Vulnerability of unaccompanied and separated child migrants

SUMMARY

According to United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) estimates, the number of migrant children increased from 24 million in the 1990–2000 period to 36 million in 2020. In 2022 alone, some 35,200 children arrived in southern European countries. Of them, some 23,500 (67%) were unaccompanied or had been separated from family members during the journey. A child may be unaccompanied or get separated for various reasons, including persecution of the child or parents; international conflict and civil war; human trafficking and smuggling, including sale by parents; accidental separation from parents during the journey; and a search for better economic opportunities.

There is a comprehensive international legal framework on children’s rights and their protection in place, yet irregular migrant children, especially those unaccompanied or separated from their parents during their journey, face numerous obstacles and challenges during and after migration. These include a heightened risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, military recruitment, child labour (including for foster families) or detention. In many countries, children are routinely denied entry or detained by border or immigration officials. In other cases, they are admitted but denied access to asylum procedures, or their asylum claims are not handled in an age- or gender-sensitive manner.

The vulnerable situation of unaccompanied and separated children worldwide, and the threats they face, need to be addressed, particularly in view of the constant rise in their numbers. Applying the ‘best interests of the child’ principle, EU asylum law offers special protection to such children, and the EU has adopted numerous instruments and identified key actions for the protection of all children in migration, including those who are unaccompanied or who have been separated from their parents.

This is an update of a 2021 briefing.

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Glossary

A ‘child’ as defined in Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), is ‘every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier’. This means that any instruments concerning children in the territory of a state cannot define a child in any way that deviates from the norms determining the age of majority in that state.

‘Unaccompanied children’ (or unaccompanied minors) are children, as defined in Article 1 of the CRC, who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

‘Separated children’ are children, as defined in Article 1 of the CRC, who have been separated from both parents or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may therefore include children accompanied by other adult family members.

Introduction

Migrant children embark on journeys that are dangerous and often fatal. They may be accompanied by their parents, guardians or other adults, or they may be alone. Children may migrate in regular or irregular ways. The latter may involve their irregular entry into a third country or their regular entry into a third country where they overstay their visa or end up in an irregular situation in other ways. Migrant children also include children born in host countries to migrant parents. Children left behind by parents who migrate are likewise affected by migration, and may in turn end up as unaccompanied child migrants, seeking to reunite with their families.

There were 36 million migrant children in the world in 2020, according to Unicef estimates. In 2022, approximately 35,200 migrant children, of whom some 23,500 (67%) unaccompanied or separated, arrived in the southern European countries. Migrant child arrivals increased by 46% in 2022 compared to 2021 (24,147). Many of them go missing, but according to the International Organization for Migration, data on their numbers are quite limited and difficult to find. Nevertheless, Missing Children Europe – the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children – holds evidence that each year tens of thousands of migrant children go missing after arriving in Europe.

Irregular migrant children face numerous obstacles and challenges during and after their migration. As pointed out by both Unicef and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in their respective guidelines on children’s rights and detention of asylum-seekers, such children should not be held responsible for the situation they are in, either morally or legally. As one of the most vulnerable groups in society, they need respect, protection and fulfilment of their fundamental rights.

The vulnerable situation of migrant children and specifically those who are unaccompanied and separated, and the threats they face, need to be addressed, particularly considering the increase in their number worldwide and their vulnerability. For this purpose, the EU has adopted several legislatives acts and numerous instruments, which offer special protection to such children and address their vulnerabilities through a best interests of the child principle.
Vulnerability of unaccompanied and separated child migrants

Figure 1 – Age structure of migrants across the world (in millions)

Data source: Unicef, April 2021.

International framework

Migrant children are often relegated to the margins of the world’s debates about migration and displacement. One reason is perhaps the lack of hard numbers to support their case, a circumstance that clearly hampers policymaking. Global estimates are incomplete and it is difficult to determine the place of birth and age of the world’s migrant children, and whether their migration was forced or voluntary. The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, adopted on 19 September 2016, sought to bridge this gap by calling on the UN member states to commit to protecting the human rights of all refugees and migrants, to ensure that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival, and to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, among other things.

Among the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 5 and SDG 16 have targets, respectively 5.2 and 16.2, that are particularly pertinent in helping better track abuse against migrant children. SDG target 5.2 aims to ‘Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation’. This is complemented by SDG target 16.2, which aims to ‘End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children’.

World Children’s Day, celebrated on 20 November, marks the anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the first international treaty to recognise children as human beings with innate rights. The CRC guiding principles rest on the requirement for achieving all of the children’s rights enshrined in the CRC, namely: non-discrimination; adherence to their best interests; life, survival and development; participation; and their right to be heard and respected. Since 1989, when the CRC was adopted, conditions for children have improved significantly, but millions remain unprotected, including migrant children.

Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols

Several international treaties afford children rights that are, or can be, affected during or after their migration. The foundation of the international framework for children’s rights is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which prescribes minimum standards that states must adhere to regarding the treatment of children in their respective territories.
The CRC is the first comprehensive and binding international legal instrument to address children’s rights. It has been ratified by 196 states, including all EU Member States but excluding the United States, and has become the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty ever, demonstrating a global commitment to protecting children and treating them as autonomous human beings – equal to adults – with internationally recognised rights. The CRC provides the highest level of international standards and guidelines for national and regional implementation. Its 42 detailed provisions outline the rights of all persons under the age of 18 in all areas of their lives, including economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights. Due to the nature of childhood, the CRC also includes special measures protecting children from abuse and exploitation, from torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and during armed conflicts.

The CRC has been supplemented with three optional protocols: the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC, as of 18 January 2002); the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC, as of 12 February 2002); and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (as of 14 April 2014), which allows children to submit complaints, appeals and petitions to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (this committee hears complaints concerning the violation of children’s rights). Children from countries that ratify this latter optional protocol can use the CRC to seek justice if the national legal system has not been able to provide a remedy for the violation.

Key CRC articles ensuring respect for child migrants’ human rights

The situation of unaccompanied and separated children and the detention issue are covered, though not exclusively, by Articles 2, 3, 6, 12, 22 and 37 of the CRC.

- Article 2 provides that all the rights it contains apply to all children within the jurisdiction of the states parties, without discrimination of any kind.
- Article 3 provides that the best interests of the child should be be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children.
- Article 6 sets out the right to life, survival and development of migrant and refugee children.
- Article 12 provides that children have the right to express their views and the opportunity to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them.
- Of particular relevance to the case of unaccompanied and separated children is Article 22, which stresses the need for their protection and humanitarian assistance.
- Article 37(b) says that ‘no child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child should be in conformity with the law and used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time’.
- Article 37(c) states that ‘every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age’.

The CRC also states that children must be ‘protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions or beliefs’ of their parents, legal guardians, or family members'.

Children fleeing armed conflicts, mass killings, persecution and/or pervasive sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) can seek refugee protection under the 1951 UN Geneva Refugee Convention, its subsequent Protocol and other international instruments. In times of such instability, girls are particularly at risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. In addition to the protection offered by the Geneva Refugee Convention, the specific case of migrant children seeking asylum is addressed within the framework provided by the CRC.
Legal obligations of states parties for all unaccompanied or separated children in their territory

The states parties to the CRC have obligations towards each child within the state’s territory and towards all children subject to its jurisdiction (Article 2). These obligations cannot be arbitrarily and unilaterally curtailed by excluding zones or areas of a state’s territory or by defining particular zones or areas as not being, or only partly being, under the jurisdiction of the state. Moreover, these obligations of the states parties to the CRC apply within the borders of a state, including with respect to children who come under the state’s jurisdiction while attempting to enter its territory. Therefore, the enjoyment of rights stipulated in the CRC is not limited to children who are citizens of a state party and must, therefore, if not explicitly stated otherwise in the CRC, also be available to all children. This includes asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children – irrespective of their nationality, immigration status or statelessness.

Obligations deriving from the CRC regarding unaccompanied and separated children apply to all branches of government. These obligations include the government’s responsibility to establish national legislation and administrative structures, conduct necessary research, gather essential information, and organise data compilation and comprehensive training activities to support such measures. These obligations are not limited to providing protection and assistance to children who are already unaccompanied or separated but also include measures to prevent separation (such as implementing safeguards during evacuations). States are also required to take all necessary steps to identify children as unaccompanied or separated at the earliest possible stage, including at the border, conduct tracing activities and, where possible and in the child’s best interest, reunify separated and unaccompanied children with their families as soon as possible.

States parties must ensure that the provisions and principles of the CRC are fully incorporated and enforced in relevant domestic legislation. If there is any conflict in legislation, priority should always be given to the CRC, as stated in Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Additionally, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) upholds the fundamental principle that everyone (including children), everywhere, at all times, is entitled to the full range of human rights, which are universal and indivisible. Human rights are guaranteed *prima facie* to all persons, including migrants present in a country, irrespective of their legal status or length of stay, and must be applied without discrimination.

Figure 2 – Child migrants and young migrants as a share of the migrant population in host regions in 2020

Data source: Migration data portal, 21.5.2024.
The vulnerability of unaccompanied migrant children

There is a broad range of human rights challenges affecting unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration. On the one hand, these children may face sexual, economic or criminal exploitation and trafficking. On the other hand, there is extensive criminalisation of irregular migrants, including children. This can lead to serious restrictions of their human rights, including limited access to services such as education, housing and healthcare in the receiving state. An example of this is the requirement in certain countries for migrants to register with a government authority before they can access certain public services, hindering access for those not regularly residing in that state.

Due to a lack of information, interpretation and guidance, migrant children may experience difficulties accessing such services. As pointed out by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child,1 ‘in many countries, unaccompanied and separated children are routinely denied entry, or detained by border or immigration officials. In other cases, they are admitted but are denied access to asylum procedures or their asylum claims are not handled in an age and gender-sensitive manner’. As further stressed, ‘unaccompanied and separated girls are at particular risk of sexually based gender violence (SBGV), including domestic violence. In some situations, such children have no access to proper and appropriate identification, registration, age assessment, documentation, family tracing, guardianship systems or legal advice’. The process of applying for family reunification may also be challenging, with many such children receiving only temporary status that expires at age 18, limited effective return programmes available.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has also identified a number of protection gaps in the treatment of migrant children, especially unaccompanied and separated ones, who are at higher risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, military recruitment, child labour (including for their foster families) and detention, among others. They often face discrimination and barriers to accessing basic needs like food, shelter, housing, health services and education. The lack of safe migration opportunities through regular channels forces children to embark on dangerous journeys, including with the help of smugglers, to reach their desired destination country. Especially when unaccompanied, these children are highly vulnerable to violence and abuse during their migratory journeys.

Unicef has calculated that more than 100 countries worldwide are detaining children for migration-related reasons. The exact number of children who face detention solely because of their migration status is not known, but the lasting consequences for children are clearly documented. In 2012, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child emphatically condemned the practice of detaining a child because of their or their parents’ migration status, stating that it constitutes a violation of the rights of the child and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child.

The special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment has concluded that the detention of children is a particularly serious issue due to the devastating effect it may have on their physical, emotional and psychological development. Children held in detention are at risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder and may have bouts of insomnia, nightmares and bed-wetting.2 Furthermore, vulnerability is not a fixed condition; it can evolve and worsen over time.
The coronavirus pandemic brought about additional vulnerabilities for migrant children. According to the International Organization for Migration, the most significant implications of the pandemic include: an increase in the number of children returning to their countries of origin; worsening conditions in shelters and detention centres; school closures and exclusion; border closures and increased xenophobia; discrimination in their community of origin; and detrimental effects on mental health.

The lack of a procedure to determine the best interests of children may lead to numerous human rights violations, such as the detention and deportation of children, as well as the separation of children from their parents. This goes against the principle of family unity outlined in the Preamble and Articles 9 and 10 of the CRC.

Addressing vulnerability

Unicef and UNHCR guidelines state that immigration policies should never be enforced at the expense of a child’s best interests and that assessments should always be conducted by a decision-maker specialising in child protection, rather than immigration authorities. In this respect, regularisation processes could be an important tool in promoting respect for the human rights of migrant children in irregular situations.

According to Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), vulnerabilities need to be addressed by:

- reinforcing law, policy and practical measures, to:
  - prevent violence against children, with a particular focus on the specific violence directed at girls;
  - combat human trafficking (while protecting victims);
  - ensure explicit coverage of all migrant girls in such law and measures.
- strengthening programmes and practices preventing SBGV violence in public and private spheres, including sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation;
- establishing 'child sensitive' migration policies, refugee determination, migrant reception, treatment of unaccompanied children, counter-trafficking and smuggling;
- ending detention of migrant children (except in bona fide situations of criminal acts/behaviour);
- receiving states, which need to comply with the specific UN treaty body (committee of independent experts that monitor implementation of core international human rights treaties) and the special rapporteur’s recommendations to end the immigration detention of children; and by
- opening up more regular migration channels, particularly in relation to family reunification, which would go a long way towards protecting these children.

The vulnerable situation in which unaccompanied and separated children can find themselves due to the serious challenges they have faced during their journey and due to immigration-related detention, calls for greater awareness from authorities and for more gender-sensitive policies and specialised care in the centres where children are placed.

The UNHCR calls for all child-appropriate alternatives to detention, such as release to other family members or relatives with residency in the country of asylum. Other options include foster care,
supervised independent living, or residential homes. The UNHCR report on a global strategy to end detention emphasises the importance of conducting a best interests assessment (BIA) as a simple and ongoing procedure to determine the immediate actions that are in the best interests of each individual child. If detention is deemed necessary, the report stresses the importance of placing the child in a unit that addresses their specific needs, taking into consideration their age, gender, and any physical or mental trauma or disability they may be experiencing. The use of solitary confinement for any duration or purpose should be prohibited, with the primary focus being on providing 'care' rather than 'detention'. In 2012, the UNHCR issued guidelines on detention to ensure the best interest of children.

**Situation in the EU**

The number of unaccompanied minors among asylum applicants in the EU jumped from 21,205 in 2014 to 91,955 in 2015, fell to 13,550 in 2020 and then increased again to 40,415 in 2023 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3 – Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied children (EU-27 countries)

Data source: Eurostat, 6.5.2024.

Approximately 35,200 children (18% girls, 82% boys) arrived in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain in 2022, marking a 46% increase from 2021. Of these child arrivals, 23,500 were unaccompanied or separated, accounting for 67% of the total. The highest number of child arrivals was in Greece, where children represented 34% of all arrivals, with 48% of them being unaccompanied. The highest percentage of unaccompanied children among all child arrivals was in Spain, where they made up 79% of all child arrivals.

**The EU framework**

The European Union is committed to promoting the protection of the rights of the child, in accordance with the Treaty on European Union (Article 3). Children's rights are also protected under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (Article 24). Although the EU is not a party to the CRC, the CRC plays a crucial role in guiding EU actions on children’s rights. Member States have the primary responsibility for child protection systems, but the EU also supports national efforts.

The Commission and the European Parliament regularly appoint coordinators for the rights of the child to ensure the promotion and protection of children’s rights in all EU policies and legislation.
The Commission has established a network for children’s rights to enhance dialogue and mutual learning between the EU and Member States on children’s rights.

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme provides funding to support the implementation of EU policies in the Member States, including in the area of the rights of the child and prevention of violence against children, young people, women and other vulnerable groups.

The EU is also working to ensure that children’s voices are heard, especially within the justice system, through child-friendly justice initiatives. These initiatives included Directive (EU) 2016/800 on special safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings and EU-wide research by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) to assess the effectiveness of these measures in practice.

Common European asylum system and EU pact on migration and asylum

Existing EU policies and legal instruments under the common European asylum system (CEAS) provide the framework for the protection of children in migration, which includes aspects such as the conditions for their reception, the treatment of their applications and their integration. In this context, the action plan on unaccompanied minors (2010-2014) helped to raise awareness of the specific needs of unaccompanied children in migration and promoted targeted action. The 2013 recast Asylum Procedures Directive provides for special procedural guarantees, including the obligation for Member States to appoint a specially designated person to represent and assist unaccompanied children in asylum proceedings, with a view to ensuring the child’s best interests and to exercising a legal capacity for him/her, where necessary.

The Qualification Directive, adopted in December 2011, reinforces the provision for tracing family members of children granted international protection. If return is deemed the child’s best option, it must be conducted safely. Under the Return Directive, before returning an unaccompanied child, Member States must ensure that ‘he or she will be returned to a member of his or her family, a nominated guardian or adequate reception facilities in the country of return’.

The 2013 Reception Conditions Directive provides for a dignified standard of living for all applicants, granting them access to basic healthcare (emergency care and essential treatment of illnesses and of serious mental disorders) and education (under similar conditions as their own nationals) and housing (which guarantees an adequate standard of living and is adapted for housing applicants). It furthermore stipulates that unaccompanied children must be provided with accommodation suitable for their age, by taking into account gender and other specific reception needs. Unaccompanied children must furthermore ‘be detained only in exceptional circumstances. All efforts shall be made to release the detained unaccompanied minor as soon as possible’.

In principle, the 2013 Dublin Regulation prioritises family reunification for unaccompanied children. The regulation establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection. It mandates that ‘respect for family life’ and unaccompanied child’s ‘best interests’ must be ‘a primary consideration’ when applying the regulation. Accordingly, if an unaccompanied child applies for asylum in one Member State, his or her application must be examined in the Member State where a parent, responsible adult, sibling, or relative who can take care of the child is legally present, provided this is in his or her ‘best interests’. For the Member State where the unaccompanied child lodged an application for international protection, this entails an obligation to take appropriate action without delay to identify the family members, siblings or relatives of the unaccompanied child on the territory of the remaining Member States, while protecting the best interests of the child.

In 2016 and 2020, the European Commission proposed a comprehensive reform of the EU asylum rules. As a result of this reform, in 2024 the co-legislators adopted:
three proposals from the CEAS package (a Regulation establishing a union resettlement and humanitarian admission framework, a Qualification Regulation, and the recast Reception Conditions Directive); and

five major reform files from the pact on migration and asylum (a revised Asylum Procedures Regulation, a revised Eurodac Regulation, a Regulation on screening third-country nationals at the external borders, an Asylum and Migration Management Regulation, and a Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation).

Main provisions relating to unaccompanied children following the reform

According to Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 on asylum and migration management (AMMR), which builds on the Dublin Regulation, when the applicant is an unaccompanied minor, if a family member, sibling or relative who can take care of that minor is present in the territory of another Member State that Member State becomes responsible for examining their application. In the absence of such a family member, sibling or relative, the Member State responsible should be the one State where the unaccompanied minor’s application for international protection was first registered, if it is in the best interests of the child. The AMMR also expands provisions related to representing and/or assisting an unaccompanied minor in all relevant procedures.

Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection reinforces the provisions of the Qualification Directive regarding the right of unaccompanied minors to have a guardian and the responsibilities of that guardian. In considering the internal protection alternative, as outlined in the current Qualification Directive, the determining authority must take into account the best interests of the minor, specifically focusing on the availability of sustainable and adequate care and custody arrangements in a country where the minor would be granted internal protection.

In addition to the special procedural guarantees, Regulation (EU) 2024/1348, which establishes a common procedure for international protection, introduces safeguards to ensure that unaccompanied minors are not subjected to incorrect or unreasonable age-assessment procedures. Unaccompanied minors should generally not be subjected to the border procedure unless there are good reasons to believe that the minor poses a threat to the national security or public order of the Member State. Under certain circumstances, such as: (i) when the applicant is from a safe country of origin; (ii) when the applicant poses a threat to national security or public order of the Member State; or (iii) when the applicant is thought to have intentionally misled the authorities by presenting false information or documents or by withholding relevant information or documents, Member States should be able to apply an accelerated examination procedure to unaccompanied minors. Other circumstances that may warrant this procedure include when the applicant is of a nationality or, in the case of stateless persons, a former habitual resident of a third country, for which the determining authority has granted international protection in 20% or less of cases. When determining whether a third country can be considered a first country of asylum or a safe third country, each unaccompanied minor’s unique circumstances should be assessed individually, with special attention paid to the availability of suitable long-term care and custody arrangements in those countries. A third country can only be deemed a first country of asylum or a safe third country for an unaccompanied minor in situations where: (i) it is not against the unaccompanied minor’s best interests; and (ii) the authorities of Member States have first obtained assurance from the authorities of the third country in question that the unaccompanied minor will be taken in charge by those authorities and will immediately benefit from effective protection.

Directive (EU) 2024/1346 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection refers to the specific situation of minors and their special reception needs. Following the date on which an unaccompanied minor submits an application for international protection, Member States must designate a representative as soon as feasible, and no later than within 15 working days. Unaccompanied minors can be detained in exceptional circumstances, as a measure of last resort, after it has been established that other less coercive alternative measures
cannot be applied effectively, and after detention is assessed to be in their best interests. When detained, unaccompanied minors must be kept apart from adults and housed in facilities designed specifically for their needs. Member States must make sure judicial, administrative, or other authorities are tasked with overseeing the representatives' correct execution of their duties.

**Regulation (EU) 2024/1356** introduces the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders. It establishes that Member States must appoint a representative to assist unaccompanied minor during the screening process. All individuals undergoing the screening process should be guaranteed a living standard that complies with the Charter. They should also have access to emergency medical care and necessary treatment for diseases. Unaccompanied minors, in particular, should receive special consideration.

According to **Regulation (EU) 2024/1358** on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of biometric data, a representative or, where a representative has not been designated, a person trained to safeguard the best interests of the child should accompany an unaccompanied minor during the collection of their biometric data. Officials specially trained to collect a minor’s biometric data in a child-friendly and sensitive manner, while fully respecting the child’s best interests and the protections outlined in the CRC, must collect the biometric data of minors from the age of six. Minors cannot be coerced into providing biometric data. However, if permitted by relevant Union or national law, and as a last resort, a proportionate degree of coercion may be used against minors to ensure their compliance with this obligation.

**Regulation (EU) 2024/1350** establishing a Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework qualifies unaccompanied minors, along with other vulnerable individuals, as eligible for admission under a resettlement programme or for humanitarian admission. Member States will receive €8,000 for each admitted unaccompanied minor.

These regulations are to start applying in two years. For the Reception Conditions Directive, Member States will have 2 years to implement the necessary changes to their national laws.

**MAIN REFERENCES**


ENDNOTES

1 The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is a body of 18 independent experts that monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2 Méndez E. J., Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, March 2015.

3 UNHCR Resolution 1991/42, as clarified by UNHCR Resolution 1997/50. International instruments accepted by the states concerned.


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