

Day Conference

Children´s rights at EU borders and the CEAS reform

Thursday, Oct 8th – Day Conference at Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 1, 10115 Berlin

9:00	Registration of participants
9:30	Welcome and Opening Statement: “Why work on children in migration?” <i>Andreas Grünewald (Brot für die Welt)</i> <i>Teresa Wilmes (Terre des Hommes), moderation for the day</i>
9:40	Poetry performance <i>Parwana Amiri – activist, author and TDH Young Advocate</i>
10:00	Children and the reformed CEAS - reflections from legal and legislative perspectives - Legal perspective: What´s in the Pact – and what changes does it bring? <i>N.N.</i> - Legislative perspective: What role did children play in the negotiation of the CEAS reform – and what does this mean for strategic work on children´s rights? <i>Misachi Ogawa (Policy Advisor to Birgit Sippel MEP)</i> - Short Q&A
10:35	Children´s rights at the borders and the CEAS reform – Spotlights from Spain and Italy • Valeria Méndez de Vigo Montojo (CEPAIM) • Federica Giannotta (Terre des Hommes Italy) <i>Moderation: Franziska Grillmeier (journalist)</i>
11:25	Coffee Break
11:45	Children´s rights at the borders and the CEAS reform – Spotlights from Poland, Greece and Bulgaria • Karolina Czerwińska (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) • Christina Balta (Equal Rights Beyond Borders) • Dilyana Giteva (Voice – Center for Legal Aid) <i>Moderation: Franziska Grillmeier (journalist)</i>
13:00	Lunch break

14:00	Parallel Working Groups: Strategies to defend Child Rights <i>(Three separate sessions in three rooms, participants can choose only one)</i> Legal Strategies to defend Child Rights This session explores legal strategies to protect children and young people at the EU's external borders, highlighting recent successes, lessons learned, and emerging challenges. Panelists working in the national contexts of Poland and Germany as well as on EU level will discuss how strategic litigation has advanced refugee children's rights and which legal avenues remain underused. In the light of increasing threats to the rule of law, panelists and participants will discuss what adaptive approaches or civil-society alliances are needed to strengthen strategies for legally defending children's rights. • Karolina Czerwińska (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) • Catharina Ziebritzki (Humboldt University Berlin) • Sarah Lincoln (Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte) <i>Moderation: Charlotte Föcking (Equal Rights Beyond Borders)</i> Political Strategies to defend Child Rights In this session, speakers share experiences from successful campaigns, discuss how parliamentary and legislative processes currently operate, and identify obstacles faced by affected communities and their defenders. We seek to examine the strengths and limits of traditional advocacy work and discuss the leverage of civil society in shaping public opinion and policy debates on refugee children and youth. Panelists and participants will also reflect on unconventional alliances, synergies and framing approaches that could strengthen efforts in favour of children and young people on the move. • Valeria Méndez de Vigo Montojo (CEPAIM) • Misachi Josef Ogawa (Policy Advisor to Birgit Sippel, MEP) • Cesy Leonard (Radikale Töchter) <i>Moderation: Annika Schlingheider (Terre des Hommes Germany)</i> Strategies of Practical Solidarity This session examines practical strategies for showing solidarity with people at the borders amid shrinking civic space and growing criminalization. Practitioners share direct experiences from frontline work, highlighting the external challenges they face—restrictive laws, marginalization, funding gaps—and the tactics they use to adapt and resist. Speakers discuss the specific needs of children and young people in their daily support work, internal organising strategies, and structural solutions developed in recent years. The conversation also explores public perception, ways
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	to build broader societal support, and the alliances needed to sustain effective, practical solidarity. • Alexandra Chrzanowska (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) • Parwana Amiri (author, activist and TDH Young Advocate) • N.N. (tbc) <i>Moderation: Julia Winkler (de:criminalize & Sea Watch)</i>
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Sharing of results from Working Groups
16:30	Panel discussion: Children at EU borders - Joint responsibility? • Christina Balta (Equal Rights Beyond Borders), tbc • Prof Pauline Endres de Oliveira (Humboldt-Universität Berlin) • Svenja Niederfranke (German Council on Foreign Relations – DGAP) • Annette Schlicht (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung) <i>Moderation: Franziska Grillmeier (journalist)</i>
17:30	Closing
17:45	End