

# AS CHILDREN REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPROPRIATE CARE AND PROTECTION.



## **SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:**

Discussion on the basis of current developments and news from the media

- Who are refugees, asylum seekers and foreigners?
- Do you know any? Where are they from?
- What do they need most, who can help them and how?
- How can we help them (if one of them comes or is already among us)?

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The text was prepared in 2005 on the basis of the teaching material for the project entitled Our Rights. With the Our Rights project, Slovenia has actively enabled education on children's rights for more than 180,000 children in a number of countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

More information is available at the website:

[http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/foreign\\_policy\\_and\\_international\\_law/slovenian\\_foreign\\_policy\\_and\\_human\\_rights/the\\_our\\_rights\\_project\\_human\\_rights\\_education/](http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/foreign_policy_and_international_law/slovenian_foreign_policy_and_human_rights/the_our_rights_project_human_rights_education/)

The picture was drawn in 2016 by Katarina (13 years old) and Rebecca (11 years old) Agius Jager, Junior UNICEF Ambassadors in Slovenia.

## **CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, entered into force on 2 September 1990.

### **Article 20**

1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.
2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child.
3. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

### **Article 22**

1. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.
2. For this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, co-operation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent organizations or non-governmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason, as set forth in the present Convention.

## **REFUGEE**

According to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is any person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country or return to it and has been granted the right to international protection (asylum).

## **APPLICANT FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (ASYLUM)**

According to the 1951 Geneva Convention, an applicant for international protection is any person who applies for international protection (asylum) in a country, which is not the country of his or her nationality, owing to persecution or fear of persecution and who awaits a decision concerning the application waiting for a final decision, such a person may not be compelled to return to the country of his or her nationality.

## **INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (ASYLUM)**

Asylum is protection or sanctuary which a country grants to a foreigner where it deems that return to the country of his or her origin might pose a threat to their safety or physical integrity for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. This protection entails, in particular, the right to reside in a foreign country, the rights granted to refugees under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the rights enshrined in the International Protection Act.