

Protecting Child Refugees from Violence: Between Legal Texts and Practical Experiences

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Abstract: The number of refugees seeking safe havens is increasing as disputes and armed conflicts worldwide continue to escalate. In the meantime, there is growing concern about children in the refugee community. They are encountering abuses and violations of their fundamental rights, including violence within the family and in schools, care homes, and detention centers. The violence against child refugees is discussed by studying the different types of violence and the implications of these horrendous acts. The legal framework that can be used to protect child refugees from violence is reviewed. Finally, the forms of protection that should be provided to them are identified to find practical solutions that may help prevent their rights from being violated, help them overcome the consequences and effects of seeking asylum, and improve their living conditions.

The research concludes that international legal procedures are insufficient to ensure refugee children's fundamental rights, including the right to the promised security. Therefore, It is necessary to put in place additional mechanisms to protect refugee children from violence and improve existing systems to ensure their well-being.

Keywords: Children's rights, protection of child refugees, violence against child refugees, laws for the protection of child refugees.

حماية الأطفال اللاجئين من العنف: بين النصوص القانونية والتجارب العملية

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المستخلص: تتزايد أعداد اللاجئين الباحثين عن ملاذ آمن مع استمرار تصاعد وتيرة النزاعات والصراعات المسلحة حول العالم، وفي غضون ذلك يتزايد القلق مما يعانيه الأطفال في أوساط اللاجئين من انتهاكات وخروقات لحقوقهم الأساسية، بما في ذلك العنف الذي يتعرضون له في العديد من الأماكن سواء داخل الأسرة أم خارجها في المدارس أو دور الرعاية أو الاحتجاز.

يركز البحث على الإطار القانوني لحماية الأطفال اللاجئين من العنف، ويصف مخاطر العنف وتبعاته، ويحدد أشكال الحماية التي ينبغي توفيرها للأطفال اللاجئين، بغية استخلاص حلول عملية تسهم في الحد من انتهاك حقوقهم، ومساعدتهم في التغلب على آثار اللجوء وتبعاته، والسعي نحو تحسين ظروف حياتهم.

خلص البحث إلى أن الإجراءات القانونية الدولية الحالية لا تزال غير كافية لضمان الحقوق الأساسية للأطفال اللاجئين، بما في ذلك حقهم في الأمن، ولهذا تظهر الحاجة الملحة لتفعيل آليات حماية الأطفال اللاجئين من العنف وتعزيز أنظمتها، بما يحقق رفاه هؤلاء الأطفال.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حقوق الأطفال، حماية الأطفال اللاجئين، العنف ضد الأطفال اللاجئين، قوانين حماية الأطفال اللاجئين.

1- INTRODUCTION

Armed disputes and economic crises have become more common all over the world. This results in the suffering of child refugees, many of whom are deprived of the most minimal rights to safety, food, water, shelter, education, and health, in addition to being at risk of mistreatment, sexual abuse, recruitment by armed groups, compulsory labor, early marriage, and other forms of exploitation and violence that may lead to death, victimization and deep trauma. These traumatic experiences have potentially serious, long-term, negative consequences for victims.

Violence against child refugees is one of the most critical issues facing the world today, especially if we take into consideration the potential mistreatment and physical and psychological abuse that they may be exposed to throughout the process of seeking asylum, starting in their home countries when they are running from war and genocide, continuing into the hazards that they encounter during emigration, and persisting after they settle in their host countries⁽¹⁾.

This necessitates a redoubling of efforts to reduce the infringement of the rights of child refugees, guarantee that they are protected against all types of violence and assault, alleviate their sufferings, improve their living conditions, and empower them to achieve a brighter future for themselves and their countries of origin.

2- RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research provides answers to the following four questions:

1. What types of violence are perpetrated against child refugees?
2. What are the consequences of violence against child refugees?
3. What efforts are being made to protect child refugees from violence?
4. To what extent are individual states committed to their international obligations to protect child refugees from violence?

3- LITERATURE REVIEW

The long-term, consistent flow of refugees has far-reaching implications. Countries receiving refugees are usually among the least wealthy and developed countries. The percentage of children among all refugees is very high in the overall refugee population. To ensure that there are efficient mechanisms in place for the identification and response to the risk of violence against children, it is necessary to provide

(1) Dadashzadeh Asl & Hosein Yaghoub-Pour, Parisa. "Health Rights of Refugees, Immigrants, and Asylum Seeker", *Jurnal Cita Hukum (Indonesian Law Journal)*, Vol. 9, No. 2, (2021), pp. 259-278.

And Ehntholt, K. A. & Yule, W. "Practitioner Review: Assessment and Treatment of Child refugees and Adolescents Who Have Experienced War-related Trauma", *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 47(12), (2006), PP. 1197-1210.

practical guidance on how to effectively identify, assess, and manage the threat of violence against children in the context of a development response to forced displacement⁽²⁾.

Children's rights are seriously jeopardized by migration, a situation made worse by the separation of children from their families or primary caregivers. In addition, children who are refugees or seeking asylum confront numerous obstacles to exercising their rights. Therefore, a strategic choice was made to assist separated children in documenting their complaints about their treatment, bringing their views and experiences together in a report used to reform the state's care, housing, and protection of these children by making sure that the voices of a vulnerable group of children were heard. As a result, the general public and children were made aware of their rights⁽³⁾.

Refugee children face many problems, such as lack of guardianship, temporary residence and care, access to education, family search problems, family reunification, settlement, and integration⁽⁴⁾. Separated children frequently experience the loss of loved ones, difficulties adjusting to another culture, and resulting threats to their sense of identity when moving to a new nation. In addition, they must contend with uncertainties about their futures and the pressures of the asylum application procedure⁽⁵⁾.

Children who are migrants or refugees are at risk of assault, abuse, and exploitation due to their lack of safe and legal means. A child's migration status should never be a barrier to accessing essential services, including education, health services, shelter, nutrition, water, and sanitation. Additionally, governments must implement aggressive policies to address marginalization and prejudice in transit and final destination nations⁽⁶⁾.

Millions of children cross international boundaries to escape war and bloodshed, natural disasters, or extreme poverty in search of a better life. Refugee children use risky crossing routes and hire smugglers to assist them in moving; they are left without safety and care because of severe inadequacies in the laws, regulations, and services intended to protect them⁽⁷⁾.

(2) World Bank, "Violence Against Children: Prevention and Response, Washington, DC, (2020), Retrieved from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/33573>

(3) Ursula Kilkelly & Emily Logan, "Separated Children Seeking International Protection", National Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, (2021). Retrieved from: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-80275-2_8

(4) Anna Fiona Keogh, "Getting on: The experiences and aspirations of immigrant students in second level schools linked to the Trinity Access Programmes". Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin, (2003).

(5) Muireann Ní Raghallaigh & Robbie Gilligan, "Active survival in the lives of unaccompanied minors: Coping strategies, resilience, and the relevance of religion". *Child & Family Social Work*, 15(2), (2010), PP. 226–237.

(6) Jan Beise, Anna Grojec & others, "A child is a child: protecting children on the move from violence abuse and exploitation", UNICEF Publications, (2017). Retrieved from: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-child-protecting-children-move-violence-abuse-exploitation/>

(7) Claus Bech Hansen & Sarah Rosengaertner, "A child is a child. Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation", UNICEF Publications, (2017).

Additionally, children in armed conflicts are so vulnerable. They are targets of violence and traumatized witnesses of violence against others. They are much more likely to suffer from disease and starvation and much more susceptible to abuse and exploitation⁽⁸⁾.

The paper's contribution is found in its comprehensive analysis of violence against child refugees and the need to protect their fundamental rights. Its significance lies in its potential to raise awareness and guide policy and practice to protect their rights. The findings highlight the critical need for additional protection from violence against refugee children and how it relates to the duty to protect children.

4- METHODS

This study aims to identify the most prominent forms of violence and exploitation perpetrated against child refugees, present the implications and consequences for victims, and outline the most important rights related to their protection. Finally, the extent to which individual nations comply with international covenants and commitments that guarantee the rights of child refugees is highlighted.

The descriptive-analytical method is used to reflect the phenomenon of violence against child refugees as it is in reality by describing the phenomenon based on available research, providing exact information and data, analyzing international agreements, covenants, and reports related to the protection of child refugees from violence, and by seeking to explain the phenomenon and make recommendations to guarantee their optimal security and care.

The paper relies on previous statistics to provide a quantitative understanding of the prevalence and impact of violence against refugee children.

5- VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILD REFUGEES: TYPES OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Children are defined as any human being younger than eighteen unless the age of majority is reached earlier, following national legislation⁽⁹⁾.

Refugees are people who exist outside the borders of their nation and are unable to or unwilling to return home because of fear of being punished based on their nationality, religion, race, or membership in a particular thought, social or political group⁽¹⁰⁾.

Violence, in general, is defined as the use of physical force against an individual, group, or community or the threat of such force use, resulting in injury, death, psychological injury, poor growth, or deprivation.

(8) Mehdi Kashfi and others, "Responsibility to Protect Doctrine to Support Children in Armed Conflict". *Int J Pediatr*, 8(12), (2020), PP. 12545-552. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.22038/ijp.2020.52158.4144>

(9) The Convention on the Rights of Child, adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 44/ 25, (November 20, 1989), Art. 1.

(10) The Convention Relating to The Status of Refugees, adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 429 (v), (December 14, 1950), Art. 1.

All dynamics of violence against child refugees are unjustified and therefore rejected, regardless of the entity that inflicts this violence, whether it is parents, care and accommodation centers, or government and non-governmental organizations⁽¹¹⁾.

Violence experienced by child refugees in host countries can be classified into four main types, namely: physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and domestic violence. These types will be discussed separately, with a review of their repercussions for child refugees.

3.1. Physical Violence

Physical violence refers to physical torture and other forms of abuse, including cruel or humiliating treatment, resulting in severe physical or mental pain or torment and intentionally inflicted on someone, whether directly or by coercing a third party to commit the transgression⁽¹²⁾. This includes public authorities and other individuals acting in an official role to instigate or consent to violence. This definition of physical violence applies regardless of the intention of the transgressor, such as whether violence is used to obtain information and confessions or to inflict suffering and pain for no specific reason⁽¹³⁾.

The reasons why acts of physical violence are committed against child refugees vary. It may be used to punish and discipline them, extract confessions, or force them to do activities they do not want. In addition, physical violence may be used by armed governmental agencies, such as military and police forces in the asylum country, and non-government agencies, whether they are armed or unarmed⁽¹⁴⁾.

Child refugees may be forced to participate in compulsory labor, including domestic services and hard and dangerous agricultural and industrial works like those of mines and factories, or they may be forced to beg or become involved in criminal acts⁽¹⁵⁾.

In some cases, child refugees experience violence in the context of recruitment by armed groups, who use them for fighting, mine detection, spying, guarding, and other functions that support the armed forces.

Physical torture and violence are the most harmful breaches of children's rights because of the potentially life-long physical and profound psychological injuries they cause, including learning disorders, aggressive behavior, drug, and alcohol abuse, depression, and other psychological problems⁽¹⁶⁾.

(11) World Health Organization World. "Report on Violence and Health", (Geneva, 2002), P. 5.

(12) The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishments, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, (resolution 39/46), (December 10, 1984), Art. 1.

(13) Webb, T. "Children exposed to violence: A developmental trauma-informed response for the criminal justice system. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*", 9(3), (2016), PP. 183–189. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-015-0069-5>

(14) Pinheiro, Paulo. "Report of the Independent Expert for The United Nations Study on Violence Against Children", (A/61/299), (2006), p. 6.

(15) International Labor Organization. "Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labor, Sexual and Other Forms of Exploitation", (Geneva, 2009), p. 17.

3.2. Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is any act, attempt, or threat that is sexual and is performed without the victim's consent⁽¹⁷⁾.

Sexual violence against child refugees includes forced excision, genital mutilation or cutting, sexual mutilation, exploitation of refugee families' poverty to force them to marry their underage daughters, rape, prostitution, and sex trafficking⁽¹⁸⁾.

Sexual violence against children, regardless of the conditions under which it occurs, is one of the six grave crimes of international humanitarian law, which includes the killing or maiming of children, recruitment of children by armed forces, attacks against schools and hospitals, child abduction and the denial of humanitarian access to civilians⁽¹⁹⁾.

The consequences of sexual violence against child refugees have well-documented catastrophic effects, including physical, psychological, social, and economic impacts. This calls for unified efforts to provide a safe environment for child refugees, to protect them from all types of sexual violence by ensuring that these crimes are deterred, and by ensuring that treatment is provided to remedy the effects of sexual violence when it does occur.

3.3. Psychological Violence

Psychological violence refers to verbal, emotional, or behavioral abuse that upsets the child and affects their psychosocial well-being in the long term⁽²⁰⁾.

Psychological violence against child refugees includes the psychological consequences of being deprived of the right to stability and a sense of security, the social implications of becoming a refugee, and the long-term psychological illnesses caused by violence and abuse. Child refugees become victims of various forms of psychological violence, such as force, threats, isolation, rejection, criticism, deprivation of

(16) National Institute of Justice. "Report: Children Exposed to Violence", (2016), Retrieved from: <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/children-exposed-violence>

(17) The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugee, "Report: Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Refugees", UNCHR Publications, (May 2003), p. 10. Retrieved from: UNHCR - Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons. Guidelines for Prevention and Response, UNHCR (SGVB Guidelines)

(18) UN Committee on The Rights of the Child. "General Comment No. 13, The Right of Child to Freedom from All Forms of Violence", CRC/C/GC/13, (2011), p. 6.

(19) Office of The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of UN for Children and Armed Conflict. "The Six Grave Violations Against Children During Armed Conflict: The Legal Foundation", (2013), P .9. Retrieved from: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/WorkingPaper-1_SixGraveViolationsLegalFoundation.pdf

(20) The Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe Treaty Series- No. 210, (Istanbul, May 11, 2011), Art. 33.

socialization, bullying, and humiliation. This exposes them to severe psychological injuries and trauma that cause sleep disorders, anxiety, and depression⁽²¹⁾.

It should be pointed out that addressing the psychological health and rehabilitation of child refugees who suffered from violence and mistreatment is as crucial as addressing their physical health and rehabilitation.

3.4. Domestic Violence

Domestic violence, also called “family violence,” includes neglect and abuse within the home or family that may occur in various forms, including sexual abuse or incest, psychological abuse, as well as corporal punishment. This type of violence harms child refugees' emotional, mental, physical, and social development. In addition, it is known that exposing children to violence at a young age increases the likelihood of showing aggressive tendencies and committing violent acts as they grow up⁽²²⁾.

Domestic violence includes the economic exploitation of the child by their family, such as being forced to work at an early age, which deprives them of the opportunity to complete their education or negatively affects their health, including their physical and moral integrity⁽²³⁾.

The harm experienced by child refugees in the home is often related to conditions in the host country and economic and psychological pressures that their parents experience, which means that children suffer both directly from conditions in refugee camps, schools, care centers, detention centers, and workplaces, and indirectly due to the effects of these conditions inside the family home⁽²⁴⁾.

6- COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILD REFUGEES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

We will review the rights of child refugees under international law, focusing on their right to protection from violence. We will then discuss the extent to which particular nations respect their international commitments.

The standards of protecting child refugees from violence emerge from a set of international conventions and instruments, the most important of which are: The Refugee Convention, the Convention of the Rights of the Child, the UDHR, The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, and the Statute of the Office of the UNHCR.

The Refugee Convention does not mention child refugees. Instead, it addresses the legal status of refugees in general, regardless of their age, to lay the foundations and establish standards to guarantee the

(21) Dadashzadeh Asl & Hosein Yaghoub-Pour, Parisa. Op. cit, pp. 259-278.

(22) UN. Secretariat. “UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, A/RES/69/194, (New York, September 25, 2014).

(23) Hillis. Susan, Mercy. Jame, Amobi. Aduago and Kress. Howard “Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates”, *pediatrics official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*, Vol. 137. No. 3, (January 25, 2016), p. 10.

(24) Webb, T. op. cit, PP. 183–189.

rights of refugees to enjoy a humane life and adequate health standards. Several international treaties, such as the UDHR and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, stipulate the rights of child refugees. Children are given special legal protection and requirements for care and support due to their vulnerability and specific need for security. Countries must respect the rights of child refugees at all times and in all cases and provide them with appropriate humanitarian aid to exercise their rights under various international instruments⁽²⁵⁾.

The rights related to the protection of child refugees can be divided into general and basic rights on the one hand and rights related to their protection from violence and abuse on the other. These two types of rights will be dealt with in detail below.

Child refugees' general and basic rights include their right to live, grow, and maintain their beliefs and identity, including their name and nationality, and retain family relations. It also includes their right to express their opinion, to education, adequate food and clean water, healthcare, and to stay in the host country until a permanent solution to the problems in their native country has been found, in addition to numerous other rights relating to their survival, well-being, and their social, physical, moral, and spiritual development⁽²⁶⁾.

Rights protecting child refugees from violence aim to ensure maximum protection against all forms of violence, exploitation, discrimination, and neglect, including torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Children may be detained only as a last resort and for the shortest possible period. In addition, children have a right to protection from exploitation and all other types of sexual assault, and they have the right to protect themselves from being trafficked, sold, kidnapped, or recruited in armed conflicts. Finally, every child refugee who falls victim to torture, abuse, exploitation, or cruel treatment has the right to medical, psychological rehabilitation, and social⁽²⁷⁾.

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Security Council issued a series of resolutions related to the protection of refugee children, such as Resolution No. 1261, related to the prohibition of child recruitment in situations of armed conflict, including death and maiming, sexual abuse, kidnapping and forced displacement, recruiting, and use of children in armed conflict; urges all parties to armed conflicts to ensure that the protection, welfare, and rights of children are taken into consideration⁽²⁸⁾, and Resolution No. 1379 of 2001, related to providing protection for refugee children and taking measures to protect

(25) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), (December 10, 1948), Art. 25.

And The Convention on the Rights of Child, *op. cit.*, Art. 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 19.

(26) The Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 428 (v), (December 14, 1950), Art. 1.

And The Convention on the Rights of Child, *op. cit.*

(27) The Convention on the Rights of Child, *op. cit.*

(28) Resolution No. 1261 on Children in Armed Conflicts, adopted by the Security Council at its 4037th meeting, on 25 August 1999. S/RES/1261 (1999).

children, especially females, and putting an end to sexual violence and rape⁽²⁹⁾. Moreover, Resolution No. 1998 declared schools and hospitals prohibited from armed groups and military activities and requested the Secretary-General add such crimes to a list of those committing "grave violations" against children⁽³⁰⁾.

7- THE EXTENT TO WHICH STATES RESPOND TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT CHILD REFUGEES FROM VIOLENCE

Most countries worldwide have agreed to international treaties concerned with the protection of child refugees, particularly the Conventions on the Rights of the Child and Refugees. However, there is a clear contrast between this demonstration of support and the degree to which national laws and policies are compatible with international standards related to protecting child refugees from violence and, thus, the extent to which nations respond to the needs of these children. This creates significant difficulties for the livelihoods of child refugees to be supported and gain access to essential services. In addition, it creates risks of exposure to violence and abuse in their homes, schools, and communities and vulnerability to trafficking and other illegal practices⁽³¹⁾.

Some reasons why many states ignore their commitments to adequately implement international agreements related to the rights of a child refugee or are unable to fulfill these responsibilities include the following: the sheer number of refugees crossing their borders, the severe economic or political conditions faced by these states; national and social pressures; and a lack of social awareness about the rights of child refugees.

Many countries, like Australia, are trying to take action to end violence against child refugees. For example, Australian law forbids physical and corporal punishment that results in marks, bruising, and other injuries. These behaviors are considered forms of physical abuse and can result in parents being taken to trial and the children being removed from their care. However, most reports on children and parents from refugee families show that the current response from Australian authorities to counteract violence among refugee families is ineffective. Furthermore, these families encounter barriers when reporting problems to authorities due to being disempowered because of their lack of resources and skills and the risk of alienating themselves from the host communities⁽³²⁾.

The latest struggle of Syrian refugees is a clear example of a situation where the rights of child refugees have been violated in many host states. Child refugees have been separated from their families,

(29) Resolution No. 1379 on Children in Armed Conflicts, adopted by the Security Council at its 4423rd meeting, on 20 Nov 2001. S/RES/1379 (2001).

(30) Resolution No. 1998, adopted by the Security Council at its 6581st meeting, on 12 July 2011. S/RES/1998 (2011).

(31) UNICEF and UNHCR, "Workshop Report: Child Protection/ Syria Crisis Regional Interagency", (Amman, May 20-21, 2015), pp. 2- 4. Retrieved from: <file:///C:/Users/USER/Desktop/InteragencychildprotectionSyriaworkshopreport.pdf>

(32) Losonczi, Ibolya. "Building Safety Around Children in Families from Refugee Backgrounds", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 51, (September 26, 2015), PP. 416–426.

with many of them subjected to early marriage, forced labor, physical violence, sexual abuse, recruitment by armed groups, detention, and other forms of violence and exploitation⁽³³⁾.

International reports state that child refugees, particularly girls, face threats of sexual abuse and rape during their asylum journey or after they have arrived in their host countries, which violates their fundamental rights, especially their right to personal security⁽³⁴⁾.

Moreover, institutionalized detention, mistreatment, and violence against child refugees have become commonplace in some states, such as Thailand, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Burma. Child refugees spend months in detention centers very similar to a prison, under inhuman and abusive conditions, and face physical torture and other forms of excessive and unacceptable cruelty. This negatively affects children's mental health with stress, hopelessness, depression, and insomnia and puts their cognitive development at risk⁽³⁵⁾.

8- RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties and conventions, the protection of child refugees has gained considerable attention. Countries As a result, governments are tied to a series of commitments and obligations to protect child refugees from victimization, violence, and exploitation, all of which have serious long-term consequences for victims. However, the current situation on the ground indicates that international legal procedures are inadequate to ensure that child refugees enjoy the fundamental rights, including the right to security, that are promised. It has therefore become necessary to put additional mechanisms in place to protect child refugees from violence and improve the systems to guarantee their well-being in host nations and the rest of the world.

CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes with a set of conclusions:

- 1- We should focus on meeting the social and health needs of child refugees and expand the scope of the Refugee Convention to include explicit guarantees for their protection in line with their needs.
- 2- International authorities should issue binding resolutions that force host countries to comply with international conventions protecting child refugees' rights.

(33) UNICEF and UNHCR, *op. cit.*, pp. 2- 4.

(34) The Conclusion on Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence, Executive Committee of the High Commissioner of Refugee, No. 73 (XLIV), (October 8, 1993).

(35) Farmer, Alice. "The Impact of Immigration Detention on Children", *Forced Migration Review* 44, (September 2013), pp. 14- 15. Retrieved from: <https://www.fmreview.org/detention/farmer>

And Keller, Allan. "Mental Health of Detained Asylum Seeker", *The Lancet*, vol. 362, issue. 9397, (November 22, 2003), p. 1721.

- 3- States should be encouraged to accede to international agreements that protect child refugees from violence and to withdraw any reservations they might have made during accession.
- 4- should be expanded nationally and internationally.
- 5- National and international plans and care programs for child refugees should be implemented to address violence against them and manage legislative amendments related to their protection.
- 6- It has become essential to end the detention of child refugees to reduce the torture and violence perpetrated against them in detention centers, improve the living conditions of child refugees, and ensure that legal alternatives are provided. Ideally, authorities should rely upon alternative care arrangements and appropriate community-based programs to ensure that child refugees are adequately hosted. Within these arrangements, it should be ensured that their rights and security needs are given priority.
- 7- All necessary steps must be taken to detect violence against child refugees, prosecute the perpetrators with severe sanctions to deter such acts and provide adequate protection and rehabilitation for victims.
- 8- Many child refugees are ignorant of their rights, which may contribute to the violence and violations they experience, so raising awareness of rights among child refugees is necessary.
- 9- It would be helpful to establish a wide-ranging security network involving numerous governments and national groups, including the National Committee on Human Trafficking, to guarantee the prevention of child trafficking of all types.
- 10- Steps should be taken to reinforce behaviors that promote the civil rights of asylum-seeking children, including registration and certification immediately after birth and family unity. Steps should also be taken to bolster services for child refugees, including services for separated and unaccompanied children.
- 11- It is necessary to provide expert training to authorities on the issue of protecting child refugees to ensure that adequate support is provided and protection procedures are in place.
- 12- It is suggested that national child protection plans are issued to ensure that child protection systems are available nationwide for every child without discrimination.

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