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Founded in 2011, the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM) is a coalition of regional and international networks of migrant associations, migrants rights organizations and advocates, trade unions, faith-based, academia and experts groups, covering every major region around the world.

As critical stakeholders with a deep history and shared experience in collaborating on an international level, the Global Coalition on Migration represents a vital space where its members can collectively chart the best methods, strategies, and tools to take action together.

End the Immigration Detention of Children

Global Coalition on Migration – November 20th, 2014

As government delegations gather at the United Nations in New York to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, migrants' rights advocates, civil society organizations, and migrant communities are participating in an International Day of Action calling for the **end to the immigration detention of children**.

Every day, children worldwide experience an array of **human rights violations** as a result of punitive immigration detention regimes. Held in detention centres, unaccompanied or with their family members, for immigration status violations or separated from detained parents or guardians, these children are deprived of their rights to **liberty and family life**.

“Children should not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their or their parents' migration status. The detention of a child because of their or their parent's migration status constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child” (Committee on the Rights of the Child).

Children who are directly or indirectly affected by immigration detention, in all its forms, are at risk of **trauma** and **abuse** and are taught at a young age what it means to be members of a **criminalized** community. This includes families divided by adult detention.

When community-based alternatives to detention are provided, they should be the least restrictive measures. The practices of **detention** or **mobility restriction** and **surveillance** for immigration status violations are not legitimate, as undocumented children and their parents or guardians pose no threat to the safety or property of the society where they reside. Children should neither be subject to nor forced to witness such measures. The criminalizing **stigma** and **psychological burden** associated with detention and its variants run counter to their best interests.

On this **International Day of Action to END the Immigration Detention of Children**, the Global Coalition on Migration strongly urges governments to prioritize the best interests of the child over other policy concerns, and to follow the advice of the Committee on the Rights of the Child—to “**expeditiously and completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their immigration status.**”

#EndChildDetention
#CRC25