



HARVARD FXB
CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

“CHILD PROTECTION IN THE MIGRATION CONTEXT: FROM PRINCIPLE TO IMPLEMENTATION”

Course Coordinators:

Jacqueline Bhabha | FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Vasileia Digidiki | FXB Center, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Gabriella Sanchez | Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute

Sala del Capitolo - Badia Fiesolana, Via della Badia dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole, Florence (Italy)

7-9 OCTOBER 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In recent years, there has been an unprecedented increase in the numbers of children migrating, accompanied or otherwise. This phenomenon is associated with increasing evidence of child protection failures at all stages of children's migration, from the moment of departure through travel and transit up to arrival and, when relevant, repatriation. In the absence of a unitary, integrated international system equipped to manage protection, individual governments have developed ad-hoc procedures lacking inter-agency consistency or integration.

This Executive Training Seminar will address practical child protection challenges that emerge in the context of migration across a range of contexts. It will draw on interdisciplinary tools, case studies, a rich body of research and experience spanning diverse jurisdictions.

The Training Seminar will cover the international legal framework and international instruments governing migrant child protection, addressing the practical challenges that arise from eliciting and incorporating the voice and agency of children into the decision-making process that effects them. There will be opportunities to debate current practice in both the global North and South. Participants will take part in critical reflection on applicable norms, and obstacles to the implementation of children rights in the management of contemporary migration; they will also have an opportunity to evaluate cross-cultural and ethical issues that arise in migration and asylum practice, and to enhance their practical skills.

At the conclusion of the Executive Training, participants will receive a joint certificate issued by



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How will you learn:

- Lectures from leading experts;
- Interactive case-based teaching by practitioners;
- Inter-organizational perspectives and dialogues, collective problem solving;
- Cross-sectoral insights providing a broader understanding of key issues;
- Debates about ethical dilemmas and pragmatic challenges;
- One-on-one discussions between participants and instructors.

Who should attend?

- Mid-career, NGO professionals, civil servants engaged with child migrant protection and migration management policies at national and international levels;
- Students interested in the migrant protection sector and/or are interested in working with migrant children;
- Professionals in education, medical sector, who have an interest on entering/transferring to the child protection field;
- Volunteers and officers seeking to better position themselves for field placements on migrant child protection.

What will you gain from this Executive Training?

- Knowledge and strategic insights into migrant child protection;
- Ability to articulate child protection strategies and practices;
- Improved knowledge of the ongoing challenges experienced by migrant children across multiple contexts;
- An understanding of policy makers and government officials challenges and strategies to address them;
- Exchange with leading experts, and opportunities to network with mid-career colleagues from around the world.

PROGRAMME

7 OCTOBER

18:00 - 22:00

Introductory Session and Social Event

8 OCTOBER

09:00 - 10:30

Welcome Remarks and Overview

Jacqueline Bhabha | FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Vasileia Digidiki | FXB Center, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Gabriella Sanchez | Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute

This session will provide an introduction by the organizers; participants will discuss the case they have prepared, centred on a challenge that they face at the organizational and/or national level in their effort to ensure children's rights in the context of migration.

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Best Interests of the Child in Contemporary Migration: Applying Principles to the Complexity of Practice.

Jacqueline Bhabha | FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

This session will provide participants with the normative framework surrounding child migration and relate it to the challenges that arise in operationalizing applicable principles and to solutions (or partial solutions) that have been effective in protecting migrant children's rights. The session will enable participants to approach their work with greater clarity and confidence on central issues such as:

(a) how should the best interests of the migrant child be operationalized in practice, and (b) how can the obligation not to discriminate enhance child migrant protection in practice.

The session will draw on case studies to illuminate challenges and potential solutions, and will encourage an interactive discussion to take advantage of the expertise and experience in the room.

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Data Challenges and Ethics in Child Migration

Samuel Okyere | School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, University of Bristol

Can research become inconvenient and harmful to child migrants? How can we ensure that methodologies employed remain "culture-bound" and abide by the "do not harm" principle? This session will discuss the ethical challenges that researchers face when collecting data from child migrants and the common mistakes they make while collecting and analysing data. Attendees will be given effective ways to contextualize and address ethical and methodological challenges concerning fieldwork (anonymity and confidentiality), but also representation and the role of children as contributors.

Drawing on good research practices but also on practices that caused harm to children as case studies, participants will explore the ethical principles and frameworks on research involving migrant children. Participants will also have the opportunity to bring to the table the ethical challenges they have faced and discuss different ways of resolving potential or actual ethical dilemmas. This session will be interactive and relies on practices identified in the literature, as well as the personal experience of the speakers and participants.

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 - 18:00

Protecting Children or Managing Migration? European Legal Frameworks and Practices on Missing Migrant Children

Federica Toscano | Missing Children Europe

The session addresses the issue of missing migrant children in Europe. How does the European legal framework address this challenge? What are the existing policy gaps? It will address protection strategies, integrated child protection systems and differences in implementation. Special emphasis will be placed on inter-agency collaboration at the national and cross-border contexts. Participants will gain knowledge of successful practices on national and international case management and how to best prevent and respond to migrant child disappearances.

9 OCTOBER

09:00 - 10:30

Strategic Planning of Advocacy to Improve Protection for Children in the Context of Migration

Jyothi Kanics | Associate Member, Child Circle

The fundamentals of planning and carrying out strategic advocacy work will be the focus of this session. It will include lecture, discussion and group work. It will start with a presentation during which there will also be a facilitated exchange of experience and the opportunity to raise questions. Participants will work on cases studies in small groups in order to apply relevant tools and exercises to a specific advocacy goal relevant to improving protection for children in the context of migration. Ideally, a few of the participants will come prepared to work on a specific advocacy goal from their current work.

After the session, participants will be able to define advocacy, select advocacy priorities and outline the key steps in strategic planning of advocacy work. They will better understand the importance of having a theory of change for their advocacy work. Exercises will allow the participants to identify key target audiences and to develop interim outcomes for their advocacy work. This will require consideration of tactics appropriate to different target audiences. Finally, participants will be able to develop a simple logic model to summarize their advocacy plan. The session will finish with a further exchange of challenges identified and lessons learned from the group work.

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

The Migration-crime Nexus: Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Child Rights in the Context of Migration

Vasileia Digidiki | FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Gabriella Sanchez | Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute

Despite governments' pledge to protect child rights, migrant children are routinely exposed to exploitative and hazardous situations. This session will give participants an opportunity to better understand how ongoing migration crises shape the vulnerability of children to forms of criminal activity, in particular trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Drawing on data collected in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and the US Mexico Border, participants will discuss the nexus between crimes of mobility (trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants) and migration control policies. Aware simultaneously that children are not passive recipients of securitization policies and development interventions, the session also explores how child migrants draw from a rich repertoire of social, cultural & political assets and tactics to navigate precarity and marginality. Sharing their own practical experiences, participants will explore how the migration journey and experiences along the way increase both the vulnerability children face vis-à-vis different forms of exploitation, and at the same time their ability to develop strengths and resilience. By the end of the session, participants will have gained the knowledge necessary to implement micro and macro level interventions to better understand the impact of practices such as smuggling on migrant children.

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

How Do You Balance and Respect the Independence of Migrant Adolescents, While Ensuring their Safety?

Ramya Subrahmanian | UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti, Child Rights and Protection

Adolescent mobility is a large scale, cross-border phenomenon. However, despite its magnitude, migrant adolescents' interests tend to be neglected when migration and child rights governance are developed and implemented, resulting in protection mechanisms that may not address the needs of young people, but rather those identified by external actors. This session will stimulate a discussion on migrant adolescent mobility and identifies gaps in current migration and child governance regimes drawing on recent research undertaken by UNICEF on children and young people on the move. The session will assist participants in understanding how current migration frameworks address the needs and rights of adolescent migrants and can impinge negatively on them. The session will also emphasize agency, and the ways in which children are capable of building their own networks for protection and care amid policies and practices that impact them. Ways in which children can be effective collaborators in research and policy development will also be discussed.

Participants will be encouraged to share challenges they have faced protecting adolescents' rights, as well as good and bad practices they have implemented in their field.

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30

Ensuring Children's Rights in the Context of Migration: Conclusions

Jacqueline Bhabha | FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Vasileia Digidiki | FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Gabriella Sanchez | Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute

In this final session participants' will present cases (in groups) on challenges that they face in their effort to ensure children's rights in the context of migration, and receive feedback on them. These presentations will be based upon the insights and the knowledge gained in the previous sessions.

TRAINERS

Jacqueline Bhabha	Professor, FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, United States of America
Vasileia Digidiki	Instructor, FXB Center Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, United States of America
Jyothi Kanics	Associate Member, Child Circle, Belgium
Samuel Okyere	Lecturer, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
Gabriella Sanchez	Research Fellow, Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute, Italy
Ramya Subrahmanian	Chief, Research on Child Rights and Protection, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti, Italy
Federica Toscano	Head of Advocacy and Migration, Missing Children Europe, Belgium

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