GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

12-13 JUNE 2017
BERLIN, GERMANY

SPEAKERS
Andrea Bellardinelli – Country Programme Coordinator for Italy, Emergency ONG Onlus
Andrea has been Country Programme Coordinator for EMERGENCY NGO in Italy since 2011, and member of the Board of Directors since 2015. The aim of the programme is to provide free of charge primary healthcare, psychological first aid support, health promotion and to facilitate access to health care to vulnerable people, also addressing the issues to the Local Health System Authorities, Regional Districts and MoH. The Italian Programme operates in 7 District Regions. Previously he has worked for MSF Belgium – Missione Italia, and EMERGENCY NGO Surgical Centre in Goderich Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Alex Wooley – Director of Partnerships and Communications, AidData
Alex oversees AidData’s strategic partnerships and communications efforts. He previously served as Vice President for Communications and Development at InterMedia, conducted research for BBC Media Action, and oversaw the start-up of a USAID-funded communications program in West Africa. A former editor of the Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Alex has written for Foreign Affairs (online), Public Diplomacy Magazine and The Huffington Post. Alex holds an MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University.

Adriana De Oro Osorio – Strategic Planning Associate, Global Humanitarian Lab
With a master’s in Innovation for Sustainable International Development, Adriana transitioned from the Innovation Unit at UNHCR to the Global Humanitarian Lab (GHL) where she supports and facilitates the deployment of projects in the field. Passionate about crowd & group ideation, she is co-creator of the Geneva Global Goals Innovation Day (G3ID) association.

Alessio Fasulo – Project Coordinator, Save the Children
Alessio has been working for Save the Children in Italy since 2011. Starting as child protection officer in Calabria, Sicily and Lampedusa and as project coordinator in Rome and Sicily since 2014. In 2016 he was Liaison Officer in Save the Children’s Search and Rescue operations. As Child Protection Officer, Alessio worked on Save the Children Italy’s response to migration and refugee flows reaching the Southern borders of Italy by providing legal information to child migrants arriving in Italy by sea, as well as monitoring reception standards in first reception facilities as well as in second line shelters for minors.

Ana Maria Sánchez Rodríguez – Deputy General Director, National System of Integral Protection for Children and Adolescents, Mexico
Ana Maria is Deputy General Director within the Executive Secretariat of the National System of Integral Protection for Children and Adolescents in Mexico. She holds a PhD in the Public Policy program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and a MSc in NGO management at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has worked in human rights and social development at the federal and local governmental level in Mexico. She was selected as an Inter-American Grassroots Development fellow for the 2015-2016 cycle.

Andrew Brooks – Regional Advisor for Child Protection for West and Central Africa, UNICEF
Andrew has served as UNICEF Regional Advisor for Child Protection for West and Central Africa, Dakar, Senegal since August 2013. Before this, he was Child Protection Chief, UNICEF Tanzania; Child Protection Chief, UNICEF Sri Lanka; Regional Emergency Officer, UNICEF Office for West and Central Africa; Regional Adviser for Children and Armed Conflict, Save the Children; Regional Office, Cote d’Ivoire; Child Protection Reintegration Officer, UNICEF Sierra Leone. Before joining UNICEF, he worked in the UK as a Social Worker and Team Manager in Nottingham. Andrew Brooks is a UK national. He holds a Masters in Social Work, Nottingham University and a Master’s in English Literature, Cambridge University.

Anna Cristina D’Addio – Senior Policy Analyst, UNESCO
Anna, Economist by background, is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Global Education Monitoring Report team (UNESCO). Previously at the OECD, Anna worked on several issues ranging from financial education, the intergenerational transmission of disadvantages, to social protection issues, with an emphasis on the role of policies. Prior to that Anna was a research professor in micro-econometrics applied to labour market/education issues at Copenhagen University, at Aarhus, the KUL and UCL in Belgium among others. A Ph.D. in Quantitative Economics (UCL), a PhD in Public Economics (Pavia University) and a Master in Quantitative Economics belong to her background.

Atty Brigido J. Dulay – Deputy Administrator of Operations, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Government of the Philippines
Mr. Dulay graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law. During the first years of his law career, he worked for Congressman Exequiel B. Javier of the Lone District of Antique as the Legislative Staff Chief. After his government stint, he went into private law practice. He was appointed as Deputy Administrator for Operations of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the Philippine government agency devoted to protecting and promoting the welfare of Filipino migrant workers and their families. Mr. Dulay oversees and coordinates welfare services for overseas Filipino workers, rescue and repatriation, conciliation and counselling services, skills training, among others. 
Balázs Lehel – Head of Office, IOM Budapest

Balázs received his MA in international relations from the Corvinus University of Budapest. During his university studies he spent 11 months as an intern in New York, at the Headquarters of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a non-governmental, international relief and development non-profit organization. He started working for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2006. Since then, he has been involved in the development and implementation of several regional and national projects, ranging from assisted voluntary return and reintegration to resettlement, public health safety, awareness raising, education, integration and counter-trafficking. Balázs has been the Head of Office of IOM Budapest since December 2016.

Beata Godenzi – Programs Director, Terre des Hommes

Beata Godenzi Rasmussen is Programs Director and Chair of the Operations Committee at Terre des Hommes Foundation. She studied political science at the University of Lausanne and comparative research on development at the HEHESS in Paris. After her studies, she worked in research and in 1996 she joined, as a JPO, UNFPA in Dakar, Senegal. Beata was Head of the Projects Commission at Swiss Solidarity and later worked at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). From 2009 to 2014, she was the Head of the newly created Global Program Migration and Development (GPMD).

Ben Lewis – Advocacy Coordinator, International Detention Coalition

Ben is an international human rights lawyer with extensive policy advocacy experience working with refugee, asylum seeker and migrant populations in the United States, Latin America and East Africa. As Advocacy Coordinator, Ben aligns the IDC’s global, regional and domestic advocacy engagement around the IDC’s three Strategic Priorities and is responsible for coordinating government engagement around alternatives to detention. Ben leads the IDC’s UN and intergovernmental advocacy work, and provides technical support to IDC members globally on the international human rights framework, developing and implementing advocacy strategies, and strategic litigation. Ben graduated in International and Comparative Law, University of San Francisco School of Law.

Beris Gwynn – Founder and Managing Director, Incitāre


Bernard Gastaud – Committee Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Bernard is one of 18 independent experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights elected for a second term commencing in 2015. Bernard is from Monaco and comes to the position with a wealth of experience include experience as the Legal Adviser for legal and international affairs to the Department of External Relations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Monaco) and as a Member of the Committee of legal advisers on public international law (CADHI) Council of Europe He is a member of Member of the World Association of Children’s Friends (AMADE).

Chris Derksen Hiebert – Director, Policy and External Relations, World Vision

Chris is Director of Policy and External Relations in the Advocacy and External Engagement team of World Vision International. In this role, Chris provides overall guidance for the team’s public policy development, and leads the development and implementation of the organization’s engagement strategies at major global forums, and processes such as Agenda 2030, the G7 and G20, and the UNGA. Chris has been a leader in child focused advocacy with World Vision for more than fifteen years, having served as Senior Advisor, Peacebuilding, and Director of Advocacy for World Vision Canada prior to taking on his current role in 2011. Chris is based in Heidelberg, Canada.

Christian Skoog – Representative of UNICEF Mexico

Christian has been the Representative in Mexico since September 2016, and previously in Guatemala and Mauritania, as well as Deputy Representative in Haiti. Christian joined UNICEF in Geneva in 2002, as responsible for inter-agency coordination on humanitarian policy and response. From 1996 through to 2002, Christian was working with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with postings in Geneva, Afghanistan and Maluku (Indonesia). He worked on all aspects of humanitarian programs, including operations, negotiations with authorities, donor and media relations, fundraising, inter-agency collaboration and management. He began his UN career in 1993 in the Population Division with a focus on researching international migration.

Chryssoula Botsi – Medical doctor, Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO)

Chryssoula Botsi is a medical doctor, specialized in pulmonology, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. She works within the unit of infectious diseases at the university hospital A. Syngros in Athens. She is also a doctor working with the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO). She is a consultant for the President’s office in KEELPNO on HIV, migration, trafficking and SGBV. She is also a consultant to the Minister of Migration in Greece on health and trafficking. She is also the scientific coordinator for the PHILOS project funded by AMIF. She graduated from Panteion University and completed a post-graduate course on psychology and mass media.

Dan Tyler – Regional Protection and Advocacy Adviser for Europe and Asia, Norwegian Refugee Council

Dan Tyler is the Norwegian Refugee Council’s Regional Protection and Advocacy Adviser for Europe and Asia. Between 2010 and 2014, Dan was based in NRC’s Kabul and Islamabad offices and, during 2016, was part of NRC’s response team in Greece, where he was based on the island of Chios. Dan has written extensively on humanitarian and protection challenges faced by internally displaced persons and protracted refugees, in 2015 co-authoring a report on urban displaced women and girls in Afghanistan. Dan has worked with international humanitarian organisations across Africa, Middle East and Asia.

Daniel Pop – Senior Team Manager for the Education Support Program, Open Societies Foundation

Daniel is a political economist by training, and earned his PhD from Central European University. In 2008, Daniel joined ESP where he leads on efforts to build networks of commitment around the need of education stakeholders’ meaningful engagement into educatio nal governance at all levels including new forms of civil activism. Daniel has initiated and led several research and fellowship programs and publishes on the theme of marketization of social services delivery.
Daniela Reale – Child Protection and Children on the Move Lead, Save the Children

Daniela is Save the Children Lead on Children on the Move. Daniela has over 15 years’ experience working on child protection on child migration and trafficking, supporting both direct programmes globally and leading on policy and advocacy on children on the move and on child exploitation, including child labour and trafficking. She pioneered the Children on the Move framework, successfully advocating for this approach to be adopted in a variety of contexts. She holds a degree in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics and has long-standing experience in the fields of child protection, exploitation, trafficking and related issues.

Dionne Akiyama – Protection Coordinator, International Rescue Committee

Dionne has served as the Protection Coordinator for IRC Balkans program since May 2016. Currently, Dionne leads the IRC’s programming and collaboration with partners to provide integrated protection, legal aid, and psychosocial support to vulnerable refugees and migrants in the Balkans. Dionne has worked in the field of protection for over 10 years, specializing in psychosocial support and protection of women and children. Previously, Dionne supported humanitarian responses in Sierra Leone and the Philippines, field research on strengthening child protection systems in Haiti, and community-based child protection and psychosocial support in the USA and Indonesia. Dionne holds a Master’s in Social Work from Columbia University.

Elinor Raikes – Regional Director for Europe and North Africa, International Rescue Committee

In her current role, Elinor oversees IRC’s programs and partnerships across Europe (with country offices located in Germany, Serbia and Greece) as well as programs in Libya. She worked as an independent consultant, mainly for DFID, in 2014-15. She was previously with the IRC for six years and during that time worked for many years in DR Congo as well as in Chad, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. Prior to the IRC, Elinor worked for Save the Children. She went to the University of Edinburgh (undergraduate in French & Philosophy) and University of London (postgraduate Masters in Violence, Conflict and Development).

Ellene Sana - Executive Director, Center for Migrant Advocacy

The Center for Migrant Advocacy is a Philippine-based non-governmental organization that works for the rights and welfare of Filipino migrant workers and their families through policy advocacy and facilitating assistance to distressed migrants. Ellen’s areas of competency are advocacy and lobby work in local, national, regional and international forums, and training and capacity building on migrant rights. Ellen Serves as CMA’s principal resource person and representative on migration-related forums and activities in the Philippines and abroad.

François Crépeau - UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

François Crépeau is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. He holds the Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, where he teaches International Migration Law, International Human Rights Law, Public International Law and Canadian Constitutional Law. His research focuses on migration control mechanisms, the rights of migrants, the migration-security nexus and the Rule of Law as applied to globalisation. He holds degrees from McGill University, Bordeaux University, Paris II University Panthéon-Assas and Paris I University Panthéon-Sorbonne (PhD).

Frank Laczko – Director of IOM’s Data Analysis Centre, Berlin

Frank is Director of IOM’s Data Analysis Centre in Berlin. The Centre recently published two data briefs about data and the migration of children. He is currently preparing IOM’s third global report on migrant fatalities “Fatal Journeys”. He has over twenty years of experience in the migration field and has held posts with IOM in Budapest, Vienna and Geneva.


Friedrich Affolter is an Education Expert for Risk-Informed Programming at the Education-in-Emergency and Early Childhood Development Units in UNICEF NY Programme Division. Until June 2016, he served as the manager of UNICEF’s Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy Programme (PBEA), which designed education programmes that contribute to the mitigation of drivers of conflict in 14 fragile and post-conflict countries. Earlier UN assignments include Sudan, South Africa, Angola and Afghanistan. Friedrich holds a Masters and a Doctorate Degree from the Center for International Education of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

George Gabriel – Founder and Project Lead, Safe Passage

George is the founder and Project Lead for Safe Passage, a new and multi award winning programme that works to open safe and legal routes for refugees. George worked for 8 years as a community organiser on a wide issues ranging from getting misogyny recognised as a hate crime and tackling destitution, to breaking the Living Wage into the retail sector and creating a global Living Wage initiative. Over 1,110 refugee children have travelled through safe and legal routes Safe Passage has opened, George has also driven work to build 96 refugee welcome groups across Britain, introduce community sponsorship, and grow the UK’s resettlement commitment.

Grant Mitchell – Director, International Detention Coalition

Grant Mitchell is a social anthropologist in international migration. Grant has extensive experience in international asylum and immigration detention policy, including working on the development and implementation of alternatives to immigration detention and case management models. Grant sits on the tripartite Asia Forced Migration Dialogue, is a member of the US government’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-NGO Working Group and the Family Case Management Reference Committee and is a founding member of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network. He is currently a PhD candidate with Swinburne University researching government engagement by civil society on Border, Migration and Sovereignty in the context of immigration detention.

Ignacio Packer - Secretary General, Terre des Hommes International Federation

Ignacio Packer is Secretary General of the Terre des Hommes International Federation. He is an international expert on child rights and social issues. He gives leadership to the overall development of Terre des Hommes and its organizational culture. He was previously Programme Director at the Terre des Hommes Foundation. He also worked for the European Bank for Latin America, KPMG, Médecins Sans Frontières, the European Association for Development and Health and for the Swiss Tropical Institute. On 30 June 2017, Ignacio will be leaving Terre des Hommes after 17 years and six year as global CEO.
Karen Whiting – Senior Advisor, Division of International Protection, UNHCR
Karen Whiting is the Senior Advisor (Child Protection and Youth) in UNHCR's Division of International Protection in Geneva. The Child Protection and Youth Unit provides support to UNHCR field operations and works to build institutional capacity to deliver quality child protection and youth programming. Prior to her posting in UNHCR Headquarters, Ms. Whiting worked with UNHCR in Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, Turkey and in the Europe Bureau in Brussels. She holds a law degree from McGill University in Canada.

Jen Stevens – Europe Regional Coordinator, International Detention Coalition
Jen has been working in the field of human rights research and practice for a number of years, with a focus on human rights in places of detention. She previously worked for the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) both as a research consultant and as Asia-Pacific Programme Officer. Prior to that, Jen was Human Rights Officer with the OHCHR in Nepal, where she was involved in monitoring places of detention and investigating conflict-related human rights violations, including torture and disappearances. Jen has a bachelor's degree in law and French law and a master's degree in human rights and democratization.

Irene Pastorino Olmi - Diplomat, Unit for Migration Policy, Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policy
Irene Pastorino Olmi is a young diplomat with a legal background. She has been working since 2016 at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policy, Unit for Migration Policy. The Unit is also responsible for negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on refugees.

Irina Todorova – Senior Regional Specialist on Counter-Trafficking and Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants, IOM
Irina serves her position in IOM’s Regional Office in Brussels where she has been working since October 2013. Irina is responsible for analysing regional thematic trends, supporting liaison with the EU Institutions and EU Member States, and she leads human trafficking prevention and protection programmes in Europe. Irina has worked as a counter-trafficking and migrant rights practitioner for over 13 years, particularly in Europe and Central Asia. In addition to her expertise in counter-trafficking, Ms. Todorova has several years of experience working for the protection of children in a migration context.

Joshua Hofert - Member, Presidential Board, Terre des Hommes Germany
Joshua Hofert is a member of the Presidential Board of Terre des Hommes Germany. While overseeing the overall strategy of the child rights organization in Germany and 30 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, he has focused on issues related to children’s rights and the environment, migration and development, as well as the participation and empowerment of children and youth. Connected to his studies in international politics, Joshua has researched and worked for United Nations Volunteers (UNV/UNDP) and instructed seminars on international development and children’s rights at the University of Potsdam, Germany.

Julia Hahn, Freelance journalist
Julia Hahn is a freelance multimedia journalist and moderator based in Berlin. She works as a news anchor, editor and Turkey correspondent with DW, Germany's international broadcaster. She holds an M.A. in International Studies/Civil War & Conflict Studies from ETH Zurich, Switzerland and a B.A. in Communication Sciences & Political Science from the University of Erfurt, Germany and Bogazici University Istanbul, Turkey.

Jacqueline Bhabha - Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard Chan School of Public Health
Jacqueline is Director of Research at the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, the Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer in Law at Harvard Law School, and an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. She received a first class honors degree and a M.Sc. from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the College of Law in London. From 1997 to 2001 she directed the Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago. Prior to 1997, she was a practicing human rights lawyer in London and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She has published extensively on issues of transnational child migration, refugee protection, children’s rights and citizenship. She is the editor of Children Without A State (2011), author of Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age (Princeton University Press, 2014), and the editor of Human Rights and Adolescence (UPenn Press, 2014). She serves on the board of the Scholars at Risk Network, the World Peace Foundation and the Journal of Refugee Studies.

Jens Matthes – Senior Advisor on Advocacy and Policy, UNICEF
Jens is a Senior Advisor on Advocacy and Policy in UNICEF, where he works on global policy issues affecting children, advocacy planning and political economy analysis. Jens has covered migration issues for over 20 years, working as a child protection expert in Rwanda, Sudan, Bosnia, and Pakistan, and later as UNICEF’s Regional Advisor on advocacy in high income countries. Most recently he led the team producing the UNICEF report ‘A child is a child: Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation’. Jens holds a master’s degree in law from the University of Bonn and was admitted to bar in Berlin.

Irene de Lorenzo-Cáceres Cantero – Advocacy and Policy Specialist, UNICEF
Irene holds her position in UNICEF’s Division of Private Fundraising and Partnerships in Geneva, where she coordinates advocacy on refugee and migrant children by UNICEF National Committees. Previously based in New York, she worked on UNICEF’s advocacy on SDGs; supported UNICEF Country and Regional Offices in the development of advocacy strategies; and provided policy support on migration and development issues. Irene has also worked as a consultant for Human Rights Watch on the US-Mexico border focusing on gender-based violence and has volunteered with several community-based organizations working with migrant women and youth. Irene holds a Double Master’s Degree in European Studies from LSE and Sciences Po Paris.

John K. Bingham – Head of Policy and Coordinator of the civil society activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, International Catholic Migration Commission
John, a lawyer by profession, he joined ICMC in 2005. Since 2010, the governments of Mexico, Switzerland, Mauritius, Sweden, Turkey and later Bangladesh have asked ICMC to take a leading role in organizing civil activities in and around the GFMD, chaired respectively by each government through 2016. In 2013, at the request of a diversity of civil society organizations worldwide, the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly designated him Coordinator of civil society participation in the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly organized that year.

Julia Hahn is a freelance multimedia journalist and moderator based in Berlin. She works as a news anchor, editor and Turkey correspondent with DW, Germany’s international broadcaster. She holds an M.A. in International Studies/Civil War & Conflict Studies from ETH Zurich, Switzerland and a B.A. in Communication Sciences & Political Science from the University of Erfurt, Germany and Bogazici University Istanbul, Turkey.

Karen Whiting is the Senior Advisor (Child Protection and Youth) in UNHCR’s Division of International Protection in Geneva. The Child Protection and Youth Unit provides support to UNHCR field operations and works to build institutional capacity to deliver quality child protection and youth programming. Prior to her posting in UNHCR Headquarters, Ms. Whiting worked with UNHCR in Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, Turkey and in the Europe Bureau in Brussels. She holds a law degree from McGill University in Canada.
Katharina Lumpp – Representative of UNHCR Germany

After her law studies in Germany, Katharina began working for UNHCR in Brussels and Bonn, followed by two assignments in Afghanistan and Geneva. In 2006, she was appointed Deputy Regional Representative for Protection in Egypt and in 2010 for the UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Europe. From 2014, she headed the Protection Service in the UNHCR Office for the Middle East and North Africa, based in Amman, until she moved to Berlin in December 2015. Katharina Lumpp was deployed in various emergency operations, including in the DRC in 1996, during the Kosovo crisis in the FYROM and in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire in 2006.

Kirsten Di Martino – Country Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Germany, UNICEF

Kirsten Di Martino is UNICEF Country Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Germany. She is an expert in children’s rights and child protection, with extensive expertise on violence against children, child trafficking, child justice, and refugee/migrant children. She has worked with UNICEF in Kosovo, Moldova, China, Lao PDR and Germany as well as with Defence for Children International, the International Social Service, the European Commission, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She holds a post graduate degree in International Human Rights Law (LL.M) from the University of Essex, UK.

Kristina Uzelac – Reporting and Information Officer, IOM

Kristina works as a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Reporting and Information Officer in IOM’s Regional Office in Vienna focusing on collection of data related to the ongoing migration flows to Europe through the Mediterranean. Prior to joining the office in Vienna, Kristina worked as a DTM Reporting and Information Officer in IOM’s Regional Office for Southern Europe, based in Amman, until she moved to Berlin in December 2015. Kristina was deployed in various emergency operations, including in the DRC in 1996, during the Kosovo crisis in the FYROM and in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire in 2006.

Laura Lungarotti – Senior Protection Officer, IOM

Laura has more 14 years of experience in assistance and protection of internally displaced persons, migrants and other crisis affected populations. Laura’s focus is on prevention and response to child abuse, neglect, exploitation and human trafficking, especially in relation to unaccompanied and separated children. Currently based at the IOM’s HQ, Department of Operations and Emergencies, Laura worked previously in West, Central and North Africa and the Middle East in various capacities linked to the protection portfolio. Laura holds a BA in Political Sciences, including major in International Relations and Law (Firenze, Cesare Alfieri Faculty of Political Sciences) and an MA in Social Anthropology of Development (London School of Oriental and African Studies).

Leeane Torpey – Coordinator, International Detention Coalition

Leeanne coordinates the Global Campaign to End Child Immigration Detention of Children. Leeanne has worked to develop and disseminate training in media to promote empowerment and community development, including working in Western Sydney at Informa. Currently, she is a member of the anti-mafia special pool of the Prosecutor’s Office of the Catania Tribunal (Italy). She was a member of the Prosecutor’s office special pool dedicated to investigating matters related to child sexual abuse, domestic violence and pedopornography. Currently, she is a member of the anti-mafia special pool of the Prosecutor’s Office in Catania, where her specific task is to investigate the trafficking of human beings and other matters related to mafia criminal organizations. In 2017, she was appointed coordinator of the prosecution group within the national anti-trafficking plan.

Lilana Keith – Advocacy Officer, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

Lilana is PICUM’s Advocacy Officer on Children’s Rights and Labour Rights. She leads PICUM’s work to advance the rights and inclusion of undocumented children, young people and families, in migration policies and procedures, as well as in child protection systems and public social policies. Lilana also leads PICUM’s work to advance the rights of all workers, regardless of status, to decent work and justice for exploitation, including through better labour migration policies. Lilana joined PICUM in 2011. She has been involved in work to advance migrants’ rights since 2009, including through community development and funding.

Lina Trovato – Anti-Mafia Prosecutor’s Office, Italy

Lina Trovato holds a Ph.D. in private law from the University of Catania. In 2002, she passed the public concourse to become a magistrate. She has served as a public prosecutor in the Prosecutor’s Office of the Catania Tribunal (Italy). She was a member of the Prosecutor’s office special pool dedicated to investigating matters related to child sexual abuse, domestic violence and pedopornography. Currently, she is a member of the anti-mafia special pool of the Prosecutor’s Office in Catania, where her specific task is to investigate the trafficking of human beings and other matters related to mafia criminal organizations. In 2017, she was appointed coordinator of the prosecution group within the national anti-trafficking plan.

Lindsay Brown – Research Scientist, NYU-Global TIES for Children

Lindsay is a Research Scientist at NYU-Global TIES for Children and the research director of 3EA: Education in Emergencies, Evidence for Action. Her research focuses primarily on classroom instruction as the primary mechanism for educational improvement of under-resourced children, with a concentration on teacher literacy practices. Lindsay has collaborated with the Educational Testing Service, the New York City Department of Education, and the International Rescue Committee as well as consulting for research and professional development projects in Colombia, Rwanda, and Uruguay. She received both her doctorate degree in education and Master’s degree in Epidemiology and Clinical Research from Stanford University.

Louise Aubin – Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Louise is the Deputy Director (Protection Operational Support Service) in the Division of International Protection at UNHCR. She oversees the development of policies and operational guidance to UNHCR field operations on a range of protection issues including child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, and gender equality, with a particular focus on UNHCR’s emergency protection response. Louise oversees the work of the Global Protection Cluster and promotes advocacy efforts on major protection trends while providing operational guidance to field operations in internal displacement settings. With her team in the Division at UNHCR, she provides technical support for the development of laws, policies and strategies for the protection and onable solutions of internally displaced persons.

Luciano Calestini – Deputy Representative, UNICEF Lebanon

Luciano is a national of Italy, Australia and New Zealand and spent his childhood living between those three countries. In the late 1990s, he accepted a mission to southern Sudan to join the famine response. Since that time, Luciano has worked continuously in humanitarian service in East Timor, Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Haiti and Libya. For most of this period Luciano served with UNICEF. Luciano is currently Deputy Representative for UNICEF Lebanon, based in Beirut since January 2013. Luciano graduated in International Relations from the University of Sydney and has a Masters of International Development from RMIT University in Melbourne.
Mamadou Sarr - Technical Advisor for Case Work, International Social Service West Africa

Mamadou Sarr received his initial training in sociology for his bachelor's degree. He subsequently went on to further his studies in psychology counselling and obtained a "Certificat d’Aptitude aux Fonctions de Psychologue Conseiller" (CAFPC). Mamadou served in the Senegalese civil service as a psychologist and career guidance counsellor for five years at the Professional and Educational Orientation Centre in Dakar. His personal and professional convictions led him to join the ISS-WA team as a volunteer for a year and half in 2015. He currently holds the position of Technical Advisor for Case Work and is also in charge of vocational guidance for children and young migrants.

Maren Kroeger – Tertiary Education Officer, UNHCR

Maren works as a Tertiary Education Officer at UNHCR. She manages the Tertiary Education Programme of the Division of International Protection based in Copenhagen, Denmark and is in charge of the DAPI scholarship programme. Previous positions with UNHCR include Associate Protection Officer (Community-Based) at headquarters and Field Officer (Protection) in the emergency response for the earthquake in Ecuador. Before joining UNHCR, Maren was the Special Assistant to the Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. She gained intense field experience during her time as International Peace Advisor for the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)" in Kigali, Rwanda.

Maria Pia Belloni Mignatti – Chair, NGO Committee on Migration

Maria Pia obtained her Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Pavia and the Diploma of Advanced European Studies from College of Europe. She is a retired Professor of EU Law at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Pavia and former Visiting Scholar at the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies of New York University. She is currently Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Migration, UN Representative of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education, Member of the Advisory Group of the Early Childhood Development Peace Consortium. She has published books and articles on different aspects of the European Union integration.

Marta Santos Pais – Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

Marta Santos Pais was appointed her current position in 2009. Marta has more than 30 years’ experience on human rights issues, and engagement in UN and intergovernmental processes. Before her appointment as SRSG on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais was the Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. She joined UNICEF in 1997 as Director of Evaluation, Policy and Planning. Previously, she was the Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Chair of the Coordinating Committee on Child- hood Policies of the Council of Europe. She was also a member of the UN Drafting Group of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its Optional Protocols and has participated in the development of other key international human rights standards.

Melanie Teff – Senior Humanitarian & Migration Advocacy & Policy Adviser, UNICEF

Melanie is UNICEF UK's Senior Humanitarian & Migration Advocacy & Policy Adviser. She also works as Senior Child Rights Advisor with the International Detention Coalition, which she co-founded. Previously she has worked with Refugees International and with the Jesuit Refugee Service. She has also practised as a lawyer in the UK with a specialty in child protection. Ms. Teff has an LLB in Law and Politics from the University of Birmingham (UK) and a Masters in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (UK).

Mia Dambach – Director, International Reference Centre for the Rights of Children Deprived of their Family

Mia Dambach is the Director of the ISS/IRC based in Geneva, with over a decade of experience in child protection matters, starting her career as a children's lawyer in Sydney, Australia. She likewise coordinates Advocacy and Policy Development for the ISS network, focusing on child rights initiatives such as alternative care, children on the move, adoption, and international surrogacy in the UN arena and with regional bodies. She has recently undertaken evaluation missions to Cambodia, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco and Viet Nam.

Michela Macchiavello – Specialist for the Assistance of Vulnerable Migrants, IOM

Michela works as a Specialist for the Assistance of Vulnerable Migrants for IOM, in Geneva. She coordinates IOM’s efforts on trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis and manages the Global Assistance Fund to assist vulnerable migrants worldwide. Before this, Michela worked on: counter-trafficking and Integrated Border Management issues in the Caribbean; the training of peace support personnel for Legon University in Ghana; refugees’ issues in Uganda and as a Research Associate for the Refugees Studies Centre, University of Oxford. Michela holds a Master Degree in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex, UK and a Bachelor Degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies, UK.

Michele Klein Solomon - Senior Policy Advisor to the Director General, IOM

Michele is Senior Policy Advisor to the Director General at the headquarters of IOM and leads the Organization’s follow-up to the 2016 UN General Assembly summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, and the planned development of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. She represented the Organization in preparations for the 2013 UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and discussions on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, as well as in numerous humanitarian and development related inter-governmental initiatives. She holds a Juris Doctor and Masters of Science in Foreign Service degrees with honors from Georgetown University Law Center in 1988.

Mike Dottridge – Consultant on Human Rights and Child Rights

Mike spent 25 years working in London-based human rights non-governmental organizations, Amnesty International (1977 to 1995, focusing on sub-Saharan Africa) and Anti-Slavery International (director, 1996 to 2002). Since 2002 he has worked independently as a consultant on human rights and child rights issues, focusing mainly on how to stop children and adults being exploited (whether in child labour, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, forced labour, slave labour or trafficking in human beings). This includes improving ways of protecting migrant children and young people from harm, notably by learning how they (and their communities) protect themselves from harm.

Moussa Harouna Sambo – Head of Mobility Programme, African Movement of Working Children and Youth

With the support of Caritas, Moussa trained in Niamey, Niger to become an apprentice carpenter. In 1998, he helped create an organisation for children and young workers in Niger and completed a training in participatory action research. In 2003, he accompanied groups of children and young workers in Niger. In 2006, as a member of AMWCV, he completed a training course on early migration in Dakar. Since 2007, he has been coordinating the regional program of AMWCV on the mobility of children.
Nahlah Ayed – Foreign Correspondent, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Nahlah Ayed is a London-based foreign correspondent for CBC. She spent nearly a decade in the Middle East, spanning the conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon and Gaza, all the way to the Arab spring. Her work has been repeatedly recognized in Canada and abroad, including by a UK Foreign Press Association award, and most recently, a Canadian Association of Journalists photojournalism award for her work on board a ship that rescues asylum seekers at sea. In 2012, Ayed published a book on refugeehood that also included her family’s story: A Thousand Farewells, was a finalist for the Canadian Governor General’s Literary Awards.

Niccolò Gargaglia – Child Protection Deputy Lead for Search & Rescue Response, Save the Children

Niccolò has been working for Save the Children (SC) Italy for three years, both as a child participation expert and child protection officer. He developed specific child participation methodologies, tested and then brought to scale in SC Italy’s domestic programmes. Niccolò has been particularly involved in SC Italy’s response to migration and refugee arrivals to Italy and in child protection programmes in transit areas. He has also provided advice and technical support in the context of mass migration to the EU, particularly supporting the Serbian Response. Niccolò currently holds the position of Child Protection Deputy Lead for SC's Search & Rescue response.

Nicola Brandt – Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

Nicola Brandt is a Child Protection Specialist with the UNICEF Refugee and Migrant Response in Germany, where she is supporting the development of and capacity building on Minimum Protection Standards for refugee centres. She previously worked as a Human Rights Specialist at UNICEF New York Headquarters, where she supported UNICEF’s advocacy for children’s rights in the main UN bodies. Prior to joining UNICEF in 2007, Nicola worked as a human rights advisor to the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, where she helped develop and coordinate the European Union’s position in the Human Rights Council.

Olivier Geissler – Executive Director, International Social Service

Olivier holds the position of Executive Director at ISS Switzerland in Geneva. He holds a master’s degree in international relationships from the Graduate Institute in Geneva as well as an Executive Master in Development Policies and Practices. He has been working for many years with developing and in transition countries in the field of child protection. In West Africa, Olivier was responsible for the development of a regional network of 15 countries active in the protection of children on the move. He works with different types of stakeholders comprising NGOs, local and regional authorities as well as international organisations in the area of transnational child protection, including advocacy, norms and standards development.

Pablo Ceriani Cernadas – Vice-Chair, UN Committee on Migrant Workers

Pablo obtained a Master’s in International Migration and Migration Law from the European University of Madrid. He is the Vice-Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families and Member of the Advisory Board on the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. He is Professor on Migration & Human Rights and author of numerous publications on migrants’ rights. He is also a Member of Global Migration Policy Associates. He was a consultant for UNICEF, ILO and UNFPA and Coordinator of the Legal Clinic for Immigrants and Refugees’ Rights (UBA-CELS-CAREF).

Patrick Obono – Programme Manager, IKEA Foundation

Patrick oversees IKEA Foundation’s global investments in education. Patrick has over 10 years of professional experience and expertise in education, philanthropic advisory, managing grants and social investments. Before joining the IKEA Foundation, he worked at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa where he co-founded the first educational leadership development scholarship for talented young African leaders. He later joined Porticus Amsterdam to pioneer breakthrough investments in East Africa and advise the foundation and its partners in Africa on education, health, human rights and social investments. Patrick has a Masters in Statistics from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and an MBA from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

Philippe Lortie – First Secretary, Secretariat of the Hague Conference on Private International Law

Philippe has primary responsibility for the 1980 Child Abduction, the 1996 Child Protection, the 2000 Adults and the 2007 Child Support Conventions and the 2007 Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations. He also has primary responsibility for the International Hague Network of Judges and Issues concerning Direct Judicial Communications. Philippe holds degrees in Civil Law (LL.L.), Common Law (LL.B.) and a Master’s degree (LL.M.) in international law. He also holds a degree in Business Administration (B.A.A.) from the École des H.E.C. de Montréal (Canada). He is a member of the Quebec Bar.

Pia Oberoi – Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Pia is the Advisor on Migration and Human Rights at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, where she leads the work of OHCHR’s migration team on policy and legal issues related to the human rights of all migrants and the intersections between migration and human rights. Prior to this, Pia led the migrants’ rights work of Amnesty International’s International Secretariat, and has been an expert consultant for NGOs and policy think tanks around the world. Pia holds a DPhil in International Relations from St Antony’s College, Oxford University.

Pierrette Cazenave – Child Rights Advisor for Europe, Terre des Hommes

Pierre is Terre des Hommes’ Child Rights Advisor for Europe, based in Budapest, where he provides technical guidance for the TDH migration programme, implemented in more than 20 countries. Prior to this, Pierre lectured on European Union law and international and European human rights law for the University ‘Paris 1 Panthéon – Sorbonne’ and the University of Bucharest. Pierre also supports, through trainings and lectures, Central European University’s legal studies department in Budapest, focussing on human rights and advocacy in Europe. Pierre started his career as a humanitarian worker in the Middle East, South Asia and South East Europe.

Richard Pichler – Special Representative on External Affairs, SOS Children’s Villages International

Richard, Special Representative on External Affairs at SOS Children’s Villages International, led the global organization active in 134 countries as the CEO from 1995-2015. During this time, he broadened the organization’s portfolio and impact on most vulnerable children and engaged with his peers in shaping the SDGs. He represents the organization at the UN, EU and in other major international platforms. He initiates and promotes cooperation with other leading INGOs and develops funding contacts with major international partners from the government, philanthropic and corporate sectors.
Rikke Johannesen – Senior Programme Advisor, Migration and Displacement Initiative, Save the Children

Rikke Johannesen has worked with displacement and mixed migration issues for more than 20 years at HQ level and in regions such as the Balkans, Caucasus, East Africa and Asia in senior management and strategic development positions. Her key focus has been on durable solutions. Currently, Rikke Johannesen supports the Children in their efforts of ensuring a strategic programmatic approach to work with displaced and migrant children. The unit, the Migration and Displacement Initiative, supports Save the Children International’s HQ and regional operations, as well as Save the Children Member organisations.

Rima Salah – Assistant Clinical Professor, Child Study Center

Dr. Rima Salah holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology (SUNY-Binghamton). She recently served as a Member of the UN High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Rima was Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad; Deputy Executive Director for External Relations in UNICEF and Deputy Executive Director. She was also the UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa - responsible for all UNICEF operations in that region. Rima also served as UNICEF Representative in a number of countries. In October 2015, Rima was elected to Chair the newly formed Early Childhood Peace Consortium.

Roula Hamati – Head of Research and Advocacy, Insan Association

Roula Hamati is the head of Research and Advocacy at Insan Association, a Lebanese human rights organization and the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants, an initiative of active civil society organizations in the Arab Euro-Med Region working on issues of migrants, refugees and children on the move. Roula’s work focuses on mobilizing civil society organizations on a national and regional level, developing policy recommendations, and lobbying decision makers in order to protect the rights of migrant workers, refugees and members of their families.

Sabine Rakotomalala – Senior Technical Advisor, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Sabine has been Senior Technical Adviser with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, based in the World Health Organization since 2016. With an academic background in Child Psychology she has over a decade of professional experience in the fields of violence prevention, mental health and psychosocial support and child protection both in humanitarian and development settings. Since 2011 she has worked in the World Health Organization, Terre des hommes and UNICEF and spearheaded initiatives such as the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Network and the development of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

Saskia Blume – Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

Saskia is the Child Protection Specialist on Migration at UNICEF, where she works on guiding UNICEF’s global protection programming for child migrants and refugees. She has previously worked on the protection of IDP children in Myanmar with UNICEF, on migration research in Vietnam with IOM and on trafficking and forced labour with ILD, in Geneva. As side projects, she also managed a team of volunteer researchers to support pro-bono lawyers of asylum seekers in Europe (for Asyllos), and worked as a Policy Editor for the Oxford Forced Migration Magazine. She holds a master’s degree in Migration Studies from Oxford University.

Stathis Poularakis – Advocacy Officer, Médecins du Monde Greece

Stathis has been involved in issues relating to migration and nationality, both on academic and practical levels, as a legal practitioner protecting migrants and asylum seekers before national and European courts and as a former member of the Appeals Committee in the Appeals Authority (Asylum Service) at the Greek Ministry on Migration. In his current position as Advocacy Officer at Médecins du Monde Greece, he is deeply involved in protecting migrants and refugees, especially those belonging to certain vulnerable groups, in the context of the reception and identification process and the full exercise of their rights.

Stefanie Barratt – Innovation Pillar Lead, Samuel Hall

Stefanie holds Master’s degrees in Development Economics from Sciences Po Paris and Université Paris Dauphine. At Samuel Hall, she applies her background in statistics to analyse data collected by field teams under her supervision, across Asia and Africa. In her position, she works to advance standards in data collection and analysis in challenging settings - from beneficiary selection to monitoring of programs. Stefanie conducts her research with an eye to developing transparent and replicable methodologies to inform evidence-based policy planning. Stefanie has been increasingly focused on the rigorous collection and analysis of data on children and youth in forced displacement settings.

Steve Waddell – Principal, Networking Action

Responding to the 21st century’s enormous global challenges and realizing its unsurpassed opportunities require new ways of acting and organizing. As Principal of Networking Action, Steve has worked for more than 30 years with UN and other global initiatives, aid agencies and NGOs, with a special focus on intersectoral (business-government-civil society), inter-organizational collaboration and networks to produce innovation, enhance impact, and build new capacity. Steve has a Ph.D. in sociology and an MBA and founded the Boston College executive management program Leadership for Change. His latest book is Change for the Audacious: a doers’ guide to large systems change for a flourishing future (2016). His latest project is Future Earth and Transformations 2017.

Susana Sottoli – Deputy Director of Programme Division, UNICEF

In her current post, Susana provides global strategic and technical leadership for programme development in cross-sectoral areas such as migration, urbanization, adolescent development, early childhood development, children with disabilities, among others. Previously, she worked as Deputy Representative for UNICEF Paraguay; Senior Social Policy Advisor for the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and The Caribbean; and UNICEF’s Representative in Mexico. Before joining UNICEF, Susana worked as a researcher and consultant in the fields of social and international development policy. She holds a master’s degree in Sociology and a doctoral degree in Political Sciences and Sociology from the University of Heidelberg, Germany.
Valerie Karr – Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston and Faculty Affiliate, College of William & Mary

Valerie Karr, Ph.D. is an expert in the field of inclusive development, human rights, youth and disability, with a track record of effective rights-based advocacy internationally. Dr. Karr currently works as an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston at the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development and a Faculty Affiliate at the College of William & Mary. Her research agenda is framed by the “No One Left Behind” movement incorporated into the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on assessing if development partners are living up to their commitments in targeting assistance to vulnerable groups and with what results.

Vasili Sofiadellis - CEO, Visions2Ventures

Vasili has transitioned from playing professional soccer in both Greece and South Africa’s premier leagues to a Chartered Accountant, and is currently an enthusiastic philanthropist. Sofiadellis worked at PwC performing numerous due diligence assignments whereafter he co-created PwC’s Strategy in the Startup Ecosystem. He’s now the CEO at Visions2Ventures, a bespoke advisory and VC firm, and the founder of Changemakers Lab, a platform that enables social entrepreneurs and key stakeholders to cooperate and co-create impactful tech solutions that solve social challenges. He was a member of Silicon Cape’s Executive Committee, EBAN’s European Impact Investment Committee and a founding member of StartupBoat, focused on the current refugee crisis.

Verena Knaus – Senior Policy Advisor, UNICEF

As Senior Policy Advisor in the UNICEF Brussels office, Verena focuses on: child rights mainstreaming in EU internal and external policies and programmes; scaling up EU investments and leveraging domestic resources for children; and ensuring that EU migration policies and practices are child-rights compliant. Verena authored three UNICEF reports on the impact of repatriation and returns on vulnerable children, including their psycho-social health. Verena supported the Kosovo Ministry of European Integration and mayor of Mitrovica as independent strategy advisor (2008-2012). From 1999-2008, as co-founder and Senior Analyst for ESI, an independent policy think tank, Verena coordinated its research and campaigns in Turkey and the Balkans.

Vincent Tournecuillert – Regional Migration Programme Manager, Terre des Hommes

Vincent is manager of the European Migration Programme at Terre des Hommes based in Hungary. Over the years at Terre des Hommes, Vincent worked as Coordinator of the Destination Unknown global campaign for TDHIF and Regional Child Protection Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa. In 2006, Vincent created the Regional Office of TDH for Central and South-Eastern Europe. For the past 15 years, he has been working in the field of transnational child protection issues within Europe and with neighbouring countries. He also worked as a journalist and international freelance reporter in countries in crisis (Balkans, Central Africa).

Vivienne Chew – Asia Pacific Regional Co-ordinator, International Detention Coalition

Vivienne is the Asia Pacific Regional Co-ordinator for the IDC, based in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. She possesses over eight years of experience working with refugees and asylum seekers, predominantly in countries of first asylum. Currently, she is the Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network’s (APRRN) Immigration Detention Working Group. She successfully established and managed legal aid programs for urban refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand and Tanzania. Vivienne has a law degree from the University of Cardiff, Wales, and a Masters in International Human Rights from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. She is a qualified lawyer in England and Wales.

Yoomi Renström – Mayor of Ovanåker municipality, Sweden

Yoomi is Mayor of the Municipality of Ovanåker (Sweden). She is a graduate of the University of Uppsala, where she studied Literature, Psychology, and Information and Communication. She pursued her studies at the University of Falun, where she received Headmaster education. Before becoming a politician, she worked with disabled people both as member of the staff and later as a manager. She is member of the International Committee of SALAR, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and also a member of the Congress of the European Council, CLRAE. Yoomi has been a member of the Committee of the Regions since 2007.
YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Abdulkarim Albrem – Spokesperson for youth group
Abdulkarim is a 22-year old volunteer youth advocate. He was studying economics in Aleppo, when the war forced him to flee. He arrived in Germany and applied for asylum. After living in a reception center for almost a year, now he holds a temporary residence permit. He has been the spokesperson for his youth group since the spring of 2016. In this position, he raises awareness on the challenges refugees face, advocates for effective solutions in the protection of refugee children and youth, and calls on stakeholders to take meaningful action and involve the voices of youth in decision making processes that affect them.

Bahajt Alturjman – Singer-songwriter & Co-founder, LIBICO
Born in Libya, Bahajt is a 21-year-old singer-songwriter based in Malta with an interest in non-governmental organizations. Be it coaching, organizing or performing, he often participates in events that deal with youth integration. Bahajt is a strong believer in being able to feel home wherever you go. Having migrated to Malta at the age of 15, he understands the importance of being able to grow in an environment that allows you to be who you are. Furthermore, he is one of the founders of LIBICO, a Libyan NGO which aims to bring about the integration and empowerment of Libyans in Malta.

Carl Kristiansson – Leader, One Third
Carl is currently studying Sustainable Development and Geography at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Carl is also leading a youth organisation based in Sweden called One Third, which has the aim to make the voices of youth heard and valued, particularly in the context of migration and development. This summer, Carl is interning with Terre des hommes Hungary. Carl is passionate about meeting new people and sharing ideas and visions for a sustainable world. He is also a passionate recreational football player and enjoys hiking in the Swedish and Scottish mountains.

Elda Haziri – Volunteer with child rights NGOs
Elda is a 22-year old girl from Kosovo. She is currently in her last year of studies in social work. She was a refugee in Macedonia for three months during the war in Kosovo. She does a lot of voluntary work in different NGOs especially with children in Kosovo. Since Kosovo has a high level of migration, she is very interested in this topic and has learnt a lot during her Internship at the Center for Social Work.

Farah Abdi – Blogger, author and human rights activist
Farah Abdi is a Somali refugee and award-winning blogger. Farah arrived in Malta from Libya by boat in 2012, fleeing fear of persecution. Farah is author of the autobiography ‘Never Arrive’ and a human rights activist. Farah is also the recipient of the International Bremen Peace Award by the German NGO, Stiftung die schwelle, and the Queen of England award for young leaders. Farah says: “I have been told many times by family, friends, colleagues and strangers; that I am a black, African, refugee, Muslim, trans woman; that I am outside the norms accepted by society.”

Hamza Ibrahim – Vice-President, Unaccompanied Minors Federation
Hamza is a 25-year-old of Somali descent. He moved to Sweden almost six years ago as an unaccompanied minor asylum seeker. After leaving Somalia, he attended high school in Sweden and is currently pursuing his bachelor’s degree in political science at Malmo University. Hamza has worked as a volunteer for many organisations, such as Save the Children Sweden, the Red Cross, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations and with Somali migrant communities in Svalöv and Malmö. Since May 2016, Hamza has also served as Vice-President of the Unaccompanied Minors Federation, which is run by unaccompanied youth from different countries.

Khady Diop – Member, African Movement of Working Children and Youth
Khady was born in 1992 in Pikine, Senegal. The African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) interested her, which is why she joined the movement. Initially, she was trained in sewing and beading. Later, she attended literacy classes organized by MAEJT and received training on the rights of children and young workers. She has worked with groups of children on the move, participated in field visits and helped children who have problems in other cities. In 2016, she conducted the MAEJT consultation on working children in Senegal.

Maria Loredana Campione – Volunteer, UNICEF
Maria Loredana Campione is a 16-year-old Italian student and UNICEF volunteer. She has recently been part of the Junior Summit 7, a summit fully dedicated to discussing child migration, violations of rights and exclusion. Following that, she has become a UNICEF volunteer with child rights NGOs.

Mariane Andrade Quintao – Participant, Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children
Mariane is a 23-year old young adult from Brazil. After spending seven years in the U.S., she was detained and spent three weeks at a detention center in New York, which had a profound effect on her before being returned to Brazil, a country that she could barely remember. In 2012, she was a participant at the launch of the Campaign to End Immigration Detention in Children in Geneva. She recently graduated with a degree in international relations in Brazil and is currently working on a master’s thesis about the immigration detention of children.

Milena Franke – Volunteer, UNICEF
Milena is a 17-year old Armenian and half-Iranian girl. She has been working for UNICEF for two years. She left her hometown, Yerevan in Armenia, when she was four years old. She recounts being very confused as to why she had to leave her home town but her mom explained to her the reasons when she was eight years old. Currently, she is lives in Germany and is doing her A-levels. She would like to become a doctor, like her mom, or a pilot or lawyer, and to travel to Dubai. Her biggest dream is to visit Mecca one.
Mohamad El Safadi – Fleet and Store Manager, Solidarités International

“I am in love with cities I’ve never been to and people I’ve never met”. Palestinian by blood and born in a country that doesn’t recognize him as its citizen nor a resident, Mohamad Abdallah El Safadi is a refugee. He is the second-born child out of five siblings and was raised in Baddawi Camp in North Lebanon, a camp that brought him back to reality every time his desire of travelling grew. He currently works as Fleet and Store Manager for Solidarités International, an NGO that works to improve the living conditions of populations affected by the Syrian conflict.

Monika Chaulagain – Leader, ‘We’ for Change

Monika is a young girl from Nepal who, since 2013, has been leading the youth-led organization called ‘We’ for Change in different capacities. ‘We’ for Change is the only youth-led organization in Nepal that is led and executed by young people between 16 and 24 years old. Monika’s major role in the organization involves decision-making, developing strategies and involving young people for safe spaces in community.

Myo Thet Oo – Country Coordinator, Youth LEAD

Myo Thet Oo is a 23-year-old, passionate youth advocate promoting child-friendly legal aid in Myanmar. He studied civil engineering and in 2010 started volunteering at a community-based organization working for people living with HIV. He currently works at a local NGO which works for and with child protection in programming and policy. He is Country Coordinator of Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development Network (Youth LEAD) in Thailand. In 2015, he was honored by International HIV/AIDS Alliance with “The Most Inspiring Youth Award”. He writes on meaningful youth participation, better health coverage and on creating an enabling environment for all young people, including marginalized populations.

Ahmed Nadeem – Translator and Interpreter, Association for the Social Support of Youth

Ahmed works as a translator and interpreter in a shelter for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Makrinitsa, Volos, Greece for ARSIS-Association for the Social Support of Youth, a non-governmental organization. He also worked with Save the Children, which was collaborating with ARSIS in Kos Island, as a translator and interpreter, during the refugee crisis. He is currently attending classes at the 1st EPAL (Lyceum) in Nea Ionia, Volos.

Najeeba Wazefadost – Founder & President, Hazara Women of Australia

At 10 years old, Najeeba fled Afghanistan with her parents. She sought asylum from Australia by sea in September 2000. She spent several months in mandatory immigration detention before being recognised as a refugee. Arriving with no knowledge of English, by the age of 14, Najeeba had mastered it well enough to win a national essay-writing competition and start the advocacy journey. Najeeba is the founder and president of Hazara Women of Australia, helping newly arrived refugee women learn English and more quickly feel part of their new communities. She also works as a settlement case manager in Sydney and has established her own childcare business.

Obeid Heimaq – Volunteer with youth and children

Obeid was born in Afghanistan and fled to Germany when he was six years old. He grew up in a foster house (Haus Carl Sonnenschein). There, he went to school and developed his personality. He joined the small council in his foster house to fight for the rights of children, not only children who were without parents or had problems in being reunited with them, but also underage refugees who were on the move. Because of his involvement in volunteering, he has had many experiences and participated in many projects.

Pinar Aksu – Advocate, Global Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children

Pinar is originally from Turkey and has been living in Scotland for over a decade, and now has refugee status. Pinar was detained as a 14-year-old in the UK with her parents and younger sister, who was only eight at the time. She has a BA in Community Development and is now completing her masters in human rights in Glasgow, Scotland. Her own description of detention is “many dreams being locked away” and in her writing she writes honestly on the prejudices that many refugees face when they resort to immigrating.

Rina Kadiri – Former intern, Terre des Hommes Kosovo

Rina is a 20-year-old girl from Kosovo. She was born in Munich as a refugee child and went back to Kosovo with her family after the war ended. She is studying social work and I loves this profession. She is very interested in migration, and wrote her thesis on the “Challenges of repatriated people in Kosovo”. She has just finished an internship at Terre des Hommes Kosovo. Besides that, she does a lot of voluntary work, mainly helping Roma children in Kosovo.

Sandra Kebede – Member, UNICEF Youth Council

Sandra is an 18 year-old girl and who has just graduated high school. Her parents are both from Ethiopia; she was born and raised in Germany. She has been socially and politically active for four years. Her main focus is to spread awareness for the UN Children rights as she part of the UNICEF youth group in Frankfurt and an elected member of UNICEF Youth Council, where they discuss topics that concern young people, such as political participation. In addition, Sandra tutors a refugee from Afghanistan and supports him in navigating his everyday life.

Veli Ademi – Leader, UNICEF Youth Team

Veli is an 18-year-old student who was born in Kosovo. Veli’s parents left their home country in 1999 as refugees. Soon after their arrival Veli was born in Germany. Unfortunately, they had to leave Germany and return to Kosovo; in 2003 they fled Kosovo again. After good school results in Wesel, he enrolled at a Gesamtschule to take his A-levels. His greatest achievement yet was the founding of the UNICEF Youth Team which he is a leader of. Veli’s aim for the future is to support families on the move.