

The Human Rights of Children in the Context of Return

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Conference Room A UNHQ

In recent years, the topic of return has become increasingly prominent in migration governance discussions. Return has been promoted as the preferred option in response to irregular migration and seen by States as an essential aspect of well-managed migration.

Common State practices on return are often age-blind and lack child rights considerations. The situation of migrant children in the context of returns is linked to additional risks and vulnerabilities, but also specific obligations derived from the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The **primacy of the best interests of the child as a core guiding principle for all decisions that affect the child requires additional procedural safeguards in place before any decision on return is considered**, including robust best interest determination processes.¹

Concepts such as safe, human rights-based and dignified return and readmission require a strong grounding in the international human rights framework and a child sensitive lens, to ensure that child-specific drivers of migration, risks and safeguards are given due consideration. It is also important to re-position the return and reintegration discourse within the broader framework of sustainable solutions for children

Please join the [Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts](#) for a side event in which Member States, UN agencies, civil society, practitioners and other stakeholders will:

- share perspectives on child-specific concerns and necessary safeguards in the context of returns and reintegration;
- promote examples of promising practices, practical tools and guidance that have been developed to facilitate more sustainable reintegration and solutions for children; and
- provide key recommendations for States to promote a more child-sensitive Global Compact for Migration, particularly with regard to returns.

Discussants include:

- Roberta Mascaretti, Advisor on Migration, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN
- Michele Levoy, Director, PICUM
- Verena Knaus, Senior Policy Advisor, UNICEF
- Pia Oberoi, Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, OHCHR
- Moderated by Debra Jones, Director and UN Representative, Save the Children

For further information and to RSVP, contact james.campbell@savethechildren.org

¹ CRC General Comments 6 and 22.