

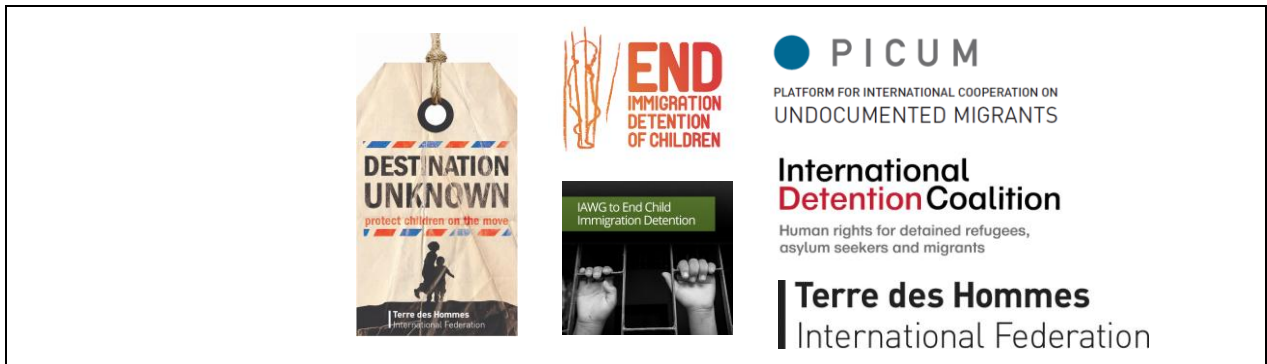
GFMD Civil Society Days 2015

Side event

Tuesday 13th October 2015

13:00 to 14:00

**Lüfti Kırdar – Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre
Istanbul - Turkey**



<p>Name of the organization(s) organizing the side-event</p>	<p>This side-event is being co-sponsored by the GFMD ISC support team on “Children”, including:</p> <p>Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM); Terre des Hommes (TDH); and International Detention Coalition (IDC);</p> <p>Additional co-sponsoring groups include: Global Campaign to End Child Immigration Detention; Destination Unknown Campaign; and Inter-Agency Working Group to End Child Immigration Detention</p>
<p>Title of the side event</p>	<p><i>Children’s rights, criminalization and border security</i></p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To highlight and bring attention to critical challenges facing children in the context of increasing border security measures and State policies which criminalize irregular migration; • To hear critical regional perspectives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Euro-Med; ○ Latin America; ○ Africa; and ○ Asia-Pacific; • To seek civil society feedback and consultation on a <i>State process to end child immigration detention</i>.

<p>Description <i>(please provide some details on how you would like to organize the side-event, including on the structure of the discussion, the participants you expect, the outcomes, etc)</i></p>	<p>The rights of children will be mainstreamed throughout the GFMD CSD, however this side-event seeks to bring specific attention to violations of children’s’ rights within the context of increasing <i>border security measures and the criminalization of irregular migration</i>.</p> <p>Recent events across all regions highlight the need for and importance of this discussion. In Europe, children are being forcibly detained and stopped from entering the EU to seek asylum; in the Americas, official policies in the United States have recently changed to allow for the mass detention of asylum-seeking women and children; in Asia-Pacific, refugee and migrant children are being detained offshore where physical/mental abuse have been shown to be endemic; in Africa and MENA increasing numbers of unaccompanied children are being forced to undertake dangerous journeys in order to seek safety and they are frequently arrested and detained by State authorities as well as unscrupulous smugglers or child traffickers.</p> <p>International human rights laws and standards are incredibly clear: States should not criminalize the act of irregular entry, and the detention of children and families both at the external borders of a State’s territory, or within the territory itself, is never in the best interests of the child, constitutes a child rights violation, and may amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (CIDT).</p> <p>This side-event will include both an overview of the international legal framework and normative UN developments, as well as regional perspectives on the issue and key challenges with regard to protecting child rights in the face of increasing border security and criminalization of irregular migration. It will end with a conversation and feedback from civil society participants regarding the development of a State process to proactively address the detention of migrant children and families.</p>
<p>Speakers and participants <i>(Please provide an indication of the type and number of speakers for the side-event. To the extent you know, already include name, function and organization)</i></p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Lewis, Advocacy Coordinator, International Detention Coalition (IDC) <p><u>Speakers/Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spyros Rizakos, Aitima (Greece) • Roshan Dadoo, Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) • Pia Oberoi, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) • Edith Zavala, Central America and Mexico Migration Alliance (CAMMINA)