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POLICY BRIEF

# **CHILDREN ARE CHILDREN FIRST:**

Ensuring the rights of children in migration in  
Macedonia through better data, access to education  
and ending detention

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Children are Children First: Ensuring the rights of children in migration in Macedonia through better data, access to education and ending detention

Policy Brief

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## Executive Summary

Children in migration have been the focus of many interventions in Macedonia. While international and local organizations have provided significant support in strengthening the child protection system, and state authorities have given efforts to implement child-sensitive practices, a number of deficiencies remain. Detention, which has been shown to be particularly detrimental for the well-being of migrant children and never in their best interest, continues to be a practice sporadically applied to children in the migration context in the country. Participation in the formal education system is unattainable for migrant children in Macedonia due to administrative and language barriers, despite the fact that early access to education significantly contributes to the ability of migrant children to effectively integrate and mitigate the effects of their displacement. There is also no sufficient data on migrant children in Macedonia for developing evidence-based child protection policies, allowing children and their needs to remain invisible.

For this reason, the relevant national authorities must i) establish a mechanism for comprehensive collection of data on migrant children, compatible across agencies and organizations involved in the child protection system; ii) end child detention for immigration purposes and establish viable community-based alternatives; iii) remove all barriers for the access of migrant children into the public education system and stimulate their early enrollment into schools irrespective of their legal status.

## Introduction

According to UNICEF, there are 51 million children on the move<sup>2</sup> and 28 million children have been displaced by conflict worldwide.<sup>3</sup> Eurostat reports that in 2015 and 2016 out of four asylum applicants in the EU was a child, while in 2015 alone there were 96,000 unaccompanied children who applied for asylum.<sup>4</sup> Such official figures on children in migration in Macedonia are not available. The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) reports that in 2016 there were 250 unaccompanied children that applied for asylum in Macedonia<sup>5</sup>, while in the half of 2018 children comprised approximately 18 percent of the irregular migrants who were registered in the country<sup>6</sup>.

Despite the lack of comprehensive figures in Macedonia, the reality is that children comprise a significant portion of the refugees and migrants that have transited through or arrived in the country. While there have been significant efforts by the national authorities, both law enforcement and social protection agencies, local NGOs and international organizations, to strengthen the capacities for the protection of children in migration, specific challenges remain.

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this brief “children in migration” and “children on the move” will be used interchangeably, encompassing children who migrate from their country of origin survival, security, improved standards of living, education, economic opportunities, protection from exploitation and abuse, family reunification or a combination of these factors.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, *“In 2018, make migration safe for every child”*, 15 Dec. 2017.

<sup>4</sup> EUROSTAT, *Asylum and Managed Migration*; European Commission, *“Compilation of data, situation and media reports on children in migration”*, 23 Feb. 2018.

<sup>5</sup> MYLA, *Field Report 2016*, January 2017.

<sup>6</sup> In the first quarter (January – March) of 2018 MYLA reports that a total of 627 migrants were registered in the transit centers near the northern and southern borders, of which 76 were children. See: MYLA, *Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and Refugee Human Rights January-March 2018*, June 2018. In the second quarter (April - June) of 2018 MYLA reports that a total of 853 migrants were registered in the transit centres, of which 200 were children. See: MYLA, *Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and refugee Human Rights April – June 2018*, August 2018.

Children in migration are one of the most vulnerable persons on the move. They migrate from their country of origin in search of survival, security, improved standards of living, education, economic opportunities, protection from exploitation and abuse, family reunification or a combination of these factors. They may be travelling alone, with a family member or a person who is not related to them. Comprehensive child protection systems must reach all children in migration irrespective of their legal status or migration aim.

At the onset, it is important to highlight that children in migration must be *identified and registered* as children at all times. In other words, children must be *treated* as children. This means that they must be seen as distinct rights-holders and their best interests should prevail over other considerations, irrespective of the reasons for migration, migration status or the status of their parents/caregivers. Individualized child-sensitive and child-centered approaches must be employed when dealing with children, in order to ensure that they do not end up alone, destitute, on the street, in detention or in inadequate accommodation.<sup>7</sup> At the international and European level, there are a plethora of conventions, guidelines, recommendations and guiding principles that can serve as a good source on establishing comprehensive protection systems for migrant children.<sup>8</sup> While many of the child protection principles are being implemented in Macedonia, there is a growing need for targeted interventions in areas that are fundamental for the effective protection of migrant children's rights.

In light of this, this policy brief aims to provide an overview of some of the most pressing challenges and recommends changes in policy and practice in order to ensure the effective protection of children in migration.

## **Current Context and Challenges in Macedonia**

Macedonia was a key point in the Western Balkans transit route during the 2015/2016 large mixed migration movements. Nearly 1 million refugees and migrants from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Somalia, Pakistan and other countries transited through the country. A relatively limited number of persons remained in the country seeking asylum, emergency medical assistance or other forms of protection. Many of them were children traveling with their families or alone. At the time, the capacities of the authorities to adequately register and provide appropriate assistance/protection to migrant children were significantly strained.<sup>9</sup> International organizations and local NGOs provided essential support in establishing responsive protection and referral mechanisms for migrant unaccompanied children encountered at the borders.

In particular, in November 2015 the government of Macedonia adopted the multi-sectoral *Standard Operating Procedures for Dealing with Unaccompanied and Separated Children* (SOP).<sup>10</sup> The SOP outlines the specific steps and procedures that need to be undertaken by the relevant stakeholders (Border Police Officials, Social Workers/Guardians, Legal Representatives, Medical Officers and Humanitarian Workers) when encountering an unaccompanied child. The key aim of the SOP was to mainstream an approach focusing on the best interests of

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<sup>7</sup> For further readings and sources on the rights of children in migration see the designated pages of international organisations: [UNHCR - Children](#); [UNICEF - Children Uprooted](#); [IOM – Online bookstore: Children](#).

<sup>8</sup> For international standards on the rights of children in migration see previous footnote. For EU standards and discussions on migrant children's rights see the overview provided by the EC available at: [European Commission - Children in Migration](#)

<sup>9</sup> For information on the situation and responses during the 2015/2016 mixed migration movements see: MYLA, [Emergency Response 2015](#); MYLA, [Field Report 2016](#), January 2017; Oxfam, Atina, MYLA, BCHR, Open Gate/La Strada, [Closed Borders – Impact on the Border Closures for People on the Move in Serbia and Macedonia](#), September 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806c0638>

the child and ensuring that all migrant unaccompanied children undergo the same identification and referral procedure, where relevant actors have clearly defined roles. Since its adoption coordination among actors responsible for providing services and protection has improved. In 2015 and 2016, deficiencies were noted in the lack of timely and effective appointment of guardians<sup>11</sup> and in transferring children from the transit centres near the border to child-friendly facilities.<sup>12</sup> However, in 2017 and 2018, such issues have not been reported.<sup>13</sup>

Furthermore, in 2015 *detention of children* in inhumane conditions in Macedonia was reported by a number of local and international NGOs.<sup>14</sup> Children were being held in the Reception Centre for Foreigners which is a closed-facility intended to hold foreigners during identification or pre-removal procedures.<sup>15</sup> While the numbers of migrant children detained has significantly reduced in 2016 and 2017, and children have mostly been accommodated in the specialized Safehouse for Vulnerable Migrants and Children (Safe House), there were cases of children being detained.<sup>16</sup> It is particularly alarming that incidents have been reported where children have been detained not as a necessary measure to enforce immigration related procedures, but rather due to the lack of an appropriate legal status to be accommodated in the Safehouse.<sup>17</sup> In 2018, the immigration detention of children continues and official statistics confirm that in the first half of 2018, 6 children were detained in the Reception Centre for Foreigners.<sup>18</sup>

Services for early integration, particularly *access to education*, have not been effectively available to migrant children. Educators and psycho-social workers in the Safe House, Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers and Transit Centres provide non-formal education for children. However, the inclusion of refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children into the formal public education system has proven difficult due to administrative and formal barriers.<sup>19</sup> In particular, proof of immunization and, in some schools, birth certificates are a requirement for enrolment which many migrant children and their families cannot provide. Additionally, lack of language courses aiming to enable children to join the public schooling system further bars migrant children from effectively accessing formal education.

Since 2016, the Western Balkans route has been closed and movements have significantly reduced. In 2018, migrants and refugees continue to transit through Macedonia through irregular routes and with the assistance of smugglers. As migrant children are moving along irregular routes facilitated by smugglers, away from humanitarian, enforcement and protection actors, providing adequate and comprehensive assistance to them has proven to be particularly challenging.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The appointment of guardians is considered the most important step in ensuring effective protection of children in migration. See: UNICEF, [A call for effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children](#), August 2016.

<sup>12</sup> MYLA reported that in 2015 and 2016, the appointment of guardians and communication among relevant actors was not prompt and effective. See MYLA, [Emergency Response 2015](#) ; MYLA, [Field Report 2016](#)

<sup>13</sup> MYLA, [Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and Refugee Human Rights January-March 2018](#), June 2018; and [Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and Refugee Human Rights October-December 2017](#), March 2018.

<sup>14</sup> Amnesty International, [Europe's Borderlands – Violations against refugees and migrants in Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary](#), 2015; Human Rights Watch, [“As though we are not human beings” – Police Brutality against Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Macedonia](#), September 2015.

<sup>15</sup> A detailed overview and summary of the detention practices in Macedonia has been published by the Global Detention Project in the country profile [Macedonia Immigration Detention](#).

<sup>16</sup> MYLA, [Immigration Detention in Macedonia 2016](#), January 2017; MYLA, [Immigration Detention in Macedonia 2017](#), February 2018.

<sup>17</sup> Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia, [Special Report on the conditions in the Reception Centre for Foreigners “Gazi Baba” – 2017](#), December 2017.

<sup>18</sup> MYLA, [Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and refugee Human Rights April – June 2018](#), August 2018.

<sup>19</sup> For a substantive overview and analysis of the access to education of migrant children in Macedonia see: MYLA, [Access to education of refugee and migrant children as a key process for their integration](#), January 2018.

<sup>20</sup> See footnote 13.

## Recommendations and Ways Forward

Comprehensive, inclusive and responsive child-protection systems require multi-lateral and multi-disciplinary approaches.<sup>21</sup> Efforts to address the protection needs of children on the move have taken an inter-sectoral approach in Macedonia since 2015. Even though most of the coordination channels among relevant actors were established in light of the emergency setting during the mass mixed migration movements, cooperation among relevant child protection agencies and organizations continues despite the reduction of migratory movements. The Ombudsman's office has reported that guardians are regularly appointed to newly identified unaccompanied migrant children<sup>22</sup>, and that psychosocial and non-formal education services provided by civil society organizations are available in both reception and transit centers throughout the country.<sup>23</sup>

However, as pointed out above, a number of crucial challenges remain. In particular, data on children in migration remains fragmented, detention of children is still occurring sporadically, and access to formal education for migrant children is not unimpeded. These three key topics remain to be fully addressed, and the following sections provide a way forward.

### Data on Children in Migration

Child protection systems are most effective and responsive when established through evidence-based policy making.<sup>24</sup> The importance of appropriate and actionable data in relation to migration policies has been stressed by a number of international and EU organizations. In the Final Draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that is due to be adopted by all UN members in December 2018, the collection and utilisation of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for effective policy making in migration has been stressed as the first out of 23 objectives for ensuring a global and holistic policy approach towards migration.<sup>25</sup>

While there have been efforts in strengthening and capacitating the child protection system in the country in the migration context, comprehensive and regular collection of data has been limited. Data on children in migration in Macedonia is fragmented, inconsistent, and most often not publicly available. While some local organizations include the number of children in their reporting, they do not provide detailed disaggregated statistics.

Most of the data available publicly on children in migration in Macedonia is not appropriately disaggregated by age, sex, country of origin, vulnerabilities and legal status, making many children and their needs invisible. Taking into consideration the close cooperation that the Center for Social Affairs, the relevant sectors for asylum and foreigners of the Ministry of Interior, Reception Centers, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, and local NGOs providing support have, it is important that they record data on children in a comprehensive and compatible manner to ensure coordinated responses. While there are a number of approaches that could be taken to address this issue, a coordinated response to this challenge needs to consider the following recommendations:

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<sup>21</sup> F. Wulczyn, D.Daro, J. Fluke, S. Feldman, C. Glodek, K.Lifanda, „[Adapting a systems Approach to Child Protection: Key Concepts and Considerations](#)“, supported by UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and Chaplin Hall, January 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia, [Special report on the visit to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers- 2017](#), August 2017; Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia, [Special report on the conditions in the Reception Transit Centre Tabanovce -2017](#), December 2017.

<sup>23</sup> MYLA, [Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and Refugee Human Rights January-March 2018](#), June 2018; and [Quarterly Field Report on the Status of Migrant and Refugee Human Rights October-December 2017](#), March 2018.

<sup>24</sup> UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, EUROSTAT, OECD, “[A call to action - Protecting children on the move starts with better data](#)“, February 2018.

<sup>25</sup> [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – Final Draft](#), 11 July 2018.

1. Relevant stakeholders (national child protection and enforcement agencies, local NGOs and international organizations) should establish a common mechanism for recording and sharing personal and non-personal data on children in migration in Macedonia, taking into consideration privacy and data protection, in cooperation with the State Statistical Office. The common mechanism should contain templates which are compatible across sectors and in line with relevant EU legislation on migration statistics.<sup>26</sup>
2. All data on children, which is collected and processed must be disaggregated by age, sex, vulnerability, needs, migration/legal status, and achieved durable solutions.<sup>27</sup>
3. Disaggregated and comprehensive non-personal data on children in migration must be made available publicly, to ensure that the governmental and non-governmental policies and practices are appropriate to the demographics and needs of the children.
4. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy should publish an annual report on children in migration, which would outline their profiles, vulnerabilities and needs, and be developed in cooperation with relevant international organizations, government agencies and local NGOs.

## Ending Detention of Children

Recent studies have indicated that detention of children can undermine their psychological and physical well-being and compromise their cognitive development. Children held in detention are at risk of suffering depression and anxiety, and frequently exhibit symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder such as insomnia, nightmares and bedwetting. Detention has a profound and negative impact on children's health and development, regardless of the conditions in which children are held, even when children are detained for short periods of time or together with their families. The risk of exposure to others forms of harm, including sexual and gender-based violence, are also significant in many detention contexts.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, there is no evidence that detention of children serves the aim of deterring refugee or asylum-seeker movements or irregular migration.<sup>29</sup> Detention is never in the best interest of the child and therefore children should not be detained for immigration purposes, irrespective of their or their caregiver's legal and migration status.

In light of this, the detention of children in the immigration context is contrary to the Convention of the Rights of the Child<sup>30</sup>, which reaffirms that the best interest of the child must be the primary consideration in all measures affecting the child (Article 3) and the detention of children must be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time (Article 37b).<sup>31</sup> Additionally, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly called for ending the detention of children for immigration purposes in Europe, highlighting its adverse and severe effects.<sup>32</sup> At the global<sup>33</sup> and European<sup>34</sup> levels there have been movements towards ending

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<sup>26</sup> Taking into consideration Macedonia's EU accession process and the continuous legislative alignment with the EU acquis, the authorities should consider adopting and utilizing the methodology for reporting migration statistics that EU Member States use when reporting migration statistics to Eurostat. Key reference point on migration statistics within the EU is [EC Regulation 862/2007](#). Further details on this available at: Eurostat, [Asylum Statistics Explained](#) and Eurostat, [Migration and Population Statistics](#)

<sup>27</sup> UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, EUROSTAT, OECD, "[A call to action - Protecting children on the move starts with better data](#)", February 2018.

<sup>28</sup> International Detention Coalition, [Ending Child Immigration Detention](#).

<sup>29</sup> UNHCR, [Position on the detention of refugee and migrant children in the migration context](#), January 2017.

<sup>30</sup> Conclusions by the Committee of the Rights of the Child at the 2012 Days of General Discussion on the Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration, see [Report on the 2012 Day of General Discussion](#), para. 32.

<sup>31</sup> UN General Assembly, [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), adopted 20 November 1989.

<sup>32</sup> Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe Nils Muižnieks, [Immigration detention of Children: Coming to a Close?](#), 2017.

<sup>33</sup> Inter-Agency Working Group to End Child Immigration Detention, [Ending Child Immigration Detention](#), 2016.

<sup>34</sup> Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, [The Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children](#).

child immigration detention, and developing viable alternatives to detention<sup>35</sup> that will not harm migrant children and further exacerbate their trauma. Furthermore, in upcoming Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the states signatories will vow to work towards ending immigration detention of children by committing to:

*"Protect and respect the rights and best interests of the child at all times, regardless of their migration status, by ensuring availability and accessibility of a viable range of alternatives to detention in non-custodial contexts, favouring community-based care arrangements, that ensure access to education and healthcare, and respect the right to family life and family unity, and by working to end the practise of child detention in the context of migration"*<sup>36</sup> - Objective 13 (h), Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – Final Draft

While there have been positive developments on migrant child detention in the past year in Macedonia with the reduction of the number of detained children and the use of the Safe House as an alternative to detention, in 2018 the detention of children for immigration purposes in Macedonia continues as highlighted above. Macedonia, as a signatory to numerous international instruments prohibiting or limiting the detention of children for immigration purposes, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Convention for the Prohibition of Torture, must move towards developing alternatives to detention and ensure practices that will prevent any migrant child from being detained. In order to achieve this the authorities should consider the following recommendations:

1. The Ministry of Interior should adopt appropriate by-laws, guidelines and ministerial instructions to ensure that no child or their caregiver is detained for immigration purposes in the Reception Centre for Foreigners or any other facility that restricts their freedom of movement in custodial conditions. Such policies need to apply to all children in migration irrespective of their migration status.
2. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Interior must make concerted efforts to ensure that migrant children are accommodated with their families in appropriate child-friendly facilities, which should be separate from facilities accommodating unaccompanied children or other vulnerable persons.
3. Concrete plans and policies must be developed to establish viable alternatives to detention.<sup>37</sup>
4. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy should develop policies establishing possibilities for community-based care arrangement for unaccompanied migrant children, such as accommodation in host or foster families.<sup>38</sup>

## Ensuring Early Integration through Education

Early integration in the host society is a crucial aspect of children's development into adulthood. It is a social investment and an essential factor contributing to the societal cohesion in the receiving society. One of the most

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<sup>35</sup> For detailed guidelines and proposals on alternatives to detention see International Detention Coalition, [There are Alternatives – A handbook for preventing unnecessary immigration detention](#), 2015

<sup>36</sup> [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – Final Draft](#), 11 July 2018.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> For guidelines and references on policy and practical options on alternative care arrangements and alternatives to detention of children and their families in the migration context see: UNHCR, [Global Strategy: Beyond Detention 2014-2019, Options Paper 1: Options for governments on care arrangements and alternatives to detention for children and families](#), 2015.

effective ways for ensuring the effective integration of children in a society is education.<sup>39</sup> International organizations have prompted countries to ensure quick and unimpeded access to formal education for children without consideration of their legal status. The global shift towards ensuring access to all migrant children is also reflected in the Final Draft of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration where states, as stated in Objective 15 (f) will commit to

*“Provide inclusive and equitable quality education to migrant children [...], including by strengthening capacities of education systems and facilitating non-discriminatory access to early childhood development, formal schooling, non-formal education for children for whom the formal system is inaccessible [...].”<sup>40</sup>*

In Macedonia, migrant children have faced difficulties in accessing the regular education system. Namely, one of the primary obstacles for migrant children enrolling in the public-school system has been the requirement to provide proof of immunization and a birth certificate.<sup>41</sup> While proof of immunization is stipulated in the law<sup>42</sup> as an enrolment requirement, it impedes access for migrant and refugee children since often they are not able to provide such documents. Birth certificates, on the other hand, are not a requirement for enrolment prescribed by law, but it has been reported that some schools in Macedonia refuse to enrol children whose parents do not provide them. As with the vaccination documentation, most often migrant children, particularly children that have been forcibly displaced, cannot provide birth certificates. Such administrative barriers have limited access for migrant children in the public-school system, and have pushed migrant children to follow non-formal education programs provided by aid organizations. While non-formal education is a good temporary solution, particularly for migrant children who have just arrived into the country, it must not be used as a substitute for formal education.<sup>43</sup> For this reason the authorities, in particular the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Education and Science must:

1. Ensure that all migrant children, within a short period of their arrival, have equal access to the public, inclusive formal education, including early education and care.<sup>44</sup>
2. Implement practices where administrative requirements such as proof of previous education, immunization and identification documents do not impede children’s access to education. Enrollment of children in education must be swift, with formalities being resolved in parallel.
3. Establish formal introductory language courses for Macedonian language that would be accessible to all migrant children immediately upon arrival, and would aim to enable the children to join the public education system promptly.

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<sup>39</sup> B. Janta and E. Harte, *Education of migrant children: Education policy responses for the inclusion of migrant children in Europe*, RAND Europe, 2016.

<sup>40</sup> *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – Final Draft*, 11 July 2018.

<sup>41</sup> MYLA, *Access to education of refugee and migrant children as a key process for their integration*, January 2018.

<sup>42</sup> Article 46 (2), Law on Elementary Education, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 103/2008, as last amended no. 67/2017, available at <https://bit.ly/2Q2Q8VD>

<sup>43</sup> B. Janta and E. Harte, *Education of migrant children: Education policy responses for the inclusion of migrant children in Europe*, RAND Europe, 2016.

<sup>44</sup> Further proposals on legislative and administrative changes that could be adopted can be found in: MYLA, *Access to education of refugee and migrant children as a key process for their integration*, January 2018.

## Conclusions

Macedonia has shown significant progress since 2015 in enabling migrant children in Macedonia to have access to child-centered support and services. Deficiencies, however, remain in the inadequate accommodation and detention of children, impeded access to education and lack of comprehensive data. This policy brief has outlined the main obstacles that migrant children have faced in the country and has pointed out the needed policy improvements. Firstly, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Ministry of Interior, together with international organizations and NGOs must improve the data on children in migration in Macedonia. At the same time, all actors must use that data in developing their policies and planning their activities. Secondly, the Ministry of Interior must end the practice of detaining migrant children and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy must ensure appropriate care and accommodation arrangements as alternatives to detention. Lastly, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Ministry of Education and Science must ensure quick and unimpeded access to formal education for all migrant children irrespective of their or their parents' status.

Establishing effective and comprehensive mechanisms for the protection of children in migration requires swift and multi-dimensional actions that perceive children as rights-bearing individuals with specific needs. The outlined challenges and recommendations must be viewed from the perspective of the current situation in 2018 in Macedonia, namely that migration movements continue, but most of the children on the move need responsive and accessible durable solutions. The mindset of dealing with migrant children in an emergency situation must be transformed into a mindset of enabling children to prosper in Macedonia irrespective of their migration status. In light of that, with Macedonia on the path to EU accession and alignment with the EU acquis and standards, and as future signatory of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, it is evidently imperative that adopting swift and robust actions towards addressing these challenges and ensuring a safe rights-centered environment for all children in migration in Macedonia must be prioritized.



Photo by Brandon Wong from unsplash.com



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