of interpreting evidence carefully. Service reach, satisfaction and measured changes provide different information. Understanding effectiveness requires suitable evaluation, attention to context and follow-up over time.





The Closing Discussion and the Next Stage

The closing panel returned to the challenge of turning evidence and commitments into action. Contributors discussed participation, institutional trust, sustainable funding and accountability. They highlighted the need for clear responsibilities across services and for support that continues beyond short projects or administrative transitions. The discussion also considered the responsibilities of technology providers and the potential of innovation developed with young people.

IASIS announced plans for a Connect to Protect Network and a series of webinars to maintain exchange, explore shared interests and support future cooperation.

The conference established a broad setting for international dialogue, bringing together people who approach child protection from different professional and institutional positions. Its immediate contribution was the exchange itself: research, practical experience, policy responsibilities and young people's perspectives were considered within one programme.

The next stage is to sustain those connections and document what follows - through continued learning, joint work and changes that improve how children and families experience support.









Key Messages from Keynote Speakers

Across the addresses, several messages emerged.

They provide a shared direction for further discussion and action, while reflecting the speakers' different areas of expertise.

The excerpts below are taken from the conference transcript.

Recognise distress early and connect children with support

Trauma can affect many parts of a child's daily life. Early recognition needs to lead to appropriate care, with services working together to support recovery.

"We must act and act together."

— Steven Marans

Examine how protection is experienced

The necessity of an intervention does not remove the responsibility to reduce its emotional and relational costs. Children need understandable information, preparation and support through change.

"Necessity does not mean non-traumatic."

— Stefanos Alevizos



Involve children in shaping their future

Participation includes opportunities to influence what happens next. Professionals need to consider children's wishes and explain how those views have informed decisions.

"We need to figure out ways to engage children not just in the past, not just in the present, but in the future and in real decision-making."

— Jill Duerr Berrick

Make responsibilities clear

Cooperation becomes meaningful when people know who will act, what they will deliver and when. Accountability also requires ways for children and families to raise concerns.

"Who is doing what? And who is accountable for what?"

— Najat Maalla M'jid

Assess the consequences of professional decisions

Services need to examine what happens after an intervention, including unintended harm. Learning requires openness, monitoring and a willingness to change practice.

"The children are going to live with the consequences of our choices."

— Yvonne Vissing



Keep children's safety at the centre of evaluation

Completing a programme or treatment is an important process measure. Evaluation also needs to examine longer-term safety and the outcomes that matter in children's lives.

"The ultimate outcome measure is safer children."

— Athanasios Douzenis





Make rights visible in everyday life

The value of a legal or policy commitment depends on its implementation. Children need to experience their rights through accessible support, respectful treatment and effective protection.

"We must not confuse ratification with protection or normative achievement with implementation."

— Philip D. Jaffé



Treat mental health as a matter of rights

Young people's access to support is shaped by service availability, affordability, trust and wider social conditions. A rights-based approach connects these concerns with dignity and participation.

"Mental health is a human rights issue."

— Helen Griffiths

Replace reactive responses with prevention strategy

When youth violence causes public alarm, governments often respond with fragmented or punitive measures. An evidence-based national strategy, with concrete measures, clear responsibilities and monitoring, offers a preventive alternative. The challenge now is to implement it.

"Prevention, therefore, is not only protective but transformative."

— Vasiliki Artinopoulou



Build the conditions for care and belonging

Families, schools and communities influence how young people understand themselves and relate to others. Caring relationships and opportunities to contribute support both personal development and community life.

"Caring is a skill, and I think we need to treat it as a skill."

— Richard Weissbourd



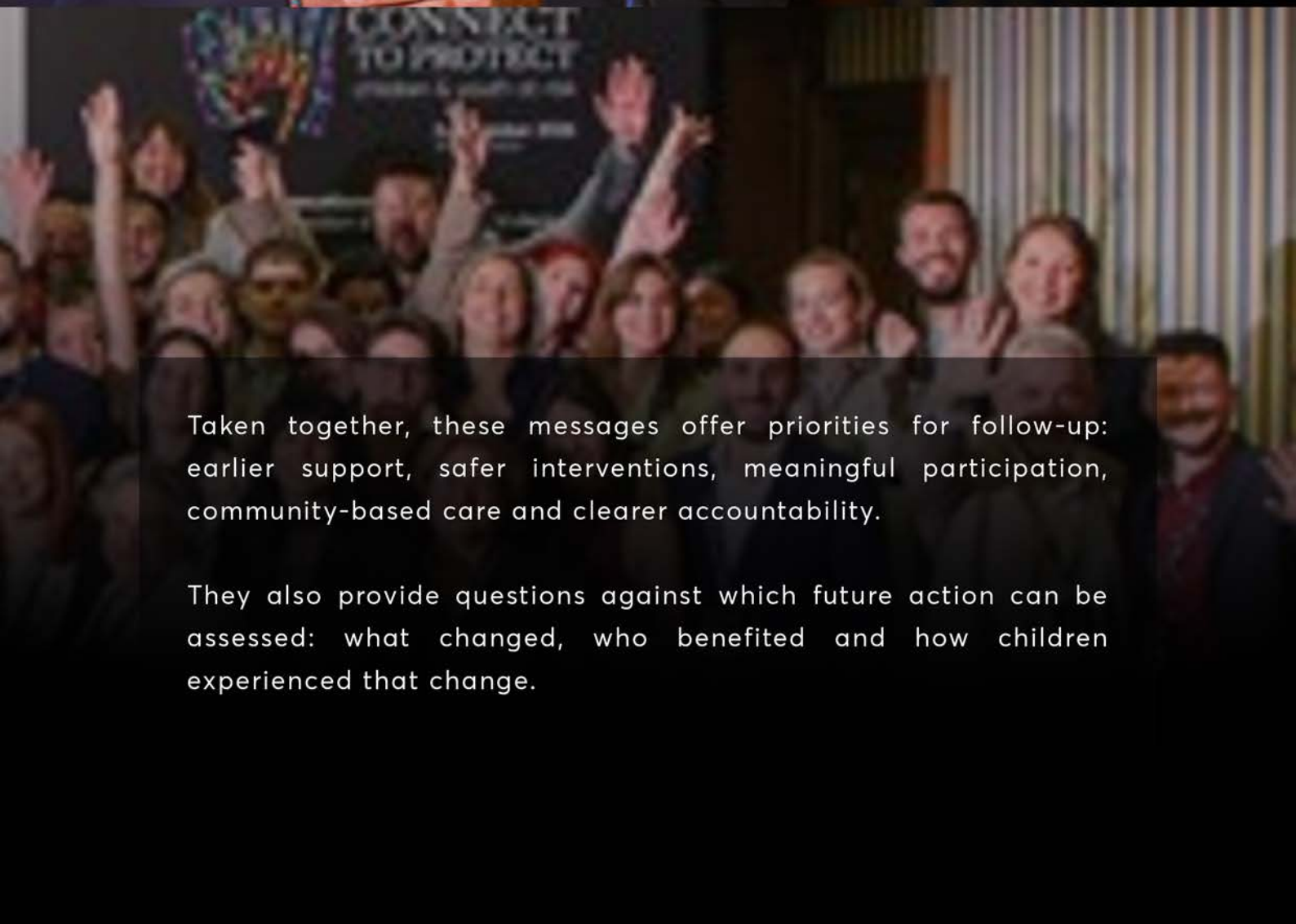


Connect services around the child and family

Fragmented services leave children without timely help, and many end up abandoned within the system that should protect them. What psychiatric reform has learned can guide child protection: one integrated care plan, a stable case manager and clear referral pathways, including in the online spaces where children now live.

"From institution to community… from placement to participation and rights."

— Stelios Stylianidis



Taken together, these messages offer priorities for follow-up: earlier support, safer interventions, meaningful participation, community-based care and clearer accountability.

They also provide questions against which future action can be assessed: what changed, who benefited and how children experienced that change.

Young People's Voices: What They Brought to the Conference

Young people with experience of child protection and support services contributed to Connect to Protect by sharing their perspectives on seeking help, building trust and participating in decisions. Their contributions connected the scientific and policy discussions with the everyday experience of receiving support.

This chapter presents shared themes without identifying speakers or linking personal circumstances to individuals. It brings together their contributions while recognising that young people have different experiences, needs and views.



Trust Is Part of Service Quality

Young people highlighted the importance of adults who listen, show interest and remain available. Trust emerged as something built through repeated interactions and credible action.

A young person may need time to discover whether a professional will take their concerns seriously. Clear explanations, respectful responses and follow-through on agreed actions can support that process.

These contributions suggest that trust should be considered within service design and evaluation. Staff continuity, sufficient time and reliable contact arrangements affect the conditions in which young people can speak and remain engaged.

For professionals, this means paying attention to the relationship as well as the assessment or intervention being delivered.

Knowledge About How Protection Is Experienced

Young people brought knowledge that is difficult to capture through service records alone. Their contributions highlighted how support feels to the person receiving it: whether a service seems approachable, whether communication is understandable and whether there is room to speak without expecting judgement.

This knowledge complements research, professional assessment and administrative information. A record can show that an appointment took place. Understanding whether a young person felt safe enough to explain their concerns requires attention to their experience.

The contributions therefore added questions that services need to ask when assessing quality. Can young people understand the process? Do they know whom to approach? Do they feel respected? Can they influence their support?

These are relevant questions for both research and everyday practice.

Access Involves More Than Availability

A recurring theme was the need for support that is available close to young people's daily lives, including in schools and communities.

Their contributions also showed that availability is only one part of access. Fear of judgement, uncertainty about professional roles and limited choice can make it difficult to engage with an existing service.

Initial hesitation needs to be understood in context. It may reflect previous experiences, concerns about what will happen or a need for more time and explanation. Services can respond by making their purpose clear, discussing available choices and allowing relationships to develop.

This places responsibility on services to examine how approachable they are, alongside the number of people they reach.



Respectful Treatment Across Institutions

The contributions drew attention to the effects of feeling judged or defined by past events. Experiences in one setting can shape expectations of another, including whether a young person feels comfortable approaching support.

This matters across child protection, education, health and justice. Young people move between services with memories of previous encounters. Each interaction can influence their willingness to seek help again.

Respectful practice requires professionals to recognise strengths, aspirations and circumstances alongside concerns. It also requires careful language and an openness to understanding the person beyond the reason for referral.

Such practice supports discussion of responsibility and difficult experiences while preserving the possibility of growth and change.

Support Should Create Opportunities for the Future

Young people's perspectives extended beyond immediate safety. They highlighted the importance of relationships, learning, practical opportunities and a place in community life.

These priorities broaden the questions used to evaluate support. Alongside whether an immediate risk has been addressed, services need to consider whether young people have dependable relationships, understand their options and can work towards goals that matter to them.

Continuity is particularly important during change. Young people need to know what support will remain available and who is responsible for helping with the next step.

Belonging also emerged as an important part of well-being. It develops through being recognised, having a place in shared activities and feeling that one's presence matters. Opportunities to contribute can strengthen this experience, while care and protection must remain available regardless of a young person's capacity to contribute.



Participation Needs a Route to Influence

The contributions highlighted the difference between having an opportunity to speak and being able to influence decisions.

Meaningful participation requires adults and institutions to consider what they hear and remain open to changing their plans. It also requires feedback. Young people should be able to understand how their views were used, why a decision was made and what they can still influence.

This applies to individual support and to the design of services and policies. Young people can help identify barriers, shape priorities and assess whether changes improve their experience.

Participation must also respect choice. Young people should be able to contribute through different methods, decline an invitation or express views without sharing personal histories. Their opportunity to influence decisions should not depend on public disclosure.

Contribution to the International Dialogue

Within the conference's international exchange, young people helped give practical meaning to concepts such as dignity, access, continuity and participation.

Their contributions connected these principles with questions that can be examined across different systems: Is help available when it is needed? Does the young person understand what is happening? Is there someone they trust? Do their views make a difference?

These questions offer a useful basis for dialogue between countries without assuming that their systems or circumstances are the same.

The contributions also reinforced the importance of involving young people in defining successful support. Professional priorities may focus on procedures, service use or risk reduction. Young people's perspectives add information about relationships, understanding, opportunities and the experience of having a future.

Their presence at Connect to Protect brought these concerns before an international audience. Whether this leads to wider policy or practice change will require follow-up.





Implications for Research and Practice

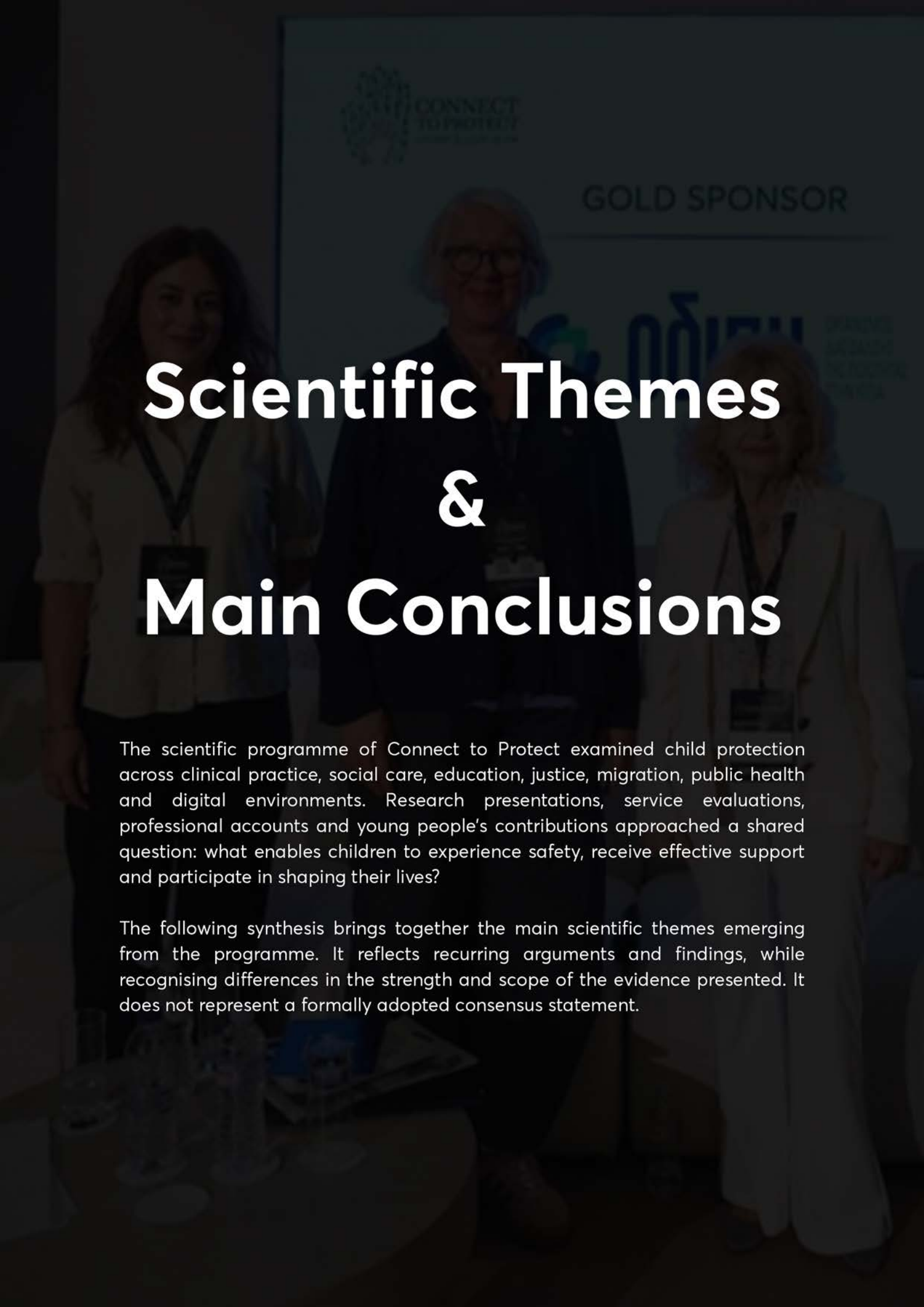
The themes emerging from young people's contributions suggest several priorities:

- Examine the barriers that make existing services difficult to approach.
- Allow time and continuity for relationships to develop.
- Explain professional roles, choices and confidentiality clearly.
- Include young people's own goals in support planning.
- Prepare transitions and confirm that the next source of support is available.
- Include trust, understanding and perceived influence in service evaluation.
- Provide feedback on how young people's recommendations have been considered.

Research can explore these priorities further through inclusive methods that allow different forms of expression. It should also seek perspectives from young people who have disengaged from services or have fewer opportunities to participate.

These contributions reflect individual perspectives. They were not collected as a representative study and cannot establish the effectiveness of a programme or the experience of all young people. Their value lies in identifying important questions, illustrating possible barriers and helping define what services should examine. They provide a basis for further investigation and improvement.

For Connect to Protect, the immediate result was the inclusion of young people's knowledge within the scientific and policy discussion. The next responsibility is to return to those contributions, check that they have been understood accurately and explain what action follows.The quality of that follow-up will determine whether participation develops into continuing influence. It will also help keep the conference's future work connected to the people whose lives protection systems are intended to support.



Scientific Themes & Main Conclusions

The scientific programme of Connect to Protect examined child protection across clinical practice, social care, education, justice, migration, public health and digital environments. Research presentations, service evaluations, professional accounts and young people's contributions approached a shared question: what enables children to experience safety, receive effective support and participate in shaping their lives?

The following synthesis brings together the main scientific themes emerging from the programme. It reflects recurring arguments and findings, while recognising differences in the strength and scope of the evidence presented. It does not represent a formally adopted consensus statement.

1. Child Protection Requires a Developmental and Social Understanding of Harm



A central theme was the need to understand children's experiences within their stage of development and the environments in which they live.

Trauma and adversity can affect emotional regulation, attention, behaviour, relationships and participation in daily activities. These effects may influence how children communicate distress, respond to adults or engage with services. Behaviour that attracts disciplinary or judicial attention may therefore require assessment of experiences and needs that have not yet been recognised.

At the same time, the programme showed why distress cannot be understood through individual symptoms alone. Family relationships, poverty, discrimination, housing insecurity, displacement and access to services shape both exposure to harm and opportunities for recovery.

This supports an approach that connects clinical assessment with social and relational information. A diagnosis may inform support, but it cannot describe the whole child or determine their needs without attention to functioning, circumstances and available resources.

The scientific implication is that research and practice should examine interactions between children and their environments. The practical implication is that support may need to address several conditions together, including safety, relationships, material needs and access to care.

2. Early Recognition Must Lead to Timely and Appropriate Support

Presentations on trauma and mental health highlighted the importance of recognising difficulties before they become more established or disruptive.

Early intervention can create opportunities to support recovery, strengthen communication with caregivers and identify continuing sources of stress. Contributions also described the potential value of partnerships between mental health services and settings where children first become visible, including schools, emergency services and child protection agencies.

Identification alone, however, does not establish benefit. Screening and assessment need to connect with accessible support, clear referral arrangements and review. Increased recognition can also increase demand on services, which requires capacity planning.
The programme therefore supported a pathway view of early intervention: recognising a concern, understanding its significance, providing an appropriate response and checking what happens afterwards.

Prevention also extends beyond detecting symptoms. It includes the conditions that allow families to seek help early and children to maintain supportive relationships in everyday life.



3. Protection Should Be Evaluated for Both Benefit and Unintended Harm

Several contributions examined how protective decisions can themselves create distress. Removal, placement changes, institutional care, repeated assessments and justice procedures were discussed as situations requiring safeguards.

The central issue was the child's experience of the intervention. Even when action is necessary, its emotional and relational consequences require attention. Preparation, clear explanations, opportunities to express concerns and continuity of support can influence how a child experiences change.

This perspective adds a further dimension to evaluation. Services need to examine intended benefits alongside possible adverse effects, including confusion, stigma, loss of relationships, reduced trust or disengagement.

It also encourages a distinction between the necessity of a decision and the quality of its implementation. A protective decision may be justified while aspects of the process still require improvement.

For organisations, this calls for ways to detect concerns, review practice and respond when harm occurs. Reflective supervision and learning processes should operate alongside clear accountability and accessible routes for children and families to raise complaints.





4. Participation Is a Right and a Source of Relevant Knowledge

Children's participation was a theme across care, family relationships, justice, mental health, research and technology.

Contributions distinguished between collecting information about past events, explaining present arrangements and involving children in decisions about their future. Each has a different purpose. Meaningful participation requires opportunities for children's views to influence assessment, planning and review.

Young people's contributions demonstrated the practical knowledge available through participation. They identified barriers to approaching services, the effects of feeling judged and the importance of relationships and future opportunities.

Participation can therefore improve professionals' understanding of a child's circumstances. It also provides information about service quality that may be absent from administrative records.

The programme highlighted the conditions needed for participation: time, accessible communication, attention to power, support for different forms of expression and feedback about decisions. A child's preferred outcome may not always be followed, but their views should receive genuine consideration and an understandable response.

Participation must remain voluntary and safe. Children should be able to decline, pause or contribute without being required to disclose personal experiences publicly.

5. Trust and Relational Continuity Are Important Conditions of Support

Across the programme, relationships emerged as a central part of how support becomes usable.

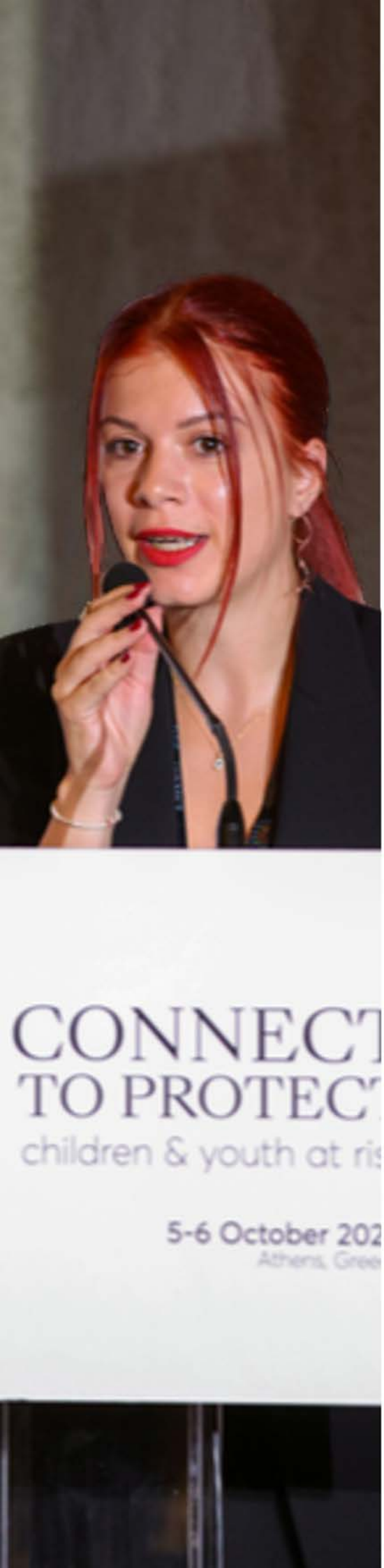
Trust can affect whether children seek help, disclose concerns and remain engaged. Previous encounters with institutions may shape expectations of new professionals. Services therefore need to understand hesitation in context rather than assume that it reflects a lack of motivation.

Young people's accounts highlighted the value of adults who listen, explain their role and remain available. Practice presentations similarly emphasised consistent relationships, reflective work and continuity through change.

These contributions suggest that relational conditions should be examined in service design and evaluation. Staff turnover, short appointments and repeated handovers can affect the opportunity to build understanding.

Relationships do not replace specialist competence or effective interventions. They help create the conditions in which assessment and support can take place.





6. Integrated Support Must Be Visible in the Child's Pathway

The programme repeatedly addressed fragmentation between health, education, social care, justice and migration services.

A child may encounter several institutions, each with a separate mandate. From the child's perspective, however, these contacts form part of one life. Gaps become visible when referrals are delayed, information is lost or responsibility for the next step is unclear.

Contributions on integrated services and multidisciplinary practice showed the importance of a shared plan, clear roles and continuity. They also highlighted the difference between bringing professionals together and establishing a functioning pathway of support.

Effective cooperation requires practical arrangements: who acts, what information is needed, how the child and family are involved and how completion is confirmed. Information sharing must remain proportionate and consistent with privacy and safeguarding responsibilities.

The main implication is that integration should be assessed through the experience and outcomes of the child's pathway, alongside organisational structures and agreements.



7. Families and Communities Are Central Settings for Prevention

Sessions on parenting, community mental health, schools and psychosocial support connected protection with the environments surrounding children.

Family difficulties were examined in relation to substance use, mental illness, separation, social pressures and access to support. These discussions reinforced the need for individual assessment. A diagnosis or family circumstance alone cannot establish parenting capacity or determine the appropriate response.

Community approaches offered ways to connect support with everyday life. Schools, youth centres, mobile services and local partnerships can provide points of access and opportunities for sustained contact.

The programme also raised questions about what enables these approaches to work: sufficient staff, professional supervision, cooperation with schools and other services, clear documentation and stable resources.

Family and community support should therefore be understood as organised provision requiring expertise and investment. Its quality and accessibility need evaluation.

8. Justice Responses Need to Address Development, Harm and Recovery

The justice-related sessions examined children as victims, witnesses and young people who have caused harm.

Contributions highlighted respectful communication, multidisciplinary practice, participation and safeguards against secondary victimisation. They also explored diversion and restorative approaches as possible ways to respond to harmful behaviour while supporting development and reintegration.

An important theme was the overlap between victimisation and offending in some children's lives. This requires assessment that can recognise both experiences without assuming that one explains every aspect of the other.

Support for a child who has harmed others needs to operate alongside protection for those affected and appropriate accountability. Restorative processes require careful attention to safety, consent and power differences.

The keynote on treatment of sexual offenders added a related prevention perspective. It emphasised the need to combine treatment with safeguarding and supervision, while recognising uncertainty in the evidence and the importance of long-term outcomes.

Across these discussions, completion of a legal or therapeutic process remained distinct from evidence of sustained safety and recovery.





9. Digital Safety Is a System Responsibility

Digital protection was examined through research, education, public health, regulation and operational experience.

Contributions described grooming, sexual coercion, sextortion, harmful communities, hate and AI-related risks. They showed how digital harm connects with relationships and vulnerabilities beyond the screen.

A recurring argument concerned the distribution of responsibility. Children and caregivers need understandable information and support, while technology providers and public authorities have responsibilities for foreseeable risks, safer design and effective response.

Different regulatory approaches were presented, including age-based restrictions. These were positions within an ongoing discussion rather than a common policy conclusion of the conference.

The programme also recognised that digital environments can provide information, relationships and community. Evaluation of protective measures should therefore examine both reductions in harm and possible effects on access, privacy, participation and help-seeking.

Operational contributions highlighted the importance of rapid action against abuse material. Removal is an important response, while the child may continue to need protection, psychological support and assistance with the consequences of circulation.

10. Inclusion Requires Attention to Different Needs and Unequal Conditions

The programme examined experiences linked to disability, discrimination, migration, gender and other forms of exclusion.

These contributions challenged the assumption that one service model or communication method will be equally accessible to every child. Barriers may arise through language, physical access, social stigma, unfamiliar procedures or professional assumptions.

Inclusion therefore requires adaptation in assessment, communication and delivery. It also requires attention to who is absent from consultations, research and services.
The scientific implication is that average findings may conceal important differences between groups and settings. Evaluations should examine who benefits, who disengages and whose needs remain unmet.

The practical implication is to design support around the child's circumstances while preserving common standards of dignity, safety and rights.



11. Recovery Includes Agency, Relationships and Belonging

Sessions on displacement, creative practice, mentoring and psychosocial support broadened the discussion beyond immediate protection.

Contributions described the value of having meaningful goals, participating in shared activities and experiencing a place in a community. Creative and relational approaches offered ways to engage without making personal disclosure a condition of participation.

These accounts suggest possible pathways through which support may strengthen agency and connection. They do not, by themselves, establish therapeutic effectiveness or prevention of future harm.
Nevertheless, they identify outcomes worth examining. Alongside symptoms and risk, evaluation can consider whether children understand their choices, maintain supportive relationships and have opportunities to pursue goals that matter to them.

Belonging should remain connected with material and legal conditions. Positive relationships cannot compensate fully for insecure housing, exclusion from education or unresolved protection needs.

12. Transitions Require Explicit Planning and Continued Support

Transitions appeared across discussions of removal, migration, alternative care, justice and adulthood.

Changes in setting or eligibility can interrupt relationships and leave young people uncertain about where to seek help. Reaching an administrative threshold does not necessarily mean that support needs have ended.

The programme highlighted the importance of preparation, accessible information and clear responsibility during these periods. Receiving services need to be identified, and practical arrangements should be confirmed with the young person.

Transitions should therefore be treated as processes requiring assessment and follow-up. Their quality can be examined through continuity of care, the young person's understanding and the availability of a dependable point of contact.

13. Scientific Progress Requires Clearer Evaluation and Responsible Use of Evidence

The conference presented several forms of evidence. These included comparative research, linked administrative data, intervention evaluations, qualitative accounts, professional observations and conceptual tools.
Their value depends on recognising what each can establish. Administrative records can identify patterns within recorded populations. Qualitative accounts can explain experiences and possible mechanisms. Service statistics describe delivery and reach. Intervention studies may examine changes, with the strength of causal conclusions depending on their design.

Across the programme, several evaluation needs became clear:

- Longer follow-up to assess whether changes continue.
- Clear definitions of outcomes and comparison groups.
- Attention to selection, missing data and differences between settings.
- Assessment of unintended effects.
- Children's involvement in defining meaningful outcomes.
- Independent examination of emerging technologies and tools.
- Research on implementation, costs and sustainability.

Innovation should be accompanied by evidence appropriate to its stage of development. A promising concept requires testing; an implemented programme requires examination of quality and outcomes; expansion requires attention to adaptation and delivery capacity.







14. Rights Need Resources, Implementation and Accountability

The policy contributions connected children's rights with the practical conditions required to realise them.

Laws and strategies establish important commitments. Implementation requires funding, a supported workforce, accessible services and clear institutional responsibility.

Accountability also needs to be meaningful to children and families. They should know what they can expect, how to raise concerns and where to seek a response when support fails.

The programme drew attention to the limitations of short funding cycles and repeated pilots without continuity. Sustainable development requires decisions about which approaches should continue, what evidence supports them and how quality will be maintained.

The resulting direction is a protection system that can explain its decisions, examine its consequences and respond to the experiences of the people it serves.





Overall Scientific Conclusion

The two-day programme supported a view of child protection as a continuing process connecting prevention, recognition, response, recovery and participation.

Its strongest recurring themes were:

- Understanding children within their developmental, relational and social circumstances.
- Connecting early recognition with accessible and appropriate support.
- Examining protective interventions for benefits and unintended harm.
- Giving children opportunities to influence decisions and understand what follows.
- Maintaining relationships and support across institutional transitions.
- Connecting digital safety with design, regulation, education and assistance.
- Evaluating approaches according to their evidence and stage of development.
- Translating rights and strategies into resourced, accountable practice.

The programme also contained differences in approach and areas of uncertainty. Research findings, practice observations, policy positions and emerging tools offered different kinds of knowledge. Their inclusion in the conference provides a basis for examination rather than a common endorsement of every claim or intervention.

The principal scientific contribution of Connect to Protect was to bring these perspectives into a shared setting. It connected questions often discussed separately and made children's experiences relevant to the evaluation of systems and services.

The work ahead is to sustain that exchange, test promising approaches responsibly and document whether learning leads to support that children experience as safer, more accessible and more dependable.

Implications for the Work Ahead

Taken together, the scientific contributions support a connected approach to child protection: early and accessible support, attention to development and social conditions, meaningful participation, safer interventions and continuity across services.

They also set a standard for evaluating progress. Activity and institutional commitment need to be connected with evidence about children's experiences and outcomes.

For Connect to Protect, these themes provide a basis for continued scientific exchange and practical cooperation. Follow-up can examine how knowledge is adapted, how young people influence the work and whether changes make support more dependable, understandable and effective.



The Next Steps: Connect to Protect Network and Webinars

IASIS NGO will build on the connections established during the conference through two planned initiatives: the Connect to Protect Network and a series of webinars. Together, they will provide opportunities to continue exchanging knowledge, discuss challenges and explore cooperation across countries and sectors.



Connect to Protect Network

The Connect to Protect Network is being developed to bring together professionals, researchers, universities, public authorities, municipalities and civil society organisations working on child protection and violence prevention.

The network will aim to maintain contact beyond the conference and make it easier for members to find colleagues with shared interests and complementary experience. It will support the exchange of research, resources and practical knowledge, while creating opportunities to explore joint studies, projects and professional learning.

Its development will draw on the priorities discussed in Athens, including prevention, children's participation, community support, safer protective interventions and digital safety. Supported opportunities for young people to contribute their perspectives will also be important.

The structure of the network and the arrangements for joining and contributing are being shaped. Further information will be shared as these arrangements develop.



Connect to Protect Webinars

The webinar series will continue the scientific and practical discussions opened during the conference. Focused online sessions will allow contributors to return to questions that need more time, present new findings and examine approaches in greater depth.

The series will bring research and practice into conversation. Sessions may explore how an intervention is delivered, what evidence supports it, what challenges arise and what adaptation to another setting might require.

Topics will draw on the conference programme and proposals from the wider community. They may include trauma and recovery, meaningful participation, family and community support, child-centred justice, digital protection and continuity of care.

Dates, speakers and participation details will be announced as the series develops. Interested professionals and organisations will be invited to suggest topics and share relevant work.

Through the network and webinars, IASIS aims to keep the exchange active and accessible, creating a continuing space for learning and cooperation around children's safety, rights and well-being.





Media Coverage & Public Visibility

Summary

Between mid-September and mid-October 2026, Connect to Protect – Children & Youth at Risk received sustained coverage in national, regional, specialist and international media. The record below identifies close to 30 published items across more than 20 outlets, plus official communications from two Greek ministries.

Coverage followed the full arc of the conference. It began with pre-conference interviews with IASIS leadership and the Scientific Lead, continued with same-day reporting from the plenary sessions, and closed with outcome reporting on the conference's main messages and the launch of the Connect to Protect Network.

The conference itself brought together more than 360 participants from 30+ countries and more than 110+ speakers, across 8 keynotes, over 30 sessions and 5 experiential workshops, at the Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens, on 5–6 October 2026. Media reporting consistently reproduced these figures, which became part of the conference's public profile.





Media partnerships and approach

The conference had three media sponsors: the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT), ERT News Radio, and the Athens-Macedonian News Agency (ANA-MPA). Child Abuse Review (Wiley) provided publication support.".

The partnership with ANA-MPA proved the main driver of reach. As the national news agency, ANA-MPA distributes content to subscribing outlets, so a single interview or report was republished across many news sites. ERT hosted the full conference announcement on its sponsorship page and gave airtime on ERT3.

The communication approach combined three elements:

Long-form interviews with the IASIS CEO and the Scientific Lead, framing the conference around real gaps in the Greek and European child protection system.
Same-day reporting from plenary sessions, built around quotable statements from UN representatives.

Post-conference outcome releases presenting seven key messages and concrete next steps.

Pre-conference coverage

Pre-conference coverage positioned the conference as a response to concrete system gaps, rather than as an event announcement.

ANA-MPA interview

Nikos Baltas and Dr Stefanos Alevizos discussed the weaknesses of the child protection system and the importance of early intervention. They highlighted the lack of coordination between agencies, the absence of shared records, and the gap between legal frameworks and practice. They also presented the IASIS Connect model used in its youth centres. The interview was republished by emvolos.gr, athina984.gr, insider.gr, newpost.gr and liberal.gr.



ERT3, "Mera me Chroma"

Dr Alevizos appeared on the ERT3 programme to discuss children's digital safety and the conference's link between online protection, mental health, justice and human rights (ertnews.gr). The coverage also noted the conference's endorsement by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.



Neos Kosmos, Australia (18 September).

An English-language feature in the leading Greek-Australian newspaper presented the conference and its Australian connection, with the Australian Ambassador to Greece giving opening remarks. It also introduced Dr Alevizos's concept of the trauma of violent removal (neoskosmos.com).



NEOS KOSMOS

THE HELLENIC PERSPECTIVE SINCE 1957

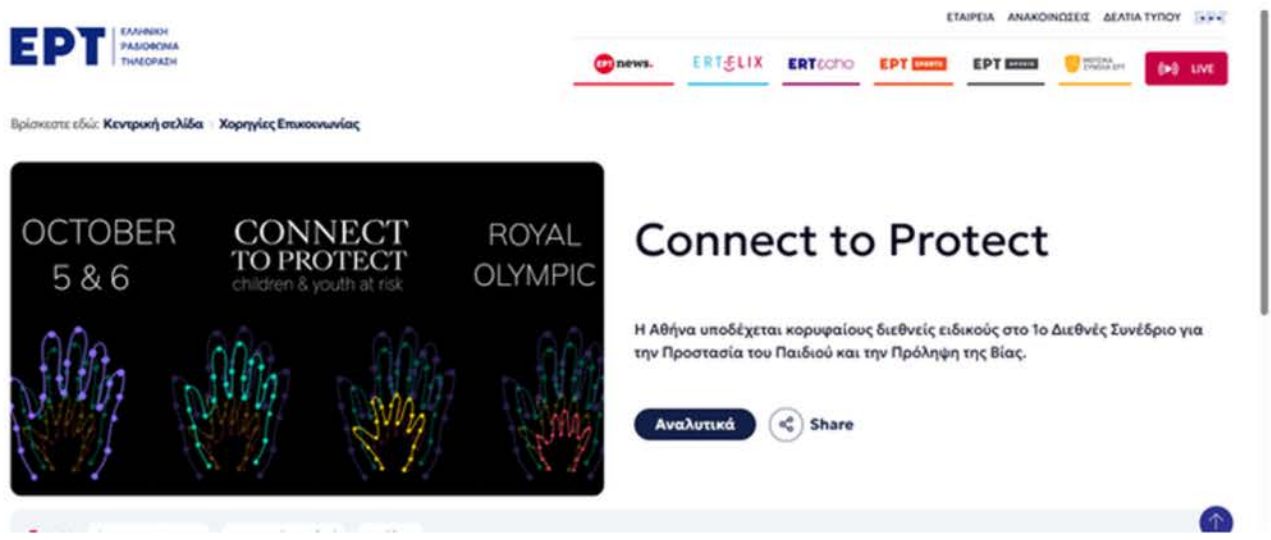
FEATURES

Athens to centre global child-protection conversation, with strong Australian presence

IASIS NGO's "Connect to Protect" conference brings together academics, policymakers and practitioners from over 30 countries; Australia's ambassador and leading child–safety experts will take part

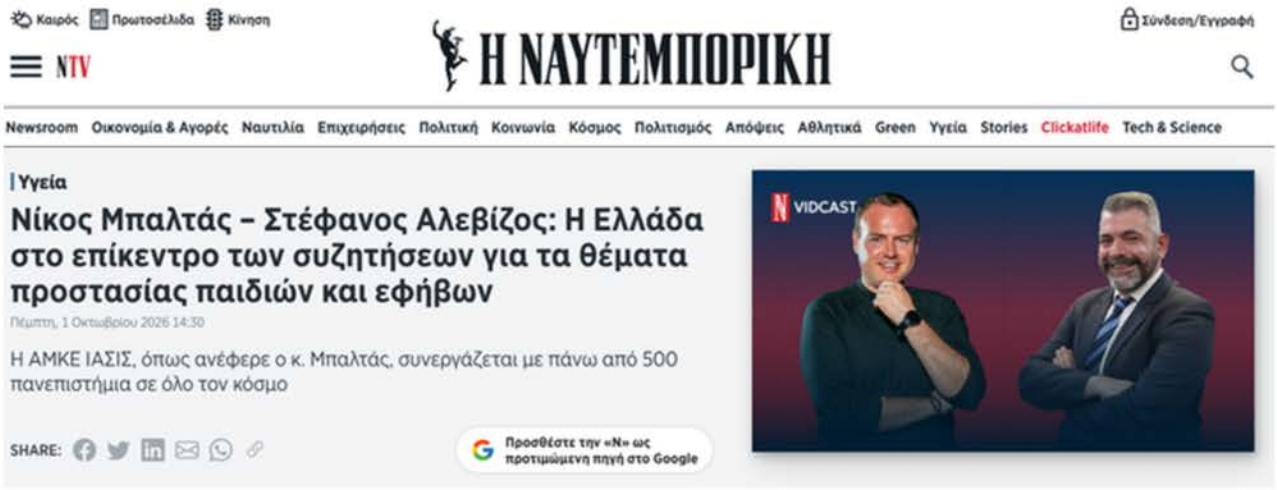
ERT

ERT published the full conference announcement, programme highlights and practical information (ert.gr).



Naftemporiki interview

A second joint interview with Nikos Baltas and Dr Alevizos covered the conference's aims, its international speakers, and wider issues facing children and adolescents in Greece (naftemporiki.gr).



Greek City Times

An English-language preview of the programme and keynote speakers (greekcitytimes.com).



Earlier, Naftemporiki had published an initial announcement of the conference in spring 2026 (link). It later reported on IASIS joining the Child-Friendly Justice European Network and signing a cooperation memorandum with UNIC Athens, which would also take part in the conference (link).

Coverage during the conference

During the conference, coverage shifted from the event itself to the policy messages of its UN speakers and to the institutional engagement it generated.

ANA-MPA reporting from Day 1.

ANA-MPA reported on the opening and plenary sessions, and the report was republished by timesnews.gr and politic.gr. Two messages led the coverage:



Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, presented child protection as an investment rather than a cost. She called for rebuilding children's trust in institutions and for mapping existing services against real needs, instead of producing parallel strategies.



Prof. Philip D. Jaffé, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, gave the keynote "Children's Rights: The Skies are Darkening!". He argued that "Connect" means recognising every child's inherent right to life, survival and development.

The same reporting gave space to young people from IASIS programmes, who spoke at the close of Day 1 about the support they received at the IASIS Connect centre in Thessaloniki.

Ministry of Migration and Asylum press release

The ministry issued an official release on its participation. It described the conference as a space for dialogue between the state, international organisations, academia and civil society. It also noted that the Secretary-General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection took part in the closing high-level panel (migration.gov.gr).



Post-conference coverage

Post-conference reporting carried the conference's conclusions and its follow-up commitments, extending its visibility beyond the two days.

Outcome reporting

The conference's closing release was taken up by national and health-sector media. News4Health (13 October) and iatro.gr led with the central message that child protection must ensure children are not re-traumatised. They presented the seven key messages, the eight keynotes, and the creation of the Connect to Protect Network together with a webinar series. Ethnos, a national daily, and Greek City Times, in English, published the full outcome report. This included the participation figures, the UN messages and the testimonies of young people supported by IASIS.

Follow-up interview: Parapolitika

Dr Alevizos discussed the conference's conclusions on social media and minors with parapolitika.gr. The core finding was that age limits matter but are not enough on their own; safety also requires education, guidance, safer platforms and an environment where children can speak without fear. This shows the conference continuing to shape public debate on a current policy issue after it closed.

Coverage by participating organisations.

Several Greek organisations that took part secured coverage in their own regional media, multiplying the conference's reach outside Athens:

- Initiative for the Child (Veria) presented a social network analysis of 3,466 recorded relationships among 274 adolescents and young people. This was reported by Laos and Veriotis.
- Ladies' Union of Drama – S.A.F. reported its participation and the value of networking for child protection in Proinos Typos.

International visibility

The conference reached international audiences through English-language and diaspora media, and through the event listings of professional networks in several countries.

English-language and diaspora media.

Greek City Times covered the conference twice, with a preview on 2 October and an outcome report on 10 October. Neos Kosmos, in Melbourne, published a feature for the Greek-Australian community on 18 September.

Professional and academic networks.

The conference was listed or promoted by:

- Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW)
- Better Care Network, a global network on children's care
- Human Rights Educators USA, in connection with keynote speaker Yvonne M. Vissing
- Austrian Sociological Association (ÖGS), under the heading of UN participation

The conference's save-the-date invitation also appears in the public document register of Estonia's Ministry of Social Affairs (register entry). This confirms that institutional outreach reached European government ministries.

Key messages carried by the media

Across outlets, coverage repeated a consistent set of messages, closely matching the conference's intended framing:

1.Protection without new harm. Child protection is judged not only by removing a child from danger, but by doing so without causing new trauma. This was the headline of the outcome coverage.

2.Coordination over fragmentation. Parallel strategies and isolated interventions fail children. Agencies need shared records, formal communication channels and joint planning at community level.

3.Children's voice. Children and young people must take part meaningfully in decisions that concern them. This was made concrete by young people from IASIS programmes speaking on stage.

4.Protection as investment. UN representatives framed child protection as an investment, not a cost, and called for rebuilding children's trust in institutions.

5.Digital safety needs more than age limits. Age limits on social media are necessary but insufficient without education, guidance, safer platforms and trusted adults.

6.Community as protection. Rebuilding community networks, illustrated by the IASIS Connect model, is a protective factor for children and families.

7.From evidence to commitments. The conference produced next steps, namely the Connect to Protect Network and a webinar series, rather than declarations alone.

Assessment of impact

The media record shows that Connect to Protect achieved national visibility, policy-level attention and a measure of international reach for a first-edition conference.

Breadth. Coverage spanned the public broadcaster, the national news agency, national dailies and portals, health and medical media, regional newspapers, and English-language and diaspora outlets.

Depth. Most items were substantive. They included interviews and policy-focused reporting rather than event listings, and they reproduced the conference's own analysis of system gaps.

Policy engagement. Three ministers met the UN Special Representative during her visit. The Ministry of Migration and Asylum issued its own release on the conference.

Durability. Coverage continued for at least ten days after the conference, including a follow-up interview on digital safety. This indicates the conference became a reference point in ongoing public debate.



Contributor	Presentation title or programme role
Afentouli, Sofia	**Poster:** Minor child with a syndrome: Indications of Neglect, Protective Intervention and Multidisciplinary Therapeutic Management at Simplefsi
Aggelopoulou, Anthi	**Moderator:** Seen, Believed, Protected: Recognition and Justice for Child Victims
Agapitou, Evita	**Moderator:** Understanding and Responding to Trauma: Protecting Children's Futures; Youth Perspectives on Child Protection: Where is Children's Voice in Securing Child Safety?; Reducing the Impact of Iatrogenic Outcomes: An Organizational Challenge to Ensure Child and Youth Wellbeing; The Impact of Mental Health Challenges on the Enjoyment of Human Rights by Young People
Alevizos, Stefanos	**Welcome Speech; Closing Remarks - Day 1; Conference Conclusions. Keynote:** Protection Without Harm: Rethinking Child Protection Systems Through the Lens of Removal Trauma
Anagnostopoulou, Marianna	**Moderator:** When Hate Reaches Childhood: Racist Violence, Victimisation and Juvenile Offending

Antonopoulos, Efthymis	From First Contact to Safe Justice: New Threats, Emerging Trends, Effective Communication, and Good Practices in Comprehensive Victim Support Frameworks for Children and Youth
Aroni, Gelly	It Takes a System to Protect a Child: Building a Continuum of Protection for Unaccompanied Children in Greece
Artinopoulou, Vasiliki	Preventing Violence Against Children and Promoting Child-Centred Justice: The Greek National Strategy 2025-2030
Asimopoulos, Charis	Evaluating the Effectiveness of the School-Based Psychoeducational Intervention Program “Prevention of Violence and Juvenile Delinquency”
Askew, Daisy	**Poster:** Early Intervention and the Prevention of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): A Systematic Review of the Evidence
Ataya, Amal	Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of People on the Move: Focusing on Children and Youth in Displacement and Emergency Context
Aunos, Marjorie	**Poster co-author:** Participation of Children and Parents with Intellectual Disabilities in Family Court Hearings in the Netherlands and Quebec: A Comparison Study
Aviram, Yoav	Digital Rite of Passage - a framework for stewarding kids into digital adulthood
Baltas, Nikos	**Welcome Speech; Greetings at the Official Ceremony; Conference Conclusions.**
Beardmore, Leisha	Building a pathway forward with and for LGBTIQ+ children, adolescents and families
Becker, Saul	Identification, Assessment and Support of Children Who Are Unpaid Family Carers (“Young Carers”). **Moderator:** The Institute for Children’s Futures: Advancing Cross-Sector Approaches to Child Protection
Berrick, Jill Duerr	**Keynote:** Youth Perspectives on Child Protection: Where is Children’s Voice in Securing Child Safety?

Biondani, Sofia	The Role of Anti-Violence Centres in Preventing Secondary Victimization of Children Exposed to Gender-Based Violence: Feminist, Intersectional and Protective Responses
Bousis, Victoria	**Moderator:** Belonging, Algorithms and Harm: The Psychology of Children's Digital Lives
Braun, Marine	Who supports those who support others? A hub at the intersection of trauma, voice and child-centred justice
Breen, Claire	Protecting the Rights of Children with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics in Aotearoa New Zealand
Byrne, Seamus	Child Protection in Sport: Emerging Issues and Trends
Canna Michaelidou, Stella	Beyond the miracle of Digital Technology children's health and development are at risk. How can we protect them?
Chinnaswamy, Anitha	Building Safer Digital Futures: Research, Policy and Practice on Child Protection and Technology-Facilitated Violence
Christodoulaki, Meltini	**Poster co-author:** Bridging the Gap Between Child Protection Policy and Practice in Combating Online Child Sexual Abuse
Curran, Myra	**Poster:** Embedding Children's Rights and Participation in the Development of Ireland's Guardian ad litem National Service
de Brito, Isidro	Connecting to Protect Begins with the Family: A Global Framework for Children and Youth at Risk in the Decade Ahead
Dimopoulos, Georgina	Parental Separation and the Reorganisation of Childhood. **Workshop:** Making Children's Participation Meaningful and Safe: Translating Article 12 into Professional Practice
Dodzro, Ronald	**Poster:** The Life of a Top Boy: On trauma, PTSD and community violence
Doula, Angeliki	**Moderator:** Community-Based Psychosocial Support and Education: Bridging Schools, Families and Services

Douzenis, Athanasios	**Keynote:** The Treatment of Child Abuse Offenders as a Prevention Strategy. **Presentation:**Assessing Parental Capacity in Parents with Serious Mental Illness
Dragatsiki, Stella	From Retribution to Resilience: The Juvenile Bench as a Catalyst for Psychological Recovery
Duncan, Alison Joy	**Opening Remarks**
Dzyakava, Anastasiya	Protecting Children's Mental Health Online and Building Resilience: Ukraine's Wartime Experience
Efstathiou, Ippokratis	Examining the Transition to Adulthood for Young People within the Greek Welfare System - A Case Study Approach
Efthymiopoulou, Faye	**Poster co-author:** Supporting Refugee and Migrant Children Facing Integration Challenges in the School Environment of the Municipality of Galatsi
Eid, Manal	Incredible Me: Integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support into Child-Centred Justice
Eleftheriadou, Sofia	Digital Connectivity in Contexts of Mobility: Children on the Move's Experiences, Online Risks, and Pathways to Safer Digital Environments
Farhat Bassil, Amal	**Poster:** Privacy, Policy, and Protection: Safeguarding Children in the Age of AI
Fiore, Ornella	**Workshop contributor:** Children on the Move: Challenges and Legal Avenues
Foldschack, Knud	**Poster co-author:** From Detention to Dignity: Lessons in Child Protection and Repatriation
Font, Sarah	Parenting in the context of addiction: Mechanisms of harm and opportunities for protection. **Moderator:** Child Safety in the Context of Parental Substance Use: Challenges of Detection, Assessment, and Intervention
Fotiadi, Sofia	**Poster co-author:** Developmental Challenges in Children and Adolescents with Adverse Childhood Experiences in Greece

Foussard, Cédric	2.3 Billion Children. One Question: Is Justice Designed for Them?
Fragopoulou, Paraskevi	Poster co-author: Bridging the Gap Between Child Protection Policy and Practice in Combating Online Child Sexual Abuse
Gagaki, Katerina	Moderator: The Invisible Weight: Adolescent Mental Health, Hidden Needs and Trauma-Informed Care
Giannoulakis, Konstantinos	Poster: Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse Cases in Heraklion: Cooperation, Forensic Interview Practice, and a Structural Gap
Giatras, Alexandros	Poster: The Child's Voice in Decision-Making: Protection and Advocacy of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece
Gkeka, Ioanna	Poster co-author: Supporting Refugee and Migrant Children Facing Integration Challenges in the School Environment of the Municipality of Galatsi
Gkinopoulos, Theofilos	From Victimization to Resilience: A Bioecological Approach to Intergroup Conflict and Holistic Interventions for Children and Youth
Goff, Preston	Online, everywhere: How child exploitation went digital in a decade. Moderator: When the Threat Moves Online: How Digital Enticement is Reshaping Child Exploitation. Workshop:Influenced™ in Practice: From Awareness to Action in Preventing Online Child Exploitation
Goldstein, Ezra G.	From data to detection: Administrative data partnerships and lessons from Pennsylvania
Gray, Kishonna	Imagination and Creativity in the Era of AI: Playing the Generative Game
Greene, Claire	Moderator: From Evidence to Action: Strategies to Promote the Wellbeing of Youth Affected by Emergencies and Displacement in a Rapidly Changing World

Griffiths, Helen	**Keynote:** The Impact of Mental Health Challenges on the Enjoyment of Human Rights by Young People. **Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Grigaliūnaitė, Rūta	The Role of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Supporting Young People's Wellbeing and Preventing Gender-Based Violence: Bottom-Up Talks Approach
Grylli, Chryssa	PROTECT: Professional Response and Observation Training in Virtual Reality for Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect; Multidisciplinary Collaborations in the Investigation and Case Management of Suspected Cases of Child Maltreatment by Frontline Professionals: The University Hospital of Vienna Experience
Gulbahar, Yalin	**Facilitator:** Poster & Project Showcase
Hartleb, Hanna	From Public Health Recommendations to Everyday Conversations: A Swedish Picture-Based Tool for Professionals Meeting Parents of Young Children
Harutyunyan, Yelena	From Networking to Collective Impact: The Role of Child Protection Network in Strengthening Child Protection Systems
Hennig, Sabine	**Co-author:** Young People in Place: A Participatory Transnational CIVIS Project
Holland, Trygve Ben	Technology and International Cooperation - What May We Do for the Hurt?
Inman Grant, Julie	**Recorded message:** Age restrictions are not the goal. Safety is: Why unsafe online services may require age limits
Ioakimidis, Vasilios	From Complicity to Redress: Revisiting the Complex Histories of Child Protection in Europe
Ioannou, Maria	The Dark Side of belonging: Vulnerability and Emerging Online Communities
Issari, Philia	Young People in Place: A Participatory Transnational CIVIS Project. **Moderator:** Nothing About Them Without Them: Inclusion, Difference and Children's Participation

Jaffé, Philip D.	Children's Rights: The Skies are Darkening! **Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
James, Deborah	Relational Practice as Protection: Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Jarke, Hannes	**Moderator:** Screens, Equity and Public Health: Prevention Beyond the Individual Child
Kalemi, Georgia	Assessing Parental Capacity in Cases of Hostile Divorces
Kaltsoni, Chryssa	Invisible Risks, Visible Consequences: The Psychology of Online Radicalisation in Children and Adolescents
Kandylaki, Agapi	Social work(ing) in partnership and networking for a "Community who cares": Preventing and tackling youth violence and abuse by bridging schools, families and communities
Kanellopoulou, Panagiota	Expanding Diversion: The Path to a Child-Centered and Child-Friendly Justice
Karlsson, Martin	Parents and the Protection of Minors Online: A Study Comparing the Frequency of Harmful Media Experiences Between Swedish Children (13-18) from Families with Different Socio-Economic Status
Katambayi Tshiminyi, Bobo	**Poster:** From Child Protection to Child Participation: Building Accountable Child-Friendly Justice Systems in Fragile and Complex Contexts
Katsanevas, Kostis	**Moderator:** Official Ceremony
Katsarakis, George	**Moderator:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Katsigaraki, Eftychia	**Moderator:** Child-Centred Justice and Protection from Violence: Putting Children's Rights at the Heart of Systems
Khan, Jameel	Lessons from Within: What Does It Take for Restoration and Justice to Be Felt?

Kihara-Hunt, Ai	**Recorded message:** Reimagining Child Protection: Innovation, Partnership and Resilience against Sale and Sexual Exploitation
Kladis, Nikos	**Facilitator:** Poster & Project Showcase
Klomfar, Sophie	Multidisciplinary Collaborations in the Investigation and Case Management of Suspected Cases of Child Maltreatment by Frontline Professionals: The University Hospital of Vienna Experience
Kofina, Stavroula	Unaccompanied minors protection in Greece: vulnerability, youth at risk, and risk management
Kokolaki, Emmanouela	**Poster:** Bridging the Gap Between Child Protection Policy and Practice in Combating Online Child Sexual Abuse
Kopcova, Elena	Connecting Health, Social Care, and Education: Community-Based Mental Health Services for Children and Youth at Risk
Kostopoulou, Maria-Andriani	**Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Kraus de Camargo, Olaf	**Interactive demonstration:** Emo-Battle - hands-on experience of a serious game
Kravvari, Christina-Maria	**Official Greetings**
Kriona-Saranti, Elli	**Workshop contributor:** Children on the Move: Challenges and Legal Avenues
Kütahya, Başak	Community-Based Child Protection in Practice: ASAM's Experience in Supporting Children and Youth
Leary, Ben	When the Machine Doesn't See It: AI Moderation and Hidden Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls
Linardou, Valeria	Psychosocial Interventions for Adolescents in the Community: Insights from the Pilot Programme "It's Up to You(th)"
Llonch, Marta	**Workshop contributor:** Children on the Move: Challenges and Legal Avenues

Lolis, Michael	When hate speech becomes a hate crime committed by and against minors
Lopes, Lina	What Happens When the “Village” Was Never Healed? **Workshop:** What Are We Carrying? Exploring Intergenerational Patterns, Trauma, Resilience and Belonging
Maalla M’jid, Najat	Connecting, Mobilizing, Acting: Accelerating Global Efforts to End Violence Against Children
Mabasso, Quitéria	**Co-author:** Young People in Place: A Participatory Transnational CIVIS Project
Marans, Steven	**Keynote:** Understanding and Responding to Trauma: Protecting Children’s Futures
Markou, Sara	**Poster:** Improving Quality of Care for Children in the Child Protection System in Greece: A Comprehensive Intervention Using the Method of Marte Meo
Markova, Galina	**Posters:** Communities for Safe Childhood; Clinical Skills to Community Work with Vulnerable Children
Marosán, Borbála	Play as Protection. **Moderator:** How can play function as a protective space for children and young people?
McManus, Michelle	Overarching Work Across Child Protection Matters: The Police System and Safeguarding
Meindre-Chautrand, Léa	From Grooming to Abuse, Exploitation and Disappearance: Protecting Children Across Digital Spaces
Mikkelsen, Natascha Rée	**Poster co-author:** From Detention to Dignity: Lessons in Child Protection and Repatriation
Mnahoncak, Martin	Connecting Health, Social Care, and Education: Community-Based Mental Health Services for Children and Youth at Risk
Momqvist, Emma	Violence Against Girls: Facts, Statistics and Reality
Moravcsik, Borka	Play for Protection

Moskoff, Heracles	**Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Mutiso, Joyce	**Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Nikolaidis, George	**Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Nikolopoulos, Pelopidas-Alexios	**Workshop contributor:** Children on the Move: Challenges and Legal Avenues
Niopa, Theodora	**Poster:** Dyadic Co-occurrence of Close Ties, Co-involvement in Offending and Harm or Exposure to Risk among Adolescents and Young Adults: Associations with Early Family Adversity
Ntountoumi, Lamprini	Listening Circles as Spaces of Trust, Reflection and Practice. Moderator: Systems That Do Not Harm**:** Reform, Accountability and the Duty to Act; Childhood After the Conflict: Displacement, Collective Trauma and Recovery; Raising Moral and Thriving Children
Odysseos Iosif, Elena	**Poster:** NextGen Parenting: Empowering Parents to Support Children in the Digital Space
Ólafsson, Páll	From Child Protection to Early Support: Iceland's Journey Towards Integrated Services for Children's Prosperity
Pacani, Nela	**Facilitator:** Poster & Project Showcase
Pacheco, Laura	**Poster co-author:** Participation of Children and Parents with Intellectual Disabilities in Family Court Hearings in the Netherlands and Quebec: A Comparison Study
Padilla Malca, Karina Violeta	Digital Connectivity in Contexts of Mobility: Children on the Move's Experiences, Online Risks, and Pathways to Safer Digital Environments
Palmer, Lindsey	Substance use as the underlying driver of neglect: From infancy to adolescence

Papageorgiou, Aikaterini	Beyond the Stage: How Can Theatre Become a Space for Restoration, Voice and Transformation? Lessons from the Korydallos Prison Theatre Workshop and the Voices in Motion Programme
Pepelias, Nikolaos	The psychological impact of racist violence on Children: from trauma to recovery
Perikleous, Elena	**Official Greetings**
Poimenidou, Elsa	**Moderator:** Official Greetings; Opening Remarks; Protection Without Harm: Rethinking Child Protection Systems Through the Lens of Removal Trauma; Community Psychiatry in the Context of Child Protection: Resistance, Transformations, and Challenges; Closing Remarks - Day 1; The Treatment of Child Abuse Offenders as a Prevention Strategy
Poveda, David	**Co-author:** Young People in Place: A Participatory Transnational CIVIS Project
Psarra, Marie-Louise	Assessing Parental Capacity: Ethical and Legal Implications. **Moderator:** Assessing Parental Capacity in a Forensic Psychiatry Setting
Rafail, Ilias Michail	Participation Is Protection: The MovingOn Toolbox for Meaningful Youth Participation
Raimi Rodé, Oumayma	Scaling a Constellation of Innovation for Children: Building Tomorrow's Systems with Children as Architects of the Future. **Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Ralli, Asimina M.	**Poster co-author:** Developmental Challenges in Children and Adolescents with Adverse Childhood Experiences in Greece
Rapti, Elena	**Official Greetings**
Ray, Sarah	Building a Prevention Education Response: Mitigating Digital Threats to Children and How The Exodus Road is Responding. **Workshop:** Influenced™ in Practice: From Awareness to Action in Preventing Online Child Exploitation

Remoundou, Artemis	**Poster presenting author:** Developmental Challenges in Children and Adolescents with Adverse Childhood Experiences in Greece
Rhoades, Kimberly A.	**Poster:** Preventing Recurrence of Child Maltreatment through Implementation of the FAIR System
Rotino, Fanny-Carlotta	Child Online Protection in Practice: Building Safer and More Empowering Digital Environments. **Panellist:** Connect to Protect: Turning Two Days of Evidence into Global Commitments for Children
Salamon, Eszter	Parents as Guardians and Advocates of Child Rights and Child Agency
Samadi, Adine	Violence Against Girls: Facts, Statistics and Reality
Schaller, Laura	PROTECT: Professional Response and Observation Training in Virtual Reality for Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect
Schuit, Madouc	**Poster co-author:** Participation of Children and Parents with Intellectual Disabilities in Family Court Hearings in the Netherlands and Quebec: A Comparison Study
Siaga, Evgenia	**Poster:** When the voice sounds different: Violence, Disability and barriers to disclosing child abuse
Sklavou, Konstantina	Mapping the Lethality of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence Through Lived Experience and Qualitative Evidence
Slee, Phillip Thomas	Big Talks for Little People: A Digital Mental Health Program for Primary Schools - An International Program
Smith Slep, Amy M.	Can We Make Substantiation Decisions Better? Does It Matter?
Spathi, Theoni	Integrating AI, Social Perspectives and Policy to Combat Human Trafficking - The VANGUARD Approach
Spyropoulou, Chara	**Moderator:** Children in Custody of the State: Unaccompanied Minors, Institutional Care and Disappearance

Spyrou, Electra	**Moderator:** From Lethality to Prevention: Gender-Based Violence Across the Life of a Girl
Stathogiannopoulou, Peggy	**Poster:** A Guide for the Assessment of Prospective Adoptive Parents: From Practice to Protocol
Stratigaki, Maria	**Official Greetings**
Stylianidis, Stelios	**Keynote:** Community Psychiatry in the Context of Child Protection: Resistance, Transformations, and Challenges
Televantou, Ioulia	Making Inequalities Visible: Large-Scale Educational Data and Statistical Literacy as Tools for Awareness and Action
Themeli, Olga	The Lives of Other... Children
Theodoroulakis, Menelaos	**Official Greetings**
Thraskia, Ourania (Rania)	**Opening Remarks**
Toikko, Timo	A System Perspective on Child Welfare
Tsekeri, Nantina	Voices in Motion: How Can Restorative Justice and Legal Empowerment Enable Meaningful Participation, Strengthen Children's Agency and Foster Belonging? **Moderator:** From Protection to Belonging: Restorative Pathways with Displaced Children and Youth - Lessons from Greece and Lebanon
Tsiamoura, Giota	**Poster:** Preventing Gender-Based and Domestic Violence in Childhood and Adolescence: Educational Interventions for Recognition, Empowerment and Protection
Tsoura, Aikaterini	Connect Thessaloniki: Activities of the Youth Center and Mobile Unit During the Programme's 18 Months of Operation: Review and Reflection
Tsourlidaki, Eleftheria	**Poster:** An evidence-based approach to reduce exposure and use of emerging tobacco products among school children

Tzani, Calli	Algorithms & Circular Causality: Trapped in the Loop of Algorithmic Amplification, Psychological Feedback Cycles, and Collective Behavioural Dynamics
Van-Heurck, Loudovikos	Innovation For Child & Youth Protection: Patent Insights Into Emerging Safety Technologies
van Nieuwenhuijzen, Maroesjka	**Poster co-author:** Participation of Children and Parents with Intellectual Disabilities in Family Court Hearings in the Netherlands and Quebec: A Comparison Study
Varga, Boglárka	Protecting Play
Varrella, Andrea	Digital Connectivity in Contexts of Mobility: Children on the Move's Experiences, Online Risks, and Pathways to Safer Digital Environments
Veizis, Apostolos	The Protection of Unaccompanied Minors: Pathways to Safety and Stability
Vezali, Eleni	**Poster:** SIE - Sport for Inclusion and Empowerment: Using Sport as a Protective Intervention for Marginalised Youth
Vissing, Yvonne M.	**Keynote:** Reducing the Impact of Iatrogenic Outcomes: An Organizational Challenge to Ensure Child and Youth Wellbeing
Voloudaki, Sevi	**Official Greetings**
Voulimenea, Christina	Institutional Care for Unaccompanied Children: Perspectives from Greece and Poland
Weiler, Gundo	**Official Greetings**
Weissbourd, Richard	**Keynote:** Raising Moral and Thriving Children
Williams, Huw	Hidden Injury, Hidden Rights: Traumatic Brain Injury and the Right to Thrive
Woolfe, Samantha	**Recorded Video Message:** The Invisible Weight: Adolescent Mental Health, Hidden Needs and Trauma-Informed Care.
Yotsidi, Vasiliki	Evaluating the Effectiveness of the School-Based Psychoeducational Intervention Program "Prevention of Violence and Juvenile Delinquency"

Annex: media log

Dates marked "c." are approximate, based on search indexing. Items are listed newest first.

c. 12 Oct	Proinos Typos	Regional, partner	Ladies' Union of Drama participation
c. 10 Oct	Laos	Regional, partner	Initiative for the Child research presentation
Oct	Veriotis	Regional, partner	Initiative for the Child research presentation
Oct 10, 2026	Greek City Times	Outcome report (EN)	Full conference outcomes
Oct 8, 2026	Ministry of Migration and	Official release	Ministry participation, closing panel
Oct 6, 2026	Times News	News	Minister of Justice meets UN Special Representative
c. 6 Oct	Emvolos	News	Minister of Social Cohesion and Family meets UN Special Representative
c. 6 Oct	Times News (ANA-MPA)	Live report	Day 1: M'jid and Jaffé keynotes
c. 6 Oct	Politic.gr	Live report	Day 1: plenaries, youth speakers
Oct 2, 2026	Greek City Times	Preview (EN)	Programme and speakers
c. 1 Oct	Naftemporiki	Interview	N. Baltas and S. Alevizos
c. 25 Sep	ERT	Sponsor announcement	Full programme and practical information
Sep 18, 2026	Neos Kosmos	Feature (EN, diaspora)	Australian connection, trauma of removal
Sep 15, 2026	ERT3 / ertnews.gr	TV appearance	S. Alevizos on children's digital safety
12–13 Sep	ANA-MPA via Emvolos	Interview	N. Baltas and S. Alevizos on system gaps
12–13 Sep	Athina 984	Republication	ANA-MPA interview
12–13 Sep	Insider	Republication	ANA-MPA interview
12–13 Sep	Newpost	Republication	ANA-MPA interview

Annex: media log

Dates marked "c." are approximate, based on search indexing. Items are listed newest first.

12–13 Sep	Liberal	Republication	ANA-MPA interview
May 29, 2026	Human Rights Educators USA	Listing (EN)	Conference and keynote Y. Vissing
Spring	Naftemporiki	Announcement	First conference announcement
Undated	Naftemporiki	News	IASIS joins CFJ-EN; UNIC Athens memorandum
Undated	CASW	Listing (EN)	Conference listing
Undated	Better Care Network	Listing (EN)	Conference listing
Undated	ÖGS	Listing (EN)	UN participation



Messages from Participants

After the conference, participants, speakers and partner organisations wrote to IASIS NGO to share their impressions. A selection of these messages is presented below, without names and in their original wording.



"So many experts in one place, the atmosphere, the knowledge, experience, and passion everyone brought there - it was truly impressive."

"I am very grateful and I have not enough words to describe what a fabulous event it was."

"You really managed to bring together a wonderful and welcoming community, and your colleagues were incredibly kind and helpful throughout the event."

"It meant a lot to us to see this topic given space alongside so many important discussions on children's rights and protection."

"We are also very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the programme and to bring the importance of children's right to play into the conversation."



"Above all, congratulations on what was truly an amazing conference. I deeply appreciated the warmth of the welcome, the excellent organization, and the support and integration throughout."

"The discussions and connections in Athens were incredibly rich, helpful and genuinely meaningful, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to engage with you and the wider community."

"Thank you again for the wonderful experience, your generous support, and for making the conference such a meaningful space for exchange."

"Congratulations on a highly successful and energizing event and thank you for creating such a meaningful space for learning, exchange, and collaboration."

"The quality of the discussions and the diversity of perspectives reinforced the importance of connecting research, policy, and practice to strengthen protection for children and young people."

"These contributions offered valuable insights and will continue to inform our thinking on issues of direct relevance to our work."



"We remain at your disposal for any future collaboration or initiative on these important topics."

"Congratulations on a successful conference. We hope it will become an annual event, and that the community you have brought together will keep growing."

"Thank you again for your care and attention throughout."

"We're all still coming back down to earth after a wonderful time in Athens, which proved inspirational in many ways."

"It was a great conference. Thank you so much for all the work you and your team did to make sure it was."

"Thank you again for your care and attention throughout."

"Please do keep us posted as we'd love to participate again and support the planning."

"I hope you all are satisfied with your fantastic work. I had a marvelous time in Athens. Hope to see you again."



The People and Organisations Behind the Conference

Connect to Protect was made possible through the work of people and organisations contributing expertise, time and resources.

IASIS NGO thanks everyone

who helped develop the programme, support contributors, welcome participants and deliver the conference across four programme spaces.

Organiser, Scientific Leadership and Organising Committee

Organiser

IASIS NGO

organised Connect to Protect, bringing its experience in mental health, social inclusion, community support and child protection to the development of the conference.

Nikos Baltas, Co-Founder & General Director of IASIS NGO,

provided organisational leadership and supported the conference's international connections.

Scientific Leadership

Dr Stefanos Alevizos, Scientific Lead,

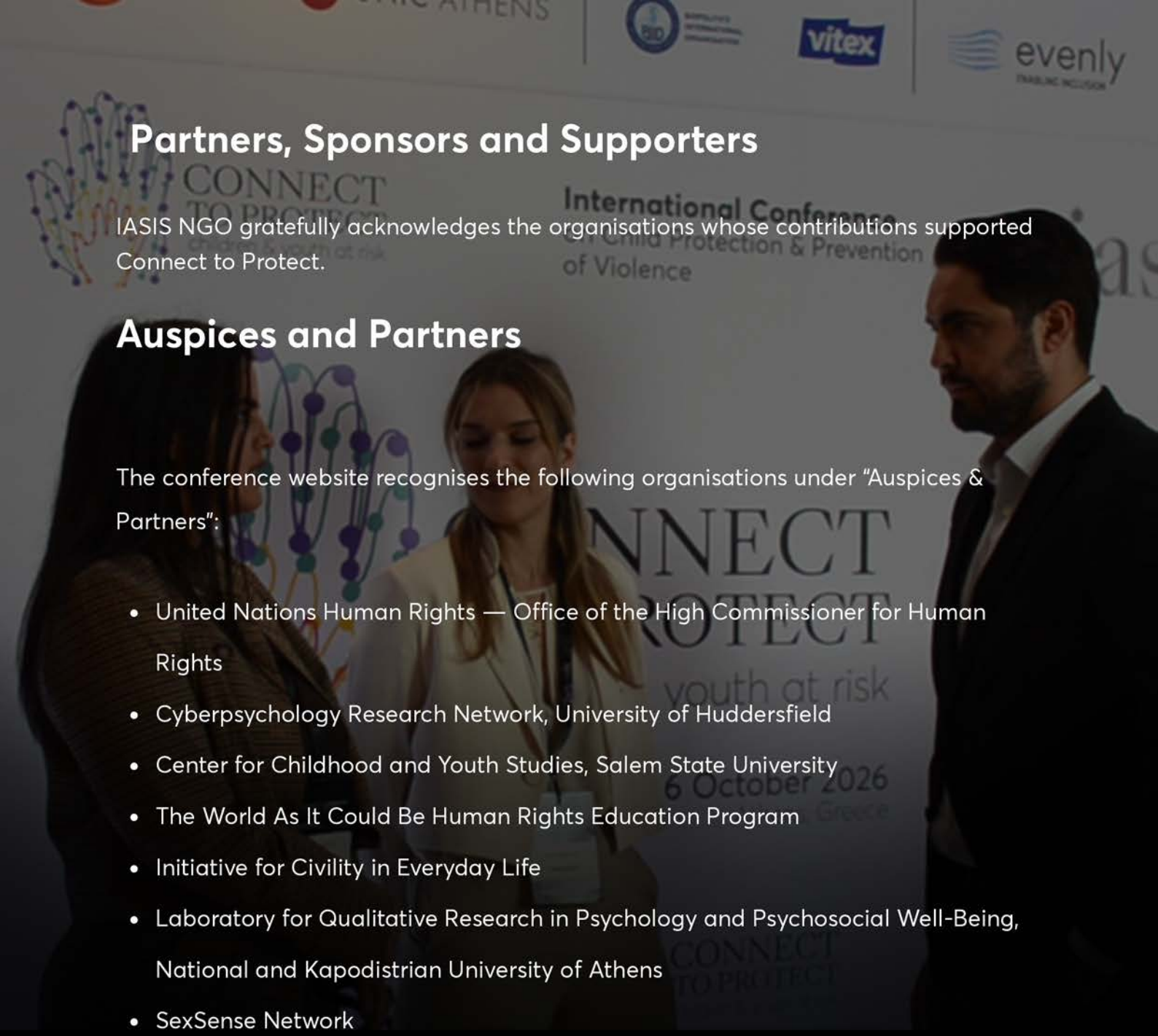
led the scientific development of the conference, connecting research, professional practice and policy perspectives within the programme.
The development of the scientific programme involved communication and cooperation with speakers, moderators, universities, professional networks and organisations contributing sessions and workshops.

Organising Committee

The Organising Committee supported the preparation, coordination and delivery of the conference:

- Athena Pilitzidou
- Tania Perimeni
- Giannis Roussos
- Katerina Valavani
- Georgia Kritsili

Their work supported the arrangements needed to bring keynote addresses, parallel sessions, workshops and the Poster & Project Showcase into a connected two-day programme.



Partners, Sponsors and Supporters

IASIS NGO gratefully acknowledges the organisations whose contributions supported Connect to Protect.

Auspices and Partners

The conference website recognises the following organisations under "Auspices & Partners":

- United Nations Human Rights — Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Cyberpsychology Research Network, University of Huddersfield
- Center for Childhood and Youth Studies, Salem State University
- The World As It Could Be Human Rights Education Program
- Initiative for Civility in Everyday Life
- Laboratory for Qualitative Research in Psychology and Psychosocial Well-Being, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- SexSense Network
- Yale School of Medicine
- Hellenic Forensic Psychiatric Association
- The Exodus Road
- EuroHealthNet
- International Centre for Justice Alliance
- Parents International
- ANJAF
- World Family Organization

Publication Support

The conference received support from the journal Child Abuse Review.

We thank these organisations for their contribution and recognise each according to the category published on the conference website.

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Delivery Team and Volunteers

The delivery of Connect to Protect depended on work before, during and after the two conference days.

The IASIS team supported participant communication, registration, speaker assistance, scheduling and coordination across the programme spaces. Session moderators and facilitators helped guide discussions, manage time and create opportunities for exchange.

Technical and production teams supported presentations, sound, remote connections and recorded contributions. Interpretation helped participants engage across languages, while venue staff supported the spaces and services needed throughout the event.

Volunteers contributed their time to welcoming participants, providing guidance and assisting with programme activities. Their availability helped participants navigate the conference and supported the organising team throughout the two days.
IASIS NGO warmly thanks all staff, collaborators and volunteers whose work behind the scenes made the event possible.



Acknowledgements

IASIS NGO extends its warm thanks to all speakers, moderators, workshop facilitators and poster contributors for sharing their knowledge and experience.

We offer particular thanks to the young people who shared their perspectives. Their contributions helped keep the discussions connected to the experience of seeking protection and support, and to the importance of trust, respect and opportunities for the future.

We thank the professionals, researchers, students, public officials and organisational representatives who travelled to Athens or contributed remotely. Their questions, reflections and willingness to discuss difficult issues enriched the programme.

We are grateful to our partners, sponsors and supporters, and to the organising, technical, interpretation and venue teams and volunteers who supported delivery.

Finally, we thank everyone who gave their time to listen, learn and connect with others. Their participation provides the foundation for continuing the work of Connect to Protect.

