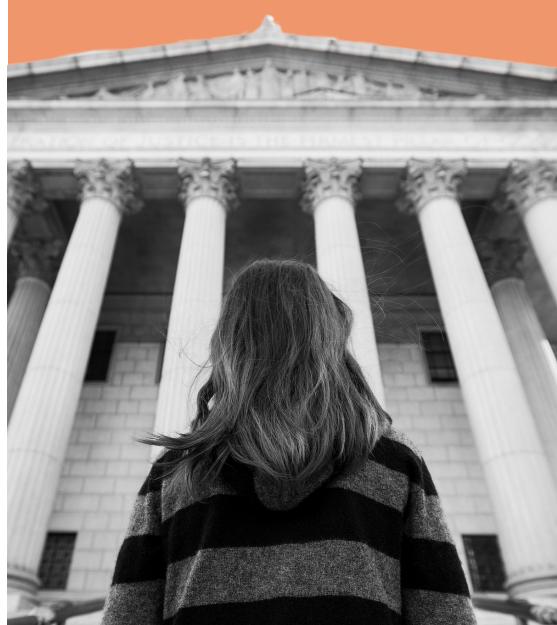


Our Vision

A world in which children's rights and well-being are protected as they migrate alone in search of safety



In partnership with over **640** law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools, and bar associations, over **18,000** unaccompanied children have received access to free legal assistance from KIND over the last 10 years.

Our European Initiative aims to extend this help to unaccompanied children in Europe.

The Context for the Initiative

The Situation

Hundreds of thousands of children are on the move in Europe. Most have fled traumatic situations in the Middle East, Africa, or Asia, and are alone, frightened, and unable to protect themselves. They are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, violence, trafficking, smuggling, and exploitation.

The Need

Legal needs are myriad and change from country to country. They can range from challenging their conditions of detention, obtaining some form of international protection status, applying to be reunified with their family, or accessing services to which they are entitled.

Our Response

KIND is launching pro bono projects to address the legal needs of unaccompanied children across Europe. Each project is in partnership with leading local non-profit organizations, and will adapt KIND's model of partnering with pro bono lawyers. Pro bono lawyers will increase access to legal assistance when legal aid is not provided as a right or is otherwise restricted.

The Projects

Serving the legal needs of unaccompanied children across Europe

Greece

KIND is partnering with European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL) to help unaccompanied children living in refugee camps challenge incorrect age determinations, which fundamentally impacts consideration of their asylum applications. Through this project, pro bono lawyers coming for short duration to the Greek islands will work with Greek lawyers specialized in migration law to assist children in preparing legal challenges to these incorrect age determinations.

France

KIND is partnering with the Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme (AADH) to support a project that aims to provide unaccompanied children who are at risk or are victims of trafficking with access to effective pro bono legal assistance. Through the project, pro bono lawyers will be trained to assist children in cases where no state legal aid is available, which may include applications for international protection and family reunification, or legal action to uphold children's rights in the juvenile justice system or in accessing their rights to appropriate housing, healthcare or education.

Ireland

KIND is partnering with the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) and the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) to help unaccompanied children who have been granted asylum to reunite with their families. By training pro bono lawyers to assist children through the family reunification process, the project will address a growing gap in legal services that is currently excluded from the scope of state legal aid.

Belgium

KIND is partnering with Child Circle, an expert non-governmental organization in the field of migration and child rights, to develop our approach to press for systemic change at the E.U.-level.

For more information:

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