

# KIND Joins Multistakeholder Child Rights Pledge

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is proud to join the Multistakeholder Child Rights Pledge, which aims to protect, include, and empower children, ensuring children are at the heart of global commitments on migrants and refugees.

As part of this pledge KIND will:

## Advance Child protection

- **Advocate for unaccompanied** and separated children's non-discriminatory inclusion in and access to quality national and local child protection systems and services.
- **Provide training, capacity** building, and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of national and local child protection and asylum systems to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children receive the protection and support they require.
- **Collaborate with partners** in countries of origin, transit, destination and return to address the root causes of precarious child migration and displacement, including family separation, abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, gender-based violence, and other harmful practices.

## Promote Empowerment and Meaningful Child Participation

- **Provide quality legal information, assistance and representation** for unaccompanied and separated children, ensuring their voices are heard and their views are taken into account in decision-making processes that affect them, particularly in immigration proceedings.
- **Develop resources, training, and capacity strengthening tools** to equip legal professionals to provide unaccompanied and separated children with quality legal assistance.
- **Support unaccompanied and separated children to share their stories**, their unique perspectives, and their hard-won knowledge with a variety of audiences for public education, advocacy, and their own personal and professional growth, ensuring a child-centered and trauma-informed approach, and that children lead in all decision-making related to their stories.

## Facilitate Access to Key Services

- **Provide unaccompanied and separated children with child-centered, trauma-informed mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**, including by connecting children and their families with essential medical care and crisis intervention to help ensure their safety, well-being, and successful integration/ reintegration.
- **Develop resources, training,** and capacity strengthening tools to support and equip professionals to provide unaccompanied and separated children with MHPSS services.
- **Create child-centered spaces** and interventions to foster a sense of empowerment in children toward strengthening their self-esteem, self-regulation skills, resilience and other protective factors.

## Support Protective and Inclusive Education

- **Advocate for inclusive and welcoming laws** and policies that support unaccompanied and separated children's access to education and their overall well-being and integration/ reintegration into the community.
- **Support unaccompanied and separated children to access education,** including by assisting with school enrollment, helping to address educational disruptions, educating children and their caregivers about appropriate educational resources, including for those with special education needs, and providing resources like school supplies to ensure migrant and refugee children can attend school.
- **Help educators, counseling staff, policy makers, and other stakeholders understand the needs of unaccompanied and separated children,** including the common barriers they face when trying to access education and services, and the forms of legal immigration status they may be eligible for or may be pursuing.
- **Support transitional age youth with educational and career development** pathways responsive to their needs and aspirations.



Photo by Leandro Viana

For more information about our work to support unaccompanied and separated children globally please e-mail [info@supportkind.org](mailto:info@supportkind.org).