



# EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

Yearly report 2018 & 2019



**Don't ask if your dreams are crazy. Ask if they are crazy enough!**

## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the name of the Board of the EFJCA hereby the annual report 2018 & 2019 of the European Family Justice Center Alliance/European Alliance for Hope and Empowerment. For practical reasons we have chosen to create a year report for 2 years instead of each year one report. The Alliance has not been idle in the past 2 years. The number of international activities has increased significantly and the EFJCA has been asked multiple times to be present on international seminars and conferences and to provide plenary sessions and workshops. Within this report we provided an overview of the most important activities, that have led to the fact that the EFJCA now in Europe is seen and recognized as an strong and important network that matters. The 2 International FJC Conferences 'One Safe Place for Hope and Empowerment', 2018 in Paris and 2019 in Paris have definitely contributed to that status. A good example of that current position was the invitation to the EFJCA by the OECD to participate in a panel discussion on multidisciplinary approach within intimate partner violence at their High-Level Conference 'Taking Public Action to End Violence at Home' (held at the OECD in Paris on 5-6 February 2020). The Family Justice Center model is within Europe increasingly seen as a very effective and promising multidisciplinary model in the battle of gender-based violence, domestic violence and child abuse. Especially the fact that the model is about working with and listening to the survivors instead of working and talking about the survivors is considered as the way it should and should be.

As EFJCA team we realize that despite this beautiful and hopeful developments, we are still far from there and that we have still a long way to go to realize our European dream. That we still have to convince many policymakers, professionals from the juridical/social welfare and (mental) health sector that we CAN make a difference in the lives of survivors and their families and that we HAVE the power to do so. Yes, we see very promising developments and results in Europe, but we also notice that some European governments are trying to change back into the old traditional (patriarchal) values in which fathers and more in general men have a dominant role. A very worrying development in which we must act strongly against. By continuing emphasizing that gender-based violence, domestic violence and child abuse is absolutely unacceptable and should never to be tolerated and building up strong national and international alliances we can stop these very harmful thoughts.

To make our European Alliance and our voices stronger from 2020 we have strengthened our EFJCA team with more experts and external trainers. Through this way we want to respond more to current, but also underexposed and/or underreported themes, such as non-fatal strangulation and traumatic brain injury as result of intimate partner violence. More information about the very welcome reinforcement of our team will be mentioned in the section 2020 and beyond.

On behalf of the EFJCA team I can say that we are proud of what we have achieved as a team the last 2 years and that we as European Alliance with hope, passion and dedication will continue our valuable work in the upcoming years.

**'HOPE is the belief that your future will be better than today, and you have the strength to do so!'**

Bert Groen  
President of the EFJCA

## THE HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER ALLIANCE

In 2013-2016 a dedicated group of professionals from 6 European countries started the project 'Family Justice Centers in Europe', with funds from the EU Daphne program. The project was based on the US Family Justice Center model, founded in 2002 in San Diego by public prosecutors Casey Gwinn and Gael Strack. During the two years of the project the European partners focused on starting up 6 FJC's in 5 European countries, with the aim to evolve into a European FJC model, open and adaptable to the context of different countries and regions.

This project was the start of a real movement towards high-standard multidisciplinary approach of domestic violence, Child abuse and sexual violence.

During the years after the by the EC funded project, the partners in the project further developed the model, the alliance and reached out to different partners in various regions, in the meanwhile supporting the existing FJCs.

## ORGANISATION

To ensure the sustainability of the FJC developments in Europe, the original project team has founded the European Family Justice Center Alliance (EFJCA) in 2014.

The EFJCA is a legal entity and the officially recognized network of the Family Justice Centers in Europe. It promotes the FJC model and provides a central platform for its members. As an umbrella organisation, the EFJCA exchanges knowledge, experiences and good practices among its members. The EFJCA provides the Family Justice Centers and affiliated multi-agency models with customized tools, specialized methodologies and on-the-job-training, which leads to continuous improvement of the Centers and helps them to create better resources for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence and their families.

## VISION AND MISSION OF THE EFJCA

The vision of the EFJCA is to develop a safe place for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence, and their families, in all European countries and regions. A place where:

- all the needs of the victims, children and their families are met
- safety is assured
- children are protected
- perpetrators are held accountable
- the violence stops
- empowerment is increased
- families heal (and thrive)
- hope and perspective is realized
- and WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

The mission of the EFJCA is to create a European network of Family Justice Centers and similar co-located multi-agency models, focusing on an integrated approach of domestic violence, child abuse

and sexual violence, with close working relationships, shared training and assistance, collaborative learning processes, coordinated funding assistance and transformational leadership. The EFJCA is driven by the voice of victims, in all its activities.

The EFJCA subscribes to:

- the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
- the DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime
- the UN convention on the Rights of the Child.

## TARGET GROUPS OF THE EFJCA

The EFJCA focuses on different target groups. The first group are the victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence and their families. Secondly the EFJCA focuses on professionals who are active in the field of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence, like:

- professionals and volunteers working in the Family Justice Centers and affiliated multi-agency models
- professionals from judicial and police services, medical assistance, social services, personal support projects, women's services, youth services, income support and employment services, municipal services, etc.
- policymakers and politicians on local, regional, national and European level.

## FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS IN EUROPE

The EFJCA could welcome new European Family Justice Centers in 2018 and 2019, FJC Bordeaux, Maison d'Ella (France), FJC Bjarmahlíð (Akureyri, Iceland) and FJC Milan/ SVSeD (Service for Sexual and Domestic Violence) & Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico (Italy). At the end of 2019 in total 13 FJC's are active in Europe: Belgium (3), France, Germany, Iceland, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands and the UK:

- FJC Antwerpen (Belgium, Antwerp)  
[www.fjc-veiligthuis.be](http://www.fjc-veiligthuis.be)
- FJC Malmo Koncept Karin (Sweden, Malmö)  
[www.malmo.se/kriscentrum](http://www.malmo.se/kriscentrum)
- FJC Limburg (Belgium, Hasselt)  
[www.fjclimburg.be](http://www.fjclimburg.be)
- FJC Derry Foyle's Women's Aid (N-Ireland, Derry)  
[foylefamilyjusticecentre.org](http://foylefamilyjusticecentre.org)
- FJC Bjarmahlíð (Akureyri, Iceland)  
[www.bjarmahlid.is](http://www.bjarmahlid.is)
- FJC Bjarkarhlíð Reykjavik (Iceland, Reykjavik)  
[www.bjarkarhlid.is](http://www.bjarkarhlid.is)
- FJC Maison d'Ella Bordeaux (France, Bordeaux)  
[cacis-pro.fr/?page\\_id=850](http://cacis-pro.fr/?page_id=850)

- FJC Paris Maison de Femmes (France, Paris)  
[www.lamaisondesfemmes.fr](http://www.lamaisondesfemmes.fr)
- FJC Warsaw Women's Right Center (Poland, Warsaw)  
[cpk.org.pl](http://cpk.org.pl)
- FJC Tilburg (The Netherlands, Tilburg)  
[veiligthuismiddenbrabant.nl](http://veiligthuismiddenbrabant.nl)
- FJC Mechelen (Belgium, Mechelen)  
[www.mechelen.be/fjc](http://www.mechelen.be/fjc)
- FJC Berlin (Germany, Berlin)  
[gewaltschutzambulanz.charite.de](http://gewaltschutzambulanz.charite.de)
- FJC Milan (Italy, Milan),  
SVSeD (Service for Sexual and Domestic Violence), Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale  
Maggiore Policlinico.  
[www.policlinico.mi.it](http://www.policlinico.mi.it)

## DEFINITION OF A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

A Family Justice Center is a multiagency, multidisciplinary service center where public and private agencies assign staff members to, on a full-time or part-time basis, to provide services to victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence and their families from one location.

The overall goal of a Family Justice Center is to ensure that clients have access to all necessary services, to enhance their safety and increase offender accountability. Victims and their families who report there can obtain legal advice, safety planning, make a statement, obtain accommodation planning, medical evidence of violence, transport assistance, trauma processing, etc.

A Family Justice Center provides one physical location:

- to reduce the number of places victims must visit to obtain all the help and the services they need to put an end to the violence.
- to reduce the number of times victims must tell their story.
- to foster collaboration and a common approach of the different agencies.
- and to increase access to services and support for victims and their children.

The Family Justice Center is defined by the following guiding principles:

- Safety-focused
- Victim-centered
- Kind hearted
- Survivor driven
- Empowered
- Relationship-based
- Offender accountability
- Prosecution strategies and/or evidence based treatment programs
- Transformative (willing to change): evaluate and adjust services by including survivor input and evidence based best practices
- Culturally responsive

## THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

The European network has grown in 2018/2019 to more than 40 partners in 25 European countries. The Alliance has partnerships with 8 international networks and organisations and has developed a closer cooperation with the OECD (<https://www.oecd.org>), Governance & Integrity Nederland (<http://gi-nederland.com>) and the Cease project (involving employers in the battle of intimate violence <https://cease-project.eu>). In 2019 the Alliance has set up an intensive collaboration with Aruba and Bonaire in the Caribbean with the aim to support the local and national organisations with their initiatives to set up a multidisciplinary approach.

Partners and members of the Alliance are Family Justice Centers, affiliated multi-agency centers, organisations working/active in the field of gender based, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual violence and organisations and professionals with interest in the activities and products of the Alliance, subscribing the guiding principles of the network.

The partners and members have an interest and/or are involved in the development of quality standard multi-agency work based on the needs of victims of violence as subscribed, and take part in the activities, network, exchange and development of the good methodologies by the Alliance.

The Alliance has currently partners/members in Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Georgia, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and UK.

The Alliance stimulates a “cross professions” network, with exchange and joint ventures with organisations and experts from various sectors: police, justice, women’s aid, victim services, child advocacy, perpetrator programs, health and mental health sector, social services, personal support projects, youth services, income support and employment services, municipal services, research centers, universities, local authorities, national authorities, ...

## MAIN FOCUS 2020 AND BEYOND

The EFJCA develops a range of products and activities to obtain the goals of the mission and vision. In 2018 and 2019 the EFJCA focused on growth of the network and delivering products for exchange and support. For 2020 the main focuses are:

- Further development and implementation of Trainings and Masterclasses;
- Specializing in a range of themes: Moral Deliberation, Offender Accountability and Safety of Victims, Strangulation Prevention, Traumatic Brain Injury, the Theory of Hope, the role of the Employers in Tackling Domestic Violence, the Multifocus methodology, ...;
- Organizing in 2020 the fourth international conference in Iceland;
- Support to the existing and new partners and members of the network;
- Expanding the European network;
- Support of new and existing FJC’s/Multidisciplinary Models in Europe and the Caribbean (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Sint Maarten, ...)

## ACTIVITIES 2018 AND 2019

During 2018 and 2019 the EFJCA staff was invited by a great number of countries and international organisations to provide presentations, key-note speeches, workshops and other relevant activities at national and international seminars and conferences. The EFJCA was also several times asked to host international study visits to the FJC Antwerp and made a number of study visits to Milan, Berlin, Paris, Manchester and Bordeaux. Beside these activities the Alliance also focused in 2018 and 2019 on strengthening of the European network. This was achieved by:

- Regular contacts with the members;
- Outreach to new and candidate members
- Visits to members and candidate-members with the aim to support the existing FJC's and new FJC initiatives;
- Further development of the website;
- Applying for International and EU grants.

Here is an overview of most of the activities performed by the EFJCA staff in 2018 and 2019. Most of these activities are also available on the EFJCA website, under the section News.

### **12 January 2018. Official opening New location Family Justice Center Limburg Belgium**

The FJC Of Limburg opened their new location in presence of the Ministers of Welfare and the Minister of Justice, together with the Mayors and the governor. The directors of the FJC proudly presented their new book on their work. The Voices of the FJC were present and actively engaged in the presentations.



### **18 January 2018. Info-lunch of the Family Justice Center Mechelen Belgium**

The FJC of Mechelen brought all stakeholders, politicians and cooperators involved in the FJC together to present the results of the first 6 months work of the FJC. A kind-hearted and motivated team showed encouraging results.



### **30 January - 2 February 2018. The 32nd Chadwick's Center Annual San Diego International Conference on Family Violence and Child Abuse**

The EFJCA provided a workshop "Safeguarding the children in a Multidisciplinary Approach of Family Violence in the model of European Family Justice Centers" in the sessions Global Perspectives on Tuesday 1st of February. The San Diego Conference focuses on multi-disciplinary best-practice efforts to prevent, if possible, or otherwise to investigate, treat, and prosecute child and family maltreatment. The objective of the San Diego Conference is to develop and enhance professional skills and knowledge in the prevention, recognition, assessment and treatment of all forms of maltreatment including those related to family violence as well as to enhance investigative and legal skills. In-depth issues include support for families, prevention, leadership, and policymaking.



### **18 February 2018. EFJCA visiting the Berlin partners**

The EFJCA visited the Berlin partners on 13th of February, exchanging and planning our next steps in our joint venture.



### **20 February 2018. Symposium Tackling Gender-Based Violence in Europe**

Today the EFJCA visited in Brussels the symposium "Tackling Gender-Based Violence in Europe: Advancing Strategies to End Violence against Women and Girls". The EFJCA [presented](#) "Developing Effective Strategies to Target VAWG in a Multidisciplinary Approach of Family Violence in the model of European Family Justice Centers" at the symposium organized by The Public Exchange office.



## September 2018. Delegation of the Dutch ministries are visiting the Family Justice Center Antwerp



On Wednesday September 19th a large delegation of the Dutch ministries and municipalities visited the Family Justice Center in Antwerp. The aim of the visit was to learn from the experiences of the FJC Antwerp with a focus on the context and guiding principles of the FJC, the value of on-site services in the center, the added value of a centered model, the approach in Antwerp of high-risk families with domestic violence and the coordinated approach of domestic violence and child abuse in the FJC

Antwerp. The FJC Antwerp can in Europe be seen as one of the leading centers when it comes to the multidisciplinary approach of gender-based violence according to the FJC principles.

In the Netherlands municipalities join forces with the national government against domestic violence and child abuse. The new action program 'Violence does not belong anywhere at all' contains many measures to reduce domestic violence and child abuse and to resolve it sustainably. The ambition of the program is to stop violence and make the family situations safe. In order to achieve this, a regional approach to domestic violence and child abuse occurs per region. A national program team helps to translate the ambitions from the program in the region and in the sectors and organizations involved. The intention is that pilots are started in 3 municipalities/regions to develop the objectives of the program. The delegation consists of the members of the national program team, representatives of the Dutch ministries of Safety and Justice, the ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the proposed pilot municipalities. During the 4-hour study visit the staff of FJC Antwerp shared their experiences, challenges and positive results of their FJC approach. The European Family Justice Center Alliance shared the added value of international cooperation in which by sharing lessons learned and international experiences national approaches can benefit and make their programs more effective and sustainable.

## October 2018. EFJCA participating in 9th Annual FJC Leadership Summit in Milwaukee

The rapidly developing movement toward multi-agency collaboration, co-located services, mergers of agencies, shared office space models, and Family Justice Centers is getting the attention of non-profit agency leaders and funders across the country. There are currently more than 130 Family Justice Centers and other types of Multi-Agency Centers in the U.S. and hundreds of other agencies working to develop partnerships and models of co-located services.

Internationally, the movement now has strong momentum including the European Family Justice



Center Alliance with initiatives in more than 20 countries. Beyond Europe, there are developing and operating Family Justice Centers or similar cross-sector collaborative Centers in another 15 countries. It is happening. It is time. Family Justice Centers are co-locating with Child Advocacy Centers. Non-profits are merging with other non-profits to create more comprehensive responses to trauma-exposed children and adults.

### October 2018. EFJCA participates in the working meeting of the WONCA-conference, Seol (Korea)

The EFJCA participates in the working meeting of "Special Interest Group on Family Violence" of the WONCA-conference, and in the workshop "Collaborating in violence cases across sectors - the effects and benefits" in Seoul, Korea, 17-21th of October.

The WONCA is the global Family and primary health care doctors globally and hosts this global WONCA-Conference yearly. It's an honor to be part of this conference, and of the Special Interest group with dedicated professionals across the world, focussing on improving the help offered to survivors of violence.

### November 2018 . 2nd International FJC-conference - 14, 15 and 16 November, Paris



The EFJCA, the FJC Paris 'Maison des Femmes' and the Kering Foundation organized together the 2nd International Conference of Family Justice Centers and co-related multidisciplinary centers in Paris. The 120 participants from 15 countries from Europe, USA and Canada participated on a range of activities during three days in November. The Multifocus was during the conference as keynote speech presented by Lienja van Eijkern. During the conference the new updated international FJC movie was presented. Link: <https://www.efjca.eu/news/report-efjca-conference-2018-paris>



### December 2018. High-level conference 'Ending Violence against Women – Taking Stock and Next Steps' at the European Commission's Berlaymont building



The Family Justice Center framework was recently profiled by Bert Groen and Pascale Franck at the European Commission on Justice and Consumer and Gender Equality in Brussels. This event combined practical lessons learnt from local projects with high-level policy and forward-looking discussions, with the aim of fostering links and collaborations between the different levels of action needed to comb at gender-based violence. During this conference participants had

discussions on an equal footing and in an interactive manner how EU institutions, EU Member States, International Organisations, NGOs, private sector and academics can contribute to combatting violence against women. Each session was introduced by short "impulse statements" to trigger the discussion after which the floor was opened to the roundtable participants

### **January 2019 The 34th Chadwick's Center Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment**



The EFJCA and the team of the Mutsaersstichting provided during the 34th Annual conference in San Diego on Wednesday 30 January their joint workshop "THE IMPORTANCE OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ACE AND POLYVICTIMIZATION".



During the session the participants were informed how children with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and/or Polyvictimization (repeatedly victimization) can restore the feeling of HOPE in their daily lives.

Experiences and good practices from the various European FJC initiatives and the Dutch MULTIFOCUS methodology were presented and discussed. The session showed that by offering a safe place and working from a single location, you can effectively work on safety and empowerment for victims of domestic violence and child abuse, and that the concept of HOPE is an important instrument.

### **February 2019. Delegation of organisations and professionals from Rotterdam and region are visiting the Family Justice Center Antwerp**

On Thursday February 14th a large delegation of the municipality Rotterdam and organisations working in the region Rotterdam-Rijnmond, involved in developing a multidisciplinary approach of domestic violence and child abuse, visited the Family Justice Center in Antwerp. The aim of the visit was to learn from the experiences of the FJC Antwerp with a focus on the context and guiding principles of the FJC, the value of on-site services in the center, the added value of a centered model, the approach in Antwerp of high-risk families with domestic violence, the coordinated approach of domestic violence and child abuse in the FJC Antwerp and the international work of the EFJCA. In the Netherlands municipalities join forces with the national government against domestic violence and child abuse. The new action program 'Violence does not belong anywhere at all' contains many measures to reduce domestic violence and child abuse and to resolve it sustainably. The ambition of the program is to stop violence and make the family situations safe. In order to achieve this, a regional approach to domestic violence and child abuse occurs per region. A national program team helps to translate the ambitions from the program in the region and in the sectors and organizations involved. The intention is that pilots are started in 3 municipalities/regions to develop the objectives of the program. Rotterdam is one of the 3 pilots. The delegation consisted of representatives of the

municipalities Rotterdam, Vlaardingen, Schiedam and Capelle a/d IJssel, the police, Veilig Thuis, Mental Health Care, e.d. During the 4-hour study visit, Pascale Franck, co-director of the FJC Antwerp, shared her experiences, challenges and positive results of the FJC approach in Antwerp. From the EFJCA Bert Groen shared the added value of the Multifocus methodology and international cooperation in which by sharing lessons learned and international experiences national approaches can benefit and make their programs more effective and sustainable.

### **February 2019. High level event on ‘Strengthening institutions and Good government’ with a particular focus on domestic violence**

On Thursday February 19th the EFJCA was invited by the organizing committee to participate and provide a presentation about the FJC model in Brussels at the high-level event on ‘Strengthening institutions and Good government’ with a particular focus on domestic violence.

Background:



In November 2017 the Eastern Partnership countries (EaP) (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) and the EU decided on a set of targets that should be delivered by 2020 (the document was called the 20 deliverables for 2020). The document includes 20 targets which each have several objectives. These targets and objectives are followed up in a set of meetings – both high-level meetings (Platforms) with deputy ministers and expert level meetings (Panels). The Platform

meetings deals with a number of topics – for instance rule of law, Public Administrative Reforms and issues related to security and civil protection. The aim of this platform meeting was to address the commitments in the 20 deliverables for 2020 to adopt sexual and domestic violence legislation and ensure that effective referral mechanisms are put in place.

From the EU member states there were participants from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and sometimes also

line-ministries and from the EaP countries the representation was at deputy minister level from the Ministries of Interior or Ministries of Justice. Among the objectives of the 20 deliverables, to which the EaP countries has committed to, there are a few which particularly relate to gender equality. Two of them were particularly up for discussion in the meeting since they are particularly challenging: The adoption of sexual and gender-based violence/domestic violence legislation in all Partner Countries and effective referral mechanisms are in place. In addition, there is a strong target on ratification of the Istanbul Convention. During this meeting the EFJCA presented the FJC model as an effective referral mechanism and included the Multifocus as an effective methodology.



### **February 2019. He Choked Me and Left no Marks: Recognizing and Preventing Strangulation Webinar**

The WWP EN, the European Network for Work with Perpetrators organized on 28 February 2019, a 1-hour-webinar on non-fatal strangulation (Facilitators: Bert Groen & Pascale Franck).

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. When domestic

violence perpetrators choke (strangle) their victims, not only is this felonious assault, but it may be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control where the batterer can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath: it may have devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome. Strangulation is more common in domestic violence cases than previously thought. It can have serious health implications for women and their unborn children and can ultimately lead to their death.

This webinar gave the opportunity for professionals to take part in a unique overview of the most hidden and lethal forms of domestic violence

### March 2019. The 19th Annual International Family Justice Center Conference San Diego



The EFJCA and the team of the Mutsaersstichting joined in March the 19th International FJC Conference in San Diego, organized by the U.S. Alliance for Hope International and provided on Thursday March 21 their joint workshop "Working with Families and Perpetrators in European Family Justice Centers". During this session the participants were informed how European FJC's involve the work

with families and perpetrators in their programs and how the Dutch MULTIFOCUS methodology from the Mutsaersstichting fits perfect in that program. The session showed the methodology in practice and provided the participants with results that showed that a holistic approach of domestic violence within the family and with all family members is absolutely effective and will reduce dramatically the rates of recidivism.



### March 2019. EFJCA-team provided training on upcoming GREVIO assessment for Malta

On Wednesday March 27, 2019, the EFJCA team provided a 1-day training in Malta for professionals from organisations which support and/or coordinate Violence Against Women/Domestic Violence/Gender-based violence support services on the GREVIO questionnaire. The training focused on the guidelines and data requirements (which data needs to be compiled), including identifying if there are significant forms of support not covered by common systems.

### April 2019. EFJCA-webinar for the participants of the CEASE-project

The EFJCA works together with the CEASE-project. On 16th of April, the EFJCA provided a webinar for the participants of the CEASE-project, focussing on the impact of partner violence and domestic violence on the workplace, how to handle it and the multidisciplinary approach. Companies as new actor. The [CEASE-project](#), co-financed by European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program of the European Commission, aims to create an additional front line in the battle against intimate violence, integrating the companies as new actor, with an important capacity to multiply the effects of the actions, thanks to their significant leadership in our society and their large mobilization capacity

### **June 2019. Conference 'From Hurt to Hope' (Derry/Londonderry)**

Foyle Family Justice Centre hosted a major international conference "From Hurt to Hope" specifically designed for local and international professionals working in all areas of Domestic Violence. The EFJCA provided 2 workshops during this international conference with the focus on the European work of the Alliance in general and the experiences of the FJC Antwerp. From the U.S. Alliance for Hope International Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack and Cahn Hellman were also present and provided several sessions on the topics 'Non-Fatal Strangulation' and 'The Power and Science of Hope'.

### **June 2019 Taix Conference in Armenia**

The European program Taix organized a 3-day working meeting with participants from NGO's of Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia, to stimulate the multidisciplinary approach of gender-based and domestic violence in Yerevan, Armenia. The EFJCA provided a range of workshops and discussion rounds to build up next steps in this region, aiming at a good-practice-based approach of GBV and DV.

### **June 2019 Visit delegation from Cyprus to EFJCA and FJC Antwerp**

A group of professionals and representatives of the ministry in Cyprus, responsible for the approach of domestic violence, visited for 2-days the EFJCA in Antwerp. Reason for their visit was to learn more about the FJC model and effective approaches/methodologies. On the first day the participants, Mrs. Susana Pavlou, Mr. Costas Veis, Mrs. Chara Tapanidou, Mrs. Nicoletta Renco, Mrs. Valentina Mina and Mr. Andri Andronikou visited the Family Justice Center in Antwerp and learned more about the operational activities of the center and the way it's implemented. The second day the group visited the FJC Limburg. At the end of the visit the participants shared all their impressions and questions with the EFJCA staff.



### **July 2019 Working visit to Milan and signing MoU EFJCA and FJC Milan/Policlinico di Milano**

On July 11<sup>th</sup> the EFJCA visited the Policlinico di Milano and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alessandra Kustermann, director of the Policlinico and Michele Rabaiotti, director of Fondazione G.B. Guzzetti in Milan. The MoU recognized the Policlinico di Milan as official FJC Milan.



### **July 2019 Visit delegation Aruba to FJC Antwerp**

A delegation of Aruba visited the FJC of Antwerp, with the aim of exchanging methodology, set-up, conditions, strategic planning to build a FJC. During the visit further collaboration between FJC Antwerp and Aruba was agreed on.

### **September 2019. 3th European conference Norway, Oslo**

From the 1-4 September the EFJCA was present in Oslo on the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Conference on Domestic Violence <https://ecdv-oslo.org/>. The EFJCA presented their European work in general and the experiences of the FJC Antwerp in particular

### **September 2019. Conference in Sweden, Stockholm**

The EFJCA was invited to give a presentation in Stockholm on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 at the national conference 'Resurscentrasatsningen – hur ger vi våldsutsatta ett bra stöd?' (in English: 'Investing in resources – how do we provide good support to victims of violence?'). In the presence of approximately 200 Swedish participants from local authorities, national government and social welfare organisations the EFJCA presented their work and challenges & opportunities in the development of a multidisciplinary approach.

### **September 2019. FJC Leadership Summit Oklahoma City**

The U.S. Alliance for Hope International organized on the from 22-24<sup>th</sup> of September their yearly FJC Leadership Summit in Oklahoma City. Around 120 FJC directors and co-directors shared during these 2 days under the direction of Gael Strack and Casey Gwinn their individual experiences and challenges of their own FJC's. Also the focus for the upcoming years was discussed. The EFJCA shared with the US participants the topics in the European work and challenges.

#### *Topics:*

- How to start a FJC
- How to sustain a FJC
- Hope and Empowerment
- Holistic approach
- Honor related violence
- FJC and Child Advocacy: bridging -> integrating
- Strangulation
- Work with Perpetrators
- Role of employers in tackling domestic violence

### Challenges:

- Differentiation towards a range of co-related models (differences in and through Europe)
- The term Family
- Work with perpetrators
- Backlash on gender policy, women's rights,...
- Role of religion/churches/...
- Naming Violence <-> conflicts
- Place and role of Restorative Justice (and in particular the role of mediation)



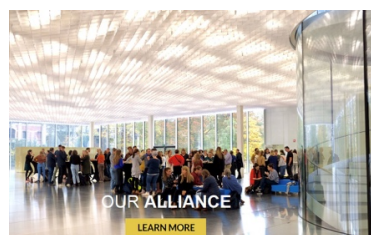
### October 2019. Annual WWP conference in Greece, Heraklion

From 23-25 October the EFJCA staff participated in the WWP EN Annual Conference that took place in Heraklion (Greece) and was organized by the Union of Women Associations Heraklion ([UWAH](#)). Under the title "Let's talk about it - Advancing interventions on sexual violence in perpetrator work" the participants focused on giving perpetrator programs the tools to effectively address sexual violence in relationships.

### November 2019. Closing conference Cease project in Brussels, Belgium

'Companies Against Domestic Violence', that was the title of the closing conference from the Cease project on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in Brussels which was attended by the EFJCA . The main aim of the Cease project is to integrate companies in the battle against intimate violence. During the conference key-note speakers presented the results during the project. More information about the work of Cease: <https://cease-project.eu>

### 13-15 November 2019. 3th International EFJCA-conference "One safe Place for Hope and Empowerment" & Masterclasses "(Non-Fatal) Strangulation" and "The Science and Power of Hope" in Antwerp



The EFJCA and the FJC Antwerp with support from of the City of Antwerp, the Flemish Government, the Province of Antwerp and the Soroptimists clubs Antwerpen Anthos, Antwerpen and Antwerpen



De Zes Rozen, organized together the 3rd International Conference of Family Justice Centers and co-related multidisciplinary centers. The Province of Antwerp was so kind to host us during the two conference days in their new Provincial Government building, a beautiful location for an inspiring exchange. The more than 190 participants from 15 countries from Europe and USA participated on a range of activities during the two days in November. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 2 Masterclasses were provided, one by Gael Strack and Jim Henderson on 'Non-Fatal Strangulation' and the other one by Chan Hellman on 'The Science and Power of Hope'. Both Masterclasses were followed by around 50 participants each.



## CHANGES IN THE EFJCA TEAM FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

To make our European Alliance stronger we have strengthened from 2020 our EFJCA team with more experts and external trainers. Through this way the Alliance wants to respond more to current, but also underexposed and/or underreported themes, such as non-fatal strangulation and traumatic brain injury as result of intimate partner violence. From 2020 the team will look like this:

- Bert Groen, President
- Pascale Franck, Vice-president
- Davy Simons, Secretary
- Lienja van Eijkern, member
- Dries Wijckmans, member
- Sander Ligthart, member

### External Trainers-Advisors:

- James Henderson. Director of Offender Accountability for the National U.S. Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention.
- Chan Hellman. Professor of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma and Director of The Hope Research Center. Chan Hellman's research is focused on HOPE as a psychological strength helping children and adults overcome trauma and adversity.
- Willem Beckers. Counselor at Interactie-Academy, institute for systemic training and therapy. Expertise: highly dependent (young) adults and family violence.
- Dr. Elise Geuens. Expertise: Non-fatal Strangulation & Traumatic Brain Injury.
- Dr. Cath White. Expertise: Non-fatal Strangulation & Sexual Assault.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2018 and 2019

### Annual account 2018 & 2019

<b>Income</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Trainings	€ 7.990,00	€ 2.993,20
Memberships	€ 1.200,00	€ 1.120,00
Donations	€ 1.500,00	€ 1.000,00
Book one safe place	€ 118,25	€ -
Contributions conference EFJCA	€ 23.943,28 +	€ 50.910,44 +
<i>total income</i>	<u>€ 34.751,53</u>	<u>€ 56.023,64</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Conference EFJCA	€ 12.515,52	€ 43.014,97
Conferences Europe/US	€ 18.083,96	€ 1.284,44
Website/communication	€ 2.207,04	€ 4.664,00
Other	€ 247,83	€ 1.053,86
Banking	€ 101,89 +	€ 108,11 +
<i>total expenses</i>	<u>€ 33.156,24</u>	<u>€ 50.125,38</u>
Interest and extraordinary income/expenses	0,00	0,00
<b>Net income</b>	<b>1.595,29</b>	<b>5.898,26</b>
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	€ 1.232,20	€ 6.723,08
Amounts to pay	€ -407,38	€ -
Amounts receivable	€ -	€ -
<i>total assets</i>	<u>€ 824,82</u>	<u>€ 6.723,08</u>