

Vienna, 15 March 2022

## Final Project Event “Safe Places, Thriving Children – Embedding Trauma-Informed Practices into Alternative Care Settings” – Brussels, 02 May 2022

Dear Child Rights Defender,

We would like to invite you to contribute to the contents of the discussions that will be taking place on **02 May 2022 in Brussels**, at La Tricoterie<sup>1</sup>, during the “*Safe Places, Thriving Children*” final project event.

Over the past years, the Covid-19 pandemic has strongly affected children’s mental health and the war in Ukraine is now also taking its toll on the most vulnerable members of society. Those are but a couple of the most current and prominent examples of potential traumatic experiences.

Trauma-informed care recognises trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role trauma may play in an individual’s life - including children and staff. We feel that the topic is more relevant now than ever.

Throughout the day, inputs and discussions steered and inspired by care-experienced young people will address the need to build the capacity of professionals who care for or work with children and young people in alternative care, in order to enable those professionals to be more trauma-sensitive. However, it is also about systems and organizations, as trauma-informed care requires everyone to make a paradigm shift from asking, “What is wrong with this person?” to “What has happened to this person?”

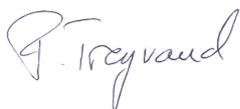
This event is organized by SOS Children’s Villages in the frame of the project “Safe Places, Thriving Children: Embedding Trauma-Informed Practices into Alternative Care Settings”, co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) programme of the European Union. It kindly receives the support of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children’s Rights.

On 02 May, we will listen to young people with care experience, raise awareness of the changes needed at policy and practice level to mainstream trauma-informed care practices into child protection systems, and present the Trauma-Informed Practices training and other interventions that have been developed and rolled-out in the frame of this project.

We hope you will join our discussion on that day and feel inspired to act and set new benchmarks which aim at providing the support, guidance and services children and young people in alternative care really need and that will enable them to become their strongest selves.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and are at your disposal for any questions you may have. For more information on the event, please see the attached concept note and overview agenda.

Best regards,



MS FLORENCE TREYVAUD NEMTZOV  
Senior Project Manager

<sup>1</sup> [La Tricoterie](#) - Rue Theodore Verhaegen 158, 1060 Brussels

## Safe Places, Thriving Children: Embedding Trauma-Informed Practices into Alternative Care Settings

**FINAL PROJECT EVENT**  
2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2022, Brussels

The “*Safe Places, Thriving Children*” final project event shall bring together a range of stakeholders from the child care and protection area including representatives from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, national ministries, child ombudspersons, NGOs, universities, as well as child and youth care practitioners and young people with lived experience of alternative care.

Research shows that children and young people in alternative care are more likely to be affected by adverse childhood experiences. Consequently, systems, organisations and the professionals working in these environments have to be more trauma-aware in order for children to be better protected, cared for and supported to develop to their fullest potential. One key aspect in ensuring that children affected by trauma are supported in their healing is to invest in the capacity of those working directly or indirectly with children and young people growing up in alternative care, and to enable those professionals to better understand and respond to the needs of children and young people.

This event is meant as a platform for disseminating the key messages authored by young people with lived experience of care involved in the project, presenting the different capacity building elements produced and rolled out during the project, as well as recommending what key changes are needed at policy and practice level in order to mainstream trauma-informed care practices into child protection services as a key foundation for enabling children to develop into their strongest selves.

At the event we will:

- ✓ **Listen to young people with lived experience of care** and their key messages as well their experiences in participating in the different project activities (e.g. as co-trainers in the trauma-informed practice trainings).
- ✓ **Present the trauma-informed practice training and the other awareness-raising and capacity building interventions** developed and rolled-out over a 2 years project duration.
- ✓ **Finalise and endorse a Call to Action** around what changes are needed at policy and practice level in order to enable children in alternative care to realize their right to mental health.

#BecomeTraumaAware  
#TraumaAwareness  
#TraumaInformedCare  
#Train4ChildRights

The event is organised by SOS Children's Villages International and SOS Children's Villages Belgium who are part of a project consortium with SOS Children Villages associations in Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary and Serbia, as well as with CELCIS. The project receives financial support from the European Commission DG Justice.



# Safe Places, Thriving Children: Embedding Trauma-Informed Practices into Alternative Care Settings

## Final Project Event

Monday, 02 May 2022 – Programme Overview (version 14.03.2022)

8.45 Registration and welcome breakfast

9.45 Welcome and official opening

10.15 What does “being trauma-informed” really mean?

10.30 Trauma-informed care – key messages and recommendations  
*Podium discussion of care-experienced young experts – Q&A*

11.15 *Comfort break*

11.30 The right to mental health for children and young people in alternative care – how is it anchored (or not) in EU policies and instruments?  
*Podium discussion of topic experts and decision makers – Q&A*

12.15 Call to Action

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Three lines of intervention – an efficient way to embed trauma-informed practices into care settings and organisations

13.50 Meet the...  
*Master Trainers, care-experienced young experts as co-trainers, training participants, trauma-informed organizations **and find out more** about the training, e-learning modules, policy recommendations, and organisational development workshop **at our great Market Place***

15.00 *Coffee break*

15.30 Highlights of the day  
*Findings from the Market Place and reflection from participants*

16.00 Closing session – Final Call to Action and conclusions from rapporteurs

17:00 *End of event*

