Towards a coordinated strategic approach on missing unaccompanied migrant children

3rd December 2014, 19:00
An artistic interpretation of unaccompanied migrant children who went 'missing'

InBetween Artspace
Chaussée d'Ixelles 211, 1050 Brussels

Stories and experiences of and by unaccompanied migrant children who went missing, with Natalie Hill Photography and Minor N Dako reception centre

Opening speeches by:
> Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, President of Missing Children Europe, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution & Child Pornography
> Tom Viaene, Artistic Coordinator: InBetween Artspace
> Nathalie Hill, photographer
> Ali, unaccompanied young artist from Afghanistan (18)

4th December 2014, 08:30 - 18:30
European conference on missing unaccompanied migrant children

Renaissance Brussels Hotel,
Rue du Parnasse 19, 1000 Brussels

» Operationalising child protection commitments
» Improving data collection
» Implementing practical measures and standards
» Improving cross-border cooperation
» Reinforcing prevention measures in countries of origin

Cocktail reception attended by H.M. Queen Paola

Sole responsibility lies with Missing Children Europe, a.i.s.b.l.
Rue de l'Industrie 10,
1000 Brussels

Funded by the Daphne Programme of the European Commission
Towards a coordinated strategic approach on missing unaccompanied migrant children

European conference - 4th December 2014

12,730 asylum applications were submitted by unaccompanied children in the EU in 2013. 1,095 of these applications were submitted by children below the age of 14. Several more children arrive in the EU but do not apply for asylum. Many of these children have lost their homes, are escaping violence, poverty or disaster. Often beginning their journeys with parents or siblings, children are at times separated intentionally from their family members by child traffickers or smugglers. Other children leave their home on their own initiative, fleeing a situation of abuse or exploitation. An important number of children go missing from the reception centres in which they are placed, sometimes never to be found again.

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**Conference Venue**
Renaissance Brussels Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels
- Bus Station: Luxembourg
- Subway Station: Trone
- Train Station: Gare du Luxembourg

**Programme overview**
- 08:30 Registration
- 09:00 Opening
- 12:15 Lunch
- 17:00 Cocktail reception

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**09:00 - 10:00  Keynote speeches**

**Chair: Delphine Moralis, Secretary General of Missing Children Europe**

- Maud de Boer-Bruigchlo
  President of Missing Children Europe and UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- Member of the European Parliament
  To be confirmed
- Nils Mužnieks (video message)
  Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

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**10:00 - 11:15  Operationalising child protection commitments**

**Chair: Veronica Yates, Director of Child Rights International Network**

- Rebecca O'Donnel, Founder, Child Circle
- Lilja Gretarsdottir, Senior Advisor on Migration, Council of Europe
- Thomas Dunning, Principal Social Worker, Separated Children Seeking Asylum, TUSLA Child and Family Agency, IR

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**11:15 - 12:15  Improving the collection of data**

**Chair: Dr. Karen Shalev-Greene, Director of the Centre for the Study of Missing Persons, Portsmouth University**

- Chiara Adamo, Head of Unit Fundamental Rights and the Rights of the Child, DG Justice, European Commission
- Laura Corrado, Acting Head of Unit, Immigration and Integration, DG Home Affairs, European Commission

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**12:15 - 13:15  Lunch**
13:15 - 14:15 Practical measures and standards
Chair: Zoi Sakellidou, Policy Officer, EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission
> Georgia Dimitropoulou, Seconded National Expert, Equality & Citizens Rights, EU FRA
> David Lowyck, Director Minor N Dako, BE

14:15 - 15:15 Improving cross-border cooperation
Chair: Heidi De Pauw, CEO of Child Focus, BE
> Turid Heiberg, Senior Adviser & Head of the Unit for Children at Risk, Council of the Baltic Sea States
> CEOP, UK, Speaker to be confirmed

15:15 - 15:35 Coffee break

15:35 - 16:35 Reinforcing prevention in countries of origin
Chair: Prof. Ernesto Caffo, President of Telefono Azzurro, IT
> Olivier Geissler, International Programmes, Social Service International / West Africa Network for the Protection of Children
> Philippe Cori, Director, Unicef Brussels EU

16:35 - 17:00 Closing remarks
Carmelita Ammendola, Deputy Director General, Italian Ministry of Interior

17.00 - 18.30 Cocktail Reception
In the honorable presence of Her Majesty Queen Paola

It's your turn!
The conference will bring together key stakeholders from across Europe, representing law enforcement and migration authorities, child protection services, guardianship services, hotlines for missing children, reception centres and academia.

The goal of the conference will be to discuss practical measures and building blocks to effectively prevent the 'going missing' of unaccompanied migrant children.

Participants will be asked to actively contribute by:
> taking part in the discussions scheduled after each set of presentations,
> providing practical examples of good practices as well as challenges related to the building blocks outlined in the background paper for the conference.

Who we are
Missing Children Europe is the European federation for missing and sexually exploited children, representing 30 organisations from 25 European countries. Our mission is to contribute to the development of comprehensive child protection systems that prevent, support and protect children from going missing.

Missing Children Europe coordinates a network of 116 000 hotlines for missing children, currently active in 29 European countries. The hotlines provide legal, social, psychological and administrative support for all cases of missing children, complementing the investigative work of law enforcement authorities.

Unaccompanied children who go missing constitute some of the most difficult cases of missing children for these hotlines.