The Working Group on Children Recruited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups (hereinafter, the “CRTG”) has been established within the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (hereinafter, “CPCJ Alliance”), CoNGO Committee to the United Nations in New York City. Since November 2018, the CRTG has proactively supported the CPCJ Alliance purposes and ends, including the promotion of policies that foster the development of effective and transparent crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, a continuous encouragement for international cooperation and multidisciplinary approaches, a commitment to advocate respect for the dignity and rights of victims of crime and abuse of power and those in conflict with the law, and the advancement of the protection and restoration of the well-being of all persons and communities affected by crime. The CRTG has built on the role of the CPCJ Alliance in supporting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Economic and Social Council and United Nations Member States in the areas of crime, terrorism prevention and criminal justice. The CRTG has formed as a coalition of I/NGOs, institutions and international experts involved in the fight against the recruitment and use of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups and it serves as a cross-sectoral platform connecting United Nations Member States, United Nations agencies, professionals, practitioners, and the broad civil society to enhance coordination in the prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts. The CRTG is a conveyer to strengthen civil society action in the protection of children and in the prevention and countering of terrorism and violent extremism and it builds capacity of such actors to devise effective, solution-oriented strategies. Together with its growing network, the CRTG develops and delivers research, advisory and advocacy and it has laid the foundation to become the go-to platform where public, non-profit and private sector leaders cooperate to develop and implement solutions to impact against this grave phenomenon.

Cecilia Polizzi
Founder & Chair
Working Group on Children recruited by Terrorist and violent Extremist Groups
Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice