



FROM FAITH TO ACTION

Inter-religious regional conference to protect the rights of children affected by migration

Online event

10 - 11 December 2020

Agenda

In December 2020, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) will host an online inter-religious conference to protect the rights of children affected by migration, co-organized with the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLI) and European Council of Religions for Peace, in collaboration with Islamic Relief Worldwide, A World of Neighbours, the Lutheran World Federation and World Vision International as part of UNICEF's overall global Faith and Positive Change for Children partnership initiative with Religions for Peace and JLI.

This two-day conference aims to strengthen partnerships with faith-based organizations and religious communities in Europe to advocate for the integration of refugee and migrant children into national life and for their protection against all forms of discrimination and xenophobia at country and regional levels.

Objectives

From Faith to Action Conference is guided by 5 objectives:

1. To discuss the situation of children on the move in Europe;
2. To take stock of Faith Action for Children on the Move and other interfaith initiatives in Europe;
3. To share and learn from promising practices on inter-religious engagement with and by communities and local and national governments to advocate for the long-term social inclusion of children affected by migration;
4. To identify not only challenges, but also solutions to advance inclusion for children on the move;
5. To discuss the draft action and engagement plan with inter-religious communities and other stakeholders to safeguard and protect the rights of children affected by migration.



FROM FAITH TO ACTION

Day 1: Thursday, 10 December 2020

Focus on the situation of children on the move and promising practices.

OPENNING SESSION (1h 50min)

9:00 – 10:50 am Geneva

Introduction (Prayers) (5min)

Master of Ceremony: **Kehkashan Beenish Khan**, UNICEF Public Advocacy and Partnerships Specialist

Welcome speech (30min)

- **Henrietta Fore**, UNICEF Executive Director
- **Afshan Khan**, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia (ECA), Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe
- **Monsignor Robert Vitillo**, Secretary General of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- **M.Sc. Nermin Botonjić**, Secretary of the Mesihat of Islamic Community in Croatia

Perspectives of Refugee leaders and young migrants (15min)

- **Najeeba Wazefadost**, Director Global Refugee-Led Network
- **David Joseph Belaïre**, Student, Ulogger, U Report Ambassador

Religious leaders and FBOs advocating for the inclusion of children on the move in the European region (30min)

- **Imam Yahya Pallavicini**, President of CO.RE.IS. (Comunità Religiosa Islamica), the Islamic Religious Community of Italy
- **José Ignacio García SJ**, Jesuit Refugee Services Europe Regional Director
- **Elina Sarantou**, Programs Manager at HIAS Greece

Agenda presentation: scope and expected results UNICEF perspective (20min)

- **Mario Mosquera**, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO)
UNICEF perspective on strategic partnerships with religious leaders around child rights
- **Ghassan Khalil**, UNICEF Representative in Georgia



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Break (10min)

Faith, migration, and child rights in Europe and Central Asia (20min)

- **Dr. Olivia Wilkinson**, Director of Research for the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities
- **Susanna Trotta**, Research associate for the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities

PARALLEL PANEL SESSIONS (3 breakout rooms)

SESSION 1 (1h 40min)

The role of faith actors in Strengthening the Continuum of Protection for Children on the Move

Expected results:

Faith actors and key partners engaged in discussions around challenges and promising practices for promoting family and community care for children on the move.

Framing the session (20min)

Facilitators:

- **Peter Prove**, Director of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
- **Frederique Seidel**, Senior Advisor on Child Rights and Manager of the WCC-UNICEF partnership

Promising practice (15min)

- **Vedrana Bjelajac**, Project Coordinator Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization, Serbia

Panel discussion (35min)

- **Amra Pandžo**, Director of the Association for Dialogue in the Family and Society, “Mali Koraci”
- **Rev. Fredrika Gårdfeldt**, Goda Grannar (Good Neighbours) Project, Sweden
- **Dag Pontvik**, Country director for Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA) Italy
- **Maria Khoshy**, Youth representative, Salvation Army

Plenary discussion (20min)

- Q&A for clarifications
- The way forward

Session 1 wrap up & Instructions for Day 2 (10min)



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SESSION 2 (1h 40min)

The role of faith actors in building peaceful societies and combating xenophobia

Expected results:

Faith actors and key partners discussed drivers of xenophobia and behaviours that hinder social integration and identify strategies to foster positive norms, diversity and inclusion.

Framing the session (20min)

Facilitators:

- **Rev. Dr. Sivin Kit**, Program Executive for Public Theology and Interreligious Relations, Department for Theology, Mission and Justice
- **Nikica Lubura Reljic**, Faith and Development Lead in World Vision Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Dr. Seforosa Carroll**, Programme executive for Mission and Mission from the Margins
- **Atallah Fitzgibbon**, Faith Partnerships Advisor at Islamic Relief Worldwide

Promising practice (15min)

- **Dr. Vassi Leontari**, Director, Programmes and Intl Cooperation at Apostoli (Mission), Greece

Panel discussion (35min)

- **Dr. Kathrin Winkler**, Professor of Religious Education and Intercultural Theology
- **Imam Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi**, Director General of SABS and a member of ECRL
- **Anna Wilczynska**, A World of Neighbours
- **Emina Frljak**, Youth representative, Program Coordinator, Youth for Peace

Plenary discussion (20min)

- **Q&A for clarifications**
- **The way forward**

Session 2 wrap up & Instructions for Day 2 (10min)



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SESSION 3 (1h 40min)

The role faith actors on policy/advocacy

Expected results:

Faith actors and key partners discussed existing legal and policy frameworks and identify advocacy strategies on how to make them more inclusive to improve children on the move access to services e.g., health, education

Framing the session (20min)

Facilitator:

- **Kate Wiggans**, Islamic Relief Worldwide's UN Representative in Geneva
- **Torsten Moritz**, General Secretary Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) – Ecumenical Centre, Belgium
- **Kehkashan Beenish Khan**, UNICEF Public Advocacy and Partnerships Specialist

Promising practice (15min)

- **Nicolai von Skerst**, Project developer and fundraiser for the Soziale Dienste und Jugendhilfe gGmbH

Panel discussion (35min)

- **Anna Stamou**, Public Relations at the Muslim Association of Greece
- **Bishop Rosemarie Wenner**, German Methodist bishop
- **Father Giorgi**, Georgia's Orthodox Church
- **Lejla Hasandedic-Dapo**, Youth representative, Board member of European Interfaith Youth Network (EIYN) and URI (United Religions Initiative), Religions for Peace

Plenary discussion (20min)

- **Q&A for clarifications**
- **The way forward**

Session 3 wrap up & Instructions for Day 2 (10min)

Plenary: Wrap up of Day 1 and Brief presentation of the goals of day 2 (10min)



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Day 2: Friday, 11 December 2020

Focus on the action plan

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS (45min)

9:00 – 9:45 am Geneva

Facilitator: Kerida McDonald, UNICEF Senior Advisor Communication for Development

Objectives:

1. Key highlights from previous sessions
2. Overview of draft action plan
3. Feedback and suggestions for the next steps from key participants
4. Instructions for sessions 4, 5 and 6 and the breakout sessions

PARALLEL PANEL SESSIONS (3 breakout rooms)

SESSION 4 (2h)

Strengthening the continuum of protection for children on the move

Expected result

Agree on strategies and pathways to facilitate integration and social inclusion through enhancing access to social services and promoting empathy, welcoming practices and shared space between the host community and the newcomers.

Framing the session: (10min)

- **Peter Prove**, Director of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
- **Frederique Seidel**, Senior Advisor on Child Rights and Manager of the WCC-UNICEF partnership

Group work (45min)

Plenary discussion within the group (45min)

Work plan component 1 wrap up (20min)



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SESSION 5 (2h)

Building peaceful societies and combating xenophobia

Expected result

Agreed on strategies and pathways to fostering social cohesion and combating xenophobia and discrimination and promoting interreligious dialogue

Framing the session (10min)

- **Rev. Dr. Sivin KIT**, Program Executive for Public Theology and Interreligious Relations, Department for Theology, Mission and Justice
- **Nikica Lubura Reljic**, Faith and Development Lead in World Vision Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Dr. Seforosa Carroll**, Programme executive for Mission and Mission from the Margins
- **Atallah Fitzgibbon**, Faith Partnerships Advisor at Islamic Relief Worldwide

Group work (45min)

Plenary discussion within the group (45min)

Work plan component 2 wrap up (20min)

SESSION 6 (2h)

Advocacy to promote rights-based inclusive policies for children on the move

Expected result

Agreed on strategies and pathways to advocating for and influencing policymakers towards more inclusive approaches in response to the displacement of children and their families, including building interreligious coalitions for advocacy.

Framing the session (10min)

- **Kate Wiggans**, Islamic Relief Worldwide's UN Representative in Geneva
- **Torsten Moritz**, General Secretary Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) – Ecumenical Centre, Belgium
- **Kehkashan Beenish Khan**, UNICEF Public Advocacy and Partnerships Specialist

Group work (45min)

Plenary discussion within the group (45min)

Work plan component 3 wrap up (20min)



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Break (10min)

Group discussions reporting back to plenary from leaders of each of the three thematic areas on examples of good practice, key challenges and recommendations re the action plan

Facilitator: **Aaron Greenberg**, UNICEF Senior Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, Child Protection

Brief remarks from Members of the Coordinating committee (40min)

- **Dr. Isabel Apawo Phiri**, Associate Secretary General, WCC
- **Mark Owen**, Secretary General EU Council of Religious Leaders / Director, Centre for Religion, Reconciliation and Peace
- **Andrea Kaufman**, World Vision International Coordinator, Faith Action for Children on the Move
- **Jean Duff**, Senior Advisor, Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities

Closing: The way forward: advancing results for children on the move (25min)

Facilitator: **Philippe CORI**, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director, Europe and Central Asia

SYMBOLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE ENGAGEMENT PLAN