

# FOCUS ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION

- FROM A EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND METHOD PERSPECTIVE



**A EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
WARSAW, POLAND 20-21 MARCH 2007**



European Network of  
Masters in Children's Rights



**Save the Children**  
Sweden



Separated Children in Europe Programme

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**INTRODUCTION**

Children make up a large proportion of international migration flows. Exact figures are impossible to ascertain due to the underground nature of the problem but there is little doubt that numbers are on the increase. Globally unaccompanied children make up 4 per cent of the total number of asylum seekers. This figure does not include those who have migrated undetected, either alone or by organised criminal gangs.

Migration of children in Europe is a multifaceted and complex issue, and includes asylum seeking and refugee children, children forced or voluntarily migrating for work, children being abandoned when their parents migrate, as well as children being trafficked for various exploitative purposes. According to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the departure of children to neighbouring countries is an issue of particular concern, and many children leave their country unaccompanied by their parents. Trafficking of children under 18, especially adolescent girls, for sexual and commercial exploitation occurs in many countries and adequate preventive and protection measures are not fully in place in all parts of Europe.

A large number of separated unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have disappeared from European reception centres and are vulnerable of abuse and exploitation. The issues of slow asylum processing, violent incidents towards internally displaced refugees and the lack of adequate psychosocial services are also of great concern in Europe. There is furthermore a growing number of children without legal documentation.

The absence of relevant statistical data with respect to separated unaccompanied children, as well as children being trafficked or leaving their country to work in neighbouring countries, makes it difficult to assess the situation of children in migration in Europe, and hence also to answer with corresponding preventive and protective actions in the practical support work.

**Save the Children Sweden, Separated Children in Europe Network and the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights** are pleased to invite you to the European Conference 'Focus on Children in Migration', aiming to highlight some of the issues of concern listed above.

**OBJECTIVES**

To create a meeting arena for researchers from Universities, Non-Governmental Organisations and European Regional Bodies, in order to stimulate discussions on the latest research findings on various aspects of children in migration in Europe, from a child rights perspective.

**FACILITY:**           **Hotel Lord**  
Al. Krakowska 218  
02-219 Warszawa  
Poland

**FEE:**                 **€80.00**  
The fee is paid at the registration desk of the conference, in cash in EURO. Coffee breaks, 2 lunches and dinner Tuesday evening are included in the fee. Please note that participation in the conference is possible only for those who have received confirmation of attendance in advance.

**REGISTRATION:** The closing date for registering to the conference is January 31 2007. Please fill in the corresponding Registration Form.



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**TUESDAY 20 MARCH**

**FOCUS ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION  
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09.30-10.00 **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

10.00-10.30 **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Britta Öström, Regional Director, Europe Office, Save the Children Sweden  
Terry Smith, Conference Facilitator

10.30-11.00 **European Child Rights Violations Related to Children in Migration**

Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

11.00-11.30 **Children in Migration From a UN Perspective**

Jorge Bustamante, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants

11.30-11.45 **BREAK**

11.45-12.30 **LATEST RESEARCH ON THE SITUATION ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION**

**A Review of European Research Findings on Children in Migration**

Caitlin Farrow, Consultant, Nottingham University, UK

This seminar addresses a general background on children and migration in Europe focusing on specific areas of concern. It provides a brief overview of the migration flows and its root and immediate causes and the role of key actors (international bodies, governments, NGOs, media and commercial entities).

**B The Problem of Children's Migration in Modern Russia**

Maya Rusakova, Director of NGO Stellit, St. Petersburg, Russia

This seminar addresses the problem of children's migration as typical for modern Russia due to reasons connected with transformations of post-soviet period is discussed. There is a lack of statistical data about the size of various groups of migrants. The existing system of providing aid for children cannot be considered effective.

**C Nomadic Child and Childhood**

Doina Balahur, Professor, PhD, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi, Romania &  
Rebecca Budde, Dipl. Internationale Academie, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

This seminar builds a critical approach on the meanings of a wide variety of "concepts" (migrant, trafficking, unaccompanied, kidnapped, exploited, vagrant etc) used to describe the movement of children from their country of origin to a different one. By analogy with 'women's studies' this seminar proposes a different perspective called "nomadic child".

**D The Implementation Practices of the CRC Best Interest Principle Regarding Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking / Migrant Minors in Europe**

Daniel Senovilla Hernández, Consultant, PhD Candidate, International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Universidad de Comillas de Madrid, Spain /Universté de Poitiers, France

The aim is to analyse the implementation of the best interest principle in the European state policies structuring the treatment of unaccompanied minors. It will focus on the interpretation by certain authorities justifying the forced return of minors as the only suitable solution in their best interest.

**E The International Protection of Migrant Children – Is It Adequate?**

Kristina Touzenis, Project Coordinator / Prof., International Organisation for Migration, University of Trieste, Italy

This seminar aims at analysing the existing international legal framework protecting migrant children, identifying gaps and proposing possible solutions. The focus will be on International Law but examples will also be drawn from EU-law.



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TUESDAY 20 MARCH

**FOCUS ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION  
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12.30-13.45 **LUNCH**

13.45-14.30 **LATEST RESEARCH ON THE SITUATION ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION**

**F The Situation of Moldovan Children Left Behind by Migrating Parents**

Cezar Gavriiliuc, Executive director, Child Rights Information Centre, Moldova

Using participatory approach, the study focused on teenagers. The living conditions of the migrants' children improved; they got access to more services than their peers. At the same time, they are more vulnerable to various risks also because they lack parents' emotional and social support.

**G Does Age-at-migration Affect Socioeconomic Mobility? A Review of Evidence**

Shahin Yaqub, Lead Researcher, Unicef Innocenti Research Institute, Italy

Age-at-migration refers to the age at which a child migrates, or a non-migrating child's age when his/her parents migrate. Socioeconomic mobility refers to changes in socioeconomic status, within and across generations. Migration might or might not affect socioeconomic mobility, and age-at-migration may be a determining factor in this link.

**H Reflexivity and Relationships in Child Trafficking Research**

Zoza De Sas Kropiwnicki, Regional Research Advisor, Regional Child Trafficking Response Programme, Save the Children Norway

This seminar describes the conceptual and methodological framework that was adopted in a child trafficking research project in South Eastern Europe. It seeks to understand why some children are more likely to be trafficked than others, using qualitative, participatory and child-centred approaches giving primacy to relationships and reflexivity.

**I Understanding the Migration Experiences of Child Domestic Workers**

Agnes Zenaida V. Camacho, Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Centre, Philippines

This seminar emphasize the nuances of children's migration experiences, and the various ways it affects configurations of families and linkages with education, thus acknowledging a complexity that goes beyond the simple notion of migration and work as detrimental to children.

14.30-15.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15.00-16.15 **DISCUSSION FORUMS**

**I How Do We Relate to the Complex Images of Children in Migration?**

Discussion leader to be confirmed

**II How Could Academic and NGO Research Influence Actual Changes for Children in Migration?**

Sven Winberg, Senior Advisor, Save the Children Sweden

**III Ethical and Methodological Concerns Related to Relevant Child Participation in Research on Children in Migration**

Agnes Zenaida V. Camacho, Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Centre, Philippines

16.30-17.00 **SUMMARY OF THE DAY**

Terry Smith, Conference Facilitator

19.00 **DINNER**



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**WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH**

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09.00-09.15 **INTRODUCTION**

Terry Smith, Conference Facilitator

09.15-09.45 **Migration and Politics – the Second Generation, Mobilisation and Citizenship**

Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, Director of Research at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France

09.45-10.15 **Children’s Own Views about their Situation in Migration**

Youth Representative & Marijke Brouwer, SAMAH, the Netherlands

10.15-10.45 **COFFEE BREAK**

10.45-11.30 **RELEVANT CHILD PARTICIPATION AS A RESEARCH TOOL**

**J Colours and Sounds: Media Production as Participatory Research; Success, Problems and Direction**

Liesbeth de Block, Lecturer and Research Officer, Institute of Education, University of London, UK

Examination of the role of practical media productions in research with migrant and refugee children. Based on the experience of two research projects several media productions made by young refugees were selected to promote a discussion about what participation through media production means in the research relationship.

**K Free Movement of Labour and an Expanding EU: Time to Think about Child Migration**

Roy Huijsmans, PhD Candidate, Durham University, UK

The observation that under new legislation EU teenagers can legally be employed in the Netherlands is taken as point of departure. The presentation will explore questions about the way notions of children and childhood is understood in relation to migration, both analytically and in relation to practice.

**L Child-Centred Study of Family Separation and Migration**

Adele Jones, Dr., the University of the West Indies, Trinidad

This seminar describes child-centred methods in a study of migration. It highlights the benefits of child-centeredness in order to generate deeper understandings of children’s perspectives and promote empowerment in cultural contexts in which children are still expected to be ‘seen and not heard’.

11.30-11.45 **BREAK**

11.45-12.15 **Protection of Children on the Move in Europe – Applying Lessons Learnt from Child Trafficking Research**

Daja Wenke, Child Trafficking Researcher, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Italy

12.15-13.45 **LUNCH**

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH

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13.45-14.30 **EXPERIENCES OF GOOD PRACTICES RELATED TO CHILDREN IN MIGRATION**

**M Educational and Child Welfare Responses to Changing Migration Patterns to the UK**  
Jill Rutter, Senior lecturer, Citizenship Education London Metropolitan University, UK

In the UK there has been a fall in asylum migration, an increase in labour migration and children living in difficult circumstances: immigration status, housing mobility, low income and little contact with educational/welfare agencies. This seminar argues that most schools and care providers have not responded to changes in migration patterns.

**N The Way Back Home – Child Migration in Latin America**  
Ana Salvadó, Save the Children Sweden, Latin American Office

Child migration in Latin America has increased tremendously. Children travel alone through many countries, some trying to meet up with their parents, others becoming victims of child trafficking for sexual or labour exploitation. This seminar addresses how Internet has been used as a tool of aiding these children.

**O Befriending Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People in Need of Resettlement**  
Dr. Ravi KS Kohli, Applied Social Studies, University of Bedfordshire, UK

This seminar explores the ways in which a befriending scheme offers assistance to unaccompanied minors in the United Kingdom. It will offer a model of the ways in which befrienders can be part of a network of people who help the lives and memories of unaccompanied minors to join up again after forced migration.

**P Phone Calls on Children in Migration**  
Leticia Vasquez, Head of Advocacy, Child Helpline International, the Netherlands

In 2004 child helplines received over 11 million calls worldwide. A number of these calls are related to children in migration. Some of the reasons why children in migration called child helplines include child prostitution, children used for begging, child trafficking and abandonment by parents.

**Q Children in Migration: Who Are They and How Can We Assist?**  
Mirela Shuteriqi, SEE Advocacy and Legal Officer, Terre des hommes Foundation, Hungary

The presentation on the causes behind child migration, will lead discussion on risks and problems the children face during the process. The link will be made with the intervention by the States and private actors, reflecting some good practices, but also explaining why they remain few and isolated.

**14.30-15.00 SUMMARY AND CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**  
Britta Öström, Regional Director, Europe Office, Save the Children  
Terry Smith, Conference Facilitator

**15.00 - COFFEE AND DEPARTURE**





**REGISTRATION FORM**  
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**FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROFESSIONAL TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONALITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

.....

**ORGANISATION/UNIVERSITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTAL CODE & CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

.....

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

.....

**DATE & TIME OF ARRIVAL IN WARSAW:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE & TIME OF DEPARTURE FROM WARSAW:** \_\_\_\_\_

.....

**PLEASE SPECIFY IF YOU HAVE ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Vegetarian  
 Other dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR WISH TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION/UNIVERSITY AT A DESIGNATED AREA**

- Yes, I wish to have a small table for documents  
 Yes, I wish to put up information (poster) on the wall

**PLEASE CONFIRM THE FOLLOWING:**

- Yes, I understand that I have to receive a confirmation of my participation to attend the conference  
 Yes, I understand that I need to arrange my own travelling  
 Yes, I understand that I need to arrange my own hotel (a list will be provided upon confirmation)  
 Yes, I understand that I need to arrange my visa if my nationality so requires. (A letter of invitation can be provided)  
 Yes, I understand that I need to bring €80 in cash to the conference to pay for the fee



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**PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR CHOICE OF SEMINAR**

MARK YOUR FIRST CHOICE WITH '1', AND YOUR SECOND CHOICE WITH '2':

**SEMINAR 1: LATEST RESEARCH ON THE SITUATION ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION**

- A Review of European Research Findings on Children in Migration
- B The Problem of Children’s Migration in Modern Russia
- C Nomadic Child and Childhood
- D The Implementation Practices of the CRC Best Interest Principle Regarding Unaccompanied ...
- E The International Protection of Migrant Children – Is It Adequate?

**SEMINAR 2: LATEST RESEARCH ON THE SITUATION ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION**

- F The Situation of Moldovan Children Left Behind by Migrating Parents
- G Does Age-at-migration Affect Socioeconomic Mobility? A Review of Evidence
- H Reflexivity and Relationships in Child Trafficking Research
- I Understanding the Migration Experiences of Child Domestic Workers

**SEMINAR 3: RELEVANT CHILD PARTICIPATION AS A RESEARCH TOOL**

- J Colours and Sounds: Media Production as Participatory Research; Success, Problems and Direction
- K Free Movement of Labour and an Expanding EU: Time to Think about Child Migration
- L Child-Centred Study of Family Separation and Migration

**SEMINAR 4: EXPERIENCES OF GOOD PRACTICES RELATED TO CHILDREN IN MIGRATION**

- M Educational and Child Welfare Responses to Changing Migration Patterns to the UK
- N The way back home – Child Migration in Latin America
- O Befriending Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People in Need of Resettlement
- P Phone Calls on Children in Migration
- Q Children in Migration: Who Are They and How Can We Assist?

**PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR CHOICE OF DISCUSSION FORUM**

MARK YOUR FIRST CHOICE WITH '1', AND YOUR SECOND CHOICE WITH '2':

**DISCUSSION FORUMS**

- I How Do We Relate to the Complex Images of Children in Migration?
- II How Could Academic and NGO Research Influence Actual Changes for Children in Migration?
- III Ethical and Methodological Concerns Related to Relevant Child Participation in Research

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**Seminar fee is €80.00** including coffee breaks, 2 lunches and dinner Tuesday evening.  
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**FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send the Registration Form latest by January 31, 2007  
 with the heading ‘Registration to the Migration Conference’  
 to Lise Bruun [LBR@redbarnet.dk](mailto:LBR@redbarnet.dk) or fax +45 3539 11 19**



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