



# 2019 Asian Children's Summit

## Children's Recommendations and Questions on Upholding the Rights of Children on the Move

Child delegates identified the issues that children on the move are experiencing in reality: extremely poor living conditions; lack of access to basic hygiene and sanitation; denial of refuge; denial of right to return, right to education, and right to religion; restrictions on movement; risk of being trafficked due to lack of legal protection; lack of opportunity; discrimination; lack of social acceptance; and lack of awareness of society, including children, on the rights and situation of refugees. Nonetheless, they are aware of the positive action towards children on the move, including the existence of non-government organizations that help in the rescue, rehabilitation, communication, and awareness-raising; the availability of shelters, which include recreation facilities, in some countries; the acceptance of refugees in some countries; the promotion of basic, albeit limited, necessities, in some countries; and guarantee of the right to return by some countries.

### Children's recommendations on upholding the rights of children on the move

- States must ensure that no child is denied refuge in the country where he/she intends to seek it.
- The governments must ensure that shelters and health and sanitary facilities provide medicine and safe, clean and nutritious food and water to children seeking refuge.
- There should be legal protection of children's fundamental rights, including the right to live with dignity, the right to education, and the right to return.
- The governments should ensure children on the move's social and psychological rehabilitation through the actions of their concerned departments.
- The governments must ensure that every child seeking refuge is provided with education and recreation through the respective government shelter homes.
- The governments must be active in issuing identification documents of children on the move and children seeking refuge in a different country. Also, the process must be accelerated and not slow.
- States must be sensitive when dealing with legal processes involving children seeking refuge. Children should not go through hard and insensitive legal processes.

"My name is Saengsa. I am 16 years old. I come from Thailand. I don't have nationality. I have no registration status. I don't have identification card because I left the neighboring country because of the civil war. I have lost so many opportunities just because I don't have an identity card. I have lost an opportunity to access education. I experience discrimination. I can't have scholarship even though I can study well. I came from outside the district like other children. I can't choose my dream job. I have to stay hidden, but if I have an ID card many opportunities will follow as well as an equal start like other children." – Saengsa, Child Delegate, 2019 Asian Children's Summit

- The shelter homes that are run by the governments must fulfill the physical, mental, spiritual, and social needs of a child.
- Equal opportunity of education must be provided to each child, whether the child is a resident of the country or on the move.
- The response to children on the move should be in the context of family and best interest of the child. Hence, governments must make sure a child is not separated from his/her family once on the move.

## Children's Questions:

- Why are there still adults who misunderstand refugees? How can we raise awareness of children on the move against these adults?
- Do governments have a monitoring system to control the cases brought about by each migrant company?
- Is it possible for the government to allow children who have been in the country for more than 10 years to become government officials?
- If you are a friend of a refugee, how will you help change his/her status and share your family so that he/she can have legal identity?
- The government already has policies to protect stateless children, but those policies still do not enable us to get access to our rights because of certain conditions that we have to meet. Why do you create those policies in the first place because they do not help us at all?
- Despite the existence of legislative systems and laws, why is it that the rate of VAC and violations of rights of children in general still remain high? Why are there no measures by the government and adults to make the society aware that children also have the rights?