



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

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Tema 2 de la agenda

**Informe anual del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas
para los Derechos Humanos e informes de la Oficina
del Alto Comisionado y del Secretario General**

Información presentada por escrito por la Comisión de la Igualdad y los Derechos Humanos de Gran Bretaña, la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Irlanda del Norte y la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Escocia*

Nota de la Secretaría

La Secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos transmite adjunta la comunicación presentada por la Comisión de la Igualdad y los Derechos Humanos de Gran Bretaña, la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Irlanda del Norte y la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Escocia**, que se reproduce a continuación de conformidad con el artículo 7 b) del reglamento que figura en el anexo de la resolución 5/1 del Consejo, según el cual la participación de las instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos se basará en las disposiciones y prácticas convenidas por la Comisión de Derechos Humanos, incluida la resolución 2005/74, de 20 de abril de 2005.

* La institución nacional de derechos humanos tiene la acreditación de la categoría “A” ante la Alianza Global de Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos.

** Se reproduce en el anexo tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Submission by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission

Panel Discussion on Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents and Human Rights (HRC Res. 33/7)

Mr. President,

This is a statement on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Children and families are on the move in almost unprecedented numbers. The UN estimates that by the end of 2015, 65.3 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. This is 5.8 million more people than in the previous year.¹

Globally we are facing the highest recorded number of unaccompanied migrant children since the Second World War. This presents a significant challenge to the relevant existing infrastructure. In relation to unaccompanied migrant children in local authority care in the UK, research indicates that around 13% went missing at least once in 2015.²

The UK is in the process of negotiating its exit from the European Union. At this moment of significant constitutional change, it is important to set out a positive vision for the kind of country we want to be after we have left the EU. We want the UK to retain its status as a world leader on human rights. We urge that any new asylum arrangements that the UK Government agrees with other countries must comply with the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights, and enable cross-border cooperation, and in particular protect child victims of trafficking.

The UK should ensure that service providers and other agencies provide effective support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We call on the UK Government:

- Immediately after the child's arrival, to appoint a guardian, as the main safeguard of their best interests and wellbeing, before any other proceedings take place;
- to introduce a statutory duty to record and report migrant children who go missing from care;
- to cease the detention of child asylum seekers;
- to ensure that children seeking refugee status receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance; and

¹ UNHCR (2016). Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015. URL for press release and link to report: <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>

² ECPAT UK and Missing People (2016) Heading back to harm: A study on trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care in the UK, p.39. NB this was taken from a sample of 74 UK local authorities.

- to ensure that, where a person's age is uncertain and that there are reasons to believe they are a child, they are presumed to be a child until their age has been assessed objectively by an independent expert.³

Thank you Mr. President.

³ From speech by David Isaac, chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, at the British Institute of Human Rights' Civil Society report launch event, 22 September 2016.