



Separated Children in Europe Programme



Save the Children



Separated Children in Europe Programme

- Started 1997 as a joint initiative by members of the International Save the Children Alliance and UNHCR
- Based on complimentary mandates:
 - Save the Children's commitment to the realisation of the rights of all children and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - UNHCR's responsibility to protect asylum seekers and refugees
- NGO Network in 30 European countries
- Cooperate with UNHCR at HQ and national levels



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Separated children

are children under 18 years of age who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents or previous/legal customary primary care giver.

Some may appear to be accompanied, but the accompanying adults are not necessarily able or suitable to assume responsibility for their care.



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Separated children may include:

- Asylum seekers
- Refugee children
- Child victims of trafficking
- Migrant children - in regular or irregular situations



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Rights and needs of separated children

Separated children are entitled to international protection under a broad range of universal and regional instruments, most notably:

- the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- the 1951 Refugee Convention
- the Hague Conventions for the Protection of Children

However, these instruments have not been sufficiently integrated into national legislation and practice



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Issues of particular concern:

- access to the territory and asylum procedure
- age assessment
- family tracing and reunification
- guardianship and legal assistance
- detention
- appropriate interim care
- consideration of child specific persecution/need for other forms of protection
- decision making and procedures for return
- durable solutions
- training and accreditation of relevant professionals



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The SCE Programme's aims

- to promote a greater recognition and realisation of the rights of separated children
- to support the raising of standards in all policies, practices and services that impact upon them

With three inter-related themes:

1. need for international protection of separated children
2. need to ensure that the well-being and developmental rights of separated children are fully addressed
3. the importance of the participation and empowerment of separated children



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Four key goals to achieve the overall aim:

- Raise awareness among relevant decision makers, practitioners and civil society
- Influence existing and emerging legislation and policy through advocacy
- Develop skills necessary for effective, rights based work with separated children and increase the knowledge base of relevant practitioners
- Increase the recognition of and consideration given to the views of separated children as well as their meaningful participation and empower them to contribute actively in processes that affect them



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Statement of Good Practice

- An account of policies and practices required to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of separated children
- informed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and international and regional human rights principles, law, policy and guidelines
- informed by the SCEP partners' work for and with separated children
- a key text which informs the SCE Programme's work



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Statement of Good Practice – *continued*

- All actions should be based on the CRC principles:
 - the best interests of the child
 - the views of the child to be sought and taken into account
 - non-discrimination
 - right to life, survival, development
 - right to protection
- appendix with reference to international and regional law: texts in full or link to text
- 3rd rev. ed. 2004 available 24 languages on SCEP web site



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Information and documentation

- **Statement of Good Practice**
- **National assessments**
- **Newsletter**
- **Position papers**
- **Research and analysis**
- **Reports**
- **Training guide**
- **Website**



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Sharing information and experience

- **NGO Network meetings**
- **annual joint meeting UNHCR & NGO Network**
- **Newsletter regular e-mail dissemination and exchange**



Separated Children in Europe Programme

www.separated-children-europe-programme.org

- Information on the SCEP
- Contact details to Steering Committee, programme management, NGO partners and UNHCR focal points
- Good practice
- All publications available in PDF
- Links to other resources
- Statistics