

# Keeping Kids Safe: A Seamless Safety Net for Children on the Move

**Across the globe, a record number of children are migrating alone due to war, poverty, violence, disease, climate change, and political upheaval.** In 2021, over 36 million children were forcibly displaced from their homes. More than half of the world’s 26 million registered refugees are children. Some of these children migrate alone, without a parent or guardian. In 2022, over 150,000 children arrived at the United States-Mexico border unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. Laws and policies governing the treatment of these unaccompanied children seeking safety in the United States do not adequately protect these vulnerable children.

**A new campaign launched by Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) seeks to reimagine and transform the protection of unaccompanied children in the United States and globally.** The campaign, Keeping Kids Safe: A Seamless Safety Net of Protection, is a 10-year initiative designed to transform outdated laws, shift conversations about child immigration to center child protection, and reform the way the current U.S. immigration system—and subsequently protection systems across the globe—treats children. Through policymaker and the public engagement, Keeping Kids Safe seeks to systemically reform the child immigration landscape so that it is rooted in child protection and well-being.

## Principles of the Campaign

The campaign’s focus and policy priorities are rooted in a core set of principles:

- 1** Unaccompanied immigrant children are children first.
- 2** The global community should work together to protect children.
- 3** U.S. immigration laws and policies should recognize and address the unique vulnerabilities of children.
- 4** Support for children at every step of their migration is essential for children to achieve safety and succeed in life.
- 5** Federal, state, and local officials have a responsibility to work cooperatively to protect the interests of all children, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or immigration status.
- 6** Reducing forced migration of children requires addressing the root causes that drive children from their homes.
- 7** Implementing humane, flexible, and creative solutions to establish an immigration process that best serves children is possible if we work together as a community.

## This campaign needs your support.

For more information or to get involved, visit [supportkind.org/keeping-kids-safe/](https://supportkind.org/keeping-kids-safe/) email [KeepingKidsSafe@supportkind.org](mailto:KeepingKidsSafe@supportkind.org)

## Forced migration of unaccompanied children is on the rise. We need to rise to the moment.

In 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended over 150,000 unaccompanied children at or near the United States-Mexico border, a near ten-fold increase from the 16,067 apprehensions in 2011.

One icon equals 5 thousand children

