

**PROMISE**  
PROJECT SERIES

# **Promoting Progress on Barnahus in Europe**

**Advocacy Guidance**



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## Promoting Progress on Barnahus in Europe

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When children are exposed to violence, States are obliged take measures “to identify, protect and assist victims, to report, refer and investigate violence and to ensure access to redress violations”.<sup>1</sup> The best interests of the child, and children’s rights to be heard and receive information should be at placed the centre of all measures to protect children and investigate violence, in accordance with European and International law, policy and guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

A number of different actors have a duty to protect the rights and well-being of a child who has been a victim of violence. They include social services, medical and mental health services and law enforcement actors. Each actor has an individual responsibility to ensure that their role is fulfilled in an effective and child-friendly manner, and that the child’s best interests remain a primary consideration.

Crucially the different services must also work *together* to ensure a comprehensive and well-coordinated response to the child’s situation. Coordination is key to preventing the child from being exposed to repetitious and potentially intimidating experiences, which can cause retraumatisation and hinder disclosure. This is of central importance, since the child’s disclosure is essential to ensure the safety and protection of the child, to support physical and mental recovery and to secure a successful and child-friendly criminal investigation and judicial process.

Barnahus is widely recognised as a leading approach to provide a child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response to child victims and witnesses of violence. It embraces European and International law and guidance and embodies key principles, through its comprehensive approach and child-friendly practice. It can help Governments to fulfil their obligation to protect and assist victims and to investigate violence against children in many different ways. The PROMISE project has been dedicated to providing experience and resources on Barnahus and to promote this comprehensive approach at national, European and international levels.

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1 Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2 O’Donnell, Rebecca (2017): PROMISE Compendium of Law and Guidance: European and International Instruments concerning Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence, PROMISE Project Series

## The important role of advocacy

National and regional advocacy can play a vital role in encouraging improvements to responses concerning child victims and witnesses of violence. Once policymakers, professionals and the public have heard and understood how Barnahus can fulfil the rights of these children, support for the Barnahus model has consistently grown<sup>3</sup>.

Advocacy can take many different forms and there is not one particular pathway to promoting progress on Barnahus. At its core, advocacy is about influencing others to share your vision of progress. However, developing a strategic and practical plan for your advocacy can help you define and implement activities that are most relevant to your context and your audiences taking into account your particular role and resources.

This Guidance aims to help you develop national and regional advocacy strategies to promote progress on Barnahus.

First, it will discuss what progress means and looks at where we are today in Europe.

It then provides a step by step approach to creating an advocacy pathway in your country.

Finally it sets out calls for action for key stakeholders such as Governments, authorities and agencies, service providers and advocates.

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<sup>3</sup> Wenke, Daja and Heiberg, Turid (2017): Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success Story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe, PROMISE Project Series

# What does progress mean?

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## Protecting and fulfilling the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence

Improving how the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence to protection, assistance and child friendly justice are fulfilled is the progress with which we are concerned. Focusing on achieving the following key principles<sup>4</sup> will drive progress:

1. Respect for the participatory rights of the child by ensuring that he/she is heard and receives adequate information and support to exercise these rights;
2. Multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration during investigations, procedures, diagnostic and needs assessments and service delivery, with the aim of avoiding re-traumatization and securing outcomes that are in the best interests of the child;
3. Comprehensive and accessible services that meet the individual and complex needs of the child and his/her non-offending family or caregivers;
4. Ensuring high professional standards, training and sufficient resources for staff working with child witnesses and victims of violence.

## What is a Barnahus?

A well-functioning Barnahus ensures multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration with the aim of avoiding retraumatisation and securing outcomes in the best interest of the child. It offers comprehensive and accessible services that meet the individual and complex needs of the child. It practises in a way that ensures respect for children's rights to receive information and to be heard without causing retraumatisation. It adopts high professional standards, training and sufficient resources for staff working with child victims and witnesses of violence. And, it contributes to prevention of violence through for example awareness-raising and capacity-building.

Barnahus offers a child-friendly, safe environment for children, bringing together all relevant services **under one roof**.

1. Forensic interviews are carried out according to an evidence based protocol;
2. The evidentiary validity of the child's statement is ensured by appropriate arrangements in line with the principles of "due process". The aim is to prevent the child from having to repeat his/her statement during court proceedings if an indictment is made;
3. Medical evaluation for forensic investigative purposes, as well as to ensure the child's physical well-being and recovery, is made available;
4. Psychological support and short and long term therapeutic services for trauma to the child and non-offending family members and caretakers are made available;
5. Assessment of the protection needs of the victim and potential siblings in the family is made; and follow up is ensured.

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4 The key principles are inspired by the PROMISE Vision <http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/vision>

## Quality standards and a well-functioning Barnahus

The European Barnahus Quality Standards<sup>5</sup> set out a common operational and organisational framework for practice in Barnahus which prevents retraumatisation, while securing valid testimonies for Court, and complies with children's rights protection, assistance and child-friendly justice. The standards contribute to progress in that they promote practice and organisational set-up that enables services to implement effective, child-friendly services to child victims and witnesses of violence. This includes standards which require that the best interests of the child informs practice and decisions; that the right of the child to be heard is fulfilled without repetitive interviews; that the child is interviewed and supported by specialised and competent professionals; that interviews are carried out in a multidisciplinary environment in one child-friendly premises, offering adequate support to the child and care-givers without undue delay and; that the child is not obliged to appear in Court.

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<sup>5</sup> Lind Haldorsson, Olivia (2017): European Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence, PROMISE Project Series

## Where are we now?

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An overview of where we are in Europe today shows us where we are now and the growing interest and investment in Barnahus in Europe.<sup>6</sup>

The first Barnahus opened in Iceland in 1998 and has gradually spread to other countries in Europe. While keeping to the same overall principles and practice, different national contexts have generated different types of Barnahus and child-friendly centres depending on legal systems, social structures, cultural traditions and professional practices. Sometime there has been a gradual process towards developing increasingly comprehensive and well-functioning Barnahus.

Several countries have established, or are in the process of piloting Barnahus models as an integral part of the social protection, health and/or judicial systems. There are also a number of multidisciplinary and interagency services similar to the Barnahus model, which shares the same goal to prevent retraumatisation and offer child-friendly services. Some of these services have been embedded in the national or local health, social services or child protection systems. Others have been established and operate as independent agencies and engage in interagency collaboration in a more informal way. However, these initiatives are not formally embedded in the judicial systems and the evidence collected from children is, with a few exceptions, not valid in Court.<sup>7</sup> In some countries, the evidence is treated as valid, however, the child still has to appear in Court.

Some European countries have adopted a multidisciplinary and interagency approach to child protection without offering joint services in one child-friendly location. The PROMISE framework strongly promotes the “one-stop-shop” approach, through which the child is offered a coordinated response in *one child-friendly location*. In fact, this is considered a key condition to preventing retraumatisation and securing the child’s disclosure.

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6 For more details please visit <http://tinyletter.com/PROMISE/letters/from-pilot-country-to-model-country>

7 Wenke, Daja and Heiberg, Turid (2017): Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success Story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe, PROMISE Project Series



## Where do we go from here?

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Stimulating further progress around Europe relies on continued efforts to promote the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence, the key principles of the PROMISE Vision, the Barnahus model and the European Barnahus Quality standards.

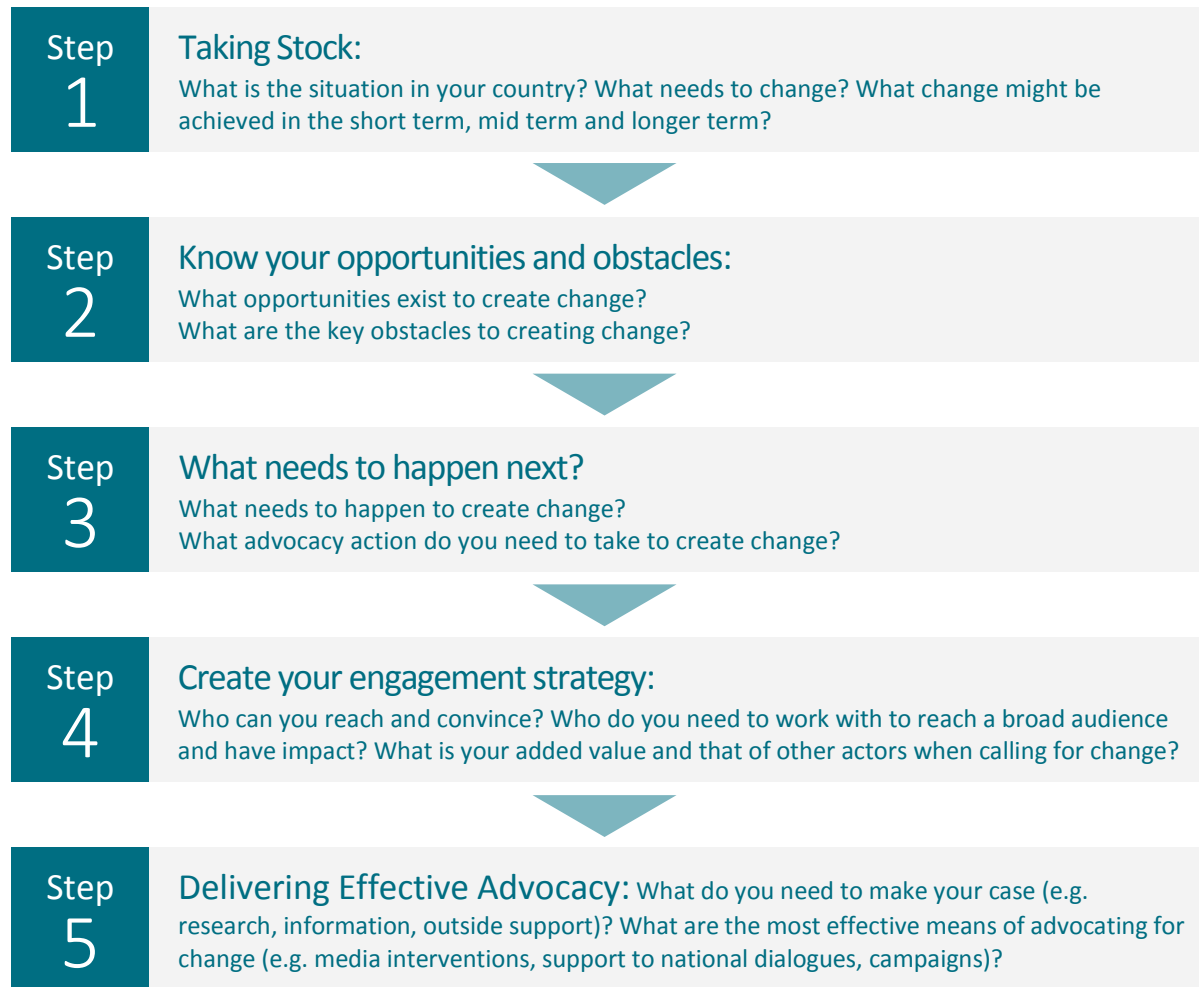
Each national context has its own specific opportunities and challenges to promote Barnahus. Efforts to promote progress must therefore be adapted to the specific situation in each country.

The next section will guide you through a step by step approach to planning advocacy. The PROMISE Portfolio of resources are available to support you in taking action. We explore issues to consider and actions to take at each step.

# Practical Action to Promoting Progress

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## A step by step approach: overview



## How can the PROMISE Portfolio of Resources<sup>8</sup> support advocacy?

### VISION

The vision document sets out the foundations of the Barnahus model, including some key principles that support implementation of the rights of child victims of violence and enables multidisciplinary and interagency work of professionals in the field.

The vision document can help you identify key advocacy messages to promote children’s rights to protection from violence and an enabling environment for the establishment of multi-disciplinary and interagency response.

### PROMOTING GOOD MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTERAGENCY PRACTICE FOR CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF VIOLENCE

Drawing on international and European law and guidance and the Barnahus model, this document introduces **ten good practice standards, the “European Barnahus Quality Standards”**, for multi-disciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of violence.

The guidance on Quality Standards can help you develop key messages that promote child-friendly and effective services under one roof, drawing on standards and indicators that are developed and supported by key child protection experts in Europe.

### THE PROMISE COMPENDIUM ON LAW AND GUIDANCE

The PROMISE Compendium on Law and Guidance provides an overview of relevant EU, Council of Europe and international law and policy and guidelines concerning the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence. It provides a child rights-based perspective for professionals.

The Compendium can help support your advocacy as regards legal requirements and authoritative guidance.

### ENABLING CHILD-SENSITIVE JUSTICE

The report on child-sensitive justice provides an overview of how the Barnahus model has emerged and gradually expanded in Europe. It documents how government officials, practitioners, advocates and entrepreneurs have successfully promoted Barnahus.

This report can help you identify factors and dynamics that enable the establishment of Barnahus and inspire different types of action that you can take to promote Barnahus in your country.

### METHODOLOGY AND TRACKING TOOL

The methodology provides a tool for data collection and analysis of practice, with the aim of assessing the extent to which a service fulfills the European Barnahus Standards. The tracking tool is a simple tool based on the methodology and the European Barnahus Standards, which allows services to make a quick self-assessment of the service against the European Barnahus Standards.

The methodology and tracking tool can help you to assess where you are in the process of establishing a Barnahus and to identify recommendations and messages to secure progress towards the establishment of Barnahus and excellence in practice.

<sup>8</sup> The resources referred to here can be found on [www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/publications/](http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/publications/)

## What issues and actions to consider at each step?

Step  
1

### Taking Stock

What is the situation in your country? What needs to change? What change might be achieved in the short term, mid term and longer term?

All action to promote progress begins with taking stock and determining where you are in the process of establishing and operating a Barnahus and what change needs to happen next.

In your stocktaking exercise, you may, for example, find that there is a low level of awareness about the prevalence and impact of violence against children and/or that there is little public and political support to prioritise action to prevent and address violence against children. In this case, promoting progress may involve championing the key principles behind the Barnahus model. This might include raising awareness about children's rights, in particular, the best interests of children and children's participatory rights. It may focus on raising awareness about the prevalence and impact of violence against children to create aware and supportive political leadership and societies. It may involve advocating for political prioritization and resources for action to prevent and address violence, in particular, multidisciplinary and interagency response. It may also concern promoting high professional standards and specialized training for service providers.

Perhaps there already is recognition and support for the key principles and an openness to exploring good practice and different multidisciplinary and interagency models in your country?

Promoting Barnahus may then involve convincing authorities and the leadership of key agencies to contribute to, and engage in, multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration. It may involve promoting Barnahus as a leading model for effective, coordinated and multidisciplinary response that places the best interests of the child at the centre of all action and decisions, prevents retraumatisation and ensures children's participatory rights. It may concern demonstrating that the Barnahus is equipped with specialized staff and technical facilities that allow for professional forensic interviews to collect children's testimonies, while respecting the rights of the defendants. It may also mean advocating for policy, procedure and law reform that enables effective operation of Barnahus, including exchange of information and to ensure that the testimonies collected in Barnahus become valid in Court.

Perhaps a Barnahus or a similar model already is piloted or established in your country?

Promoting progress goes beyond establishing the Barnahus, to expanding its use throughout a country, to a broader target group, reaching excellence in practice and achieving continued broad political and public support, including through positive and ethical media reporting. This phase may also involve promoting the European Barnahus Quality Standards.

Step  
2

### Know your opportunities and obstacles

What opportunities exist to create change?  
What are the key obstacles to creating change?

It is important regularly to identify what opportunities exist to bring attention to the need for change. There are many different triggers that might offer the moment to make the case for change in your country (for example, a specific event, development or process).

It is also important to think about at what level, or where, an opportunity might arise. In some instances, there may be momentum to create change at a local level, in a specific location, rather than at national level. It may be important to seize that opportunity to begin progress that can be subsequently scaled up.

Identifying specific obstacles to creating change is also vital. Issues which have the potential to block progress may be not be obvious, including, for example, latent misconceptions about how to ensure credible testimony from children or unarticulated resistance to interagency work in the field. Actively exploring whether these types of obstacles exist is important, in particular, by finding ways to examine the day to day experiences of children and practitioners. Having open and clear dialogue is a valuable starting point.

Aim to get a real overview of all of the key factors that should influence what advocacy action you take. Here are some illustrations of points to consider:

### What opportunities for advocacy may exist?

- A specific case?
- Is there media reporting and public debate about a relevant issue?
- Is there a political debate about a relevant issue?
- Can research play a role? If so, in which ways?
- Have specific needs been identified by professionals?
- Is there a conference or event that might promote a focus on a key issue?
- Ongoing law reform?
- Policy driven reform?
- Is there open or informal pressure by an organisation, institution or other influential actors?
- Are there more general initiatives to strengthen child-sensitive justice approaches which can include a focus on this issue?

### What obstacles may need to be overcome by advocacy?

- Resistance to the Barnahus model, for example, where specific professions may prefer to use current approaches;
- Limited understanding about the way a child can contribute and participate in proceedings
- Practical hesitations such as a perception that Barnahus is not cost effective
- Concerns that the Barnahus model conflicts with other principles central to the justice proceedings, e.g. that the rights of defence require different procedures.

## Step 3

### What needs to happen next?

What needs to happen to create change?

What advocacy action do you need to take to create change?

Having established where you are, what changes are needed, and what specific opportunities and obstacles exist, the next step will be to identify what advocacy action you can take. Table I below provides some suggestions for action. There may be several types of action relevant at each different phase.

<b>Raising awareness</b>	What do people need to be aware of to understand the changes that are needed to establish and operate a Barnahus? For example, do you need to build an understanding of the prevalence of violence against children, the potential impact of criminal proceedings on children in the absence of adapted safeguards, or the challenges for professionals in the field? Is it important to raise awareness on the opportunities for progress through, for example, better multidisciplinary and interagency responses?
<b>Calling for research</b>	How can you call for research to be undertaken? Is there a national policy process that might programme a particular piece of research? Or are academic actors or professional bodies likely to undertake such research? What foundation/NGOs/IGOs might undertake such research? What are the most useful parameters for research? Is there any international research that might prove interesting or provide inspiration for research areas in your country?
<b>Calling for a mapping/roundtable discussion</b>	Is a mapping needed of relevant law, policy, procedures and practices? Might a roundtable of relevant stakeholders be an important means to exchange experience and share knowledge?
<b>Advocating for new policies for child victims of violence</b>	Can you advocate for a new policy framework? From where would that policy best emerge? Might the ministry of justice, social services or children’s ministries, support the development or use of Barnahus? Is action by professional bodies (such as the legal, social workers, medical, psychology, forensic professional bodies) needed?
<b>Advocating for reform of law and/or procedures</b>	Is a specific reform, law or procedures is needed, for example, as regards or the manner in which criminal investigations involving child victims are carried out or obligations concerning protection and assistance of child victims?
<b>Advocating for resource allocation/budget processing</b>	Is funding needed for a location or for the provision of particular services? How can you engage in mobilising resources for the establishment or operation of a Barnahus? Is it important to aim to secure initial funding for the location of the service and a “pilot” phase? Is there an opportunity to seek an agreement on a shared budget from different services?
<b>Urging consultation on service commissioning</b>	If there is a formal commissioning process for relevant appropriate services, can you advocate for a consultative process to influence it and ensure it is properly designed to enable the Barnahus to come into existence or operate effectively?
<b>Promoting a change in culture</b>	Is a change in culture concerning how particular activities are carried out by specific professionals needed? Is it important to focus advocacy on particular organizations/professional bodies on the need, or way in which, to carry out particular activities in a more multidisciplinary interagency child-centred way needed?
<b>Promoting cooperation between professionals</b>	What is needed to require or support cooperation between professionals? For example, can you call for agreements, tools or practical arrangements such as co-location, referral mechanisms, data-sharing confidentiality agreements need to be developed?
<b>Promoting the adoption of specific practices</b>	Is it important to promote specific practices? For example, the use of particular interview protocols?
<b>Promoting specialisation &amp; training</b>	Do actors need to understand how specialised resources and training may be essential to ensure quality standards are met?

Illustrations of actions to promote progress on Barnahus in different phases
<p><b>Championing the key principles behind the Barnahus Model</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging or carrying out research on violence against children and good practice.</li> <li>• Encouraging experience in multidisciplinary and interagency cooperation.</li> <li>• Promoting the introduction of the specific safeguards at the heart of the Barnahus model, such as interview procedures which prevent retraumatisation.</li> <li>• Building the case on how a Barnahus approach could be funded and sustained.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building the Barnahus</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling or making it mandatory for relevant agencies to engage in multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration under one roof.</li> <li>• Taking measures that will enable the operation of Barnahus, including measures that enable exchange of information between involved agencies.</li> <li>• Ensuring that children’s testimonies collected in Barnahus are valid evidence in Court so that child victims and witnesses of violence do not have to appear in Court.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Achieving excellence in practice</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopting national quality standards for agencies that provide services to child victims and witnesses of violence, promoting formal multidisciplinary and interagency response under one roof.</li> <li>• Make national certification and regular evaluation of Barnahus mandatory.</li> <li>• Make regular training, supervision and review of Barnahus staff mandatory.</li> <li>• Ensure that Barnahus premises are child-friendly, accessible and adapted to all children.</li> <li>• Establish national coordination mechanisms and a national centre of expertise to ensure coherent, comprehensive and coordinated response that meet high professional standards.</li> <li>• Invest adequate financial resources and take administrative and legal measures to ensure that <i>all</i> children have access to Barnahus and receive a multidisciplinary response with specialized staff.</li> <li>• Ensure that special efforts are made to reach marginalized, particularly vulnerable children and children living in remote places.</li> </ul>

Step  
4

**Create your engagement strategy:**  
*Who can you reach and convince? Who do you need to work with to reach a broad audience and have impact? What is your added value and that of other actors when calling for change?*

Who are you working to influence? Who are you working with? Identifying your advocacy targets at the outset for each of your actions is important. Identifying who your advocacy partners will also help your action be most effective. A clear engagement strategy will ensure you focus your efforts to advocate for change and support you in keeping short-, mid- and long term actions on track.

Map the different actors involved and the roles they play. Think about local, national, regional and international actors who might play a role. Think about which actors may have particular credibility, and which actors will bring a particular commitment and energy to promoting progress.

Who do you need to talk to and who do you need to meet? Consider your own strategic value in creating change. Who can you reach and convince? When do you need to bring together a range of actors around the message and how? Joint advocacy can help you reach a broad audience and have a strong impact.

There are a number of ways that you can work with others to initiate, support and join action to promote Barnahus.

- To disseminate information and messages through actors with influence and power to bring about change
- To build alliances with actors who have influence or power
- To connect the right messenger with the right actor
- To build constituencies and broad support - increases legitimacy and credibility
- To use your or other agencies' role as convener on child rights to create joint interagency advocacy opportunities
- To extend reach and access

The box below provides suggestions for question to consider to determine which actors you should engage with, why and how.

<b>Considering the different types of stakeholders who are likely to be relevant</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National, local, regional and international actors</li> <li>• Authorities, services, policy makers, legal, social and health professionals, professional bodies, rights organisations, academics, ombudsmen, political champions, foundations, public figures, media, monarchy</li> </ul>
<b>Identifying with which stakeholders you need to engage</b>
<p>Who is it useful to engage to promote progress? This can involve either building alliances with like-minded or trying to convince opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is likely to gain from progress?</li> <li>• Who might believe they would be adversely affected?</li> <li>• Who has the power to make things happen?</li> <li>• Who complains about the issue?</li> <li>• Who are the vulnerable groups that can advocate for this?</li> <li>• Who can generate lasting and strong commitment to the Barnahus?</li> </ul>
<b>Questions to consider on stakeholders' influence</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the political, social and economic power and status of the stakeholder?</li> <li>• How well is the stakeholder organised?</li> <li>• What control does the stakeholder have over strategic resources?</li> <li>• What level of informal influence does the stakeholder have?</li> <li>• How committed is the stakeholder to the process, on a short-, mid- and long term basis?</li> </ul>
<b>Form of cooperation and action (for example advocate/partner; convener/facilitator; expert/influential)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What type of engagement/action can you take jointly that would maximise impact?</li> <li>• Joint advocacy?</li> <li>• Facilitating civil society dialogue and/or child participation?</li> <li>• Supporting campaigns?</li> <li>• Negotiating standards and promoting rights with opponents?</li> </ul>



## Step 5

**Delivering Effective Advocacy:** What do you need to make your case (e.g. research, information, outside support)? What are the most effective means of advocating for change (e.g. media interventions, support to national dialogues, campaigns)?

It is not always easy to reduce complex issues and information into a tailored and targeted contribution. However, delivering a persuasive, evidence-based message, adapted to the particular opportunity, will in most cases both save time and maximise impact. The list below provides suggestions that can help you plan an effective contribution.

### Planning an effective contribution

- **Understand what will motivate and move your audience in a particular context and on a particular issue.** What are their interests and priorities? What do they want, and need, to hear to take action? Who might they need to hear it from?
- **Ensure that your contributions are adapted to the environment and measure it wants to influence.** A thorough analysis of the purpose and format of the measure will help determine exactly what kind of information is appropriate. A contribution to law or policy reform might look very different to a contribution to national public debate.
- **Choose the right words to get the message across.** Language should be clear, concise and audience-appropriate. Carefully select language, tone and information adapted to audience and opportunity.
- **Provide clear evidence and data to support your message.** Making sure that messages are based on evidence and referring to reliable data can increase the likelihood that decision-makers decide to take action and help deliver change.
- **Be succinct and refer to reports and other material for further reading.** It is often important that your input first ignites an interest for action and pave the way for further contributions. Referring to relevant reports and additional material will already be helpful to actors tasked to initiate action.

### What do you need to make your case?

#### What are the most effective means of contributing to change?

- Research? Information? Outside support?
- What evidence exists on key concerns (statistics, information on models etc)
- Can information on models from other countries be persuasive?
- Can examples from other sectors be influential, for example multidisciplinary and interagency cooperation in other areas such as child protection more generally?
- Can jurisprudence from regional or international fora help persuade of the need for change?
- What case needs to be made on financial / economic issues, for instance social costs of violence against children?
- Media interventions?
- Support to national dialogues?
- Campaigns?
- Do you need to work with data collected, monitoring reports or evaluation?
- Do you need to promote outreach based on the direct experience of the Barnahus?

**Consider ways to address specific concerns vigorously:**

- Where mapping exercises are conducted in a multi-stakeholder effort, they can generate a broad-based understanding of the gaps, ownership of the process towards reform and the recognition of the Barnahus as a solution that works.
- Are multi-country and cross-sectoral training programmes available, which will spread knowledge within a country and professional societies?
- Is data available on costs or impact of services for child victims of violence?
- Are study visits to Barnahus available?

**DID YOU  
KNOW**



All countries that have succeeded to establish the Barnahus model have previously organised study visits to a Barnahus or comparable model. Study visits with multidisciplinary delegations, including political decision makers, have been decisive to pave the way for the establishment of the model in their own countries.

Involvement of heads of states, ministers and high-level entrepreneurs in the study visits can generate intense media coverage and enhance public information and debate.

Where delegations are made by local groups of professionals and officials from different sectors who are already cooperating on cases of violence against children, the joint learning during these study visits has been conducive to team building and helped to strengthen their cooperation.

# Promoting Progress – Recommendations and Calls for Action

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## Calls for Taking Action

### Governments, national, regional and local authorities

- Promote and support policy and law reform to prevent and address violence against children, including making multidisciplinary and interagency coordination and collaboration mandatory;
- Promote and support policy, procedure and law reform to enable exchange of information between agencies in interagency teams;
- Allocate adequate budget resources for preventing and addressing violence against children, including for child-friendly, comprehensive and accessible multidisciplinary and interagency services;
- Allocate adequate budget resources for awareness-raising about the prevalence and impact of violence;

### Agencies (law enforcement, health, social services, child protection, mental health, judicial)

- Commit and contribute actively to formal multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration, including through formal interagency agreements and protocols that govern information-sharing;
- Promote and resource a one-stop-shop approach, that is, multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration and service provision under one roof;
- Allocate adequate resources for staff for multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration and child-friendly interventions under one roof (e.g. specialized medical and mental health staff and staff with training in forensic interviews with children according to evidence-based protocols);
- Allocate adequate equipment and other necessary resources for multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration and child-friendly interventions under one roof (e.g. technical equipment for audio-visual transmission and recording of forensic interviews);
- Allocate adequate resources for regular joint and individual training, capacity-building and supervision of professionals;
- Adopt quality standards and carry out regular evaluations of the multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration.

### Advocates, service providers (including Barnahus) and other stakeholders

- Promote and support awareness raising campaigns and national debates about violence against children, effective prevention and multidisciplinary and interagency response;
- Advocate for policy, procedures and law reform;
- Build alliances to champion the Barnahus model and the European Barnahus Quality Standards;
- Contribute to mapping, data collection, research, capacity-building, study visits and media reporting about violence against children and multidisciplinary and interagency response;
- Support fundraising for the establishment of Barnahus.

### Media

- Support awareness-raising on, for example, children's rights, the prevalence and impact of violence against children, good practice, (the need for) policy and law reform;
- Cover national debates, initiatives to end violence against children and research;
- Cover high-profile cases in an ethical manner, fully respecting the privacy of child victims and witnesses and their families, avoiding harmful behavior, such as inappropriate interviews, and refraining from sensationalist and disrespectful reporting;
- Adopt and make strict ethical media standards, child protection policies and professional codes of conduct mandatory for staff.

# P R O M I S E

PROJECT SERIES

## The PROMISE Project Series

can be found at:

[www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise](http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise)

### **Barnahus Quality Standards**

Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence

### **Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice**

The Success Story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe

### **PROMISE Compendium of Law and Guidance**

European and International Instruments concerning Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence

### **The PROMISE Tracking Tool**

### **Promoting Progress on Barnahus in Europe**

Advocacy Guidance



This document was produced with co-funding from the European Union through the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020). This publication only reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein.

