



# Providing Protection to Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe

**KIND achieves safety and stability and secures rights for unaccompanied and separated children in Europe through high-quality legal assistance, capacity building, and advocacy.**

**Children are increasingly seeking safety in Europe, driven from their home countries by conflict and other violence, persecution, discrimination, and extreme hardship; some children arrive alone, while others are separated from their family in flight.**

By accessing accurate, child-friendly information on their rights, and support to navigate the complex legal procedures they face, these children can secure the safety, status, and sustainable solutions that they need.

KIND has been partnering with pro bono law firms and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the European Union since 2019 to ensure that children on the move have access to lawyers and to advocate for their rights in Europe. The work is an expansion of [KIND's model in the United States](#), where KIND and its pro bono partners have provided legal representation and psychosocial assistance to thousands of unaccompanied children since 2008 and in the [UK](#) since 2016.

When the conflict escalated in Ukraine in 2022, KIND harnessed its presence and expertise across Europe to respond to the needs of children displaced from Ukraine. Read more about our work contributing to the Ukraine response [here](#).

## How KIND Protects Children in Europe

KIND works with partners, expert consultants, and local staff in the European Union to protect unaccompanied and separated children's rights and well-being through our holistic model.

**Providing child-centered, trauma-informed legal assistance** through our NGO and pro bono legal partners, to ensure children are rightly identified as children, can access international protection and sustainable solutions such as residency and citizenship, and can reunify with family.



**Informing children about their legal rights** through Know Your Rights sessions and other tools.



**Increasing the capacity of actors working with children on the move** and strengthening protection systems for children through trainings and other technical assistance.



**Engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy** to ensure that laws, policies, procedures, and practices for unaccompanied and separated children are integrated, rights-based, and promote their best interests.



# Programs in Europe

## Belgium

Partnering with Child Circle, an expert NGO in children's rights and child migration, KIND advances protection for unaccompanied and separated children in Europe through advocacy for improved law, policy, and practice at the European Union level.

## France

In France, KIND partners with the Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights (L'Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme or AADH) to help unaccompanied children prepare for their asylum interviews, obtain residence permits, access housing, obtain citizenship, and apply for family reunification. AADH trains and mentors pro bono lawyers to provide legal assistance, delivers labor law seminars to empower those entering the labor market to understand their rights, and conducts research to support AADH's work.

## Greece

KIND works with European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL) who provide direct legal assistance to unaccompanied children on the Greek islands of Lesvos and Samos, and around the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki with the support of pro bono lawyers. ELIL trains pro bono lawyers to work remotely or for short durations in Greece in partnership with Greek immigration lawyers to help children access suitable accommodation, apply for asylum and family reunification, and challenge incorrect age determinations and detention for children wrongly determined to be adults.

## Italy

KIND has been working in Italy since 2022 in partnership with the Italian Refugee Council (CIR) and the pro bono legal community, providing children at the border with Slovenia and in Rome with essential information about their rights; direct legal assistance to regularize their status in Italy; and help to reunify with family in other countries in Europe. KIND also works with CIR to train and provide technical assistance to guardians legally responsible for unaccompanied children in Sicily.

KIND is also working with the Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), Progetto Diritti, and the Association of Ukrainian Working Women in Italy (L'Associazione delle Donne Ucraine Lavoratrici) to support families and children from Ukraine across Italy with a range of legal needs, including providing information about their rights and assisting with guardianship, family reunification, and education. Over 800 refugees have obtained legal information and assistance through this work.

Learn more at [supportkind.org/international/](https://supportkind.org/international/) or contact:

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## Ireland

In Ireland, KIND partners with the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), the Irish Refugee Council (IRC), and the pro bono legal community to ensure sustainable solutions for children in Ireland by helping them to obtain citizenship and to apply for family reunification. ICI and IRC train and mentor pro bono lawyers to provide legal assistance to unaccompanied children and young people.

## Poland

With support from KIND, ELIL expanded its work into Poland to provide legal assistance to children displaced from Ukraine in collaboration with pro bono lawyers. KIND is also hiring a lawyer in Poland to provide legal assistance to unaccompanied and separated children.

## Slovakia

KIND is partnering with the Human Rights League (HRL) in Slovakia and John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) to build the capacity of practitioners to meet the needs of children displaced from Ukraine with a particular focus on preventing and responding to risks of child trafficking.

KIND is also expanding its work in Slovakia by hiring a lawyer to address the legal needs of unaccompanied and separated children in the country.

## Our impact in Europe since our work began in September 2019

1,756 children served

45 countries of origin of children served

92% success rate of cases concluded

50 pro bono law firm and corporate partners

958 pro bono lawyers trained

215 social workers and guardians trained