

International Online Seminars



Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to announce another series of International Online Seminars on a range of topics related to our Anti-Bias early childhood care and education work organized by the STAND UP International Network. The seminar topics come from the needs, preferences and experiences you have communicated to us as participants in our previous conferences. The upcoming topics also reflect the objectives of our STAND UP network. These include:

- Deepening our understanding about the ABE goals
- Expanding our tools for engaging children and adults for ABE
- Strengthening our work through connecting and learning with others
- Exploring next steps for ECEC equity work and identifying supports
- Recharging our commitment to equity ECEC work with children and adults and strengthen each other to go further.

Seminar One: October 7th, 2025. “Families and Anti-Bias Values and Goals: Implications for Practice”

First in the line is a seminar about working with families, led by **Debbie LeeKeenan** and **John Nimmo**. A 50-minute documentary, illuminates how families, in various ways, describe how they want their children to develop positive social identities, express comfort and joy with human differences, and form deep, caring connections. Conversations with them also reveal their hopes, fears, strengths, challenges, and the kind of world they want to create for their children. Debbie and John are also co-authors with Louise

Derman-Sparks of ‘*Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide to Change, for Change*’ (2023, second edition).

Seminar Two: November 3rd, 2025. “Art and Anti-Bias Education: Working with children, families and professionals”

Art in a myriad of forms is a central part of almost all cultures. This seminar will explore the use of Art in Anti-Bias work with children, families and professionals in Greece, including children of refugee families. It will be presented by **Anastasia Vafea** and **Kyriaki Kolliniati**, representatives of “Schedia”(Raft) - Center for Artistic and Pedagogical Training, founding members of the STAND UP International Network.

We look forward to your participation in the first two seminars of our new round of international online seminars!

Program & Logistics

Target groups: Educators/pedagogues, coaches and trainers, managers in all aspects of Early Childhood Education and Care, with experience implementing Anti-bias approaches with young children, families and communities.

Online-events: The seminars are online-events via Zoom. Participants will receive their login details after their registration.

Costs: The seminars are free of charge.

Language: The primary language of the seminars will be English.

Seminar One: “Families and Anti-Bias Values and Goals: Implications for Practice”

Date: Tuesday 7 October 2025

Time: 6 pm to 8 pm (Berlin time)

Form: Plenary session

Program:

Join Debbie LeeKeenan and John Nimmo, for a virtual screening and discussion of their latest film, *Families Embracing Anti-bias Values*. This 50-minute documentary is about families who intentionally parent with an anti-bias lens, exploring their hopes, fears, strengths and challenges and the pivotal question: *What kind of world do we want to create with our children?* The film depicts these families in their everyday experiences at home, in their communities and schools. Following the film, we will engage in discussion about implications for practice in our respective settings.

Registration: Please register by **September 30th, 2025**. For your registration use this link:

<https://forms.gle/ZKYPdopZLyJWpDRg9>

After registration you will receive a confirmation. The zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the seminar. For questions, please contact Kyriaki Kolliniati: kyriaki_kollin@hotmail.com

Presented by:

Debbie LeeKeenan

Co-Director & Co-Founder of [Anti-Bias Leaders ECE](#); lecturer, consultant and author.

John Nimmo

Professor Emeritus, Portland State University; Co-Director & Co-Founder of Anti-Bias Leaders ECE
www.antibiasleadersece.com

Meet Debbie LeeKeenan & John Nimmo:

Debbie LeeKeenan, M.Ed., has been in the field of early education for over 50 years. She is a former preschool, special education, and elementary school teacher. She was director of the Eliot-Pearson Children's School at Tufts University from 1996 to 2013. She has been a member of the early childhood faculty at Tufts University, Lesley University and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Debbie is producer of the films, [*Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years*](#), (2021) and [*Families Embracing Anti-Bias Values*](#) (2024). Her work has been published in numerous journals and books, including *Young Children*, *Exchange* and *Theory into Practice*. Her most recent co-authored books include: [*From Survive to Thrive: A Director's Guide for Leading an Early Childhood Program*](#) and [*Leading Anti-bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide to Change, for Change*](#). Debbie is lead editor of an upcoming book: [*No Single Story: Amplifying the Voices of Asian American and Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Early Educators*](#). Debbie is Chinese-American, the child of immigrant working-class parents and is part of a multi-racial family.

John Nimmo, Ed.D., has taught courses on social justice and children's rights at Portland State University since 2016. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Child Study and Development Center and Associate Professor at the University of New Hampshire, and earlier, faculty at Pacific Oaks College. John's co-authored/edited books are [*Loris Malaguzzi and the Teachers*](#), *Leading Anti-bias Early Childhood Programs* (with Louise-Derman-Sparks & Debbie LeeKeenan), and *Emergent Curriculum*. John is a producer of three ECE films: [*The Voices of Children*](#), *Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action*, and *Families Embracing Anti-Bias Values*. He holds a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and began his 50+ years in the field as an early childhood teacher in his first home of Australia. As a White cis-gender man with Scottish and German heritage, John views his role as the father of two now-adult children and as a grandparent as critical to his vision for a just world.

Seminar Two: “Art and Anti-Bias Education: Working with children, families and professionals”

Date: Monday 3 November 2025

Time: 6 pm to 8 pm (Berlin time)

Form: Plenary session

Program:

- **30 minutes presentation:** working with children, by Kyriaki Kolliniati
- **30 minutes presentation:** working with families, by Anastasia Vafea
- **30 minutes presentation:** working with professionals, by Kyriaki Kolliniati & Anastasia Vafea

For each of the 3 categories we will start with a brief presentation (10 minutes), then we will show relevant audiovisual material from Schedia's programs/actions (15 minutes) and we will end with a 5 minutes' closure on the specific issue.

- **30 minutes discussion with participants & closure**

Registration: Please register by **October 27th, 2025**. For your registration use this link:

<https://forms.gle/BrMhCzqbmfgq1yhP9>

After registration you will receive a confirmation. The zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the seminar. For questions, please contact Kyriaki Kolliniati: kyriaki_kollin@hotmail.com

Presented by:

Anastasia
Chatzistefanou-
Vafea

Director of “Schedia” (Raft) - Center for Artistic and
Pedagogical Training, Athens/Greece

www.schedia-art.gr

Kyriaki Kolliniati

Coordinator of STAND UP International Network, school social worker, social worker at “Schedia” (Raft) - Center for Artistic and Pedagogical Training, Athens/Greece

Few words about “Schedia” (Raft) - Center for Artistic and Pedagogical Training:

Schedia (Raft) - Center for Artistic and Pedagogical Training, founded in 1987, is a Greek NGO dedicated to promoting social justice and equity through education and art. Schedia’s activities aim at defending human rights, with a specific focus on children's rights. The organization promotes pedagogical research and artistic experimentation, using Art as a methodological tool for fostering respect for diversity. For almost 40 years Schedia has been organizing and implementing socio-pedagogical action/research programs for children, families and childcare professionals. In these programs Schedia has been using the Anti-Bias Approach and Art with the aim of combating social exclusion through empowerment of children and adolescents who belong to marginalized social groups, and ensuring children's equal access to education and social well-being. Schedia is also renowned for its advocacy work for the defense of human rights. Schedia is a member of national and international networks for the promotion of equity and social justice.

Schedia has disseminated the Anti-Bias Approach in Greece, by publishing the Greek edition of *Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children* by Louise Derman-Sparks in 2004. It has developed models of artistic activities based on the four goals of the Anti-Bias Approach. These have been implemented in the context of the after-school centers run by the organization. In addition, Schedia has effectuated many experiential training programs for pre-school and primary school educators on the Anti-Bias Approach through Art. More than 2.000 educators have taken part in the above training workshops. The Anti-Bias book has been used as a handbook for students of the departments of Pre-school Education at two Universities in Greece (University of Ioannina and Democritus University of

Thrace). As one of the founding members of the European Network “DECET”, Schedia has taken part in the dissemination of Anti-Bias Education to educators in several European countries.

Seminar Organizers

The seminars are organized by the STAND UP International Network, whose founding members are:

Louise Derman-Sparks	Teacher of young children, college teacher, author and activist, California/ USA rldsparks@aol.com
Ana del Barrio Saiz	Advisor diversity & inclusion in ECEC and education, Ana del Barrio Training & Consulting, Voorschoten/ The Netherlands www.anadelbarrio.nl
Anastasia Chatzistefanou-Vafea	Director of “Schedia” (Raft) - Center for Artistic and Pedagogical Training, Athens/ Greece www.schedia-art.gr
Dalvir Gill	Senior Lecturer, UCL (Institute of Education), London/ UK
Kyriaki Kolliniati	Coordinator of STAND UP International Network, school social worker, social worker at “Schedia” (Raft) - Center for Artistic and Pedagogical Training, Athens/ Greece
Colette Murray	Lecturer Technological University Dublin/ Ireland, Equality and Diversity Early Childhood National Network www.edenn.ie

Mathias Urban

Professor of Early Childhood Education and Director,
Early Childhood Research Centre, Dublin City University,
Dublin/ Ireland

Petra Wagner

Trainer at Kinderwelten, Berlin/ Germany
www.kinderwelten.net



**International Network for Equity & Social Justice
in Early Childhood Education & Care**

Website: <https://standup-network.net/>