



International Migration Law (IML)
NGO Learning Initiative

Session Seven

The rights of the child in international migration

Evidence shows that children are highly represented among migrant populations. Children are also affected by migration when their parent(s) or caregiver(s) migrate and children remain home under the care of other family members, including siblings, or under the care of family friends. Evidence also demonstrates that, while migration can enhance the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of the child and offer her/him new opportunities, it can also expose the child to various risks and child rights violations (UNICEF: [Uprooted](#)). With the right laws, policies and practices, however, such risks can be avoided or mitigated, and the positive impacts of migration for children can be maximised.

Objective of the session: Participants will learn about the international legal framework on the rights of the child and its implementation in the context of international migration. They will also hear about existing NGO good practices, challenges and ongoing work in addressing the identified challenges.

- ⇒ Introduction: organisers (8')

- ⇒ First speaker: **Mirela Shuteriqi, Director of Policy, ICVA (20')**
 - Overview of international legal framework
 - From international law to practices for children:
 - Non-discrimination
 - The right to identity
 - The right to liberty
 - The right to family life
 - Protection from every form of violence
 - The right to health care& education
 - Best interests of the child, etc.

- ⇒ Second speaker: **Caroline Horne, Head of Destination Unknown and Co-Chair of the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts (DU), Terre des Hommes (20')**
 - Examples of interventions on the ground by DU members
 - Collaborative campaigning - Destination Unknown and the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts: coordinating and bringing experience from the ground to joint advocacy

- ⇒ Questions and Answers (Q&A) session (30')

- ⇒ Closing remarks: organisers (8')

Further reading:

- [Joint general comment](#) No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration
- [Joint general comment](#) No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return
- Committee on the Rights of the Child, [General Comment](#) No. 6 (2005), Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children outside their country of origin
- [Uprooted](#) The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children, UNICEF, 2016
- [A child is a child](#) Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation, UNICEF 2017
- [Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts](#) contains information on the Initiative and its members as well as related resources and publications (see in particular [recent publication on examples of child-focused work in line with the refugee compact](#))
- Save the children Resource Center, [Children on the move](#) page is a virtual library of 230 documents and publications on the subject
- [Destination Unknown](#)
- [UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti](#) webpage on Children on the move contains also various useful tools and publications on the subject
- [Explore, Engage, Act](#) – Youth-friendly guide to the Global Compacts by the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts