

The leaflet “Good Practice for Separated Children” can be downloaded in these 22 languages from www.separated-children-europe-programme.org or ordered by e-mail from LBR@redbarnet.dk

- Albanian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Farsi
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Lithuanian
- Norwegian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish



The Statement of Good Practice, 4th rev. edition, has been available since the beginning of 2010. It aims to provide a clear overview of the principles, policies and practices that will ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of separated children in Europe.

However the Statement of Good Practice is quite lengthy and the leaflet “Good Practice for Separated Children” is designed to be concise, portable and accessible for young people.

The leaflet sets out the key principles and elements of good practice in a relevant way for young people and in a way that a young person may more readily understand.

A group of young people were closely involved in the writing and development of the leaflet.

The leaflet has been translated into 22 European languages.

The primary purpose of the leaflet is to provide young people with a tool, which they can use either directly, or with the help of an involved adult to lobby for a standard of practice that should be applied to them.

However it can also serve to raise awareness amongst both young people and practitioners of the need for rights based standards of practice and to help young people assess the standards of practice they receive.

In addition the leaflet could facilitate discussion between the young person and their guardian or other adults working with them regarding desired changes to current levels of service and to trigger a broader discussion about the rights and entitlements of separated children.

It may also serve to promote the Statement of Good Practice and those working with separated children should be directed to the full document at www.separated-children-europe-programme.org

The person who is responsible for giving the leaflet to the young person must allow time to introduce it.

Young people who are awaiting a decision on their protection status should not be given the leaflet in isolation and without having its purpose and possible uses explained to them.

Ideally the leaflet should be distributed to young people by their guardians or by a representative of an agency independent of government.

We strongly recommend that the leaflet is not distributed in an untargeted manner or to allow young people unrestricted access to the leaflet merely by displaying it at relevant locations.

It should be explained to the young person receiving the leaflet that it outlines the practice, which SCEP believes should be applied to all separated children in Europe.

However it **should also be pointed out that the standards outlined in the leaflet are not met consistently** throughout all countries and that for some young people the standard of practice they receive will fall short of that outlined in the leaflet.

The leaflet is not legally binding either on state parties or individual practitioners and a young person could not mount a legal challenge against the quality of support, care or advice they have received *solely* on the basis of the standards outlined in the Statement of Good Practice.

For this reason it is important to alert young people to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to engage with them in helping them to distinguish between the rights that they hold and the standards of practice that SCEP believes they should receive.

If, as a result of reading this leaflet and assessing the practice that they have received young people have concerns about the levels of treatment they are receiving they should be advised about how to address these¹.

If their concerns are about the protection determination procedure the young person should raise this with their legal representative.

If their dissatisfaction relates to their care services they could initially, perhaps with the help of their guardian, try to talk about their dissatisfaction with those responsible for the service.

If this fails to bring about a change they can take up any formal complaints procedures that are available to them and if this too fails to make an improvement they should seek advice from their legal representative. In any event existing national systems for making complaints should be followed.

As with the Statement of Good Practice, SCEP wants the leaflet to be a dynamic, inspirational and living document that will be revised over time to ensure it remains up to date, useful and relevant.

To this end **we encourage your feedback** on how the leaflet was used, whether or not young people, guardians and other professionals thought it was useful and how it can be revised and further improved.

Your feedback can be addressed to Lise Bruun at LBR@redbarnet.dk

¹ Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union outlines that 'Children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. They may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity. In all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration'.