

# INITIATIVE FOR CHILD RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL COMPACTS

Today, nearly 50 million children have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced. Every day and in every region, these children face a variety of rights violations, from exploitation and violence to being separated from their families, detained because of their migration status and deprived of essential protections and services. These abuses constitute a grave human rights crisis.

Within this context, the **Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts** aims to ensure that the rights of children on the move and other children affected by migration are respected and fulfilled.

This initiative is being driven by a civil society-led steering committee, which is co-convened by **Terre des Hommes** and **Save the Children**. As of 15 March 2017, committee members include:

- Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Destination Unknown Campaign
- Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
- International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- International Detention Coalition (IDC)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- NGO Committee on Migration
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Oak Foundation
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
- Save the Children
- Terre des Hommes
- UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Vision

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly held the high-level Summit for Refugees and Migrants, during which it adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

This declaration expresses the political will of world leaders to share responsibility on a global scale with regards to refugees and migrants and contains a number of important commitments to children.

The declaration also calls for negotiations leading to the adoption of two agreements in 2018 – the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Over the next 18 months, the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts will work to raise awareness around and accountability for the rights of children on the move and other children affected by migration.

In particular, through drawing on States' commitment to complying with the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as on specific guidance from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the initiative will aim to ensure that both global compacts reflect a common approach to protecting children on the move.

**The initiative builds on five key areas of child rights outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, namely:**

1. non-discrimination and integration;
2. ensuring the priority of the best interests of the child;
3. ensuring children's access to services;
4. ending child immigration detention;
5. promoting durable solutions.

**Furthermore, the initiative encompasses three main components:**

- The elaboration by experts of a working document entitled "Child Rights in the Global Compacts," which will lay out goals, targets and indicators – in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – through which the five key commitments to child rights outlined in the New York Declaration can be operationalised across both global compacts;
- The Global Conference on Children on the Move, to take place in Berlin on 12-13 June 2017;
- A follow-up advocacy strategy on how to promote a common approach to protecting the rights of children on the move at the national and global levels.

While the immediate goal of the Initiative on Child Rights in Global Compacts is to shape the compacts themselves, the initiative aims to ultimately influence how all children on the move are protected and supported.

*This initiative is co-convened by Terre des Hommes (Ignacio Packer - [ignacio.packer@terredeshommes.org](mailto:ignacio.packer@terredeshommes.org)) and Save the Children (Daniela Reale - [d.reale@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:d.reale@savethechildren.org.uk)).*

**For more information about this initiative, please visit [childrenonthemove.org](http://childrenonthemove.org).**