

Situational roundtable of the 2016 High Commissioner's Dialogue

**Unaccompanied and separated children in Europe:
from principles to practices**

Moderated by Ms. Diane Goodman,
Deputy Director of UNHCR's Bureau for Europe

Speakers:

Youth Delegate, Ms. Farah Abdullahi Abdi
Lawyer, Young Persons' Project, Legal Services Agency, United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr. Andrew Sirel
Director, NIDOS, Netherlands, Mr. Gerard (Tin) Verstegen



Regional and national laws in Europe provide a solid framework for child protection that is based on international standards. However, these laws do not necessarily have a positive impact on refugee and migrant children. Children, State institutions and civil society actors often find themselves confronted with complex, confusing and costly bureaucratic procedures which do not adequately take into account the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Rescue Committee have established a consultative process to support States in enhancing the protection of UASC in Europe. During these consultations, over 90 practitioners (guardians, psychologists, social workers, lawyers, teachers, etc.) from nearly all European countries working with UASC developed concrete recommendations to better operationalize existing child protection standards in light of the specific challenges faced. During this side event, the main findings of these consultations, as well as further good practices and possible solutions to existing challenges in operationalizing child protection standards in Europe, will be discussed.

Thursday, 8 December 2016

13:30 – 15:00

Palais des Nations – Room XVI

Interpretation in English and French will be available.

