



Question of: Protecting the Rights and Dignity of Migrant Children

Submitted by: Islamic Republic of Iran

Co-submitted by: United Arab Emirates, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, DPRK, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Greece

The SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE,

Declaring that every child, despite ethnicity, economic position or age deserves the right to have an opportunity for a peaceful and stable future, including their rights to education, the recognition of them being citizens of the country they inhabit, and as a consequence have the right to be integrated into society, without prejudice or distinction against them for having immigrated in said country,

Acknowledging that in 2015, the USA accused Iran of an unfounded and unproved breach of the the joint comprehensive plan of action, using this accuse as an excuse to withdraw from the agreement, asking a 90-day extension of their plans involving the transport of nuclear materials in Iran, thus stripping the Iranian citizens of the peace and stability they were assured,

Considering that, as stated by Shadi Sadr, a human rights lawyer, “the number of unaccompanied Iranian children seeking asylum was higher than the number of unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria – three countries that are involved in armed conflict”,

Noting with regret that 25.4% of immigrant children dropout of school, compared to the 11.4% dropout rate of their European peers,

1. Calls upon Member States to find a way of making sure that immigration and border enforcement authorities screening children have specific training on child protection and child-friendly communication in ways such as, but not limited to:
 - a. asking child protection officers for verification that they are doing their jobs correctly,
 - b. referring migrant children to relevant experts for further screening, interview, assistance and protection;

2. Recommends that qualified, trained and independent guardians are promptly appointed to provide gender-responsive protection and assistance to all unaccompanied children and child-headed households as soon as they are identified;

3. Asks for the creation of a non-profit organization which funds schools, in order to create a more hospitable environment and further integration for migrant children, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a. creating specific teacher training programs for the facilitation of cultural and educational shift,
 - b. setting courses for migrant children to learn the language of the country they migrated to, thus helping to erase the language barrier that separates migrant children from their peers, giving them a better chance to integrate and prosper in society,
 - c. organizing specific sessions with certified infant psychology doctors;

4. Suggests all Member States take part in the U-Report project, the result of a collaboration between UNICEF and UNHCR, the outcome of which has already improved the conditions of young migrants in means such as but not limited to:
 - a. improving the accuracy of reports on the problems the community is facing,
 - b. encouraging young migrants to take part in the creation of policies regarding issues close to them;

5. Calls for all Member States to make sure that migrant children are entitled to:
 - a. the right to qualified legal representation,
 - b. opportunities to express their views freely in all matters that affect them and to have their views taken into account in accordance with their age and maturity,
 - c. age-appropriate and child-sensitive information about their rights and any processes which will involve them;

6. Requests that all Member States also take into consideration refugee children's rights and protect them by means such as but not limited to:
 - a. Identifying, tracking and monitoring them,
 - b. Seeking to keep families unified,
 - c. Offering them free education and additional support,
 - d. Finding them a permanent settlement if needed,
 - e. Being gender-sensitive,
 - f. Acting in their best interest;

7. Emphasizes the need for Member States to make every effort to trace and reunite unaccompanied or separated children with their parents or family, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child, noting that reunification in the country of origin may not always be in the child's best interests;

8. Urges the improvement of the registry system in every country with the aim of reducing the numbers of migrant children that are not registered and can easily become targets for sex trafficking and child labor.