



## **Background Paper**

Committee: Human Rights

Topic A: Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents

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Migration is the movement of people to a new area or country, they do this in order to find better work and life opportunities. Usually, migration is motivated by the multiple human rights violations people suffer in their countries of origin, as well as the lack of protection from various manifestations of violence, poverty, lack of opportunities, poor access to education and health services, ill-treatment at home and various kinds of threats, intimidation and insecurity. Over time, there has been an increase of more than 36 million children and adolescents that migrate outside of their country. Through debating it is expected that delegates can find a solution to control and protect the rights of the vast number of future generations. The Human Rights Committee and the United Nations are deeply concerned about this rapidly increasing number of young migrants; especially those that are unaccompanied or have become separated from their families, and who face dangers while crossing international borders on their way to other countries.

Ever since the second half of the 90's, countries all over the world have started to receive millions of child and adolescent migrants. Today, the countries with the biggest record and number of migrants is the United States in the American Continent with a constant increase of migrants every day. In European countries, there has been recorded 209,756 asylum claims by children and adolescents, therefore the total is more than 30% of all asylum seekers across Europe. Germany is the top destination for migrant children and adolescents with more than 89,205 children of whom 9,084 are unaccompanied. It is followed by France with 20,970 child migrants, Greece with 19,790 (2,454 unaccompanied) and Italy with 16,309 (9,782 unaccompanied). Over the years, the United Nations and UNICEF have been working closely with different partners to develop a roadmap that provides guidelines to improve the care and protection of refugee and migrant children, whether they are travelling alone or with somebody else. This roadmap highlights the need to identify children, register them

through child-friendly procedures, and build a relationship of trust with them as early as possible. Also, it ensures a well-trained guardian to take immediate responsibility for the child, to engage them in the new culture, and help to build a trusting relationship that protects children or adolescents from smugglers, traffickers. Apart from that, the UN and UNICEF also offer 'Blue Dot' centers that provide psychosocial support and other child protection services, as well as constantly reinforcing national efforts to protect more than 20,000 vulnerable refugee and migrant children.

Meanwhile, the world has seen an increase in the numbers of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents with more than 36 million all over the world. The inclusion of protection and provisions for these migrants is what has encouraged more and more people to leave their country and search for a better quality of life, the United States, Germany, France, Greece and Italy being their main destinations due to their relative proximity to the areas that people are migrating from and the help these destinations are able to offer migrants. The support from the United Nations and UNICEF has definitely helped these migrants to be safe and protected, however a solution to control and protect the rights of this massive number of immigrants for the future has yet to be found.

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