

EXPLORE, ENGAGE, ACT!

Children and Young People and the
Global Compact on Refugees and for
Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration



Acknowledgements

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Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
FOREWORD	4
STORIES	6
Mateo's story	6
Rasha's story	7
THE BASICS	8
Who is this guide for and how can I get involved?	9
Some key facts!	11
What are the Global Compacts?	12
How do the Global Compacts hope to make a difference?	13
Why are there two different Global Compacts?	14
Who should take responsibility for making the aims of the Global Compacts a reality?	15
WHAT DO THE GLOBAL COMPACTS SAY ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?	16
1. Children's rights	18
2. Protecting children and young people on the move, including unaccompanied and separated children	20
3. Keeping families together	22
4. Empowering Girls	24
a. Mariam's* story	25
5. Creating alternatives to detention for refugee and migrant children and youth	26
a. Mariane's story	27
6. Access to information	28
7. Access to basic services	30
8. Jobs and livelihoods	36
9. The importance of identity documents and tackling statelessness	38
10. Finding lasting solutions	40
11. The importance of cooperation and shared responsibility	43
GET INVOLVED!	46
How can I find out more? How can I take action?	47
BE INSPIRED	52
'One Third'	53
United Nations Major Group for Children and Young People	54
UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council	54
Destination Unknown	55
THE WORDS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT	56

FOREWORD

Throughout human history, adults and children have moved within and across nations and regions for many different reasons. Moving has often helped people to be safe, to be better protected, to access opportunities, and to create links with countries and societies that host them. But for many migrants and refugees, the journey to a better and safer life can be a very difficult one.

Today, millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homes to escape conflict, violence, poverty or environmental degradation, many of them crossing international borders. Along the way, they are at risk of abuse, exploitation and violence. Many travel with family members but an increasing number are exposed to such dangers while travelling alone, which can put them at greater risk of harm. The impact of these experiences can be devastating and long-lasting.

To respond to these problems, in 2016, the countries of the world met at the United Nations in New York to decide how to better manage large movements of refugees and migrants. They adopted a document called the 'New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants', which included commitments to improve the protection of refugees and migrants.



Through this Declaration, they also agreed that they would develop two further documents: the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The two Compacts detail how governments will work with each other and with organisations and individuals to better manage migration and refugee flows and protect and support migrants and refugees themselves. Both Compacts include commitments that will have an impact on children and adolescents. They also importantly outline opportunities for children and young people to contribute to changing how things are done.

This publication is aimed at children and young people (and adults too!) so that they know what the governments of the world have said they will do. As the Global Compacts can be difficult to read, we have prepared a 'child and youth friendly' briefing to summarize what these documents say about migrant and refugee children and young people.

The aim of this publication is to enable children and young people to:

- Know what the two Compacts say about migrant and refugee children and adolescents
- Play a part in making sure that the promises made in New York and in the Compacts are kept
- Check that everyone is doing what they have promised to do
- Find ways to contribute and have their say

The first part of the document provides background information about the Compacts and explains some key words and phrases such as what is meant by a migrant or a refugee.

Daniela Reale

Lead on Child Protection and Children on the Move, Save the Children UK and Co-Chair of the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts.

The second part outlines what each Compact says about children and young people under the age of 18. We have selected some key issues that both Compacts cover and for each of them we have explained in simpler language what each Compact says.

The third section of the document explores ways for young people to engage in discussions around the Global Compacts and in putting them into practice and in checking on progress. It looks at ways in which children and young people might want to work with others and take action. We have included some inspiring examples of groups of young people who are doing a lot of work to support migrant and refugee children and youth.

This child and youth friendly briefing was prepared by the 'Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts'. The Initiative is a coalition of more than 30 organizations. In 2016, these organisations decided to work together to ensure that the needs of migrant and refugee children and adolescents and their views would be at the very centre of the two Compacts. During the preparations of the Compacts, the Initiative organized events and activities, bringing different people together to talk about the needs of migrant and refugee children and young people. We made recommendations and showed through good examples that change is possible.

The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts is happy to publish this child and youth friendly briefing to help children and young people across the world understand what the governments of the world have promised to do. Be informed, be inspired and take action!

Caroline Horne

Head of Destination Unknown Campaign, Terre des Hommes and co-chair of the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts

STORIES

Mateo's Story

Mateo* is a 12 year old migrant from Venezuela, who is now living in Colombia. He's living in a shelter with a tin roof and tarpaulins for walls, with no electricity, water or plumbing. Despite this, he is happier in Colombia because they have enough food to eat. His family moved to escape poverty and hunger. This is his story.



"I am 12 years old. I'm in seventh grade. My favourite subject is maths. I love music – reggaetón. I come from Venezuela. My town is cool. In the morning it's warm and in the afternoon it's hot. We were never hungry before the crisis. My father came here first for two years. And after, thank God, he found a plot here and brought us over. It made me happy, that I wouldn't have to endure hunger anymore. (We came) on a bus. My father was waiting for us here at the bridge. I didn't know that it was going to be so difficult. After we arrived here, we came to the farm. The first days were hard, the first two to three months, after that we got used to the sun, and carrying water from far away. We have no running water, no lights, no bathroom. Before (in Venezuela) we had lights, a toilet, we didn't have to carry water. But between there and here, I like here. I like that here we eat as we did before the situation (in Venezuela). I would like it if there was light here and a toilet—if there was a septic tank or a tap. I have to carry it (water). To go and find it takes 10 to 15 minutes. It's difficult. When my father isn't working I go with him. (Otherwise) I go with my sister or my mother. Here we eat well, we don't live very well but it seems to me that here is better. I would like it if my country fixed itself so we could return. I love my country. My country is very pretty. From my house to where I wait for the school bus takes 40 to 45 minutes to walk. (I walk) with my sisters and a group that lives close to my house. It's hard because of the sun, from the bus stop to the house there are almost no trees on the street. When I arrive at school I arrive thirsty and hot. I would like to be a doctor, or a lawyer, sometimes I think a policeman because they help people. I had the flu, a virus that brought, for example, headaches, nausea, diarrhea. I believe that it was because of the water, because of a virus, (and) because of the environment."

*His name has been changed.

Rasha's Story

Rasha* is a 13 year old refugee from Syria, who is now living in Jordan. She fled her country because of the violence there. This is her story.



"I'm from Syria and I live in Jordan. In my house we are two families living together in the same house. My brother with his wife and children along with me and my parents and siblings. We left Syria at the end of 2012. I was 8 years old. My school was really nice, it had two playgrounds. I really liked the school and had many friends. My school was shelled, it was hit by a rocket. I wasn't in the school I was on my way out but I saw the bombing because I was at the gate. That day I saw many of my friends injured and saw many people dead. What I saw was truly terrifying. I saw one of my friends, (my school was mixed sex), he died in front of me and I saw the blood. So we left and got back home and I was in a bad state and I couldn't do anything but sleep. My brothers went to the school to get people from under the rubble. We were all crying, it was really horrific. By chance our neighbour's house in our building was bombed that same day. I remember on our last day in Syria, I said goodbye to my siblings but I didn't want to leave. I ran outside the house so as not to leave. My siblings then followed me and told me that it's time to go so I said goodbye to them and then we went to the border. I was not able to open the window because I used to get really terrified from the sound of planes. I come here to Makani Centre because it's like my second home. I love participating in the classes. I feel much better now, we have had lessons in life skills, and psychological support. You put the past behind you and move on. With psychological support, you can talk to others and you feel relieved...at the same time there are things you cannot forget."

*Her name has been changed.





Rasha*, 13 years old, refugee from Syria, takes part in a class

Credit: Lucia Zoro/ Save the Children

THE BASICS



Who is this guide for?

You may be:

- ▶ A refugee child or young person
- ▶ A migrant child or young person
- ▶ A child or young person who wants to find out more and take action in support of refugees and migrants
- ▶ Any adult who is interested!

This publication can be used in conjunction with:

- ▶ Youth-friendly version of the Global Compact on Refugees
- ▶ Youth-friendly version of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration



How can I get involved?



Throughout this document, wherever you see this icon it represents an opportunity for children and young people to get involved and make their voices heard.

You can read more about this in the 'Get Involved!' section at the end of this document.

Did you know?

As of 2016

28 million
or 1 in 80 children in the world were living in forced displacement

this includes 12 million child refugees and child asylum seekers, and 16 million children living in internal displacement due to conflict and violence.

At least **300,000** unaccompanied and separated children who moved across borders were registered in 80 countries in 2015 and 2016

Worldwide, there have been more than 27,000 migrant death since 2014
Since 2014, over 1,200 child deaths have been recorded. The actual number is likely to be much higher.

In 2014

28% 
of all detected trafficking victims were children

(20 per cent girls and 8 per cent boys)

OVER 100 COUNTRIES are known to detain children in immigration detention

53% 
OF REFUGEES are school-aged children under the age of 18

Refugee children are **x5** MORE LIKELY to be out of school than other children





What are the Global Compacts?

On 19 September 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the 'New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants', a set of commitments to improve the protection of refugees and migrants. In 2018, after many discussions, two new historic global agreements or 'compacts' were written.

They are called:

- The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)
- The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

This is the process that led to the creation of the Global Compacts:

Global Compacts



Credit: www.unicef.org (<http://www.unicef.org>)

The Compacts are a set of aims to show how countries from around the world will aim to work together to create a strong and unified response to support and protect migrants and refugees. Both Global Compacts reaffirm principles established in international law and respect the human rights of all migrants and refugees. This includes the rights of children and young people under 18, as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Both Compacts make clear that States need to share their expertise and resources and work in a fairer and more collaborative way. It is important to know that the two agreements are not obligatory. In other words, States would not be breaking the law if they chose not to meet their commitments in the Compacts. By committing to the aims of both Compacts, they agree to share their expertise and resources and work in a fairer and more collaborative way. The goals in both Global Compacts hope to build better collaboration.



How do the Global Compacts hope to make a difference?

The GCR aims to create a stronger, more unified response to:

- Large movements of refugees
- Protracted refugee situations, where refugees are effectively stranded for long periods of time because they can't return to their country of origin.

Its main aims are:

- 1 To make it easier for host countries to accept refugees by reducing the pressure they are under
- 2 To support refugees to be more independent and rely less on the help of others
- 3 To make it possible for refugees to be hosted by 'third countries', to ease the pressure on host countries and countries of origin
- 4 To make it easier for refugees to return to their country of origin in a safe and dignified way

The GCM explains both the challenges and the opportunities created by migration.

Its main aims are:

- 1 To address the issues that force people to leave their homes and their countries
- 2 To reduce the risk that many migrants face and protect their human rights at each step of their journey, giving them support and assistance when they need it
- 3 To help communities and migrants alike so that they can make the most of the opportunities created by migration
- 4 To find solutions to the challenges that migration causes



Why are there two different Global Compacts?

It is very important to understand who migrants and refugees are, and to know the difference between the two terms. The two Global Compacts aim to improve the cooperation between States and the responses to the situations and challenges faced by migrants and refugees. This booklet looks at the common themes in the two compacts regarding children and young people on the move.

What is a migrant?

A migrant is someone who moves away from his or her normal home to live in another region or country. This can be a temporary move, for example for a period between 3 and 12 months, or a more permanent move for periods of one year or more. People migrate for many reasons. It might be to find work, to escape poverty or to get access to better services such as healthcare or education. Their status could change at different points. In any case, the term 'migrant' does not depend on why they moved in the first place or what status they have.

What is a refugee?

When people leave their country to seek refuge or protection in another country, they are called refugees. They might have had to leave their country because they are being persecuted due to their race, religion or nationality or because they have different political views or belong to a particular group. Refugees leave to escape conflict, violence or persecution. Usually, refugees cannot return home or are afraid to do so.

Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People

Regardless of whether they are a refugee or a migrant, it is crucial that the rights and basic needs of all children and young people on the move are respected. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines specific rights for all those who are under 18, giving them special protection irrespective of their nationality and where they are. All states have the same obligations towards all children.

What kind of journeys do refugee and migrant children and youth make?

- They might travel **with their parents** or other legal or customary primary care-giver
- They might travel alone. **Unaccompanied** children are those 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
- They might have been **separated** from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver but not from other relatives, so they travel with other adult family members.
- They might be **trafficked** into a new country and become victims of exploitation or modern slavery.

Sometimes, children and young people can be classified as migrants or refugees at different points in their journey. For example, a child may start her journey as an economic migrant, and then become a victim of trafficking or may not be able to return to their own country because they might face persecution if they did. This is why it is important that all children receive appropriate protection wherever they are in the world, and whatever point in their journey they are at.



Who should take responsibility for making the aims of the Global Compacts a reality?

The aims of the Global Compacts cannot become a reality unless governments, with the support of individuals, groups and organisations, take responsibility for making them happen.

As well as UN Member States, different actors have been called upon by the Global Compacts to take action on certain commitments. These actors are referred to as 'relevant stakeholders' within the Global Compacts.

They include, for example:

- UNHCR – The UN Refugee Agency
- IOM – The International Organisation for Migration
- International organizations within and outside the UN system
- Regional Organisations
- Civil society
- The private sector
- The Media
- Local authorities
- Humanitarian and development actors
- Financial institutions such as banks
- Host community members
- Refugees and Migrants themselves





Playground in informal refugee settlement, Lebanon

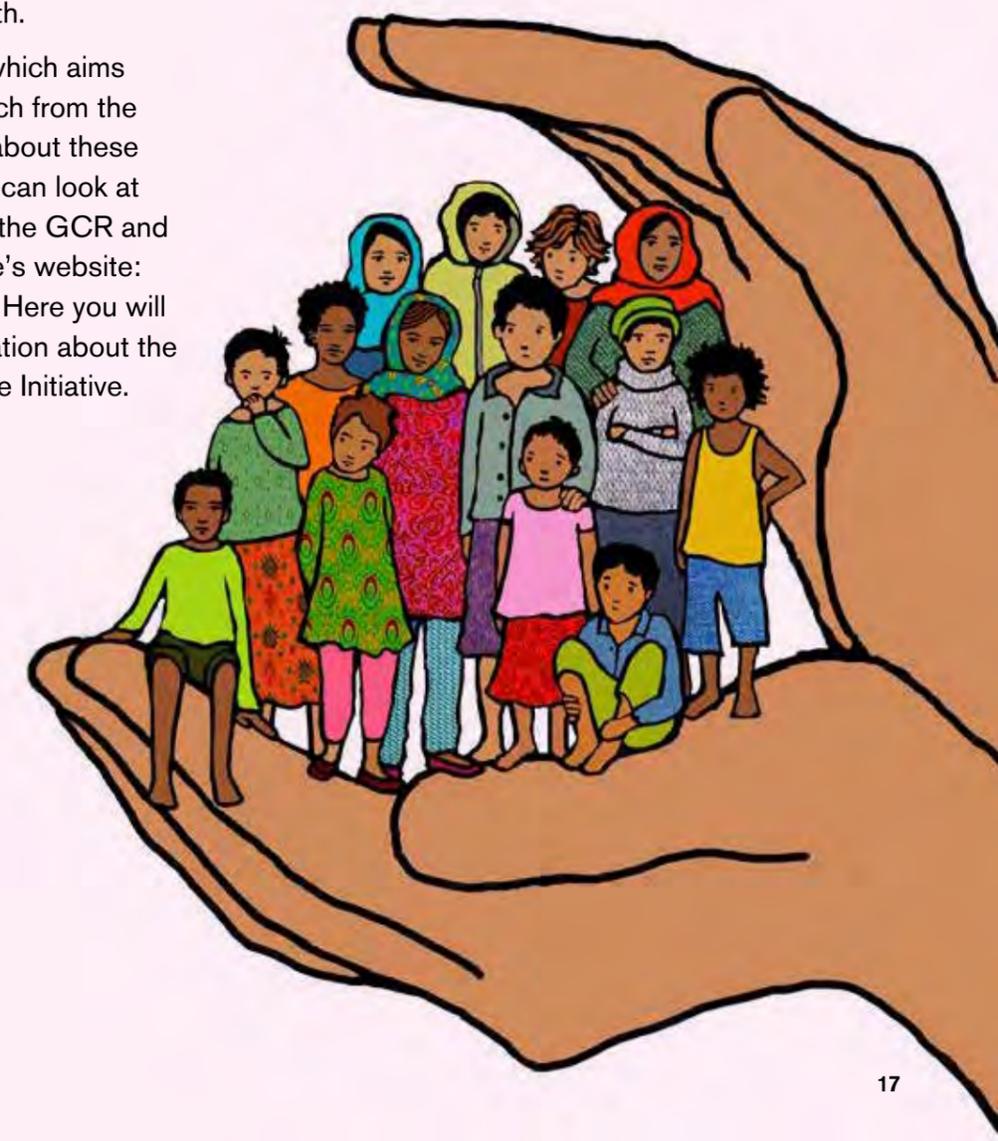
Credit: Jordi Matas / Save the Children

WHAT DO THE GLOBAL COMPACTS SAY ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

In this next section, you can read what the Global Compacts say about providing support and protection for children and young people on the move.

The aims of both Global Compacts have been arranged into the themes that are most important and relevant to refugee and migrant children and youth.

On each page, you can see which aims come from the GCR and which from the GCM. If you're keen to read about these aims in even more detail, you can look at the youth-friendly versions of the GCR and GCM available in the Initiative's website: www.childrenonthemove.org. Here you will also find a lot of more information about the Compacts and the work of the Initiative.



1. Children's Rights

Children and young people under the age of 18 often need special care and protection that adults do not, especially when they are on the move. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child lists the basic human rights that children everywhere have. All children are entitled to enjoy these rights without discrimination, including migrant, refugee or stateless children of any ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities, or any other status. These rights include the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from violence, harmful influences, abuse or exploitation; to access key services such as education and healthcare and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

The Convention specifies that children who are refugees or are seeking asylum should have access to all the rights in the Convention. It states that adults should always act in the best interests of children and young people in any given situation. Sadly, this does not always happen and the rights of many children and young people on the move often continue to be ignored and violated.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...says:

(Guiding Principles)

- The GCR is guided by relevant international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It is also guided by international humanitarian law and other international instruments, such as the 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children'.
- It is underpinned by age, gender, and diversity considerations, including: [\(Paragraph 13\)](#)
 - promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls;
 - ending all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harmful practices;
 - facilitating the meaningful participation of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons;
 - ensuring the best interests of the child;
 - combating discrimination.

The GCM...

...says:

(Guiding Principles)

- The GCM rests on core international human rights treaties, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It also rests on other international instruments, such as the 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children', the 'Convention to on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women', the 'International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers'.
- The Guiding Principles of the GCM say it is:
 - People Centered – it places individuals at its core.
 - Centred on human rights, regardless of immigration status.
 - Gender-responsive – it ensures that the rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected.
 - Child-sensitive – it promotes all rights of children and the principle that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration at all times, in all situations that concern children, including unaccompanied and separated children.



2. Protecting children and young people on the move, including unaccompanied and separated children

Children and young people on the move face many dangers and risks. They may be at risk of abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, separation from their carers, trafficking and military recruitment. Both Global Compacts call upon the international community to make sure that all children and young people on the move are well protected, regardless of their status or where they are in the world.

Supporting unaccompanied and separated children and young people

Refugee and migrant children and youth who travel alone, or who have become separated from their families need special support and protection. They need to be protected from violence, abuse and neglect and given support to make sure they can access the basic services they need.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon UN Member states and relevant stakeholders to contribute resources and expertise to support concerned countries to:

- Follow the same guidelines when they are protecting all children, including refugee children and youth. (Part B, 1.3)
- Treat refugee children and youth fairly as they enter a new country and make a decision about their status as quickly as possible. (Part B, 1.6)
- Increase international efforts to prevent and fight against all forms of violence, people trafficking and people smuggling. (Part B, 1.3)
- Identify and separate fighters as they enter or cross a border to make sure they do not threaten the safety of others. (Part B, 1.3)
- Give special help and protection to refugee children who used to be part of armed groups. (Part B, 1.3)
- Improve the registration and documentation of refugees, paying attention to women and girls so that it is easier for them to access basic support and protection. (Part B, 1.4)
- Make sure that refugee children and youth are safe, and receive the right kind of protection. (Part B, 2.5)
- At arrival:
 - Make sure reception areas are appropriate for and meet the needs of boys and girls. These could be for example “safe spaces”. (Part B, 1.2)

- Make sure that refugee children and youth are interviewed properly so that authorities understand their needs and they act in their best interests when they decide about where they should go next and what care to give them.
- Establish mechanisms for identifying children, including unaccompanied and separated children, and for referring them to the appropriate services they need. For example to be assessed so that decisions based on their best interests can be taken and appropriate care and other services they need can be arranged. Multi-stakeholders response teams could be formed to help improve these measures. (Part B 1.5)
- Invest in national child protection systems. This includes training those authorities that come in contact with children on how to carry out best interests determination and assessments which inform decisions that concern refugee children, as well as other child-sensitive procedures. (Part B, 2.5)
- Make services available to support refugee children and youth who require mental health support. (Part B, 2.5)
- Set up projects that fight discrimination and help refugees and host communities to live peacefully together. (Part B, 2.10)

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

(Objective 7)

- Encourage all nation states to include migrant children and youth in any action plans and laws they make to protect children. 
- Protect migrants' human rights in line with international law.
- Make sure the best interests of children are always taken into account.
- Make sure that our approach considers the needs of children and young people.
- Make sure that migrant children and youth are kept safe from harm.
- Protect and support migrant children and youth who are travelling alone or who have been separated from their families. They must be given a legal guardian and access to basic services. Help them to be reunited with their family or support them to understand the justice system if they need it.
- Make sure that border workers on either side of a border, as well as child protection authorities work together well so they always act in the best interests of children and young people.
- Never put migrant children and youth in danger or at risk of harm or abuse.
- Make sure that there are effective systems in place to protect migrant children and check that they are included in national systems that have been set up to protect children.
- Make sure that there is a joined-up approach across borders.

- Identify and help migrant children and youth who have been smuggled into a country. (Objective 9)
- Raise awareness about people trafficking so that trafficked children and young people under 18 are noticed and offered help. (Objective 10)
- Make sure families can stay together whenever possible. (Objective 11)
- Give migrant children and youth special protection and help when they cross borders. (Objective 11)
- Treat migrant children and youth fairly if it is necessary to check that they are actually under the age of 18. This assessment should involve a range of experts who can come to an accurate conclusion. (Objective 12)



Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Parts B 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6, 2.5, 2.10

GCM: Objectives 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18

3. Keeping families together

In the aftermath and chaos of an emergency, families can become separated. This can be a particularly upsetting time for a child. Sometimes, a decision is made to separate children from their families to ease the stress on a family, such as when there is a severe lack of food or shelter. Some countries actively separate children from their families at border crossings as a deterrent to prevent migration.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 9 and 10) states that any child who is temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her biological family, has the right to grow up in another family or in a family-like environment. The new family must give him proper care and respect his religion, traditions, culture and native language. Both Global Compacts aim to prevent family separation and support family reunification.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon States, and relevant stakeholders to contribute resources and expertise to support concerned countries to:

- Build the skills and knowledge of authorities that make 'best interest assessments' of children. When children seek refuge in a new country they will be interviewed by relevant officials to decide what sort of care and protection they need. The kind of care children are offered must always be in their best interests. (Part B, 2.5)

- Build the skills of border workers so they can act in a way that is sensitive to the needs of children. (Part B, 2.5)
- Support family tracing. (Part B, 2.5)
- When refugees are resettled in a 'third country', there should be opportunities created for families to be reunified through clear referral pathways. (Part B, 3.3)

Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Part B, 2.5, 3.2, 3.3

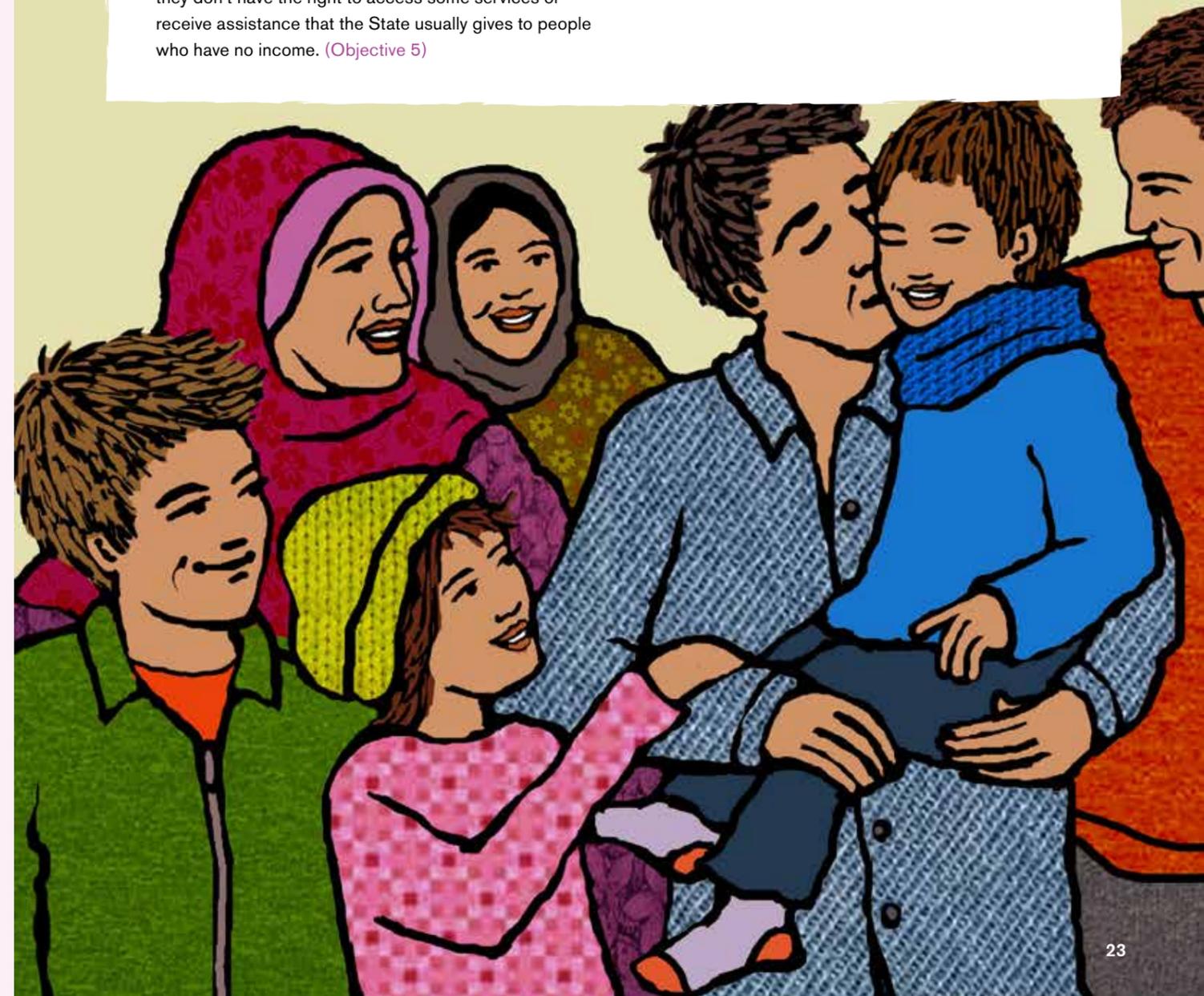
GCM: Objectives 5, 11, 13 and 21

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Create more options and pathways for people to migrate in a properly planned way that respects the right to family life. (Objective 5)
- Make it easier for families to be reunited when they have been separated because of migration by:
 - Helping families get the right support.
 - Reviewing some of the rules that make it difficult for families to be together. For example, because they don't earn enough money; don't speak the language of the host country; haven't been in that country long enough; don't have a permit to work in that country or because they don't have the right to access some services or receive assistance that the State usually gives to people who have no income. (Objective 5)

- Train border officials about how to prevent families being separated and how to reunite families if they become separated. (Objective 11)
- Work towards finding alternatives to detention for children by creating ways for them to live in the community with access to education and healthcare. This will enable them to enjoy their right to family life and unity. (Objective 13)
- Make sure that before children return to their country of origin, decisions are made about whether this process will be in their best interests. Their right to family life and unity must be considered. If they return, they must have a parent, legal guardian or specialised official accompanying them. (Objective 21)



4. Empowering girls

Refugee and migrant girls may find that they are treated differently because of their gender, making it harder for them to find the support that they need. They may be at risk of being trafficked, of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual and gender-based violence, particularly if they are travelling alone.

It is important that migrant and refugee girls are empowered to overcome such challenges and build their confidence to play an active part in their community.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...aims to:

- Support many key people to work in partnership to promote gender equality and empower women and girls. (Part III, paragraph 13)

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to contribute money, resources and expert advice to support concerned countries to:

(Part B, 2.4)

- Make sure that the way girls receive services is sensitive to their needs.
- Make sure that women and girls get equal access to services and opportunities.
- Empower women and girls in refugee and host communities, to promote the full enjoyment of their human rights.
- Promote the meaningful participation of women and girls by making sure they are properly informed, involved in shaping services and can play an active part in their host community. 
- Make it easier for women and girls to get access to justice if they have been victims of a crime.
- Prevent and respond to all forms of violence.
- Promote the economic empowerment of women by supporting them to find decent work.
- Support women and girls to get access to education.

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Make it easier for people to live peaceful and rewarding lives in their home countries. One way to make this happen is to support women and girls to feel valued in their own communities. (Objective 2)
- Meet the needs of vulnerable migrants who may be at risk of harm, abuse and exploitation. To do this, action plans will be created that are sensitive to the needs of women and girls. This would provide them with access to healthcare, counseling and access to the justice system if they have been victims of crime. (Objective 7)
- Work to provide the right sort of care and support to migrants who are at risk of being trafficked or exploited. (Objective 10)
- Support women to find work and take an active role in society by building women's skills and confidence, fighting discrimination against women who are looking for work and making sure women can access basic services. (Objective 16)

Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Part B 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.4, 2.5

GCM: Objectives 2, 7, 10, 15, 16, 18, 21

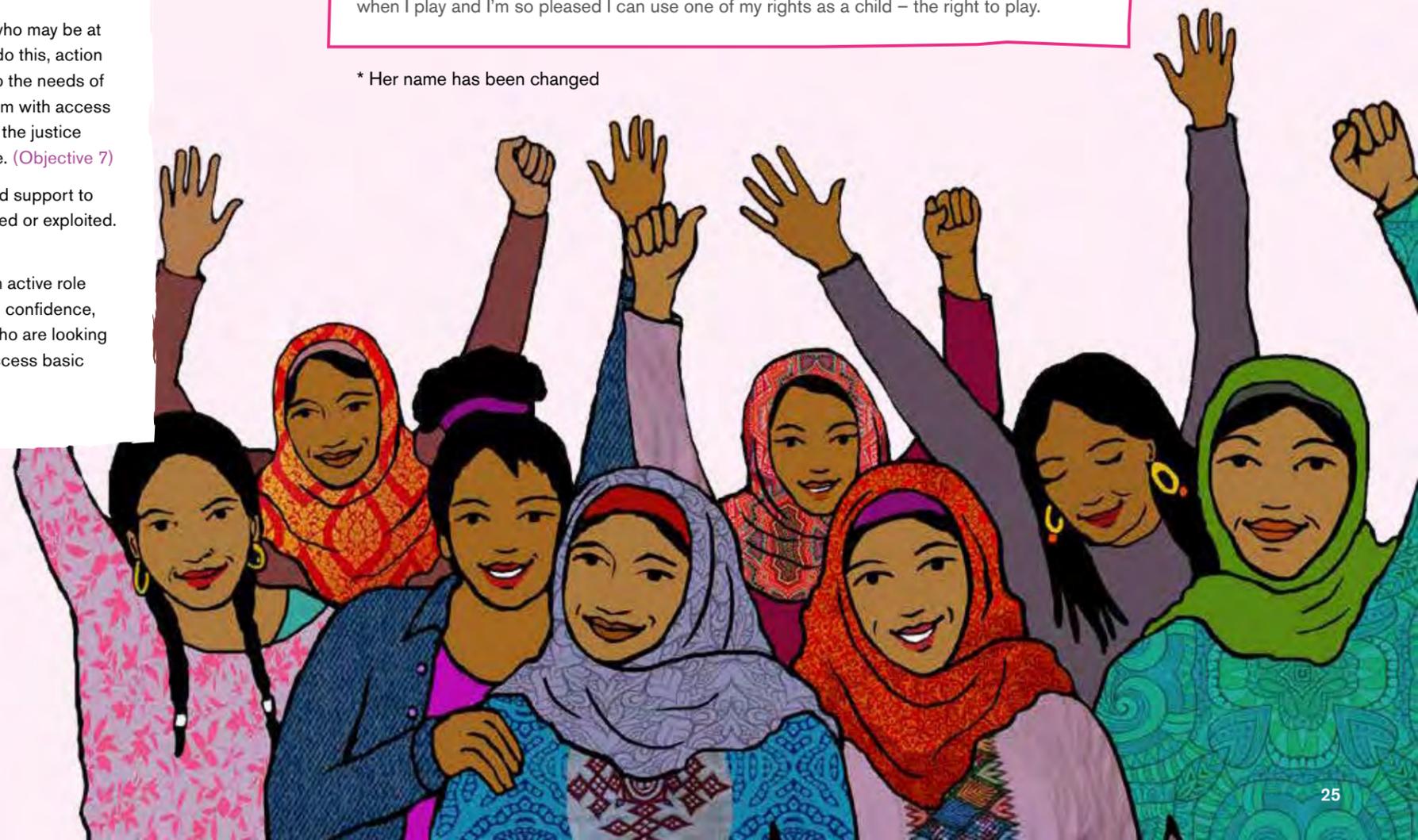
Mariam's story

Mariam* is 14 years old and has lived in Za'atari camp since 2013. She lives with her parents and 4 siblings.

Her father decided they had to leave Jordan because he was afraid for their lives. They waited at the Jordanian border for 10 days before they could flee to safety. Mariam* has attended many sessions at the Save the Children centres, learning about child rights, receiving an informal education and being provided with life skills such as the hairdressing lessons. Mariam* said: "Every day I help my mother with the daily work. When I have free time I play football between the caravans. I feel I can make myself happy because of football, it fills my day with energy. My personality comes out when I play and I'm so pleased I can use one of my rights as a child – the right to play."



* Her name has been changed



5. Creating alternatives to detention for refugee and migrant children

In many countries, refugees and migrants are routinely being placed in detention centres whilst authorities consider whether they can or cannot remain in the new country. This causes serious and lasting effects for families and children. Many studies have shown how damaging it is to children to keep them in detention, even when they are held only for a short time.

A detention centre is no place for a child, yet many children and young people are deprived of their liberty or separated from their families. In the 'New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants', States committed to work towards ending the practice of detaining children for the purposes of determining their migration status.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to offer their support, resources and expert guidance to host communities to:

- Support the development of non-custodial and community-based alternatives to detention, particularly for children. (Part B, 1.5)



The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Work to end the detention of migrant children and protect their rights and their best interests by ensuring that they are not placed in detention centres. Instead, create ways for children to live in the community with access to education and healthcare. This will enable them to enjoy their right to family life and unity. (Objective 13, paragraph h)



Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: (Part B, 1.5)

GCM: (Objective 13, paragraph h)



Mariane's story

Mariane is a former migrant child from Brazil, who spent much of her childhood in the United States. When she was 17, she was locked up in a detention centre and returned to Brazil without her family. This is her story.



"I was born in Brazil. The country went through an economic depression and my father was having difficulty providing for our family. So when he received a job offer in the United States, like many immigrant fathers around the world, he was forced to leave his family behind in Brazil so that he could provide a better life for us. After many years of our family being separated...my mother and father made the difficult decision to move us to the United States so that we could be together, with or without the permission of the government. I was 9 years old at the time. But, after 7 years in the United States, I truly felt "American". But when I turned 16, I went to get my driver's license. When I got to the counter, they asked for proof of my legal status in the United States and I realized that perhaps I didn't have one. I asked my mother and she told me "Don't worry, we've applied for your citizenship years ago. By the time you're 18 you'll have one." A year later, my friends and I were excited about our graduation and started looking at universities together and discussing what we wanted to do with our futures. I was again asked--where is my proof that I am a regular resident. I didn't know that only regular residents could enroll in a university or seek scholarships.

I took a trip with a friend and her aunt to Florida. But as we were driving to Miami, a black SUV pulled behind us with flashing lights. Large men with guns and badges pulled us out of our car. I was confused, scared and crying. They handcuffed me and put me in the back of their vehicle. They drove me to Miami, but instead of the beach, they took me to an immigration detention center. It was a large building that looked like a prison. There were barbed wire fences, and the officers all had guns and were wearing bullet proof vests. It was full of adults, and my friend and I--both children--were separated. I was placed in a cell with nothing but a concrete bench, where for 1 full day officers took my picture, my finger prints, and asked me endless questions. I was given no food or water. No lawyer. I wasn't able to contact my parents for the whole first day. I was then loaded into a large white van with many adult immigrant men, and taken to the airport where I was placed in a locked room. I spent a night at the airport alone in this room. I was very tired, but there was no place to sleep. I felt cold and very hungry but there was neither heat, nor food. The guards treated me as if I were a criminal and told me I didn't belong in the United States. From there, I was flown to New York and detained in a "Children's Village" together with children that had committed crimes or were suffering from drug addiction or abuse. I spent nearly a month in this place before I was finally given the option of either voluntarily returning to Brazil, or remaining in detention and enduring a process that would most likely end in my deportation. At the age of 17, I was returned to a country I could barely remember, and where my mother, father and younger sister no longer lived."

6. Access to information

When children and young people are on the move, they need access to information that is presented in a way that they can easily understand. This information helps them to feel prepared and able to make good decisions at each step of their journey.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon UN Member states, with resources and expert help from UNHCR and key stakeholders, to

- Provide 'safe spaces' at border crossings, where young refugees are offered advice and information. (Part B, 1.2)



The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

(Objective 3)

- Support migrant children and youth to access information that is correct, easy to understand and available at the time it is needed.
- Create a national website to help migrants find out important and useful information about the country they plan to travel to.
- Organize events and training to help migrants understand what they can expect when they migrate.
- Set up information points all along the routes that migrant children and youth take, showing them:
 - Where to find support.
 - How to get in touch with people who work at the consulate of their own country.
 - How to get access to the basic services they are entitled to.
 - How to safely carry on with their journey or return to their own countries if they wish.



- Give migrant children and youth the important information they need when they arrive in a new country.
- Help migrant children and youth get in touch with their family members if they have become separated from them. They should be able to use phones, computers or other means of communication to contact their families as they move and when they arrive at a new destination. (Objective 8)
- Create contact points where migrant children and youth can find out updates about the search for their missing family members. (Objective 8)



Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Part B 1.5 and 2.5

GCM: Objectives 3 and 8



7. Access to basic services

All children and young people on the move have the right to access the basic services they need to survive and thrive, wherever they are. Basic services include education, health care, accommodation and food and nutrition. Unfortunately, the basic needs of many children and young people on the move are simply not being met.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

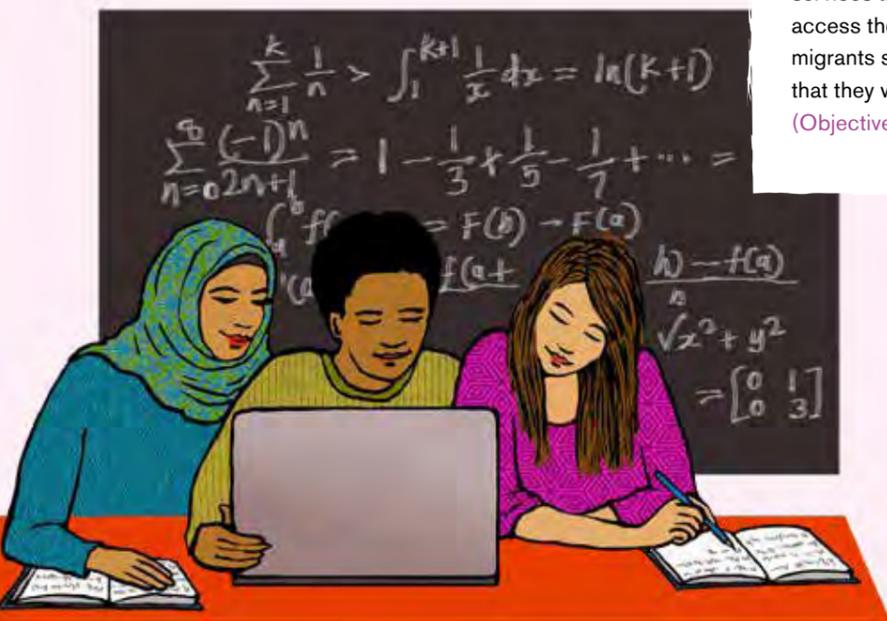
...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to offer support, resources and expert advice to concerned countries to:

- Provide basic humanitarian assistance and essential services in reception areas. (Part B 1.2)
- Invest in robust reception and integration services for resettled refugees, including women and girls at risk. (Part B 3.2)
- Depending on the context, provide support services that are integrated and appropriate for both refugee and host community girls and boys. (Part B 2.5)
- Make sure that refugee children and youth receive the basic services they need. (Part B, 2.5)

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Fight discrimination so that all migrant children and youth receive the basic services they need. (Objective 15)
- Make sure that migrant children and youth get access to basic services, even if they do not have regular migration status. (Objective 15)
- Create 'service points'. These are places where migrant children and youth can go to access basic services. (Objective 15)
- Help migrant children and youth to complain if they cannot get access to basic services. (Objective 15)
- Ensure that the cooperation between service providers and immigration authorities does not discourage migrants who are without regular documents from accessing the services they need. In places where they access these services (such as schools or hospitals), migrants should feel that their privacy will be guaranteed, that they will not be arrested and that they will be safe. (Objective 15)



Access to basic services

Education

All children and young people have the right to an education, but millions of children and young people on the move are missing out. This can have a hugely negative impact upon their self-esteem and prevent them from finding meaningful work in the future.

“3.5 million refugee children did not attend school in 2016. Only 61 per cent of refugee children attend primary school, compared with a global average of 91 per cent. As refugee children age, the obstacles to education increase. Just 23 per cent of refugee adolescents are enrolled in secondary school, compared to 84 per cent globally. For tertiary education the situation is critical. Only one per cent of refugee youth attends university, compared to 36 per cent globally.”

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/education.html>

What do the Global Compacts say about children and young people's access to education?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to offer support, resources and expert advice to host countries to:

- Improve and expand national education systems, to create a fairer education system that is accessible for all. Refugee children and youth should be able to enjoy primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- Bring to a minimum the amount of time that refugee children and youth spend out of education. This should ideally be no longer than three months after arrival.
- Increase the options for early years and for technical and vocational training.
- Train teachers to better support refugee children and youth.
- Break down the barriers that prevent refugee children and youth from getting an education. Do this by offering flexible ways for young refugees, especially girls, to learn and get qualifications.

- Make sure that refugee children and youth can get their certificates and qualifications recognized in their host country. If this is not possible, they should be able to convert their qualifications in their host country. (Part B, 2.1)
- Develop and put in practice national plans for the education sector that include refugees.
- Support 'complementary pathways' that include educational opportunities for refugees (including women and girls) through grant of scholarships and student visas, including by working together with academic institutions. (Part B 3.3)



The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Support migrant children and youth to enjoy quality education, and create opportunities for them to learn new skills. (Objective 15, paragraph f)
- Make it possible for migrant children to go to nursery or school without suffering any discrimination. (Objective 15, paragraph f)
- Create alternative ways for migrant children and youth to learn when they cannot attend school. (Objective 15, paragraph f)
- Provide opportunities for migrant children and youth to learn whilst they work. (Objective 15, paragraph f)
- Help migrant children and youth to learn new languages or improve their language skills. (Objective 15, paragraph f)
- Create welcoming and safe school environments by teaching all children and young people about migration. Provide money and equipment to help schools put on activities that promote tolerance and respect. (Objective 16)
- Make sure migrant children and youth are recognized for the skills, qualifications and abilities they have so that they can find decent work. (Objective 18)

Where else can I find information about Education?

GCR: Part B, 2.1, 3.3

GCM: Objectives 5, 15, 16 and 18

Access to basic services

Health care

Every child and young person has the right to be healthy. Children and young people on the move must be able to access health care when they need it, and it must be given in a way that is sensitive to their particular needs and situation. This includes support for those experiencing mental health problems.

What do the Global Compacts say about children and young people's access to healthcare?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to offer support, resources and expert advice to:

(Part B, 2.3)

- Expand and improve the quality of national health systems and services to facilitate access by refugees and host communities, including women and girls, children, adolescents and youth.
- Improve access to healthcare for survivors of trafficking in persons, torture, trauma or violence, including sexual and gender-based violence.
- Train health workers, including from refugee communities.
- Prevent diseases.
- Provide immunisation services.
- Support health promotion activities, such as physical activity or sport.
- Create fair and affordable access to medicines, medical supplies and vaccines.

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Make sure the health needs of migrant children and youth are taken into account in national and local laws and action plans.
- Make sure all migrant children and youth get access to basic services without discrimination, and that they can afford them.
- Make sure health workers communicate with migrant children and youth in a way they understand.
- Train health workers on how to be sensitive to the culture and background of all migrant children and youth. (Objective 15)



Where else can I find information about healthcare?

GCR: Part B, 2.3

GCM: Objective 15, paragraph e



Access to basic services

Accommodation

Every child and young person has the right to an adequate standard of living but many children and young people on the move live in poor and substandard housing or even in refugee camps and detention centres.

What do the Global Compacts say about children and young people's access to accommodation?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to offer support, resources and expert advice to:

- Establish reception and transit areas sensitive to age, gender, disability, and other specific needs (through "safe spaces" where appropriate). (Part B 1.2)
- Make it easier for refugee children and youth to have somewhere decent to live by building and improving houses and apartment blocks. (Part B, 2.6)
- Provide accommodation, water, sanitation and hygiene. (Part B, 2.6)
- Provide access to fuel and energy for cooking, heating and lighting. (Part B, 2.6)
- Invest in robust reception services for resettled refugees. (Part B 3.2)

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Enhance reception and assistance capacities. (Objective 8, paragraph a)
- Prepare for appropriate reception and assistance arrangements for migrants and include these into the national plans to prepare in case of natural disasters. (Objective 2, paragraph j)
- Ensure appropriate reception, care and reintegration arrangements for children are in place in the country of origin upon return. (Objective 21, paragraph g)

Where else can I find information about access to appropriate accommodation?

GCR: Part B, 1.2; 2.6; 3.2

GCM: Objectives 2, 8, 15 and 13, 21

Access to basic services

Food and Nutrition

All children and young people on the move should have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to help them develop and grow.

What do the Global Compacts say about children and young people's access to Food and Nutrition?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to offer support, resources and expert advice to concerned countries to:

- Give refugee children and youth access to enough safe and nutritious food.
- Give refugee children and youth access to food in the most useful way. For example, by giving them cash so they can buy their own food.
- Prevent malnutrition by making sure that children and young people receive a nutritious meal when they are at school. (Part 2.7)

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Invest in work that can eliminate the issues that compel people to leave their country of origin, including through ensuring food security. (Objective 2, paragraph b)

Where else can I find information about food and nutrition?

GCR: Part B, 2.7

GCM: Objective 2, 13 and 15



8. Jobs and Livelihoods

It is very important that young refugees and migrants are recognized for the skills, qualifications and abilities they have. They should be able to find meaningful and rewarding paid employment if they wish to. However, in many countries, refugees face such legal and bureaucratic obstacles to accessing jobs that it becomes impossible for them to earn a living.

The kind of work on offer to them may not be adequate or does not comply with minimum international standards. Young refugees and migrants often face discrimination or harassment from their employers. Migrants may also find that their qualifications are not recognized in their new country and they cannot find suitable work that matches their skills.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and key organisations to contribute money and expert help to host countries to:

(Part B, 2.2):

- Create economic opportunities, decent work, job creation and entrepreneurship programmes for host community members and refugees, including women, young adults.
- Identify and strengthen refugees' skills and qualifications through courses such as language training or vocational skills to fill skill gaps in the labour market, in particular for women, persons with disabilities, and youth.
- Make it possible for people to use technology to find work or base their work online.
- Make it easier for refugees to access financial products (such as bank accounts and loans).

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

(Objective 6):

- Improve the ways migrants are recruited so it is fair and ethical.
- Create laws that stop migrant's rights being violated and prevent children from being made to engage in harmful work.
- Protect all migrant workers from exploitation and abuse.
- Create shared written guidelines and action plans that support migrants to enjoy safe, decent work.
- Improve laws so that all recruitment agencies must work in the best possible way for migrants.
- Make sure all migrant workers are given written contracts that are easy to understand.
- Work hard to stop abuse and exploitation of migrant workers.
- Prevent migrants' work contracts and identity documents being taken away against their will.
- Make it possible for migrants to make a complaint about their employer.
- Make sure the needs of female migrant workers are taken into account.

(Objective 18):

- Find innovative ways for all migrants to be recognized for the skills, qualifications and abilities they have.
- Support migrants to develop the skills that are most needed in their host community to make it easier to compete in the job market.
- Work with national qualifications organisations to promote a standardized system so that qualifications are recognized everywhere in the world.
- Build partnerships between employers and education settings so they can better prepare migrants for the world of work.
- Invest time and money to improve training that migrants receive through apprenticeships, student exchange programmes and scholarships.
- Find new ways to recognise the skills that migrants have, even when they have no certificate to prove it e.g. through mentoring or internship.



Where else can I find information about these themes?

GCR: Part B, 2.1, 2.2, Part 3.4

GCM: Objective 6 and 18

9. The importance of identity documents and tackling statelessness

Children and young people on the move need access to documents that prove their identity. Without them, it may be difficult to get access to the protection and basic services they need. If they are over 18, it may prevent them from getting a job.

Many millions of children and young people around the globe are 'stateless', meaning that they do not have any identity documents, and cannot claim to be a citizen of any nation state. This means they cannot rely upon their country of origin for support and protection when they most need it.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon States relevant stakeholders to contribute money and expert help to host countries to to:

- Make sure that governments properly register the births, marriages and deaths of their citizens. (Part B, 2.8)
- Help refugees and stateless people to get quick access to civil and birth registration and documentation, using computers and mobile phones to make the process easier. (Part B, 2.8)
- Find out the best ways to prevent and reduce statelessness, including through sharing of examples of what works and through national, regional and international action plans. (Part B, 2.9)

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

- Support all migrant children and youth to get a legal identity, as this is their right. (Objective 4)
- Help migrant children and youth get access to identity documents, such as a passport, to prove who they are and where they come from. This will make it easier for them to get access to the basic services they need. (Objective 4)
- Reduce statelessness by:
 - Making sure all new migrant babies are registered and receive a birth certificate.
 - Making it possible for both the mother or the father to give their nationality to their child.
 - Giving a child a nationality even if they were born away from their home country, especially if they would otherwise be stateless. (Objective 4)

Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Part B 2.8 and 2.9

GCM: Objectives 4 and 7



10. Finding lasting solutions

The Global Compacts show how it is possible to find lasting solutions to the situations faced by refugee and migrant children and youth. These lasting solutions fall into three main areas:

- **Voluntary, safe and dignified return** – where children and young people return voluntarily to their country of origin and are supported to reintegrate successfully and safely back into society.
- **Local integration** – where children and young people settle permanently in their host country, and can apply to become a citizen.
- **Resettlement in a third country** – where children and young people are resettled in a new country to ease the pressure on their original host country, and their country of origin.

When refugee and migrant children and young people move to a different country or return to their country of origin, it is crucial that they feel safe, welcomed and valued by their community. This builds their self-esteem and helps them to feel they are making a positive contribution within a respectful and tolerant society.

Sadly, decisions about the long terms plans for children are too often taken without considering their best interests or carried out in ways that make them feel threatened, unsafe or scared. This can contribute to increase their vulnerability. Children and young people on the move continue to experience hostility, discrimination and even violence from some members of their host communities. They may also find it difficult to reintegrate back into their home community, after a time away.



What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...calls upon States and relevant stakeholders to contribute resources and expertise to:

Voluntary, safe and dignified return:

(Part B, section 3):

- Support countries of origin to address root causes, to remove obstacles to return.
- Support voluntary safe and dignified repatriation, respecting the principle of non-refoulement, which means that people should never be returned to places where they face a risk of death, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, or other irreparable harm.
- Create the right conditions for refugees to return safely and with dignity based on informed choice.
- Support countries of origin to receive and reintegrate returnees, notably women, youth, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. (Part B 3.1)

Local integration:

- The international community as a whole, will contribute resources and expertise to assist with the development of a strategic framework for local integration. (Part B, 3.4)
- Address documentation issues; facilitate language and vocational training, including for women and girls and facilitate access to livelihood opportunities. (Part B 3.4)
- Address issues such as documentation and residence permits. (Part B 3.5).

(Part B, 2.1):

- Set up projects that fight discrimination and help refugees and host communities to live peacefully together.
- Involve children, adolescents and youth, including through sports and cultural activities, language learning, and education. This will help increase respect and understanding, as well as combating discrimination.

- Give training, advice and resources to local communities and workers who support refugees.
- Work with civil society and faith based organization and the Media (including social media) to encourage better understanding of refugees' lives and situations.

Resettlement in a third country:

(Part B, section 3)

- Provide resources and support so that more countries can offer to host and resettle refugees.
- Create or improve the choice, size and quality of resettlement programmes.
- UNHCR, together with countries and other actors will write a 3 year plan (2019-2021) to increase the number of places available for people to be resettled (Part B 3.2) and to increase 'complementary pathways' to protect those in need. (Part B 3.3)
- Invest in good reception and integration services for resettled refugees, including women and girls at risk. (Part B, 3.2)
- Invest in emergency transit facilities and emergency processing for resettlement, for women and children at risk. (Part B 3.2)
- Expand other pathways that are complementary to resettlement to offer protection to people who need it. Including:
 - Create opportunities for families to be reunified.
 - Provide educational opportunities for refugee children and youth in third countries.
 - Support groups that want to 'sponsor' refugees to arrive in third countries.
- Countries with the help of other actors can make contributions to make this happen. (Part B, 3.3).

The GCM...

...calls upon UN Member States in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to:

Voluntary, safe and dignified return:

(Objective 21)

- Support migrants to make a safe and dignified return to their country of origin. Ensure that the case of each individual person is assessed, and all is done according to the law, whilst making sure not to force whole groups of migrants back to their countries of origin.
- Continue to respect the principle that people should never be returned to places where they face a risk of death, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, or other irreparable harm.
- Help migrants to reintegrate.
- Respect women and children's needs and rights by providing them with legal, social and financial support.
- Make sure children have given their informed consent before they return.
- Make sure women and children do not become displaced when they return.
- Make sure that before migrant children return and reintegrate, decisions are made about whether this will be in their best interests. To do this:
 - Always consider the child's right to family life and family unity.
 - Make sure children have a parent or legal guardian to accompany them throughout the return process.
 - Make sure that appropriate reception, care and reintegration arrangements for children are in place when they return.
- Support migrants to reintegrate back into society in a meaningful and lasting way.

Local integration:

(Objective 15)

- Help migrant children and youth to build their confidence and skills so they can participate fully in community life.
- Encourage migrants and host communities to respect each others' rights and the responsibilities they have towards each other.
- Encourage migrants to respect the laws and customs of the country they travel to.
- Prepare migrant children and youth for their new life by teaching them about the culture and customs of their new country and offering them basic language training.
- Help migrant children and youth to find decent work and contribute to the wealth of the society where they live.
- Set up community centres and projects that will help migrant children and youth to take an active part in their local community.
- Help host communities and migrants understand and celebrate each others' cultures and customs by putting on multicultural social events and activities, including sports, music and arts.
- Make sure that schools are welcoming and safe places for migrant children and youth and help them to fulfill their potential.

Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Part B 2.10, Part B section 3

GCM: Objectives 2, 5, 15, 16, 18 and 21

11. The importance of cooperation and shared responsibility

The Global Compacts call upon States and other key people and organisations to ensure that the responsibility for supporting refugees and migrants is shared more fairly. Real and lasting change cannot be achieved unless the international community stands unified in its commitment and works in a truly collaborative way.

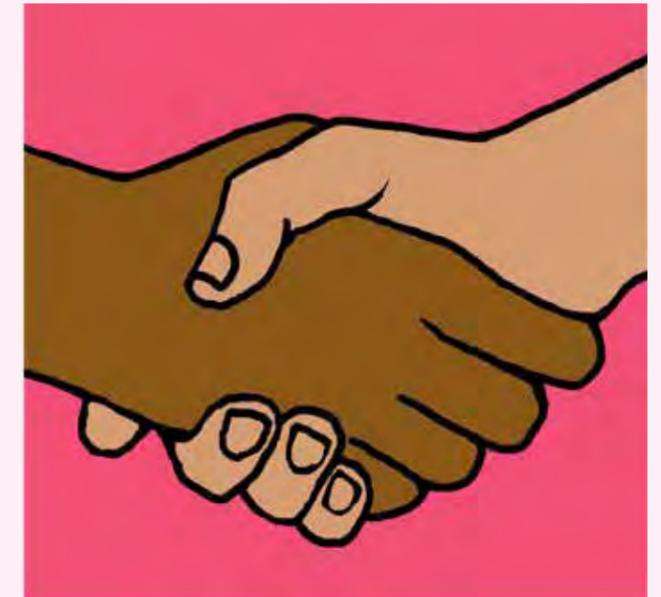
A strong and united global effort will mean that more refugee and migrant children and young people will be protected and supported in the best possible way, and helped to find lasting solutions to the situations they face.

What do the Global Compacts say?

The GCR...

...says:

- The challenges that refugees face should concern all of humankind. There is an urgent need to make sure there is a fairer system in place for sharing the responsibility of hosting and supporting refugees around the world. (Paragraph 1)
- One of the main aims of the UN is to encourage international cooperation to solve global problems that are affecting human wellbeing.
- The '1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees' states that the challenges that refugees face cannot be solved unless all member states work together. This is because some countries accept more refugees than others and this might place more pressure upon them. We should encourage more countries to offer their support and help. (Paragraph 2)
- The GCR aims to boost international cooperation on this issue and a shared responsibility amongst all UN member states and other key people and organizations. (Paragraph 3)
- Invest in national child protection systems and cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships to provide a continuum of protection, care and services for at risk children. (Part B, 2.5)



The GCM...

...says:

- We must stand united to follow the guidelines set out in this GCM so that we can make it easier for migrants to travel in a safe, orderly and regular way. (Paragraph 11)
- We will only be successful if all countries work together and trust one another to work on the objectives in this GCM and keep their promises. With teamwork and a positive attitude, we can solve the problems caused by migration and celebrate the opportunities that migration creates. (Paragraph 14)
- Manage national borders in a coordinated and safe way. Work together across countries and regions so that countries, communities and migrants are safe. (Objective 11)
- Improve consular protection and help for migrants. We will help consulates in different countries to work better together so that the rights and best interests of migrants are respected at all times. (Objective 14)
- Establish robust procedures for the protection of migrant children including consular protection and cross-border cooperation, so that the best interests of the child are always applied, and that child protection authorities are fully involved. (Objective 7, paragraph e)
- Ensure that migrants caught up in situations of crisis in countries of transit and destination have access to consular protection and humanitarian assistance including by facilitating cross-border and broad international cooperation. (Objective 7, paragraph j)
- Improve the way neighbouring countries work together to manage borders and the treatment they give to people who are crossing borders. To do this we will take into consideration relevant recommendations from the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders. (Objective 11, paragraph g)

Where else can I find information about this theme?

GCR: Introduction, Part A, Part B, 2.5

GCM: Part 2 (Our Vision), Objectives 7, 11 and 14 and Part 3 (Our Cooperative Framework)



GET INVOLVED



**How can I find out more?
How can I take action?**

**It is your right to play an active part
in the issues that affect your life.**

Here are some ways you can take action on the issues within
the Global Compacts:

**“Be the change you wish
to see in the world”**

Mahatma Gandhi

Explore!

You have the right to be informed about issues affecting your life, in a way that you can easily understand. Find out as much as you can about what the Global Compacts ask different actors in your country and your region to do and how they aim to support children and young people on the move.

Engage!

- How could you reach out to other children and young people and encourage them to take action to help achieve the aims of the Global Compacts?
- Could you contact children and young people's groups in your local area and see if they want to take action with you?
- Could you work with local, regional or national rights groups to make sure children and young people have a voice?

Act!

Take action to help make the aims of the Global Compacts a reality, wherever you are. You are part of the solution.

**Migrant Caravan,
October 2018, Guatemala**

Credit: Caroline Trutmann Marconi / Save the Children

What could you do?

Here are some ways you could influence these processes so that the issues and challenges faced by refugee and migrant children and young people are properly considered:

Take action within your host country or local area!

- The Compacts encourage governments to work with other relevant stakeholders to make national plans to turn the aims of the Global Compacts into concrete actions. You could reach out to the following people to find out about these action plans, and check that children and young people's views are included in them:
 - National or international agencies and organizations, such as UNHCR
 - National or international NGOs, such as Save the Children
 - National, regional or local authorities
 - Experts whose job is to protect children's rights, such as the Children's Ombudsperson

If you feel there are some issues missing, you could raise your concerns about how to better support and protect children and young people on the move in your own country.

- Are there any refugee or migrant campaigning groups or projects in your local area? Could you join them to get your voice heard?



Take action to bring about change on a global scale!

The Global Compacts have listed a series of mechanisms and platforms to support governments, organizations and individuals to turn the aims of the Global Compacts into real action. These are key opportunities for children and young people on the move all over the world to actively contribute and to hold governments and other relevant stakeholders to account. These mechanisms and platforms include:

Global Compact on Refugees



What opportunities will we have to influence these plans?

Global Refugee Forum

This is a high-level meeting that will happen every 4 years, where countries will come together to pledge their support to the aims of the GCR and to discuss opportunities and challenges for how to fairly share the responsibility of protecting refugees.

High Level Official's Meeting

This is a high-level meeting to make sure that progress made against the aims of the GCR is checked every 2 years.

Annual Reporting to the UN General Assembly by the High Commissioner

This is report made to all the UN Member States at the high-level General Assembly meeting at the UN. The High Commissioner will report on progress made towards the aims of the GCR.

Support Platform

This is an opportunity for host countries to ask for extra support from other UN Member States, UNHCR and relevant stakeholders in the event of:

- A large-scale and/or complex refugee situation or
- A protracted refugee situation

Asylum Capacity Support Group

A concerned host country can seek resources and expert advice from this group if it needs extra support to strengthen its asylum system.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration



How can we make sure our voices are heard?

International Migration Review Forum

This is a high-level meeting that will happen every 4 years from 2022, where UN Member States and relevant stakeholders will discuss the progress they have made towards the aims of the GCM and identify ways they can work together.

Regional Platforms and Organisations

Every 4 years, from 2020 there will be a review of how the GCM is being acted upon regionally.

Global Forum on Migration and Development

This is an annual high-level meeting for UN Member States and relevant stakeholders to share their experiences and ideas about how best to support migrants.

Also, the following mechanisms are going to be established:

GCM Capacity Building Mechanism

In order that UN Member States and all relevant stakeholders can build their knowledge and skills on how best to support migrants, the following mechanisms will be set up:

- **A connection hub**
This will be a hub to give advice and support to host countries
- **A start up fund**
This will be a fund to provide extra funding for initiatives and projects that support migrants
- **A global knowledge platform(website)**
This website will be a place to support migrants

United Nations Network on Migration

- To share the technical expertise of the various UN agencies
- Working groups will be created



Munguiko* takes part in activities at a Save the Children child friendly space in a refugee settlement, Uganda

Credit: Hannah Maule-ffinck/ Save the Children

BE INSPIRED!

If you're unsure about how to take action, be inspired by the amazing campaign work that children and young people have been doing...

'One Third'

An inspiring youth organization fighting for the rights of migrants:

"One Third is a youth-led organisation in Sweden. Since 2014 it has worked to create a safe space for young people to share ideas on how to best uphold the human rights of migrants. To empower young people, One Third also works to facilitate dialogue between young people and decision and policy makers, and does this for example through its membership in the civil society International Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and through its connections with civil society, governments and other stakeholders around the world. One Third has been especially involved in the development of the Global Compact for Migration, organising several consultations in Europe and always advocating for the human rights of all migrants, and highlighting the importance of youth engagement and a youth perspective. Recently, One Third has been supporting various initiatives that works to decriminalise refugees, migrants and people who provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and other migrants."

United Nations Major Group for Children and Young People (UNMGCY)

The UNMGCY is the UN General Assembly-mandated, official, formal, self-organised space for children and youth (under 30) to meaningfully engage at the United Nations.

“The Migration Working Group of the UNMGCY, which began working officially in 2017, has engaged in all phases of the GCM process and has organised numerous consultations around the world, as well as provided opportunities for children and youth to make comments on the different GCM drafts. The UNMGCY and its Migration Working Group provide numerous opportunities for young people to actively engage. For instance, they are currently organising the ‘Youth Forum on Migration’ that will take place during ‘Global Migration Week’ in December 2018. Around 250-300 young people from all over the world will gather to discuss issues on migration and to strategise how young people can, in the best way possible, engage in the implementation phase and follow-up and review process of the GCM. If you want to get involved in the UNMGCY and help implement the GCM, you can become a member (as an organisation or individual). You can, with their support, organise your own projects and also receive emails about other migration events and projects taking place around the world. They are there to support you if you have any questions about how to get involved.”

Read more about the great work of this group here: www.unmgcy.org

UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council

The High Commissioner appointed the first Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) in December 2017 to further advance UNHCR’s work with and for youth.

The GYAC enables young people to share their perspectives and to bring input from their communities into the work of UNHCR at all levels. GYAC Delegates bring a youth perspective to global level discussions on refugee policy. GYAC Delegates are committed to use their voices to represent and amplify the concerns and suggestions of young people and other community members who might otherwise not be heard.

Read more about the great work of this group on Twitter [@UNHCR_GYAC](https://twitter.com/UNHCR_GYAC)

Destination Unknown

Destination Unknown is a network of organisations and individuals, including young people, which campaign with and for children and young people to protect children on the move.

Its campaigning is based on practical expertise and evidence from working with children on the move worldwide. Destination Unknown member organisations support children on the move all along their journeys and campaign for change. Young people are at engaged in Destination Unknown in every region and speak out to decision-makers at national, regional and global level to push for change to improve the protection and respect of rights of children on the move.



GLOSSARY

Academic

A teacher or scholar in a university or other institute of higher education.

Asylum seeker

A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments.¹

Best interests assessments

An assessment made about the individual protection needs of a child to ensure that care programmes give proper consideration to the child's best interests. It is carried out by the decision-maker and their staff ideally in a team that brings together a variety of experts. It requires the participation of the child.²

Best Interests determinations

A formal process where public authorities and professional decision makers work together to reach a conclusion on what is in the best interests of the child with a long term view of identifying sustainable solutions. It describes a formal process with strict procedural safeguards designed to determine the child's best interests

Child protection authorities

The authorities that work on behalf of the government to protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Citizen

A person who is a member of a particular country and who is entitled to all the civil rights and protections rights of that country. Citizenship can be had for example because of place of birth, or because of naturalization, or other reasons (for example, citizenship of parents).

Civil society

"The wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations."³

Climate change

A large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures.

Complementary pathways

Safe and regulated avenues by which refugees may live in a country and have their international protection needs met, while also being able to support themselves and reach sustainable and lasting solutions.⁴

Consulate

A consulate is an arm of the embassy that diplomatically represents the government of a country in a foreign city. It looks after the matters relating to travelling and immigration.

Deportation

The act of a state forcing someone who is not a national to leave a country and to return to his or her country of origin or to go to a third country. This usually happen after refusal of admission or after the permission for them to remain has ended or being denied.

Detention: See Immigration Detention

Detention centre

A place where a person is held and deprived of his or her liberty by order of a competent administrative authority of a State court.

Developed countries

Countries with economies that have high growth and security, advanced industrialisation, high income per capita, and high general standard of living, among other factors. Examples include the United States and Western Europe.

Developing countries

Countries with low levels of industrialization, life expectancy, lower educational attainment, lower per capita incomes, and higher fertility rates than found in other countries.

Least developed countries (LDCs)

Countries with low incomes. They face serious obstacle to achieving sustainable development. Their economies are fragile. Economic or environmental shocks can have strong impacts on them. Additionally, their populations is facing difficult challenges such as in accessing education, enough food and healthcare.

Development actors

The full range of organizations both public and private, which seek to achieve improvements in society. These could include for example private sector companies, foundations, universities, philanthropic leaders, multilateral organizations, faith-based organizations, and ethnic diaspora sending money home to their country of origin.

Diaspora

People who come from a particular nation, or whose ancestors came from it, but who now live in many different parts of the world.

Diversity

Diversity is any dimension that can be used to differentiate groups and people from one another. This can be in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

Environmental degradation

Erosion of the quality of the natural environment caused, directly or indirectly, by human activities.

Gender

Gender refers to the social and cultural distinctions that are associated to being male or female. Roles, clothing, stereotypes and relationships of and between (groups of) women and men are often linked to being male or female. It is important to be sensitive to different identities that do not necessarily fit into just male or female sex categories but also takes into account the fact that gender exists across a continuum of possibilities.⁵

Gender equality

It refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.

Gender-based violence

Violence that targets individuals or groups on the basis of their gender.

Government

The group of people with the authority to govern a country or state.

Humanitarian actors

Humanitarian actors are a wide range of organizations, agencies and networks that all combine to enable international humanitarian assistance to be channeled to the places and people in need of it.

Immigration Detention

Restriction on freedom of movement that is ordered by an administrative authority or a court. In many countries, migrants in an irregular situation may be placed in detention, either on their arrival in the territory, while a decision on their status is being taken or with a view to their expulsion.

Inclusive economic growth

This is economic growth that creates opportunities for all people within society to generate wealth and then share out the wealth that has been generated, fairly across all society and creates opportunities for all.

Internally displaced persons

Persons who have been forced to flee or to leave their homes because for example of armed conflict, violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, but who have not crossed an international border."

International humanitarian law

International humanitarian law is a set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects people who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.

¹ <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

² UNCRC Committee General Comment 14. https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/gc/crc_c_gc_14_eng.pdf

³ The World Bank (August, 2010). Defining civil society

⁴ UNHCR .<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/complementary-pathways-through-education.html>

⁵ <http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/understanding/gender-definition/en/>

Irregular migration

Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country. There is, however, a tendency to restrict the use of the term “illegal migration” to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.⁶

Legal guardian

A legal guardian acts as the primary caretaker of a child. This person may be personally selected by the child’s biological parents, or appointed by the court.

Local authorities

A local authority is an organization that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.

Local integration

A durable solution to the plight of refugees that involves their permanent settlement in the country in which they sought asylum. It may also be applied to victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children. It also indicates the process by which migrants become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups. It involves access to different kinds of services and the labour market.

Migrant

A migrant is someone who moves away from his or her normal home to live in another region or country. This can be a temporary (under 3 months) or a more permanent move (over 12 months). People migrate for many reasons but it might be to find work, to escape poverty or to get access to better healthcare or education.

Migration

The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, that includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.⁷

Multilateral agencies

Agencies that obtain their funding from multiple governments and spend it on projects in various countries.

⁶ IOM

⁷ <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

Refugee

A refugee is someone who has been forced to leave their country because they are being persecuted due to their race, religion or nationality or because they have different political views or belong to a particular group. Refugees leave to escape conflict, violence or persecution. Usually, refugees cannot return home or are afraid to do so.

Regular migration

Migration that occurs through recognized, authorized channels.⁸

Resettlement

The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought asylum to another State that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent settlement.

Residence status

Permanent residency refers to a person’s resident status in a country of which they are not a citizen. This is usually for an indefinite period; a person with such status is known as a permanent resident.

Returnees

A person who returns to the country where they were born, usually after they have been away for a long time.

Screening

This is the first interview that takes place after someone has claimed asylum.

Sexual exploitation, abuse and violence:

This is any actual or attempted abuse of trust or power for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Smuggling of migrants

Migrants can be smuggled illegally into a State that they are not a citizen or permanent resident of so that their smugglers can get money or some other material benefit. Smuggling is different to trafficking because it doesn’t involve an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights. Trafficking often involves the ongoing exploitation of the victim in some manner to generate illicit profits for the traffickers after the arrival at destination..

⁸ IOM

⁹ <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/index.html>

Social protection

Social protection systems include policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability and help individuals and families especially the poor and vulnerable cope with crises and shocks, find jobs, invest in the health and education of their children, and protect the aging population. They include cash transfers, social pensions, programmes such as school meals, public works programmes, support for unemployed people etc.

Stateless people

Stateless people are not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Third countries

Countries that offer to resettle and admit refugees to ease the burden on host communities and countries of origin.

Transparency

When there are no hidden agendas and that all the information is made available so that people can cooperate to make joint decisions.

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations is a member of the General Assembly. The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. The UN’s purpose is to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development and uphold international law.⁹

UN Member state

The United Nations member states are the 193 sovereign states that are members of the United Nations (UN) and have equal representation in the UN General Assembly.

Voluntary repatriation

Return to the country of origin based on the refugee’s free and informed decision.

This child and youth friendly briefing was prepared by the **Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts**.

The Initiative is a coalition of more than 30 organizations. In 2016, these organisations decided to work together to ensure that the needs of migrant and refugee children and adolescents and their views would be at the very centre of the two Compacts.

During the preparations of the Compacts, the Initiative organized events and activities, bringing different people together to talk about the needs of migrant and refugee children and young people. We made recommendations and showed through good examples that change is possible.

The aim of this publication is to enable children and young people to:

- Know what the Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees say about migrant and refugee children and adolescents
- Play a part in making sure that the promises made in New York and in the Compacts are kept
- Check that everyone is doing what they have promised to do
- Find ways to contribute and have their say

For more information, go to **www.childrenonthemove.org**