

# EFRJ Summer School Gdansk 2019

## Trainers' biographies

**Bie Vanseveren** (Belgium), graduated in Ortho-pedagogy, started her professional career whilst working with people with a disabilities. Since 1998 she works in the field of restorative justice with adolescent delinquents and victims, more specifically as a mediator and Family Group Facilitator, for an organization named BAS (now called Alba vzw\*), where she is still working today. She is one of the pioneers who implemented Family Group Conferencing in Belgium and trained many other facilitators. Apart from working for Alba vzw, she is also an independent mediator in youth care, dealing with conflicts between clients and the institutions. During all these years working with youngsters, she noticed it isn't always easy to talk. Sometimes as result of the difficulties of the case or situation, but also because talking isn't everyone's cup of tea. That's how she got more engaged in working with materials and images. Over time, she has developed different strategies and started sharing her knowledge with colleagues and people interested in these method.

**\*Alba vzw:** Due to conflicts within social norms or with someone's environment, youngsters or young adults are referred to Alba. Alba tries to start a creative dialogue, without prejudices and in an authentic way. This with respect for everyone involved and everyone's opinion. We are flexible in our work to be able to have a maximum of participation of all concerned in the situation.



**Belinda Hopkins** (UK) is the director of Transforming Conflict\*, the National Centre for Restorative Approaches in Youth and Community Settings. She gained her doctorate in 2006 with research into the implementation of a whole school restorative approach. She is passionate about sharing how the ethos, principles and practices of Restorative Approaches can transform communities and institutions. She still runs training courses herself, writes books and articles, develops training materials and resources, and speaks at conferences nationally and internationally. In 2019 she is doing an increasing amount of work in Europe, developing partnerships and links in Belgium, Spain, Ukraine and Germany. She moderates the Facebook page called European Circle for Restorative Educators and is keen to see this as a place for people to network and support each other. Belinda is accredited by the UK Restorative Justice Council as an Accredited Practitioner. She is also member of the European Forum for Restorative Justice Values and Principles Working Group.

**\*Transforming Conflict:** founded in the mid 90's, the organisation was the first to offer training and consultancy to schools who wanted to develop a restorative approach. Transforming Conflict has now established itself as one of the foremost providers of training and consultancy in the field of restorative approaches nationally and internationally. The organisation has been recognised as a provider of high quality training by the UK's Restorative Justice Council (RJC).



More info on the EFRJ Summer School 2019: <http://www.euforumj.org/events/summerschool2019/>