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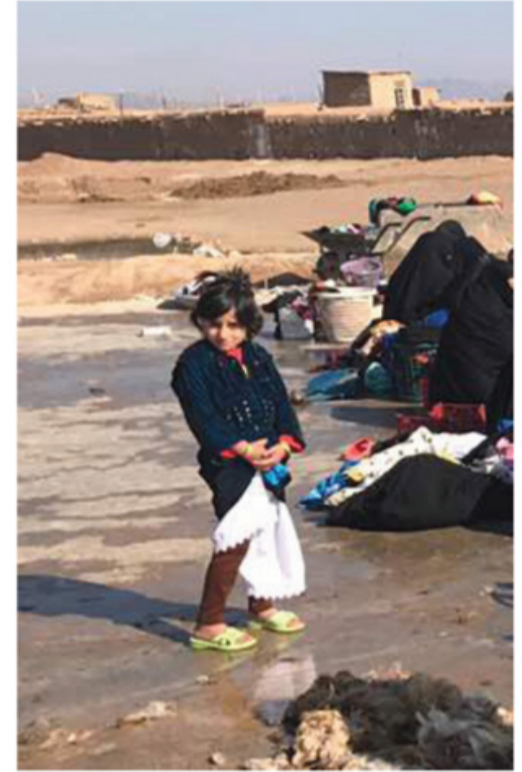


CENTRE DE  
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CARFMS/ACERMF



## Online Research and Training Tools (ORTT) & Practitioners Forum (PF)



**IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD**



## IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD

With so many conflicts and so much misery in the world, today, many countries are host to refugees fleeing their homes to safety and better conditions. Among those refugees, there is an alarming number of children, many of them orphans or separated from their family on purpose or by accident, travelling unaccompanied. In a situation of flight, children are extremely vulnerable and when seeking sanctuary they need special protection. This much is recognised by international organisations created to deal with mounting pressures regarding migration and confirmed by scholars and practitioners.

In Europe and America, where populism is mounting, few politicians nowadays welcome foreigners on their territory, and it is difficult to develop inclusive policies towards refugees, whatever their age. Yet the interest of the child is recognised as a fundamental value in practically all

countries that make up these continents. Therefore, these countries can and may set an example in putting into place adequate systems of protection especially for children. Due to the sensitivity of the debates, and the extent of the problems, the laws and policies of countries are developing slowly, but in several countries good practices are starting to develop.

In an effort to help practitioners deal with questions relating to children in migration, we are building a bilingual (English/French) glossary of terms covering the most important issues child migrants may be confronted with, and showing how different countries, especially in Europe and North America are managing (or not) to solve these issues in accordance with international law.

Dr. Armin Boroumand, an internationally acclaimed expert on the rights of minors and women, has developed a list of terms which are frequently used in refugee law and policy regarding children, with the purpose of developing it into a comprehensive international glossary.

It is placed on the ORTT/PF pages of the CARFMS website: <http://rfmsot.apps01.yorku.ca/in-the-interest-of-the-child/>

You can now contribute to the glossary by volunteering to write an entry. If you would like to do so, please contact Dr. Boroumand: [armin\\_boroumand@yahoo.com](mailto:armin_boroumand@yahoo.com)

All entries will be signed by their authors, and the best entries will be published in book form and brought to the attention of academics, practitioners and policy-makers.