



# 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, no-cost legal and psychosocial 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. This is the heart of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)'s work with unaccompanied and separated children in Europe.

KIND is a global leader in the protection of unaccompanied and separated children. Launched in 2008, KIND champions a world in which every child's rights and well-being are protected throughout their journey to safety. Building on its successful model in the United States, KIND has been partnering with pro bono law firms and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) in the United Kingdom since 2016 and in Europe since 2019 to provide children on the move with free, quality legal and psychosocial assistance to ensure their access to protection and justice. These efforts are taking place alongside capacity strengthening activities, technical assistance, and advocacy for systemic and practical reforms grounded in child protection systems to advance the rights of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe

KIND's programming is expanding significantly in Europe. KIND supports children on the move through programs in 8 countries across Europe in partnership with 13 NGOs and over 200 pro bono attorneys.

## How KIND Protects Children in Europe



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



Informs children about their rights through Know Your Rights sessions and other tools.



Shares child-centered tools and information widely using a variety of platforms to reach unaccompanied and separated children.



Increases the capacity of actors working with children on the move and strengthens protection systems for children through partnerships with the private sector, government, international and regional organizations, and peer NGOs, and builds capacity through trainings and other technical assistance.



Engages in policy development 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

KIND works with partners on two projects to help children on the move in Europe.

- **My Coming of Age Story (CO.A.ST):** Supported by the European Commission, CO.A.ST supports and empowers guardians in Europe to help ensure that unaccompanied and separated children receive legal and psychosocial services through their transition to adulthood.
- **Suzir'ya** is a child-centered multidisciplinary project to help protect children displaced by the war in Ukraine from trafficking and other harms and ensure they have access to high-quality legal and psychosocial services in the region.

## Czechia

KIND partners with **SIMI** as part of our **Suzir'ya project** to provide legal and case management assistance to children fleeing from Ukraine to Czechia. SIMI works to promote equal rights and integration for migrants.

## Greece

KIND partners with **European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL)** which provides direct legal assistance to unaccompanied and separated children on the 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. ELIL is also a partner on the CO.A.ST project.

## Italy

KIND works 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 and separated children in Sicily. CIR is the coordinator of the CO.A.ST project.

## 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 obtain citizenship and apply for family reunification. ICI and IRC train and mentor pro bono lawyers to provide legal assistance to unaccompanied and separated children and young people.

Learn more on our website at [supportkind.org/EU](https://supportkind.org/EU) or contact: [infoeurope@supportkind.org](mailto:infoeurope@supportkind.org)

## Poland

KIND's attorney in Poland provides direct legal aid and representation to unaccompanied and separated children across Poland. KIND partners with the **Rule of Law Institute Foundation**, which is also part of the **Suzir'ya project**. Read more about our work in Poland [here](#).

## Romania

KIND partners with **eLiberare** in Romania to train organisations working with children displaced from Ukraine as part of the **Suzir'ya project**.

## Slovakia

KIND's legal and case management staff in Slovakia provide assistance to unaccompanied and separated children. KIND's work in Slovakia is also part of the CO.A.ST project. KIND partners with the **Human Rights League** in Slovakia, which is also part of the Suzir'ya project.

## United Kingdom

KIND has partnered since 2016 with five nonprofit organisations to provide free expert legal help to refugee and immigrant children and youth and their families. More information about KIND's work with the partners - Central England Law Centre, Coram Children's Legal Centre, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, JustRight Scotland, Migrant & Refugee Children's Legal Unit - can be found [here](#).

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

6,991 children served

54 countries of origin of children served

95% success rate of cases concluded

82 pro bono law firm and corporate partners

2462 pro bono lawyers trained

466 social workers trained