

Including Children affected by Migration (ICAM)

The rights under the law for children affected by migration to be protected from violence and abuse



A summary for schools to use so that:

- all children affected by migration are aware of their rights to be protected from violence and abuse
- school staff know how to ensure that children's rights are respected and upheld





Children affected by migration are entitled to protection from violence and abuse under international agreements, the most universally accepted of which is the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC.)* Others include: *The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000)* and *Directive 2012/29/EU which establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.*

Note: For the purposes of the law, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

It is everyone's responsibility under the law to ensure that children affected by migration have physical, psychological and social safety and security so that they can learn and develop to their full potential. Unhappy or insecure children do not learn.

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
IN THE WORLD
HAS ONE THING
IN COMMON.
THEIR RIGHTS.**

The responsibility of schools

School ICAM leaders should work to ensure that everyone in the school is aware that the law protects children affected by migration from violence and abuse and that:

- ✓ The relevant safeguarding legislation is displayed and explained so that members of the school community understand their rights and can uphold the law.
- ✓ Children who have experienced neglect, abuse or exploitation, or who are victims of war, receive special support to help them recover their wellbeing and capacity to access the curriculum.
- ✓ Before a child affected by migration is admitted to the school, to help a smooth induction, attempts are made to find out about the child's previous history, including any violence or abuse they have suffered.
- ✓ All members of staff are trained in how to identify any signs of abuse that children affected by migration may have suffered and understand how to arrange any necessary help.
- ✓ Any possibility that there has been trafficking of people, especially children, can be identified and reported.
- ✓ In order to develop and maintain a close working relationship with the child's family or carer, there is a supportive, named person who acts as a link between the family, the child and the school.
- ✓ Children affected by migration have their rights explained to them and are helped to learn how they can insist that their rights are respected.
- ✓ Discipline in the school respects the child's dignity and rights.



All children affected by migration should be helped to understand their rights under the law as follows:-

- ✓ I have the right to expect others to respect my own religion, language or culture.
- ✓ I have the right to a good quality of education and to be encouraged and supported to achieve my full potential in safe and secure surroundings.
- ✓ I have the right to find out about things and to say what I think and feel, provided that I do not harm or offend other people.
- ✓ I have the right to privacy.
- ✓ If I have been badly treated or neglected, I have the right to receive help and support.
- ✓ I have the right to be protected from exploitation and people cannot take advantage of me.
- ✓ I have the right to expect that adults should do the best for me and make decisions in my best interests.
- ✓ I have the right to always be treated fairly.
- ✓ I know there must be an adult I can talk to if I have any worries or concerns about my wellbeing and rights.

