



Separated Children in Europe Programme

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The content has been prepared from publicly available sources and information provided by UNHCR and the participants of the Separated Children in Europe Programme's NGO Network.

Programme Update

SCEP annual meetings

During its annual meetings together with UNHCR field offices, the NGO Network exchanged expertise on a variety of current activities and good practice including:

- the recently adopted CRC General Comment No 6
- UN Study on Violence Against Children
- forthcoming EU Communication on the Rights of the Child
- UNHCR Gender/age/diversity mainstreaming roll-out in Europe
- SCEP draft Biometrics Position Paper
- UNHCR draft guidelines for determining best interests of the child

- Preliminary findings of study of the implementation of the Dublin II regulation
- Practice and recommendations regarding return policies
- co-operation with other relevant networks and organizations

Changes with NGO partners & UNHCR

Updated contact information for the SCE Programme management, NGO Network and UNHCR Focal Points is available at www.separated-children-europe-programme.org/separated_children/about_us/contacts/index.html

UNHCR

EU directive may trigger downgrading of asylum standards

UNHCR is concerned that a controversial EU directive on asylum procedures adopted without discussion by the 25 EU member states in Brussels yesterday may lead to a serious downgrading of asylum standards in the European Union and beyond.

The asylum procedures directive sets minimum norms on how decisions on asylum claims in EU member states should be made. UNHCR is worried that the implementation of the directive may lead to breaches of international refugee law if no additional safeguards are introduced. This could have wider implications, eroding international standards of refugee protection far beyond the EU. UNHCR has supported the process of harmonization of asylum in Europe since it started in 1999. But we are disappointed by the failure of member states to live up to their commitment to international asylum standards. At a meeting in Tampere in 1999, EU countries committed themselves to the absolute respect for the right to seek asylum and the full and inclusive application of the 1951 Geneva Convention.

Despite repeated concerns raised by UNHCR during the negotiation process, the final text contains serious deficiencies. UNHCR is particularly concerned about certain rules allowing states to designate "safe third countries" outside the EU, to which asylum seekers can be turned back without even having had their claims heard in an EU member state.

The directive also fails to spell out clearly that asylum seekers cannot be sent back to their countries of origin while waiting for the outcome of their appeals, thus removing the right to an effective remedy in the event that an error has been made. The directive also permits a number of other restrictive and highly controversial practices that are currently only contained in one or two member states' national legislation, but which could be inserted in the legislation of all 25 EU states. UNHCR calls on member states not to aim at the lowest common level permitted by the directive when they implement the agreed rules into their national legislation, but to strive to ensure adequate safeguards and high standards of protection for refugees.

(Briefing Notes 02-12-05)

UNHCR comments on European Union asylum law and policy

Accessible through www.unhcr.org/protect

This page contains a collection of all UNHCR's observations on EC law and EU policy development on asylum, refugee protection and other issues relevant to the work of UNHCR. Among other subjects, the comments address current proposals and adopted texts, initiatives and programmes, including those of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

In addition, news stories, briefing notes and press releases from UNHCR on European asylum issues are included, as well as a link to the "UNHCR Tool Boxes on EU Asylum Matters".

Finally, the page contains links to the Refworld collection of EU instruments (from the "International Instruments" database RefInt), a unique and easy way to access EU documents relevant to UNHCR's work in one place, including from the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament, and to the complete Refworld collection of UNHCR commentaries (from the "Refugee Policy and Practice" database RefPol). Both of these are available at www.unhcr.org/refworld/legal.htm

European Union

Asylum Procedures Directive adopted

With the adoption of the Asylum Procedures Directive on 1st December the EU completed the first phase of the Common European Asylum System.

The Directive will ensure that throughout the EU, all procedures at first instance are subject to the same minimum standards while maintaining consistency with international obligations in this field. The Directive seeks to harmonise national measures to speed up the examination of asylum applications, helping Member States to focus on more deserving cases. Moreover, all negative decisions on asylum applications will now have the possibility of judicial scrutiny.

The adoption of this last outstanding Directive of the first phase of the harmonisation of asylum in the EU will allow the Commission to start the necessary work to achieve the ambitious objective of a Common European Asylum System by 2010, as set out in the Hague Programme, comprising a

common asylum procedure and a uniform status for persons in need of international protection
(europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1520&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

European Commission Communication on trafficking in human beings

The Communication 'Fighting trafficking in human beings: an integrated approach and proposals for an action plan', presented by the Commission, aims at further strengthening the commitment of the European Union, and the Member States to prevent and fight against trafficking in human beings, committed for the purpose of sexual or labour exploitation as defined in the Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 on combating trafficking in human beings, and to the protection, support and rehabilitation of its victims.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/381>

Full text of the Communication www.eu-ophlysningen.dk/upload/application/pdf/e077c9d4/20050514.pdf

EU Plan on Best Practices, Standards and Procedures for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings

europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/c_311/c_31120051209en00010012.pdf

Council of Europe

Human Rights Commissioner – presentation of reports on Italy and Iceland

Strasbourg, 14.12.2005 - The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Alvaro Gil-Robles, will present his reports on the respect for human rights in Italy and Iceland to the Committee of Ministers today. The report will be forwarded to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and be made public. The reports follow official visits to Italy and Iceland in June and July of this year. The Italian report identifies a number of shortcomings regarding, in particular, the treatment of arriving foreigners, asylum and expulsion procedures, prison conditions, the administration of justice and the rights of persons with mental disabilities. The Iceland report focuses on the appointments procedure of judges, the use

of isolation in pre-trial detention, prison reform, the treatment of asylum seekers, gender equality and data protection amongst other issues. The reports conclude with recommendations to the Italian and Icelandic authorities.

The reports will be available on the website of the Commissioner for Human Rights

www.coe.int/T/E/Commissioner/5FH.R/Communication/5FUnit/Documents/By_year/2005/index.asp#TopOfPage

Committee on the Rights of the Child

General Comment No. 6 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on "unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin" has now been edited, and is out on the OHCHR website in English, French and Spanish version.
www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/comments.htm

UN CRC Day of General Discussion on Children without Parental Care

Recommendations

www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/discussion/recommendations2005.pdf

Ireland

The IRC ran two consultation workshops with separated children in November. The workshops looked at the Convention on the Rights of the Child and how it applied to asylum seekers. The children worked in small groups to produce a letter to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The letter described the good things about being a child in Ireland as well as the bad things. The letters will be included in a children's report to accompany the NGO shadow report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and will be sent to Geneva in 2006. The children's report will be published in 2006 and will include submissions from many children in Ireland, to include separated children. The report will be compiled and published by the Children's Rights Alliance.

www.childrensrights.ie

United Kingdom

In November 2005 the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE, www.crae.org.uk) published "State of Children's Rights in England: Annual Review of UK Government Action on 2002 Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child". Among

other things their report is critical of the detention of asylum seeking children, and of the withdrawal of support to families at the end of the process.

Human Rights Committee

Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee : Slovenia. 25/07/2005. CCPR/CO/84/SVN (excerpt)

15. The Committee is concerned at the reported neglect of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum or illegally residing in the territory of the State party. The Committee, while recognizing that registration is distinct from conferral of nationality, is also concerned that some children are registered at birth without a nationality (art. 24).

The State party should develop specific procedures to address the needs of unaccompanied children and to ensure their best interests in the course of any immigration and related proceedings. The State party should also ensure the right of every child to acquire a nationality.

[www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CCPR.CO.84.SV.N.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CCPR.CO.84.SV.N.En?OpenDocument)

Changes and Developments in Law, Policies and Practice

Belgium

In September 2005, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior took a new regulation (dd. 15/9/2005, published on 7/10/2005) about the stay of separated children. It's the first time a legal text confirms the rights of stay of the separated children who didn't apply for asylum or who's asylum procedure was rejected.

This new regulation raises many problems; although, it says that the best interest of the child's principle has to be respected, it's not always the case. There were some comments published in specialised newsletters to explain this new regulation for professionals among which lawyers and advocates.

Ireland

The Tánaiste (Irish Deputy Prime Minister) has indicated that separated children's accommodation centres may come under the remit of the Social Services Inspectorate, following media attention on

the amount of children going missing from state care. The Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) conducts inspections into residential childcare services managed by the health boards under statutory powers contained in Section 69 of the Child Care Act, 1991. SSI inspectors are authorised to enter any premises maintained by a health board under the Act and examine it. The inspectors publish a report that outlines their findings and issues recommendations for best practice. The Irish Refugee Council would welcome such an initiative.

Italy

On 19th October the Law N°140/2005, enforcement of the European Directive 2003/9/CE, entered into force. In the law it is specified that, in the moment in which the unaccompanied minor seeks asylum, the authorities accepting his/her request must inform the Juvenile Court to let opening the guardianship; the guardian must inform immediately the Committee for Foreign Minors.

In the law it is specified that unaccompanied children seeking asylum cannot be hosted in "Centers for Temporary Detention" or in Identification Centers. For territorial and local institutions it is possible, according to the law, to ask for special funds for the acceptance of separated children, claiming to the "National Funds for Policies and Services for Asylum".

Luxembourg

The new law about asylum seekers should be adopted in the beginning of 2006.

Norway

In the future the reception centres will not be the responsibility of the migration authorities, but rather the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family. This hopefully also means that the local child care system will more likely give these children the care they need, and that separated children will have the same care as other Norwegian children without "normal family care".

Romania

At its meeting of 3 November, the government approved a draft bill regarding asylum in Romania that defines the legal framework for foreigners asking Romania for protection. Under the bill, new provisions are mentioned for the extension, termination and cancellation of protection

arrangements, as well as the procedures incumbent on the country processing the request for asylum. The main adjustments brought by the bill are in connection with family reunification, exclusion for protection, approval procedures for application for new protection, various other forms of procedures related to the same matter, including for the applications submitted by unaccompanied minors, as well as the termination or cancellation of protection. The bill also mentions specifically the principles and guarantees of asylum, and introduces specific definitions, while modifying existing ones.

(Source: *Rompres website, Bucharest, in English*
Nov 05 BBC Monitoring)

Slovenia

The amendments to the national asylum legislation were confirmed by the Slovene government. The most worrying article that could affect separated children is that Slovene police can decide who can apply for asylum in a preliminary proceeding, thus it will be more difficult for some separated children to access asylum procedure in Slovenia. The amendments also do not foresee the presence of guardians or any other legally appointed representatives in these proceedings.

Spain

A new circular issued by the Government in Madrid thrust separated children into a very worrying situation of vulnerability. To give separated children the residence permit (and therefore the concession of permission to work), the circular demands a certification that proves that the repatriation has been tried and failed. The circular does not set a term therefore most of them will attain their majority of age without any documentation. Without a residence permit to renew and a job to support its renewal, a former separated child will go from a regular situation to an irregular one at the age of 18, with no better long-term prospects in Spain than the average undocumented immigrant.

Sweden

A new temporary law entered into force on 15 November following the defeat in Parliament of a bill that suggested a general amnesty for failed asylum seekers.

The new law should be considered as a compromise and is the main part of an interim asylum regime between November 2005 and 31 March 2006 when the new 2005 Aliens Act will come into force. The aim of the interim legislation is, *inter alia*, to ensure

that failed asylum seekers whom the authorities have not been able to forcibly remove from the country and failed asylum seekers who have absconded but still reside illegally in Sweden will get their applications tried again. It is expected that the interim legislation will benefit primarily asylum seekers of certain nationalities (for instance Iraqis and Somalis) and families with children and that these groups will get permanent or temporary residence permits on humanitarian grounds.

Sweden is considering acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Following a “guiding” decision by the Swedish government in July, the Aliens Appeal Board in October decided on 9 precedent-setting cases involving children with physical or mental ailments. It is clear that the principle of the best interests of the child and the child’s psycho-social development if returned to the home country will have greater importance when deciding on whether a child asylum seeker will be granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

Switzerland

Unfortunately, the National Parliament will approve the 7th revision of the Swiss Asylum Act on the 16th of December 2005. There are mainly further restrictions decided and it appears that some of these restrictions do not respect international law and human rights. A referendum will definitely be launched in order to impede this new Asylum Act.

Under the new laws, rejected asylum seekers will no longer receive social welfare payments. The aim is to speed up deportation of rejected asylum seekers. Furthermore, the maximum detention period for foreigners awaiting deportation will increase to 18 months for adults and nine months for minors over 15.

It also contains new restrictions on family reunification. Asylum seekers admitted on a provisional basis would not have the right to bring their families to Switzerland until three years had passed.

Detention

Austria

With the new Asylum and Alien Police act coming into force by the 1st of January 2006 it will be more likely that separated children have to face detention. The new law allows detention for longer time – up to ten months – and for more reasons than now.

Belgium

The amount of separated children detained at the border decreased in the last months and several legal decisions of liberation were pronounced by courts, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

On the other hand, the number of children detained with their family increased considerably since a couple of months.

Using the opportunity of Human Rights Day UNHCR Brussels organised a press briefing with NGOs for Belgian media on the problem of detention of minors in closed centres in Belgium. Alien minors are held with adults in two detention centres at the Zaventem airport near Brussels: centre 127 for persons arriving at the airport without papers, and 127bis for persons who are to be expelled. Many of these are rejected asylum seekers, but also persons of concern to UNHCR. PIO & Head of Protection Peter van der Vaart highlighted the worrying tendency of an increase in detention of minors in Belgium (even though exact data on numbers and duration is still sketchy), and warned that such practices are contrary to UNHCR guidelines and the Convention of the Rights of the Child. At a more general level, this reflects a more general restrictive attitude towards persons seeking protection in Europe.

Representatives of the NGOs supported these views and elaborated on the situation that children in the centres are going through, quoting specific cases: and commenting on the few facilities for children including the lack of education, the detrimental psychological effect, the lack of access for outsiders, etc.

Greece

The lack of resources and legislation to deal with undocumented minors in Greece has led to the detention of hundreds of minors in deplorable conditions. Many of the minors have been laborers

during the preparations for last year's Olympics. The Greek Children's Ombudsman said in a recent report that "policemen have not been trained to handle minors, but they have to face the problem of resources since there are no places for the children to be kept," and it was added that the government has to spend money to create new facilities but seems reluctant to do so.

(Source: NANOU@unhcr.ch from PICUM newsletter)

During a recent visit to the main detention centre for irregular migrants for the wider Athens area, UNHCR found nine unaccompanied minors being detained, some of whom could be asylum seekers. Most were released immediately and referred to the Greek Council for Refugees for counselling. The UN Commission Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children was on mission in Greece in early November; he visited the detention centre and made a number of critical observations.

Ireland

The Irish Refugee Council together with the Immigrant Council of Ireland and the Irish Penal Reform Trust published a report entitled *Immigration – related detention in Ireland*. The findings did not include children as thankfully there is no practice of detaining separated children.

Luxembourg

From our information we noted 8 cases in detention. In retention we don't have information and the authorities avoid putting minors without paper in retention.

Netherlands

The 'Inspectorate for Implementation of Sanctions' made a plea for installing more child-friendly facilities in detention centres. The way these centres are currently organised is harmful for minors. Children older than 10 should especially have more facilities, such as access to Internet.

(info@stichtinglos.nl from PICUM newsletter)

Switzerland

One of the most serious restrictions within the new Swiss Asylum Act is the possibility to put a minor from the age of 15 years into coercive detention – until a maximum duration of 9 months if migration authorities consider it necessary.

United Kingdom

The British Children's Commissioner Professor Aynsley-Green is to launch an investigation into the 'heavy-handed' treatment of children by immigration officers and the 'awful' conditions in detention centres.

(Source: PICUM newsletter)

news.independent.co.uk/uk/this_britain/article321638.ece

The Home Office have conceded that they detained an age-disputed separated child illegally, and will pay compensation. The legal representative involved has a succession of cases to bring before the courts but they have been put on hold as the Home Office have indicated that they are about to make a policy announcement regarding the detention of age-disputed cases. In October and November 2005 the Refugee Council Children's Panel received 56 referrals of age-disputed applicants in detention.

Amnesty International is calling on the UK government to ensure that:

- each decision to detain is automatically and regularly reviewed as to its lawfulness, necessity and appropriateness by a court or a similar independent and competent body, accompanied by the appropriate provision of legal aid
- alternative non-custodial measures, such as reporting requirements, are always considered before resorting to detention
- detailed statistics of the total number of people who have sought asylum at some stage and who are detained under Immigration Act powers are provided each year, noting at what stage of their asylum application they were detained, the duration of their detention, the location of their detention, their movements within the immigration detention estate, their age if under 18 or over 65, and their gender
- there is a statutory prohibition on the detention of vulnerable people who have sought asylum.

Age Assessment

Belgium

Since there is a new Guardianship office within the Ministry of Justice, this one is competent to make the age assessment. This Office uses a triple test (bones, teeth and skeleton).

The principle of the benefit of the doubt is in the law itself but in practice, it doesn't appear to be

respected. Many Separated children considered by this Office as adults tried to challenge this decision in Courts but with very few successes.

Ireland

A judgement of a High Court Judicial Review case between a young Congolese separated child and the Refugee Applications Commissioner laid down minimum procedural requirements in relation to an initial age assessment decision:

- The applicant must be told the purpose of interview in simple terms
- The applicant is entitled to be told in simple terms the reasons the interviewers consider the claim to be false
- Where the applicant produces ID which is not satisfactory the applicant should be told of these reservations and given an opportunity to deal with same.
- The decisions should be explained clearly to the applicant and it should be explained that he may be reassessed at another time.

Norway

Age assessment has been used actively since 2003. After quite hard criticism of how the government uses the results from the age assessments methods and of the methods in it self, Save the Children has started a project in cooperation with the Norwegian Organisation of Asylum Seekers. The main objective is to look deeper into the different aspects of the methods used and to study how the authorities use the results in concrete asylum applications. The project will deliver an internal report by the end of January 2006.

United Kingdom

The Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA, www.ilpa.org.uk) have received funding to undertake research on the issue of age assessment. We are hoping for an informative and influential report to follow next year.

Guardianship

Austria

The Supreme Court of Justice decided, in the case of Martin, a fourteen year old separated child from Nigeria, that the boy has the right to be supported by a guardian from the youth welfare agency. Until now the youth welfare agencies in many Austrian

regions didn't take on the responsibility for separated children. Following the decision of the Supreme Court all separated children must be supported by a guardian from now on.

Belgium

The Guardianship Service announces that since May 1st 2004, the implementation of the Law on Guardianship (dd. 24/12/2002), there were 1.710 separated children who received a guardian and on October 30th 2005, there were still 1.230 guardianships going on. From those, 1.230 started in 2005 and 487 guardianships ceased.

45% of the separated children under guardianship asked for asylum and 55% from the guardianship concerned non-asylum applying minors.

On average there were 154 separated children per month announced at the Guardian's Office of the Ministry of Justice.

Actually there are about 230 guardians available (most of them are citizen who receive a specific training but there are a few professional guardians).

Denmark

All separated children who arrive in Denmark have the right to a guardian. This guardian system has thus far been based on volunteers, i.e. unpaid guardians. In the new addendum to the action plan on trafficking involving children, resources have now been earmarked for a guardian system for children where there is a suspicion that they are victims of trafficking. These children have the right to a professional guardian. Danish Red Cross is responsible for this system.

Luxembourg

In December 2005 Caritas has guardianship for 13 children.

Reception

Austria

In Vienna the "Fonds Soziales Wien", which is responsible for the provision of refugee accommodation in Vienna, announced that they will reduce facilities for separated children. At the moment the community offers domiciles for 176 separated children, the plan is to close down 63 of these during the next months.

Belgium

A new reception centre for both asylum seeking and non-asylum seeking separated children was opened in May 2005. It is the second centre for first reception of 50 minors, normally for a period of 15 or 30 days of orientation and observation.

In fact, most minors and especially the non-asylum seekers stay much longer in this centre, which is not adapted for a long stay. This is the consequence of the lack of long term accommodation centres for separated children, who didn't apply for asylum.

For the asylum seekers, there is enough accommodation centres, but the quality of the reception and the framing is not satisfactory.

Greece

Following recommendations made by the Greek Ombudsman, the Ministry of Education issued a circular (100758/C2/29-9-2005) stipulating that all minor immigrants residing in Greece have the right to enroll in primary and secondary education schools, regardless of their own or their parents' status.

(Source: NANOU@unhcr.ch from PICUM newsletter)

It is expected that through ERF funding the capacity to host separated children in Greece will increase, and that new centres will start operating in 2006.

Hungary

Since at the moment only boys live at the special shelter for separated children at Nagykanizsa, run by the government, female newcomers are placed in one of the reception centres for refugees, under special protection.

Ireland

A cross-party group of politicians has begun a campaign to enable more than 250 asylum-seekers who arrived in the State as separated children to be allowed to remain. Many of them now face deportation as they have reached the age of 18.

The majority have been in full-time education and completed their Leaving Certificate or vocational training courses. However, since turning 18 they have been unable to access free third-level education and as asylum-seekers are prohibited from engaging in full-time work.

The concern is that the young adults are in an effective administrative limbo. The group came together following lobbying from the Dun

Laoghaire Refugee Project, which has operated a drop-in centre. Most of the unaccompanied minors were, until recently, housed in two homes in the area.

(Irish Times; Oct. 19 2005)

Italy

In October a weekly magazine, “L’Espresso”, published an enquiry on the Reception Centre of Lampedusa. An Italian journalist entered in the centre under the false name of Bilal as a Kurdish man. In the article the journalist uncovers that unaccompanied minors were together with adults in the same CPT of Lampedusa. Also, the hygienic conditions were awful, because of the few toilets in function. The centre should accept 190 persons, but when “Bilal/Fabrizio Gatti” was there, the number in the centre was 1.250 persons. The *carabinieri* inside the centre were obliging children - and adults of Islamic religion - to watch a porn movie on their mobile phone.

Luxembourg

In 2004 and 2005 118 minors applied for asylum in Luxembourg.

Norway

Recently there has been a lot of attention on the quality of the care and level of security in the reception centres for separated children. The debate started because two Chinese boys disappeared from their centre and the authorities suspect that they are victims of trafficking.

As a consequence of this the UDI has promised to make out new routines on how they, the child care system and the police must cooperate on concrete cases. As a consequence Save the Children once more has been able to raise a wider debate on the standards of reception centres and this is still ongoing these days.

Sweden

A bill was presented to Parliament in November on the reception of separated children. The proposal aims to ensure that the responsibility for housing separated children is shifted from the Swedish Migration Board to the local municipalities. The government and many NGOs hope that this will ensure that the well-being of separated children clearly will be seen as a responsibility of the social services in their municipality of residence.

The phenomenon of children suffering from “apathy”/catatonia/pervasive refusal syndrome in the Swedish asylum system continues to be central to many aspects of the public Swedish debate on asylum and migration.

United Kingdom

Asylum applications steady for this year but down from 2004 [28 Nov 2005]

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/2005/Nov05/relea1105_3.htm

The Refugee Council launched its new campaign on destitution and the right to work – 'Locked into poverty, locked out of work' – at the beginning of December.

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/supportus/campaigns/index.htm

House of Lords backs judgement restoring support to destitute asylum seekers [03 Nov 2005]

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/2005/Nov05/relea1105_1.htm

Missing Children

Belgium

There is still a lot of information stating that separated children disappear. But it's not clear whether it is worrying or not. Sometimes, a child is reported as disappeared but he only left an accommodation centre to live with a family without giving his new address.

Denmark

In connection with the legal proceedings in November against the middlemen who were convicted of being accessories to the arrangement of illegal entry to Denmark (see below under trafficking), there has been renewed focus on the fact that a great number of the unaccompanied minors disappear subsequent to their arrival at the asylum centre. There is an increased awareness of the fact that some of these children can be the victims of trafficking. Parties across the political spectrum have made clear that something must be done and the Minister for Integration issued assurances that she would press the relevant ministers in the other Scandinavian countries to coordinate collective efforts to combat this problem. There is good reason to monitor this development closely, as e.g. the Social Democrats have declared that if other solutions cannot be

found, the unaccompanied children must be secured in closed institutions for children.

Ireland

As a result of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, The Irish Times, was able to gain access to a body of correspondence and reviews which highlighted the exploitation and abuse suffered by separated children. The Health Service Executive which is responsible for the care of such children believe that some of the 250 separated minors who have disappeared from their care over the last four years may have subsequently been subjected to sexual exploitation sexually or finically. Some of the missing children have been taken back into care after being rescued by the Gardaí from desperate situations. Requests for additional resources to be provided by the Health Service Executive in order to ensure the security and the best interests of the child have been ignored. Information shows that separated children have been trafficked or smuggled and that many girls are brought here for arranged marriages or for prostitution. The separated minors are placed in either residential care, foster care or with the Health Service Executive.

Up until the end of October 2005, less than one third of the 46 unaccompanied asylum seeking minors who had gone missing from hostels or other types of accommodation were found. Only 12 of the 68 who had gone missing in 2004 showed up. Over the past five years 283 have gone missing and only a small number of these have been located. The Health Service Executive has stated that most of the children who have gone missing are in the 16-17 age bracket.

The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) which is responsible for the accommodation of asylum seekers plans to introduce child-protection training for staff at accommodation centres. Concerns have been raised with regard to the safety of children accommodated in centres whose residents are predominantly male. However RIA has pointed out that no complaints have been received to date with regard to child protection issues arising in such centres.

“Asylum seeking children exploited warns HSE.”

Carl O’Brien, Irish Times, 21/11/05

“Most missing children never found.” Caroline O’Doherty, Irish Examiner, 22/11/05

“Asylum staff to be trained in protection of children” Anne Lucey, Irish Times, 21/11/05

Luxembourg

According to our information in 2004 and 2005 we registered 29 persons.

Norway

It has come up that the authorities have not had adequate procedures nor do they have a clear overview on the numbers of children disappearing. The last numbers for missing children are 11 (out of 241).

Sweden

According to the police 94 Chinese separated children have disappeared from reception centres after they have claimed asylum. Approximately 100 children disappear from reception centres every year.

Dublin II practice

Hungary

A Nigerian girl has been returned from Sweden due to the Dublin II Convention, since her first application was made in Hungary, while her family members received refugee status in Sweden.

Luxembourg

We don’t have statistics from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration about this question. Caritas has only registered 1 case in 2005.

Sweden

There have been discussions involving NGOs, the Swedish Migration Board, the Foreign Ministry and the Police regarding whether or not Dublin II transfers to Greece in particular ought to be halted.

United Kingdom

The Refugee Council continue to try to liaise with the Third Country Unit (the part of the Home Office responsible for implementing Dublin II) regarding policy and procedures, but removals continue and no statistics are available from the Home Office.

Procedures and Recognition

Council of Europe

Accelerated asylum procedures: harmonisation needed urgently

The application of “accelerated asylum procedures” - the rapid processing of asylum claims - in Europe brings to light, according to PACE, many refugee and human rights concerns.

At the end of a debate on the subject, the Assembly called on European governments to draw up overall guidelines that bring together best practices on accelerated asylum procedures.

The parliamentarians said attention should be paid to particularly vulnerable groups, such as children or victims of torture or sexual violence or trafficking, who should not, a priori, be subjected to accelerated procedures.

assembly.coe.int/ASP/APFeaturesManager/default.ArtSiteView.asp?ArtId=309

Resolution 1471 (2005)

Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member states

assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/ERES1471.htm

Recommendation 1727 (2005)

Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member states

assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/EREC1727.htm

Austria

In December 2005 a national meeting of people working as legal representatives for separated children took place. The meeting, organised by asylkoordination österreich, was the first to bring this group of experts together. It was quite successful and initiated a wide range of ideas for further co-operation.

Luxembourg

There are no statistics especially for minors. No special procedure exists for separated children. A minor can be in the situation that his procedure is finish (débouté in French), he can be in procedure and he can receive the recognition or authorisation to stay in Luxembourg. So there do not really exist differences between adults and minors.

Norway

We see an increasing number of recognitions according to the Refugee Convention. So far this year 33 separated children have received refugee

status (as compared to only 11 in 2004). The authorities state that they pay attention to and use the term “child specific persecution” more often and are more aware of the vulnerability of children. This is a huge step forward in the fulfilment of the rights of these children!

Sweden

Fewer children get positive answer on their applications. This year only 36 out of 267 children, which is about 13 % (until 30 September).

Legislation has been adopted by Parliament in November that seeks to ensure that persons who have fled persecution for reasons of gender and sexual orientation will be recognised as Convention refugees. The new provision in the 2005 Aliens Act explicitly lists gender and sexual orientation as social groups in the sense of the Refugee Convention. The present order of having persecution for reasons of gender or sexual orientation leading to a complementary form of persecution will be abolished.

United Kingdom

The Quality Initiative (QI) project (a joint UNHCR/Home Office initiative to improve first instance decision-making procedures) has reported on Phase III of their work. Issues affecting separated children will be addressed in their next phase (currently underway).

Family Tracing and Reunification

Ireland

On 18 January 2005, the Department of Justice Equality and Law reform commenced a scheme which continued until 31 March 2005 where parents of children born in Ireland before the citizenship referendum of 2004 could apply for residency. Under the scheme parents had to include a statutory declaration that they had no expectation or entitlement to family reunification – i.e. that if a minor child or a parent was not in Ireland, in the event of the family members in Ireland being granted residency, the remaining family members would not be entitled to join them.

Approximately 18,000 parents applied for residency under the scheme, immigrants, students, undocumented migrant workers and asylum seekers. As of the 8th of December, almost all applications were processed with 16,334 positive decisions and

779 refusals. The department is to officially close on the 31st of December before which any outstanding application will be processed.

In October CADIC recruited a co-ordinator and a legal officer to run the next phase of the campaign which will look at reasons for refusals, and the issue of family reunification. Since their recruitment both staff have been inundated with phone calls and queries.

Luxembourg

Caritas requested tracing for 5 children. Currently, there is one result: one child could make contact with his family in Albania.

Norway

International Social Services has a project financed by the migration authorities. Currently, they are interviewing about 30 separated children in reception centres in order to find out whether reunification is possible. The project's objective is to make procedures and good practice on how to work on this issue.

Sweden

A proposal for new legislation implementing the 2003 family reunification directive has been presented to the Constitutional Council on Legislation on 1 December.

Return

Belgium

One case of expulsion of a separated 17 year old girl with her child of 20 months was known recently. She seems to be forced to sign a renunciation of her asylum claim, in absence of her guardian and then returned to her country of origin, without any assistance from her guardian or lawyer. There is actually no news of her and we don't know how she was welcomed in her country.

Italy

In the period: 1st of Jan. 2005 – 30th of Sept. 2005 the measures issued for assisted returns by the Committee for Foreign Minors (the central body that every separated child must be referred to by law) have been 89. In the same period, for just 3 separated children, the Committee issued the measure "not to be repatriated through an assisted repatriation". The separated children registered by the Committee for Foreign Minors from Jan. 2005

to 30th of Sept. 2005, have been 6.426 according to the Committee's data.

Spain

Bilateral discussions are being carried out with the Government of Morocco for the construction of specific centres for returned children in Morocco. Many social organizations do not agree with this decision, claiming the risk of these centres is that they do not have the appropriate social system to supports them and that massive repatriations will take place without the best interests of the child being analysed in each case.

Moreover, the Memorandum on return with the Moroccan authorities agreed in December 2003 continues to be contested by NGOs involved. The Memorandum intends to facilitate returns of minors to the country of origin, Morocco, without the observance of minimum guarantees.

Switzerland

Two Angolan separated children of 9 and 11 years old have returned to their home country last August. They came to Switzerland with their uncle a couple of years ago. The uncle mistreated them badly; he was sentenced to two years in prison before he was expelled from Switzerland. The two children were placed in a Swiss foster family.

IOM was mandated to trace their parents in Angola. Because their mother did not immediately want her children back, they were first taken to the Mulemba reception centre near Luanda, a children institution run by the French Mulemba Association and financed by Dutch and Swiss Authorities. IOM Angola in cooperation with local child welfare organisation managed very well the reintegration of the two children in their country of origin. In the meantime, their father also turned up and the reintegration process within the family is developing well.

This example of a return of two young children shows the great complexity of such a matter. Whereas the actual return and the reintegration in Angola seem to be professionally handled, the transfer of information and preparation in Switzerland before the return has not been appropriately carried out at all. It shows again the importance of suitable professionals for separated children as caretakers.

United Kingdom

The Home Office have confirmed that they have visited Vietnam to start discussions with the

Vietnamese government about developing a programme of return for separated children. The Home Office have set up further meetings with the Albanian government with the hopes of restarting the programme as soon as possible.

Refugee Council joint submission with Amnesty International on the draft EU law on returns
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/publications/pub007.htm#EU_directive

Trafficking

Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

At a signing ceremony in the framework of the 115th meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, seven countries have signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The following countries signed the Convention on November 17, 2005 in Strasbourg: Andorra, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. The convention has received 23 signatures to date.

Unofficial translations available in German, Macedonian, Dutch, Romanian and Slovenian.
www.coe.int/T/E/human%5Frighs/trafficking/

Albania

The UN Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography Juan Miguel Petit carried out an official visit to Albania from 31 October to 7 November 2005. The visit was followed by a visit to Greece to better understand the trans-national elements of phenomena like child trafficking and migration flows of unaccompanied children.

The report on the visit will elaborate more on the concrete recommendations in order to achieve the overarching objective of a functioning child protection system.

Some preliminary recommendations are:

- Priority to the implementation of the national strategy on children and the one on combating child trafficking. Adequate resources to be allocated and a monitoring system established
- Ensure that children's rights are protected through an adequate national institutional set up

- Focus action against trafficking on prevention in communities with social work, community centres and family support
- Prioritise the creation of services for trafficked children with specially trained staff to provide protection and long-term reintegration support
- Strengthen the role of local social services in: 1) proactively identifying and referring children at risk; and 2) monitoring standards of care
- Sign and implement the bilateral agreement between Greece and Albania on the return of unaccompanied children
- Introduce community based care services, such as foster care systems
- Take measures to address domestic child abuse and violence
- Establish procedures and protocols so that key professionals in contact with children know how to identify, report and refer cases of suspected abuse and a follow up procedure is in place
- Facilitate procedures for birth registration
- Research child sexual exploitation in Albania and take measures to address it

Denmark

As part of the new addendum to the action plan for the prevention of trafficking with children, Save the Children Denmark will occupy a coordinating role in the year to come in relation to activities such as systematic network development, the dissemination of knowledge and documentation, as well as the training of the police, the judiciary, institution personnel and in the Danish municipalities.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter there has been some suspicion that some of the separated children coming from China may be victims of trafficking. Two adults from China, who the Danish police have been monitoring for some time, were in November convicted of falsification of 4 of the children's documents and the arrangement of their illegal entry to Denmark, Sweden and other countries.

Finland

Victims of human trafficking to get temporary residence permits. Officials hope possibility of residence permit will serve as incentive to cooperate with police.

www.helsinginsanomat.fi/english/article/Victims+of+human+trafficking+to+get+temporary+residence+permits+/1101981260793

Norway

12 Chinese children (age 13 – 16, both boys and girls) were identified in reception centres, as suspected victims of trafficking. After the identification, they were taken out of the reception centres and were put into institutions run by the local child care system. This has developed to become a case of cooperation between Norwegian and Swedish police, since some of them who disappeared were found in Sweden and a Chinese couple was arrested as suspected smugglers of Chinese children.

The Norwegian police (NYE KRIPOS) are investigating the cases now. Norway is most likely a country of transit. The children are used as witnesses. The Police tell us that their main focus is the security of these children, but also that they want to find out why Norway is a transit country and what is happening to the children after they leave Norway.

All of them have been identified because they came here to apply for asylum and were placed in reception centres. Health workers in the centres were central in the work to identify them.

Sweden

In connection with the adoption of the legislation described above, Parliament has called on the Government to introduce a proposal for a new provision which would ensure that victims of trafficking who testify against their traffickers will be granted a permanent residence permit. Today, victims of trafficking can apply for asylum or a residence permit on humanitarian grounds in the same way as any other non-citizen. (However, six-month residence permits can be issued for victims if they are of interest to the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.)

Four Chinese children left a reception centre in Norway and were found in Sweden in an apartment, where a lot of money was found and false passports. A Chinese couple were detained for further investigation.

United Kingdom

In October, Community Care (a national magazine) reported that a London local authority spoke at a national conference about Vietnamese children being trafficked into their area to work in houses producing cannabis.

Children and youth participation

United Kingdom

Student Action for Refugees (STAR, www.star-network.org.uk) held a conference on 5-6 November with a lot of participation from separated children. Their campaign this academic year is tackling the issue of age-disputes, and they are holding a day of action on this topic on 23 February 2006.

The Netherlands

On 20 November at a session with a Tribunal the idea was launched to form an association of youngsters who seek asylum in the Netherlands. The plan is that this association will launch a case against the state to plea that if a child has been in the country for 5 years or more, it is a violation of the CRC (articles 3 and 6) when the state says the child has to leave the country. DCI will pick up the organisation of the association and initiate with a group of lawyers and others this test case.

Miscellaneous

Greece

Athens News published an article on 21 October on the plight of unaccompanied minors who are arrested for illegally entering Greece, as described in the new 40-page report released by the Greek Ombudsman.

(Source: NANOU@unhcr.ch from PICUM newsletter)

Mr. Petit, the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, gave a press conference during which he expressed his concern about the detention and deportation procedures concerning separated children as well as a number of children reported as missing from the Agia Varvara institute.

Spain

The number of arrivals in southern Spain of unaccompanied foreign minors is constantly growing. Their departure is often encouraged by their parents. The fact that traffickers have lost many potential Moroccan clients due to the reinforced surveillance along the entire Andalusian coast and at the border seems to be also behind this increasingly spread practice. Minors' protection centres in the region of Andalusia are absolutely

collapsed. Due to this situation, Spain and Morocco are already working on a new protocol for the repatriation of minors.

(Sources: *Migration News Sheet, September and October 2005 and Diarios del Grupo Jolyas noted in PICUM newsletter*)

Switzerland

On initiative of Terre des hommes Switzerland a flyer for domestic workers less than 18 years old was produced lately. The flyer aims to inform domestic workers where they would find adequate counselling in different parts of Switzerland in case they feel mistreated, sexually molested or threatened in any ways.

It is known that domestic workers – minors as well as adults – are employed for example in and around Geneva by Swiss or diplomatic families as well as by other internationals.

More information on the home page of Terre des hommes Switzerland:

www.terredeshommes.ch/index.php?id=36

United Kingdom

On 15 December 2005 a joint statement was issued from the UK Children's Commissioners. The following specific concerns were raised:

- The adequacy and fairness of the asylum determination process, particularly in respect of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; these include the need for legal assistance and more effective procedures for reliably determining age which respect the rights of the young people concerned.
- The detention of both asylum-seeking children in families, and children whose age is disputed, for the purposes of immigration control.
- The way in which children and their families are being removed through unannounced raids and transferred to removal centres for the purposes of return.
- The withdrawal of welfare from asylum-seeking families with children, following a final negative asylum decision and the exhaustion of appeals. This can include the power to separate asylum-seeking children from their families in cases where the family can no longer provide for their children's needs as a result of their welfare being withdrawn.
- The lack of provision for young people who reach 18, having been formerly looked after as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

- The return of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to countries of origin, without a comprehensive assessment of whether return is in the best interest of the child as required by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The particular difficulties experienced by children being returned who have been in the UK for many years and regard it as their home and who may have no memory of their family's country of origin.

The Home Office agreed to work with the Commissioners to take account of their concerns and to see how the views of asylum-seeking children and young people could be identified and articulated. The Commissioners will continue to work with children and young people themselves, with a number of key stakeholders and with the Government to see how these issues can be addressed. The Commissioners call on Government to honour its commitment to *Every Child Matters* for all children and young people and to review its procedures and practices in light of the comments above.

Publications

ABA CEELI

An Introduction to the Human Trafficking Assessment Tool ABA/CEELI

www.abanet.org/ceeli/publications/btat/btat_manual_intro.pdf

Anti-Slavery International

Protocol for Identification and Assistance to Trafficked in Persons and Training Kit is a manual on identification of trafficked persons in practice.

Child domestic workers: A handbook on good practice in programme interventions. This publication is meant for small and medium-sized NGOs seeking ways to improve their programmes and projects, or add to their existing portfolio of activities on behalf of child domestic workers.

Both publications can be ordered or downloaded from the web site of Anti-Slavery International www.antislavery.org

The **British Association for Adoption and Fostering** (BAAF, www.baaf.org.uk) have published "Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children: The Response of Social Services", looking at how separated children are cared for in the UK and making recommendations for the future.

The Bulgarian Red Cross is translating into English the handbook *Protection of refugee Children in Bulgaria*. The book was published in Bulgarian language in 2004. It is a result of a three months project, aiming to assess the situation of the refugee children in Bulgaria. The sources of information are Institutions, NGO's and refugees themselves (200 refugees have been interviewed under the project).

Council of Europe Report from Conference "Yokohama Review for Europe and Central Asia - Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children" which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 8-9 July 2005.

Child Rights Information Network

Children's Participation in Decisions Affecting Them Number 36 in the Bernard van Leer foundation's Working Papers series has recently been published: "Can you hear me? The right of young children to participate in decisions affecting them"
www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=6466

Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

Trafficking in Human Beings – Supplementary figures. Fourth report of the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings – October 2005 contact: a.g.korvinus@minjus.nl

The **End Child Poverty Coalition** published a report entitled *Child Poverty in Ireland 2005: An overview* A section of the report focused on asylum seeking children as an at risk group.
www.endchildpoverty.ie

The **European Children's Network** (EURONET) published its latest report "*What about us? Children's Rights in the European Union, next steps*" by Sandy Ruxton. A chapter is dedicated to asylum and migration, including the treatment of separated children in the EU. Copies are available online at www.europeanchildrensnetwork.org

European Civil Liberties Network

Essays on Civil Liberties and Democracy in Europe
www.ecln.org
The denial of children's rights and liberties in the UK and the North of Ireland
Phil Scraton, Professor of Criminology, Queens University, Belfast
www.ecln.org/essays/essay-14.pdf
EU law and family reunion: a human rights critique
Steve Peers, Professor of Law, University of Essex.
www.ecln.org/essays/essay-16.pdf

European Council on Refugees and Exiles

ECRE – 2004 Country Reports
The ECRE Country Report, published September 2005, contains reports on major policy and legal developments in 2004, along with statistics on asylum applications, for 27 European countries.
www.ecre.org/publications/country04.htm

European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia Annual Report 2005 on racism and discrimination

eumc.eu.int/eumc/material/pub/ar05/AR05_p2_EN.pdf

European Network of Ombudsmen for Children

Country Updates – Annual Meeting
www.brpd.gov.pl/updates.html

EUROPOL

EUROPOL overview of EU legislation on illegal immigrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and child pornography
www.europol.eu.int/publications/other/Reports%202005/Legislation%20on%20THB%20and%20IIS%20Public.pdf

Global Commission on International Migration

Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action
www.gcim.org/en/finalreport.html

GTZ

Challenging Trafficking in Persons - Theoretical Debate and Practical Approaches Sector Project against Trafficking in Women.
www.humantrafficking.org/collaboration/regional/eur/news/2005_12/challenging_trafficking_in_persons.pdf

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Nationality and Statelessness: A Handbook for Parliamentarians (2005)
www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/nationality_en.pdf
Human Rights: A Handbook for Parliamentarians
www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/hr_guide_en.pdf

International Labour Organization

Rules of the game: a brief introduction to International Labour Standards
To request a copy available in English, French and Spanish contact: andry@ilo.org

International Organization for Migration

International Training on the Protection of Victims of Trafficking - The results and recommendations from the trainings will be disseminated across Europe and a final guide to be published in English and Russian in December will present the state-of-play regarding counter-trafficking legislation in the 13 countries. It will also have details on cooperation, exchanges of information and best practices in the context of fighting human trafficking, which can serve officials in all countries. For more information on the project, please contact, Franziska Meier Email: fmeier@iom.int. A project description can be found on the IOM Brussels website: www.belgium.iom.int/AGIS2004/.

The Irish Refugee Council Irish Penal Reform Trust and Immigrant Council of Ireland

Ireland: *Immigration-related detention in Ireland*
www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/press05/detention.pdf

PICUM

Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers
www.picum.org

Refugee Council UK

Response to the government's green paper on youth services
[Nov 2005]
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/publications/pub007.htm#youth_matters

Refugee Council UK

Daring to dream: Raising the achievement of 14 to 16 year old asylum-seeking and refugee children and young people
(October 2005).
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/publications/pub004.htm#daring

Save the Children Alliance

Practice Standards in Children's Participation

These practice standards state what children and others can expect of Save the Children's practice in child participation. They are designed to apply to all Save the Children's child participation work and represent minimum expectations of the ways in which staff will behave and operate.

They have been developed through years of experience supporting children's participation at both the local and global levels.

The primary purpose of these practice standards is to ensure consistent, high quality child participation practice throughout Save the Children's programmes. They aim to provide a framework that gives guidance and direction first and foremost to

field staff in continuously improving their participatory practice. They are also intended for sharing with partners and others as the basis for dialogue about ways to ensure meaningful children's participation.

The standards can be used to: assist Save the Children staff in assessing their practice in child participation and identifying areas of improvement; inform training and other approaches to competency that ensures that staff working with children have the attitudes, skills and confidence required to deliver the practice standards; provide a basis for accountability and challenge if practice falls below a certain standard; review and evaluate current practice and identify goals for the future; establish a safe and meaningful environment for the participation of children and minimise the risk to children from involvement in participatory practice; share Save the Children's understanding of meaningful children's participation with children's organisations and other partners.

www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk_cache/scuk/cache/cmsattach/3125_PSCP.pdf

Save the Children Sweden

A report in Swedish "Vem tar ansvaret för de ensamkommande barnen" was published in November 2005. The report is the result of the monitoring of 17 separated children's encounter with Sweden in a reception facility in Skellefteå in northern Sweden. ISBN: 91-7321-186-9, Save the Children Sweden article nr: 3253 (the report is a continuation of the report "Meeting the needs of Separated children", Save the Children 2004)

Save the Children UK

Save the Children "Fighting Back" against the recruitment of child soldiers

Save the Children has today published a report that looks at the reasons why children join armed groups and recommends ways of tackling the recruitment process. For more information please contact:

Tirana Hassan, Child Protection Programme Director West Africa, Email address: t.hassan@savethechildren.org.uk

Terre des Hommes Foundation

An increase in prostitution among Romanian minors in Rome - Results of a three-month research project on unaccompanied Romanian children in Rome.

www.childtrafficking.com/Content/Library/?pg=13&CID=1c383cd30b7c298ab50293adfecb7b18|505d

UNDP Romania

Best Practice Law Enforcement Manual for Fighting Against Trafficking of Human Beings: Trainer's Manual Maria Magdalena Radulescu and Paul Holmes.

www.humantrafficking.org/collaboration/regional/eur/resources/pubs/2005/trainer_s_manual_final.pdf

UNHCR

Reaching Out Training Materials

www.unhcr.ch/reachout/reachout_training.zip

UNHCR

Self-Study Module 1: An Introduction to International Protection: Protecting Persons of Concern to UNHCR
1 August 2005

www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/doclist?page=publist&id=3d4a55014

UNHCR

Self-Study Module 2: Refugee Status Determination: Identifying who is a Refugee
1 September 2005

www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/doclist?page=publist&id=3d4a55014

UNICEF

State of the World's Children 2006

www.unicef.org/publications/index_30399.html

The **Vincentian Refugee Centre** with The **Children's Research Centre** (Trinity College)
Making a New Life in Ireland: Lone Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Mothers and their Children
www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre.ie

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *The Struggle between Migration Control and Victim Protection: The UK Approach to Human Trafficking.* June 2005.

www.womenscommission.org/pdf/UK_Trafficking.pdf

Events

2005

The Refugee Council (UK) held two very successful conferences in October and November on the theme of refugee children, looking at a wide range of issues affecting both separated children and children in families.

Fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation: hearing on the role of local and regional authorities Strasbourg, 12.10.2005 The Social Cohesion Committee of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional authorities organized on Friday 14 October, a public hearing on the role of local and regional authorities in the fight against trafficking in human beings and their sexual exploitation

[press.coe.int/cp/2005/532a\(2005\).htm](http://press.coe.int/cp/2005/532a(2005).htm)

The Council of Europe held a conference in Malaga on "Unaccompanied Minors' Migration – Acting in the Best Interests of the Child". Government representatives, parliamentarians, independent experts, representatives of various international institutions and NGOs met 27-28 October to identify ways of reinforcing the protection of migrant minors.

The Home Office National Integration Forum held a conference in November entitled "Include Me", the theme being resilience in children, in those who work with them and in the communities in which they live.

The Swedish PEN Association arranged a two-day hearing (the "Asylum Tribunal") on Sweden's lack of compliance with international refugee and human rights law in Stockholm in November. A jury of international experts presented a list of recommendations to the Swedish government on the basis of the testimonies during the hearing.

4th – 5th of November: Conference in Siracusa, "Against any forms of Slavery – A conference on social assistance programmes and social integration (art. 18 Immigration Law and Law 228/2003 «Measures against trafficking in persons»", promoted by the Ministry for Equal Opportunities, On.le Stefania Prestigiacomo.

INGO FORUM:

"Integration of Migrants in Europe: what role for NGOs?"

Messina, 10 - 13 november 2005

Co-organised by Liaison Committee of INGOs of the Council of Europe (North-South Dialogue and Solidarity Grouping) Council of Europe North-South Centre, Lisbon, Messina International Study and Research Centre (INTERCENTER), with the support of the Council of Europe Directorate General of Political Affairs and Migration Division.

Messina International Study and Research Centre (INTERCENTER), University of Messina, Aula Magna, Political Science Faculty, E-mail: intercen@tin.it

11-13 November 2005, Cermosnjice, Slovenia

The training for separated children's guardians was organised and implemented by Slovene Philanthropy as a 2.5-day weekend event.

Beneficiaries were future guardians (Slovene Philanthropy volunteers, students of social work, social and refugee workers), and representatives of some organisations active in the field of migration and asylum (GOs and NGOs). Statement of Good Practice was also presented. The total number of participants was 36.

"The position of socially excluded children in the EU policy process"

held on 14 November 2005 in Brussels.

www.eurochild.org

On 18 – 19 November, UNHCR and the Centre for Social Policy Initiatives organised the training of the second group of potential guardians for separated children foreign nationals, as envisaged under the Project "Support to Guardianship System for Separated Children, Foreign Nationals, including Asylum Seekers". The Project is supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Centres for Social Welfare in Zagreb region which identified two groups of out-of-institution collaborators skilled in individual work with children, to be trained as potential guardians for separated children foreign nationals. The training covered international protection of children, including separated children and children asylum seekers and refugees, protection against trafficking in persons, role of guardian under the Croatian legislation, the Croatian Law on Asylum and current practice in its implementation as well as the psychosocial consequences of separation. A total of 23 potential guardians were included in the training under this Project."

"Stop Deporting Children," a new campaign against the deportation of children, held a day of action on 19 November 2005.

www.standup4children.org

22-23 November 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The training for social workers and other practitioners working with asylum-seekers and

refugees was organised and implemented by Slovene Philanthropy as a 2-day event.

Main subjects were asylum policy in Slovenia, asylum-seekers and refugees, separated children issues in Slovenia and presentation of Statement of Good Practice, integration and human trafficking.

The participants were practitioners of Centres for Social Work (governmental institutions within Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, responsible on appointing guardians), elementary and secondary schools involved in providing assistance and protection to refugee and asylum-seeking children. The total number of participants was 15.

24th of November: Conference in Rome organised by IOM on Separated Children in Italy

In December separated children visited the Puppet Workshop and together with Bulgarian children made puppets and after that played theatre with them. The event is organized by the State Agency for Refugees and UNHCR BO Sofia.

6th of December: Conference in Turin organised by FIERI (International and European Forum on Migration Research) and CeSPI (Centre for International Political Studies), "A Traveling Europe. Romanian Migration, Integration and co-development".

On 8 December the Greek Council for Refugees organised a conference on unaccompanied minors.

The High Commissioner for Refugees visited Sweden on 9 December.

14th of December: Conference organised by the Rome Municipality and Parsec NGO, "Trafficking for sexual purposes and the Italian localised development cooperation".

The UK EU Presidency held a seminar on "Transit Migration Through the Eastern Neighbourhood" on 15-16 December. NGOs are not invited to the first day where states will discuss border management, but will attend the second day where discussion will take place about the forthcoming regional protection programme in that area. The Refugee Council are very concerned that in the light of these discussions separated children will find it still harder to access safety and support.

19th -20th of December: Launching of the research “Separated children from Romania in Rome” Terres des Hommes, Casa dei Diritti Sociali, FRCCF (Foundation for Romanian children and families and communities).

2006

9-12 February 2006
ECRE ELENA Network: Subsidiary Protection, the EU and International Human Rights Law
www.ecre.org

15 February 2006
Nationale Fachtagung zum Thema unbegleitete ausländische Minderjährige MNA - Universität Bern
For more information: ssi-cb@ssiss.ch

June 10 – 18, 2006
The Summer Course on Refugee Issues, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto
www.yorku.ca/crs

27 August-1 September
XVII World Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates
www.youthandfamily2006.com

The Irish Coalition against FGM is holding its first meeting on the issue of FGM and asylum. The meeting hopes to look at a lobbying strategy. FGM affects millions of girls worldwide but is rarely a ground for asylum.
E-mail: admin@fgmireland.org
www.fgmireland.org

Useful web sites

European Migration Network
www.european-migration-network.org

Réseau Euroméditerranéen pour la protection des mineurs isolés
www.r-e-m-i.org

STOPP Kinderhandel
afa.at/stopp-kinderhandel/

Reporting organisations

ACNUR (Spain)
Asylkoordination Österreich
Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Refugees' and Migrants' Legal Protection Project
Caritas Foundation Luxembourg, Refugee Office, Passepartout Project
Centre for Social Policy Initiatives (Croatia)
Défense des enfants international (DCI Belgium) with Service Droit des Jeunes
Defence for Children International - The Netherlands
International Social Service (ISS) Hellenic Branch
International Social Service, Swiss Foundation
Irish Refugee Council
Menedék Egyesület (Hungary)
Portuguese Refugee Council
Refugee Council (UK)
Save the Children Denmark
Save the Children Italia Onlus
Save the Children Norway
Save the Children Spain
Save the Children Sweden
Save the Children UK
Slovene Philanthropy
UNHCR Greece
UNHCR UK

This Newsletter has been produced by Lise Bruun and Jyothi Kanics for the Separated Children in Europe Programme. For more information please contact::

Lise Bruun, Administrative Co-ordinator
LBR@redbarnet.dk
Tel: +45 3524 8524

Jyothi Kanics, Programme Manager
JK@redbarnet.dk
Tel: +45 3524 8536

Save the Children Denmark
Rosenørns Allé 12
DK-1634 Copenhagen V
Fax: +45 3539 1119

Website: www.separated-children-europe-programme.org