Community of Practice: How can child helplines best support children on the move and migrant children?

Participant’s guide – March 2019
Background

Children on the move and migrant children are at particular risk of rightlessness, discrimination, mental health issues and different forms of exploitation. While child helplines are a trusted place for support for millions of children across the world, children on the move appear to be an underrepresented group in seeking out child helpline support. In 2018, Child Helpline International and the UNHCR launched a training module on children on the move, and promising initiatives are being put into action by several members in our network. The establishment of defined ‘good practices’ in supporting children on the move and migrant children across our network is, however, still unexplored.

We will, therefore, convene a Community of Practice to exchange knowledge on how child helplines can best support children on the move and migrant children. This project is funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme (2014-2020).

Aim and Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of our network of child helplines to support and advocate for the rights of children on the move and migrant children.
- To contribute to a more integrated child protection system for children on the move.
- To build working partnerships between child helplines and expert organisations.

The Format of the Community of Practice

Communities of Practice are a form of peer-to-peer learning, held together by a shared concern or passion for a specific topic – in this case children on the move and migrant children. This community of practice will be multi-sectoral in order to harness and share knowledge from different perspectives. The discussions will take place both face-to-face, through online calls (WebEx) and online (Slack). All dates will be confirmed with the participants.

The main language of communication will be English. We will do our utmost to ensure that our communications meet the needs of all participants. Please let us know what you might require.

The Thematic Discussion

The core of communities of practice is the ownership and leadership of the participants. Therefore, only the overall topic, child helpline support for children on the move and migrant children, is established beforehand. The task of the participants, will be to:

• Identify a set of core issues relating to children on the move/migrant children and child helpline services.
• Exchange practices, experiences, theory and thoughts on how to approach the identified issues.
• Document and define ideas and discussions as a basis for upcoming capacity-building initiatives (webinars, training resources, advocacy reports).

The discussions and outcomes from these communities will be shared with the rest of the child helpline network through webinars, training resources and advocacy reports/campaigns in order to create impact across our network and the European community.

Call for Participants

We are seeking participants who:

• Have a strong interest in tackling issues facing children on the move.
• Live and work in an EU member state.
• Have knowledge and experience relating to promoting the rights of children on the move, or, a child helpline who have a keen interest in learning more about these issues.

We ask our participants to commit to, on a voluntary basis:

• Attending one two-day meeting in 2019 – dates will be confirmed with participants.
• Active participation in monthly group calls of 1 hour (WebEx).
• Contribution to discussion on online platform (Slack) as and when possible.
• To participate in the Community of Practice until January 2020.

Child Helpline International will cover travel, meals and accommodation for the face-to-face workshop/discussion. Further guidelines will be provided to interested participants.

Contact information

• To register your interest please contact ronja@childhelplineinternational.org.

Looking forward to hearing from you!