

KIND Through the Years

Celebrating 15 years of ensuring children's rights and well-being are protected at every step of their migration journey.



KIND Founded

Microsoft and Co-Founder and Patron Angelina Jolie launch KIND in October 2008 to ensure that no child appears in immigration court alone. KIND creates a movement to help unaccompanied children in their legal proceedings through a dedicated network of lawyers from law firms and corporations who volunteer to represent these children in their immigration proceedings in the United States.

Our First Year

KIND opens our doors to children in seven cities in the United States: Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Newark, NJ; New York, NY; and Washington, D.C., also home to our headquarters, with 12 staff members.

Our Pro Bono Model

Children from 40 countries seek our help with their case for U.S. protection. Through our innovative pro bono model, KIND's staff of 25 provides mentorship and training to our 80 pro bono partner law firms and corporations who represent and provide legal assistance to unaccompanied children.

Helping Children Return to Guatemala

KIND launches the Child Migrant Return and Reintegration Project to ensure that children returning to Guatemala are safe and have access to services and opportunities that will help them remain in their communities. It is one of the only programs to help returning children.

+3,000 children and families assisted with return and reintegration services to date

A Focus on Legal Services

KIND doubles our reach, serving children from 66 countries in partnership with more than 150 law firms, bar associations, corporations, and law schools. We continue to provide comprehensive training on representing unaccompanied children and mentor attorneys throughout every stage of their client's case.

Partnerships on the Rise

KIND's network of pro bono attorneys donates over \$60 million in pro bono assistance since our founding. KIND merges with Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice, which becomes our eighth office in Seattle, WA.

Child Migration Emergency

KIND provides vital legal assistance and engages in robust advocacy in response to the more than 68,000 unaccompanied children who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2014, an unprecedented number of child arrivals and a tenfold increase from 2009. Most children have fled growing violence in Central America and do not have attorneys by their side when they face the U.S. immigration system.

Broadening Our Reach

KIND opens offices in San Francisco, CA and Atlanta, GA—bringing our total to 10 offices nationwide. We launch our social services program and strengthen psychosocial support of our child clients to help them recover from trauma and adjust to life in the United States.

+4,000 child clients provided with one-on-one Social Services support to date

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

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KIND Expands Globally

KIND expands our Child Migrant Return and Reintegration Program to include children from Honduras, launches KIND U.K. based on our U.S. pro bono model and in collaboration with U.K. legal services organizations eager to build pro bono programming in the U.K., and creates the Voices That Matter Most, a storytelling project to help children share their immigration stories.

A New Political Landscape

KIND's total number of law firm, corporate, law school, and bar association partners reaches 515. We advocate against the new Administration's draconian immigration restrictions and efforts to weaken access to protection for unaccompanied children.

Family Separation Response

KIND deploys teams to the border to provide legal information to detained parents forcibly separated from their children at the U.S.-Mexico border due to the Administration's Zero-Tolerance policy. We begin representing separated children whose parents were deported or remained in detention, and support reunification efforts.

1,744 families assisted by KIND's family separation team to date

A Holistic Approach to Child Protection

KIND strengthens psychosocial support to our clients through therapeutic programming, including our new play therapy initiative. We embark on impact litigation to address the challenges to child protection by the Administration, and expand our work to help more children in immigration detention facilities.

+7,000 attendees received psychosocial supports and participated in therapeutic group programming across the U.S. and Mexico to date

KIND Brings Pro Bono Model to Europe

KIND expands our pro bono work to help unaccompanied and separated children in Europe access free legal assistance in partnership with nongovernmental organizations in Greece, France, Ireland, and Belgium.

Protection Amid the Pandemic

KIND adapts to provide legal and social services to our clients and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on children and their families.

+1,700 children assisted with legal services throughout Europe to date

KIND Expands in Mexico

KIND's new offices in Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, Mexico City, and Tapachula promote the rights of children migrating from, to or through Mexico, focusing on Mexico's northern and southern border regions. In response to the influx of children at the U.S.-Mexico border, we begin working in emergency intake sites where we provide vital Know Your Rights presentations for children in government custody.

+1,000 individuals assisted with legal services at the U.S.-Mexico border to date

We Go Where the Children Are

As record numbers of unaccompanied children continue to arrive in the United States, KIND expands our reach and opens offices in El Paso, TX; Fresno, CA; Orlando, FL; and Northern Virginia. We also expand our work in Europe in response to the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied children forced to flee the war in Ukraine, working with partners in Slovakia and Poland. To date, KIND has worked with children from over 80 countries.

15 Years of KIND

We open our 15th U.S. office in Hartford, CT, have a total of five international offices, and more than 800 law firm, corporate, law school, and bar association partners. KIND strives to create a world where children on the move are treated as children first and foremost.

14,495 KIND clients provided with legal representation to date

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

PHOTO CREDITS

2008

Angelina Jolie at a KIND event.
KIND

2009

KIND client and her attorney.
KIND

2010

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP hold an intake clinic with KIND.
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

2011

Guatemalan family receiving livelihood support.
ECAP, KIND Partner

2012

Migrant child at a shelter in Mexico.
Brett Gundlock, KIND

2013

KIND Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.
KIND

2014

Deported children arrive in Guatemala from the United States.
Johan Ordonez, AFP via Getty Images

2015

Migrant children drawing at a shelter.
Brett Gundlock, KIND

2016

Event at the KIND UK office.
KIND

2017

Drawing by a boy from Guatemala depicting his journey through Mexico.
KIND/UNICEF Voices Project.

2018

KIND staff at a refugee camp in Tijuana.
KIND

2019

Children playing in a shelter in Mexico.
Brett Gundlock, KIND

2020

KIND's social services staff at a client event.
KIND

2021

Migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.
Brett Gundlock, KIND

2022

KIND staff working with children in Mexico.
Brett Gundlock, KIND

2023

Migrant child at a shelter in Mexico.
Brett Gundlock, KIND