



Destination Unknown

protect children on the move

Youth Call

Children on the move – our views, demands and proposals

“We are children on the move. But, first of all, we are children – with children’s rights!”

We are children and youth from Africa, the Near and Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. We no longer have a home to live at – we are on the move.

The reasons differ. Some of us escaped from violence and war. Some of us had to run away because we were abused, exploited, beaten or neglected. Some of us have been left and abandoned by our families. Some of us had to leave our homes because we were too hungry and poor to survive – now we hope to find a job or education somewhere else. Some of us have been trafficked and are forced to beg or sell our bodies. Some of us live on the street. Some of us have been born in refugee camps. Some of us are stateless.

We are on the move – which has both positives and negatives.

We were able to save our lives. We have met new friends. We have experienced new countries and places. We are safe and needn’t fear bombs and war. We can hope for a better life.

However, we miss our homes. Nobody helps us in case we are hungry, ill or sad. We don’t know whom to trust. Nobody sees us – except those who abuse and exploit us. Many people insult us and keep on saying that we are a problem.

In some countries we are arrested, detained or even imprisoned because we are on the move and do not have a home to return to. Nearly everywhere governments deny that we exist. Some governments refuse to let us go to school. If we get sick, if we are trafficked or sent to war as soldiers, if we just don’t know where to go next, we cannot ask anybody for help.

Every one of us is unique. Yet, we have something in common – we are children.

We have the right to live. We have the right to be protected from violence and exploitation. We have the right to education. We have the right to receive any healthcare we need. We have the right to participate in all decisions made about us. We have children’s rights.

Currently we are in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Peru, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, and in many other countries across the globe.





We call to the people and leaders of our world:

Uphold our dignity.
Respect our rights.
Protect us from violence and exploitation.
Listen to us.

We need enough to eat, we need clean water. We want to go to school. That's why we need friendly and well-trained teachers. We need spaces and time to play. We need good medical services. We need families or people whom we can trust and that love and respect us. All governments and decision-makers must support a kind of development and society which helps children to grow up and live in dignity. A society which protects us from poverty, war, violence, and misery.

If we are on the move, we need responsible authorities to contact for help – for something to eat, medical assistance, protection, and care.

Governments must stop automatically arresting, detaining and sending back children on the move. We need policies putting the rights and interests of children at its center. Each child has an individual solution and path to take – which needs to be found and made possible. Children and youth must be empowered and allowed to participate in all decisions made about them.

This is the world we want, this is the world we need.

We are the *future*, but we need our rights *now*.

This Youth Call is based on 73 questionnaires asking children and youth on the move about their personal experiences, demands and proposals. Individuals and youth groups from 19 countries who are or have been affected by migration contributed to the Youth Call. The development and organization of the entire process, including the composition of the above text, was in the hands of youths involved in the Destination Unknown Campaign as well as the International Youth Network of terre des hommes Germany.

*For inquiries on the Youth Call and further information please contact:
Joshua Hofert, Youth Representative of the Destination Unknown Campaign and Member of the Presidential Board of terre des hommes Germany – j.hofert@tdh.de*

