

# Practical Tool for Guardians

Introduction to international  
protection



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**Introduction to international protection**

**June 2026**

On 19 January 2022, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) became the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). All references to EASO, EASO products and bodies should be understood as references to the EUAA.



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## About this series

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) have joined forces in the development of a series of practical tools for guardians of unaccompanied children with international protection needs. The objective is to support guardians in their daily tasks and responsibilities during the asylum procedure, including the procedure under the Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 (the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation) <sup>(1)</sup> and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 (the Dublin III regulation) <sup>(2)</sup> and temporary protection. The series of practical tools addresses the following topics:

- temporary protection;
- introduction to international protection;
- regular asylum procedure;
- transnational procedures.

The four tools complement each other.

The aim of these practical tools is to allow the guardian to better inform and assist children in the process, and thus help children to better understand the relevance of the steps involved. The child's meaningful participation and capacity to make informed decisions will be improved.

Good functioning guardianship systems are essential in promoting the best interests of the child and children's rights. Guardians are responsible for ensuring that any legal, social, medical and psychological needs are addressed throughout the specific procedure and until a durable solution is secured for the child.

In preparation for the drafting of these practical tools, the EUAA and FRA have consulted the European Guardianship Network through a rapid needs assessment to define the objectives and the topics covered by the practical tools.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 (OJ L, 2024/1351, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1351/oj>.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast) (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/604/oj>.

Considering the target group of this series, the tools are based on the handbook on guardianship by FRA and the European Commission <sup>(3)</sup> and are consistent with the FRA training modules for guardians <sup>(4)</sup> as well as with EUAA training curriculum <sup>(5)</sup>.

This guide was prepared without prejudice to the principle that only the Court of Justice of the European Union can give an authoritative interpretation of EU law.

Following an initial period of implementation of the Pact, this document may require updating, as needed.

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<sup>(3)</sup> FRA and the European Commission, *Guardianship for Children Deprived of Parental Care — A handbook to reinforce guardianship systems to cater for the specific needs of child victims of trafficking*, 26 June 2014 (second edition forthcoming in 2026), <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/guardianship-children-deprived-parental-care>.

<sup>(4)</sup> The FRA e-learning website is available at: <https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/>.

<sup>(5)</sup> EUAA training catalogue is available at: <https://training.euaa.europa.eu/>.

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## List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
<b>CEAS</b>	Common European Asylum System
<b>Charter</b>	The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
<b>CJEU</b>	Court of Justice of the European Union
<b>CRC</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>ECHR</b>	European Convention on Human Rights — Council of Europe, European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as amended by Protocols Nos. 11 and 14, 4 November 1950, ETS 5
<b>EUAA</b>	European Union Agency for Asylum
<b>EU+ countries</b>	EU Member States and Schengen associated countries
<b>FRA</b>	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
<b>Member States</b>	EU Member States
<b>QR</b>	<b>Qualification Regulation</b> — Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.
<b>RCD (2024)</b>	<b>Reception Conditions Directive</b> – Directive (EU) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection
<b>Refugee Convention</b>	The 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 Protocol (referred to in EU asylum legislation and by the Court of Justice of the EU as ‘the Geneva Convention’)
<b>Temporary Protection Directive</b>	Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof

## About this tool

This tool focuses on introduction to international protection <sup>(6)</sup>.

It aims at introducing newly appointed guardians to the concept of international protection, possible forms of protection recognised through the asylum procedure, the relevant legal framework and the related rights of the child.

The tool is structured in four parts:

1. What is international protection?

This chapter compiles the basic definitions included in international and EU law and provides a general overview about refugee status and subsidiary protection status.

2. What are the legal principles in international protection?

This chapter explains the principles of *non-refoulement*, the right to apply for asylum, the right to life and the prohibition of torture.

3. What is the legal framework related to the rights of the child?

This chapter details the principles and key rights in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) <sup>(7)</sup> and their connection with international protection.

4. What do I need as a guardian to support the child?

This chapter provides guidance to the guardian on key elements to consider when supporting children in accessing international protection and the rights stemming from it.

The tool provides hyperlinks to additional resources and information on international protection.

### Disclaimer

This tool reflects the legal framework of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) as reformed under the Pact on Migration and Asylum adopted in 2024. References to previous directives and regulations have been updated accordingly. National implementation measures may further specify certain provisions.

The information contained in this tool has been researched, evaluated and analysed with the utmost care. However, this document does not claim to be exhaustive.

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<sup>(6)</sup> For more on temporary protection, see the EUAA-FRA, *Practical Tool for Guardians – Temporary protection for unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine*, November 2022, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-tool-guardians>.

<sup>(7)</sup> UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.

# 1. What is international protection?

International protection is the way in which states **protect** third-country nationals when they are **at risk of persecution or serious harm in their country of nationality or habitual residence (if stateless)**. A person may be in need of international protection if they are afraid to return to their country of origin or habitual residence because they have a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group or they are at risk of suffering serious harm.

At the international level, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol <sup>(8)</sup> are the main legal instruments in the field of international protection, in particular with regard to **refugee status** and the **principle of non-refoulement**. The convention defines who is a refugee, their rights and the international standards for their treatment.

At the European level, the CEAS establishes a harmonised framework for granting international protection while ensuring respect for fundamental rights. Under the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Qualification Regulation <sup>(9)</sup> provides for two forms of international protection: refugee status and subsidiary protection, with directly applicable standards across Member States.

Be aware that temporary protection is also a form of international protection. Temporary protection is an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons from non-EU countries who are unable to return to their country of origin. The legal basis is found in Council Directive 2001/55/EC (the Temporary Protection Directive) <sup>(10)</sup>, adopted following the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia in 2001 but only triggered for the first time in March 2022 after Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. The Temporary Protection Directive was activated to allow those persons fleeing Ukraine to apply for temporary protection and to have immediate access to protection in the EU.

Some Member States might also offer other forms of national protection to children, such as a permit to stay based on their minor age, a permit to stay under national protection, such as on

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<sup>(8)</sup> UN General Assembly, Convention relating to the status of refugees, Geneva, 28 July 1951, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 137, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3be01b964.html> and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, 31 January 1967, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 606, p. 267 (referred to in EU asylum legislation and by the Court of Justice of the European Union as 'the Geneva Convention'), <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unqa/1967/en/41400>.

<sup>(9)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, (OJ L, 2024/1347, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1347/oj>.

<sup>(10)</sup> Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (OJ L 212, 7.8.2001), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2001/55/oj>

humanitarian grounds for study reasons or health considerations or special protection for victims of domestic violence.



### Related publication

To know more about the application of the Temporary Protection Directive to children, see the EUAA-FRA, *Practical Tool for Guardians – Temporary protection for unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine*, November 2022, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-tool-guardians>.

## 1.1. Refugee status

The 1951 Refugee Convention <sup>(11)</sup> and the QR <sup>(12)</sup> defines who is a refugee.



### Article 3(5) QR

*'refugee' means a third-country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it, and to whom Article 12 [exclusion] does not apply.*

**An applicant qualifies for refugee status** if they satisfy all the qualification criteria of the refugee definition, as listed below.

- They are **outside** their country of nationality or of former habitual residence for stateless applicants;
- They have a **well-founded fear of being persecuted**;
- The persecution is for reason of one or more of the **five grounds** (race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group);
- Owing to such fear the applicant is **unable or unwilling to avail of the protection** of their country;

None of the exclusion provisions apply. Exclusion is applicable, if there are serious reasons for considering that a child – who has reached minimum age for criminal responsibility – committed, for example, war crimes or a serious non-political crime outside the country in

<sup>(11)</sup> Article 1(A)2 Refugee Convention.

<sup>(12)</sup> Article 3(5) QR.

which the child is seeking asylum (or, in the case of subsidiary protection, that they constitute a danger to the community or national security <sup>(13)</sup>).

The QR lays down standards for the definition and content of refugee status, namely acts of persecution <sup>(14)</sup>, actors of persecution <sup>(15)</sup>, actors of protection <sup>(16)</sup>, the definitions of each of the five reasons for persecution <sup>(17)</sup>, and the reasons for exclusion <sup>(18)</sup>.

## 1.2. Subsidiary protection

Refugee status can only be granted if the well-founded fear of being persecuted is linked to at least one of the five aforementioned grounds. There are other situations where persons would be at risk of being subjected to serious harm if returned to their home country and therefore would be in need of protection. The EU asylum *acquis* provides for an additional form of international protection: subsidiary protection.



### Article 3(6) QR

*'person eligible for subsidiary protection' means a third-country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that that person, if returned to his or her country of origin or, in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm as defined in Article 15, and to whom Article 17(1) and (2) does not apply, and is unable or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country*

A person qualifies for subsidiary protection if they:

- **do not qualify** for refugee status;
- and
- if returned to their country of origin, would face a **real risk** of suffering serious harm.

Serious harm <sup>(19)</sup> consists of:

- the **death penalty** or execution; or

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<sup>(13)</sup> The exclusion grounds for refugee status (Article 12 QR) and subsidiary protection (Article 17 QR) reflect Article 1F Refugee Convention, with specific adaptations in EU law. Note, however, that the exclusion grounds laid out in the QR for refugee status (Article 12) and subsidiary protection (Article 17) are not exactly the same. Article 17(1) removes some of the requirements for serious crimes (Article 17(1)(b)) and introduces additional exclusion grounds (Article 17(1)(d) and Article 17(3)) for subsidiary protection. For further guidance, see the EUAA, *Practical Guide on Exclusion for Serious (Non-political) Crimes*, December 2021, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-exclusion-serious-non-political-crimes> (update forthcoming).

<sup>(14)</sup> Article 9 QR

<sup>(15)</sup> Article 6 QR

<sup>(16)</sup> Article 7 QR

<sup>(17)</sup> Article 10 QR.

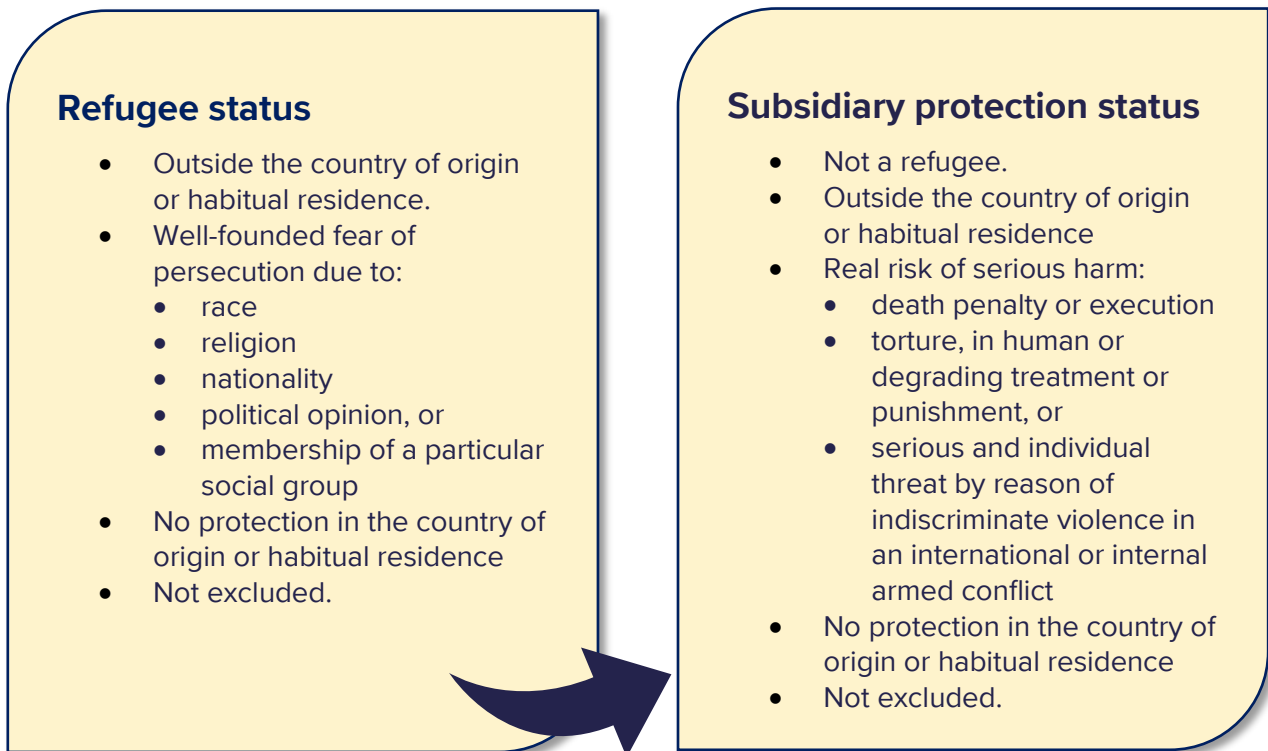
<sup>(18)</sup> Articles 12 and 17 QR.

<sup>(19)</sup> Article 15 QR.

- torture or **inhuman** or degrading **treatment** or punishment in the country of origin; or
- a serious and individual **threat to a civilian's life or person** by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.

The determining authority will always first examine whether the applicant qualifies for refugee status and, if not, whether the applicant is eligible for subsidiary protection <sup>(20)</sup>.

**Figure 1. Types of protection**



Note that on the basis of their own national legislation some EU+ countries could also grant a form of national protection through the international protection procedure or following the submission of a specific request directly to the competent authorities. Special protection permits based on humanitarian grounds are not considered a form of international protection. These kinds of permit are usually limited in time and may be renewed. For more information refer to your national legislation.

<sup>(20)</sup> Article 39(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (OJ L, 2024/1348, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/req/2024/1348/oj>.



### Practical tip

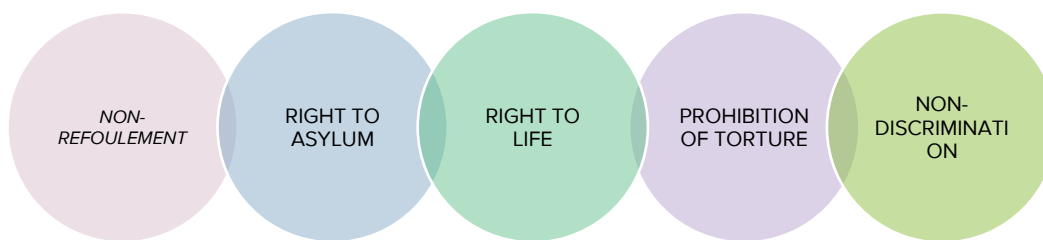
It is important that as a guardian you know the elements of the definition of refugee status and subsidiary protection, in order to help guide the child in the asylum process, help to register the application and bring the relevant documents and statements to the personal interview.

For example, if a child mentions to you a situation of persecution or risk of serious harm if they return, you could stress the importance of sharing that information with the competent authority.

## 2. What are the main principles of international protection?

International human rights law <sup>(21)</sup> lays down the obligations of governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups. Human rights are commonly understood as the inalienable rights to which a person is entitled merely for being human. They are built on underlying principles of universality, equality and non-discrimination, and are enshrined in treaties, rules of customary international law, EU law, national laws and other standards that define them and help to guarantee their full enjoyment. Human rights apply to all individuals, including all persons seeking international protection. Here you can see how some selected key fundamental rights are also linked with the right to asylum.

**Figure 2. The links between fundamental rights and the right to asylum**



### Principle of *non-refoulement*

*Non-refoulement* refers to the obligation of states to refrain from expelling or returning a person in any manner whatsoever to a country where they may face persecution and/or torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The principle of *non-refoulement* is a core principle of international and EU refugee law. It is enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention <sup>(22)</sup> and in a number of human rights instruments <sup>(23)</sup>.

<sup>(21)</sup> Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, 'International Human Rights Law' available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-and-mechanisms/international-human-rights-law>.

<sup>(22)</sup> Article 33 Refugee Convention establishes the obligation of the state not to *expel or return ('refouler') a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.*

<sup>(23)</sup> UN General Assembly, Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 10 December 1984, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1465, p. 85, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3a94.html>; UN General Assembly, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 999, p. 171, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3aa0.html>; Council of Europe, European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as amended by Protocols Nos. 11 and 14, 4 November 1950, ETS 5 (ECHR), [https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention\\_eng](https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_eng); European Union, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 26 October 2012, 2012/C 326/02, [http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char\\_2012/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj) (the Charter).

The prohibition of *refoulement* applies to all persons within the jurisdiction of a state also in the context of non-admission and rejection at borders. It is applicable to any form of forcible removal, including deportation, expulsion, extradition, informal transfer or 'renditions', and non-admission at the border in any phase of the asylum process.

The **principle of non-refoulement applies in all circumstances** irrespective of the legal status of the person (e.g. undocumented migrants) and in all administrative decisions related to the stay or removal of the person in the territory (e.g. expulsion).

The principle of *non-refoulement* prohibits both direct and indirect *refoulement*.

- **Direct** *refoulement* means the return of a person to a country where they may face persecution and/or torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- **Indirect** *refoulement* (also known as chain *refoulement*, secondary *refoulement* or onward *refoulement*) means the return of a person to a third country without sufficient guarantees that they will be protected against *refoulement* to the country where they may face persecution and/or torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

A **reliable assessment** as to the risk of direct or indirect *refoulement* must be undertaken by authorities in each individual case, prior to a refusal to enter or removal to a third country.

### Collective expulsion

Collective expulsion is also forbidden.

This means that states cannot remove individuals without examining their personal circumstances and, consequently, without enabling them to put forward their arguments against the measure taken by the relevant authority.

Their purpose is to guarantee that every decision to expel is based on an individual examination taking into consideration the individual and contextual circumstances.

An expulsion is characterised as 'collective' when there is no reasonable and objective examination of the particular case of each individual within the group. The size of the group expelled is not relevant: even two people may be sufficient to form a group <sup>(24)</sup>.

The principle of *non-refoulement* is directly linked to the right to asylum, which entails a requirement to grant individuals seeking international protection access to the territory and to a fair and efficient asylum procedure.



### Practical tip

It is important that as a guardian you have a good understanding of the principle on *non-refoulement*. This is in order to guarantee during the entire asylum process that children will not be refused entry to the country where protection could be sought, will not be expelled,

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<sup>(24)</sup> Article 4 of Protocol 4 of the ECHR.

or returned to a country where they may face persecution and/or torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

You should also inform the child about this principle so that they can flag any risk they may face in their country of nationality or former habitual residence or in a third country to which they might be sent back.

## Right to asylum

**The right to asylum is a fundamental right ensuring that a person who is in need of international protection has the effective opportunity to apply for international protection to the competent authority.**

International law, and in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948<sup>(25)</sup> establishes that the right to asylum is an inalienable and indispensable right and, specifically, provides that ‘everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in other countries’.

At EU level, the right to asylum is recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the Charter)<sup>(26)</sup>.

It is important to remember that granting access to the asylum procedure does not necessarily mean granting the applicant international protection. The application will be duly examined by the competent authority which, subsequently, will issue the decision as to whether or not to grant protection to the person.

Many adults and children who may be in need of international protection are not aware of the rights, obligations and procedures for applying for international protection. It is therefore those who work on the front line in the field of migration who play a crucial role in guaranteeing everyone the right to asylum and guaranteeing access to international protection. This is done by proactively identifying people who may wish to apply for international protection, providing them with relevant information on the possibility of applying for asylum and referring them to the relevant authorities.

The wish to apply for asylum can be expressed in any form. This means the expression could also be verbally made but note that words such as ‘asylum’ or ‘refugee’ do not necessarily have to be pronounced. It is sufficient that the will to ask for international protection is manifested in any form. For example, expressing a ‘fear of returning’ is sufficient.

<sup>(25)</sup> Article 14 UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, 217 A (III), <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

<sup>(26)</sup> Article 18 of the Charter.



### Practical tip

As a guardian you have an essential role in guaranteeing that the right to asylum is fully respected. For example, you might refer a child into the asylum procedure if they have expressed the need for asylum without explicitly referring to ‘asylum’ or ‘international protection’.

### Prohibition of torture

The prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment is closely related to the ***non-refoulement*** principle detailed in the previous chapter. States have an obligation to protect persons within **their territory from being exposed to the risk of such treatment or punishment**, irrespective of whether the risk is within the territory or if the risk exists outside the territory <sup>(27)</sup>. This is a non-derogable right.

### Right to life

At the international level, the right to life is laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that ‘Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person’ <sup>(28)</sup>.

The right to life is also recognised by the Charter <sup>(29)</sup>. Member States and their officials have a positive obligation to safeguard life, including taking preventive measures <sup>(30)</sup>. This flows from the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, whose case-law must also guide the interpretation of the rights set out in the Charter, in accordance with Article 52(3).

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<sup>(27)</sup> Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is recognised in Article 4 of the Charter as follows: ‘No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment’. The prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is an absolute right, which means that there are no permitted exceptions or qualifications. That means neither the public interest nor the rights of others nor the actions of the victim, however dangerous or criminal, can justify treatment prohibited by the article.

<sup>(28)</sup> Article 3 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<sup>(29)</sup> Article 2 of the Charter: ‘1. Everyone has the right to life. 2. No one shall be condemned to the death penalty or executed.’

<sup>(30)</sup> Preventive measures could be, for example, to protect someone from drowning in that state’s territorial waters, to protect the person from violence committed by others and from self-harm, and to protect people living near dangerous industrial sites in the event of a disaster. Consider this in the light of an applicant for international protection talking about suicide or an applicant in custody stating they have tuberculosis or HIV and need medicine. In these circumstances, state agents have an obligation to take preventive measures to safeguard the life of the applicants.

### 3. What is the legal framework related to children's rights in international protection?

#### 3.1. International and regional legal framework

The main international legal instrument related to children rights is the CRC. All Member States have ratified this convention and are obliged to apply it to all children in their territory, no matter their nationality or legal status. The CRC recognises children's social, economic, political, civil and cultural rights.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child monitors State Parties' compliance with the CRC and issues guidance and recommendations on the implementation and interpretation of the convention.



#### Article 22 CRC

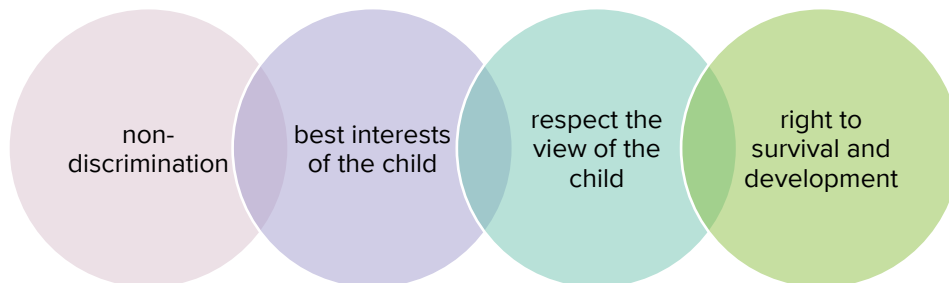
*States Parties shall **take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee** in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, **receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance** in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties. (emphasis added)*

It is important to note that all the rights set forth in the CRC are applicable to children who apply for international protection. However, to ensure the rights and protection of children in the asylum process, who are considered to be in a particularly vulnerable situation, it is especially important to be aware of the following rights to:

- asylum
- protection from violence, abuse and neglect
- liberty
- family life
- freedom of expression and to be informed
- education
- healthcare
- accommodation
- social allowance and social security
- name, nationality and identity.

The CRC entails four key binding principles that guide the application of the rights enshrined in the convention.

**Figure 3. The four key binding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**



At the regional level, a large number of conventions and their respective treaty bodies also protect the rights of children seeking asylum <sup>(31)</sup>.

### 3.2. EU legal framework

The existing EU policies and legislation provide a framework for the protection of children's rights in the asylum process, covering all aspects including reception conditions, the examination of their applications and integration.

The Treaty on European Union <sup>(32)</sup> lays down the EU's obligation to promote the protection of the rights of the child. The Charter, regulations and directives, as well as the jurisprudence of the CJEU, have contributed to further determining the protection of these rights <sup>(33)</sup>.

The Charter <sup>(34)</sup> includes three general principles inspired by the CRC, which are:

- children should be allowed to express their views freely and such views must be taken into account on matters that concern the child, in accordance with their age and maturity;
- in all actions relating to children, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration;
- every child must have the right to maintain a personal relationship on a regular basis and have direct contact with both of their parents, unless that is contrary to their best interests.

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<sup>(31)</sup> The jurisprudence of the ECHR; Council of Europe, European Social Charter, Collected texts (7<sup>th</sup> edition), updated 1 January 2015, <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168048b059>; Council of Europe, Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, CETS No. 201, entry into force 01.07.2010, <https://rm.coe.int/1680084822>; Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, CETS No. 197, entry into force 01.02.2008, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treaty-num=197>.

<sup>(32)</sup> EU, Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union, (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012), [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu\\_2012/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu_2012/oj).

<sup>(33)</sup> FRA, *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child*, 2022 edition, February 2022, [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-coe-2022-handbook-child-rights\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-coe-2022-handbook-child-rights_en.pdf).

<sup>(34)</sup> Article 24 of the Charter.

Six legislative instruments, considered to be the building blocks of the reformed CEAS under the Pact on Migration and Asylum, establish a number of provisions dedicated to children.

- **The Reception Conditions Directive (EU) 2024/1346 (RCD 2024)** <sup>(35)</sup> aims to ensure a dignified standard of living for applicants and more comparable reception conditions across Member States. It includes explicit provisions on children and unaccompanied children, setting minimum standards for age-appropriate, tailored reception conditions and safeguards in line with the best interests of the child <sup>(36)</sup>.
- **The Asylum Procedure Regulation (EU) 2024/1348** establishes a common procedure for examining applications for international protection across Member States. It provides procedural guarantees for children, including the right to appropriate support, representation for unaccompanied children and child-sensitive procedural safeguards throughout the asylum process.
- **The Qualification Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 (QR)** lays down the conditions for granting refugee status or subsidiary protection and defines the rights attached to these statuses. It includes specific safeguards for children and recognises that certain forms of harm — such as child-specific or gender-based violence — may amount to persecution.
- **The Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (EU) 2024/1351** establishes the system for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection and introduces a solidarity mechanism among Member States. It includes specific safeguards to ensure that responsibility decisions involving children are guided by the best interests of the child and by family unity considerations.
- **The Eurodac Regulation (EU) 2024/1358** <sup>(37)</sup> lays down the legal framework for an EU-wide database that stores biometric data. The database supports the implementation of asylum and migration rules, including responsibility determination. The regulation includes safeguards regarding the protection of children’s data and requires that the best interests of the child are taken into account.
- **The Temporary Protection Directive** lays out down the minimum standards for providing temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons. It was implemented for the first time in March 2022 after Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine. It establishes particular obligations for the Member States to protect children

<sup>(35)</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L, 2024/1346, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/33/oj>.

<sup>(36)</sup> The RCD (2024) refers to the following concepts and categories in these recitals and articles: minor in Article 2(4) and Article 26; unaccompanied minor in Article 2(5) and Article 27; family members in Article 2(3); representative in Article 2(13), Article 27 and recitals 42–45; family unity in Article 14 and recitals 22 and 38; best interests of the child in Article 2(13), Articles 13 and 26 and recitals 35, 38, 40, 41 and 62; minor’s best interests in Article 13(2), Article 27 and recital 40; applicants with special reception needs in Article 2(14) and Article 25; registration and documentation in Article 6; and tracing the members of the unaccompanied minor’s family in Article 27(10).

<sup>(37)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1358 on the establishment of ‘Eurodac’ for the comparison of biometric data in order to effectively apply Regulations (EU) 2024/1351 and (EU) 2024/1350 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 2001/55/EC and to identify illegally staying third-country nationals and stateless persons and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States’ law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L, 2024/1358, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/req/2024/1358/oj>.

and the European Commission has issued recommendations on how to fulfil them <sup>(38)</sup>. The **Screening Regulation** <sup>(39)</sup> is also relevant as it includes specific provisions for children who are channelled into the screening process. This regulation establishes the screening at the external borders of third-country nationals who have crossed the external border in an unauthorised manner, have applied for international protection during border checks, or have been disembarked after a search and rescue operation, before they are referred to the appropriate procedure. Third-country nationals illegally staying within the territory of the Member States must also be screened if they crossed the border illegally and have not been screened before.



### Related publication

To know more about the application of the Temporary Protection Directive to children, see the EUAA-FRA, *Practical Tool for Guardians – Temporary protection for unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine*, November 2022, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-tool-guardians>.

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<sup>(38)</sup> European Commission, 'Temporary protection' webpage available at [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/asylum-eu/temporary-protection\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/asylum-eu/temporary-protection_en).

<sup>(39)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 introducing the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/817 (OJ L, 2024/1356, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/req/2024/1356/oj>.

## 4. What do I need to do as a guardian to support the child applying for international protection?

### 4.1. How do I support the child?

In general, international and European standards assign the below tasks and responsibilities to guardians of unaccompanied children to ensure the respect of their best interests.



#### Related publication

A detailed overview of the role of the guardian in the procedure is included in the EUAA-FRA, *Practical Tool for Guardians – The asylum procedure*, June 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/tool-guardians-asylum-procedure>.

#### Protect the child's safety and well-being

- Be available and accessible and dedicate sufficient time to each child.
- Develop a relationship of trust with the child, treat the child with the respect and dignity.
- Safeguard the child, including by ensuring the child receives appropriate care and services and protecting the child against all forms and risks of violence and exploitation.
- Support and facilitate the identification and/or the assessment of the child's special needs or any additional vulnerabilities and refer the child to the services they need.
- Support the child in enrolling onto school or educational programmes and in applying for the services that the child needs.
- Support the child in the transition to adulthood and independent life.
- Verify family links and support family tracing and/or family reunification where this is in the child's best interests.
- Support the child in all administrative matters.

#### Facilitate the child's participation by hearing their views and create the space for the others to consider the child's views while informing the child

As a guardian, you should inform the child of their rights and entitlements, available services, and the different procedures that concern the child, including the specific steps and possible outcomes of procedures. You should proactively engage the child in all decisions as well as

guaranteeing that the principle of confidentiality is respected so that the child feels safe to share their views.

#### **Act as a link between the child and others**

- Act as an advocate for the child and promote their rights and best interests in relation to different state authorities and service providers and in specific procedures. Ensure the child has access to information from other actors, such as lawyers or social workers.
- Support the child in the different proceedings and help the child understand the content of official communication, decision-making and proceedings and what they mean for the child; ensure understanding and adequate interpretation or access to cultural mediators when needed.

#### **Assist in identifying durable solution in the child's best interests**

- Help identify and implement a durable solution for the child in the country of arrival, in the country of origin, or in a third country, according to the best interests of the child.

#### **Exercise legal capacity, where necessary, support the child in legal procedures and ensure access to legal assistance and counselling**

- Complement the child's limited legal capacity, for instance when signing official documents on behalf of the child.
- Apply for international protection for the child where this is in their best interests.
- Accompany the child to hearings and interviews and ensure that special procedural guarantees are provided.
- Ensuring the child's right to legal assistance is fulfilled; this could include legal information, counselling and representation in some cases.
- Ensure family tracing is started as soon as possible, in line with the child best interests;
- Manage the child's property.
- Provide informed consent for medical examinations and treatments of the child, including a medical examination for the purpose of age assessment, where applicable, based on a consultation with the child and according to what is in their best interests <sup>(40)</sup>.

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<sup>(40)</sup> For more information, see the EUAA, *Practical Guide on Age Assessment*, November 2025, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-age-assessment-0>.



### Related training materials

For more information on your role as a guardian and to improve your skills have a look at the training materials developed by FRA in close coordination with the European Guardianship Network available at <https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/>. The training builds on international and EU standards, in particular the CRC, Council of Europe standards and EU law.

The training materials span the diversity of guardianship services and training contexts for unaccompanied children found across the EU to offer a standardised learning experience. It can also be adapted to different contexts, such as professional, academic and volunteer training, and national or local needs. It builds on earlier FRA work on guardianship.



### Related Council of Europe recommendation

For more information on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration, see the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States <sup>(41)</sup>.

## What to consider regarding international protection in a nutshell

In particular, for unaccompanied children in the context of the international protection, you should consider the following.

- **An assessment of the particular situation of the child, according to what is in their best interests.** This means that all possible legal pathways are considered and evaluated with the child, such as, international protection, temporary protection or any other possible legal pathways. Depending on the country, this assessment might be conducted by child protection authorities and/or asylum authorities, involving you as a nominated guardian.
- **Registration.** As the guardian, you should support the child in registering and applying for international protection following the national procedure. Be aware that there might be cases where national protection may be a better option for the child and you will also support the child in that procedure (e.g. permit to stay based on their minor age, permit to stay under national protection such as on humanitarian grounds for study reasons or health considerations, special protection for victims of domestic violence).

<sup>(41)</sup> Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration, adopted 11 December 2019, <https://rm.coe.int/0900001680993db7>.



### Related publication

To know more about this specific phase, see the EUAA, *Practical guide on the registration and lodging of applications for international protection*, December 2025, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-registration-lodging>.

- **Personal interview.** If the child has been channelled through the asylum procedure you should ensure they understand the meaning of the personal interview and the possible outcome.



### Related publication

To know more about this specific phase, see the EUAA guides available on various topics relating to the examination of the application for international protection. All guides are available here <https://euaa.europa.eu/practical-tools-and-guides>.

- **Accommodation.** The RCD (2024) provides that the best interests of the unaccompanied child is to be taken into consideration during the placement (recital 35 RCD). An unaccompanied child could be accommodated with an adult relative, with a foster family, in other accommodation facilities tailored to the child's needs.

The RCD (2024) also states that children should be guaranteed a facility that allows them to enjoy open-air activities and be given access to leisure activities, including play and recreational activities appropriate to their age <sup>(42)</sup>.

- To evaluate the most appropriate housing solution for the child, the representative has to be involved during the allocation and possible re-allocation(s) of the child, taking into account that siblings should be kept together, if in their best interests, and changes of residence should be limited to a minimum <sup>(43)</sup>.
- The RCD (2024) lays down that the representative is to support, assist and act on behalf of the child in different moments, such as:
  - › when the child is provided with information regarding reception conditions, on organisations/groups that provide legal assistance and representation, on organisations that might be able to help or inform them about available reception conditions, including healthcare <sup>(44)</sup>, so as to be able to explain the information provided <sup>(45)</sup>;
  - › liaise with the competent authorities to ensure immediate access for the unaccompanied child to suitable material reception conditions and healthcare <sup>(46)</sup>;
  - › contribute to the identification of any special reception needs of the child during the individual assessment performed by the Member State <sup>(47)</sup>.

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<sup>(42)</sup> Article 26(3) RCD (2024).

<sup>(43)</sup> Article 27(9) RCD (2024).

<sup>(44)</sup> Article 5(2) RCD (2024).

<sup>(45)</sup> Recital 43 RCD (2024).

<sup>(46)</sup> Recital 43 RCD (2024).

<sup>(47)</sup> Article 25(1) RCD (2024).



### Related publication

For more information, see the EUAA, *Operational Standards and Indicators on Reception including Vulnerability-related Aspects*, April 2026,

<https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/operational-standards-indicators-reception-including-vulnerability-aspects>.

- **Access to education.** The RCD (2024) provides that Member States must grant child applicants access to the education system under similar conditions to their own nationals for as long as an expulsion measure against them is not actually enforced <sup>(48)</sup>. Once enrolled in school, unaccompanied children should benefit from the same services as national children taking into account their special needs. As the guardian, you should make sure that indeed access to quality education has been granted. You might need to support the child in any administrative requirements, for example to validate previous degrees or diplomas or facilitate access to language lessons.
- **Access to medical or other assistance.** The RCD (2024) refers to healthcare in multiple articles <sup>(49)</sup>. Unaccompanied children, as persons who might have special needs, are thus entitled to the same type of healthcare as provided to the Member State's own nationals who are children. This could include, for example, psychological support for children witnessing war crimes, or services for child victims of rape. As the guardian, you should ensure the child is referred and has effective access to the relevant services.
- **Family reunification.** The guardian should promote close contact with the parents of the child provided if this is in the child's best interests. When the child does not have contact with parents or family members or does not know their whereabouts, the guardian should encourage the authorities to initiate family tracing and eventually family reunification if appropriate <sup>(50)</sup>.



### Related publication

To know more about safeguards in the asylum process, see the EUAA-FRA, *Practical Tool for Guardians – The asylum procedure*, June 2026,

<https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/tool-guardians-asylum-procedure>.

<sup>(48)</sup> Recital 48, Article 16 and 26(3) RCD (2024).

<sup>(49)</sup> Articles 19, 22 and 28 RCD (2024).

<sup>(50)</sup> For more information on family tracing see EUAA, *Practical Guide on Family Tracing – Part I. Principles and practices on family tracing in the EU+ and third countries*, April 2025, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-family-tracing-part-i-principles-practices>.

### Alternative legal pathways available in your country

To be filled by the EU+ country.

Country-specific information on alternative pathways can be found in the EUAA's Who is Who platform available at <https://whoiswho.euaa.europa.eu/>.

Please be aware that 'other legal pathways' should not hinder the possibility for children to apply for international protection should the need arise.

## 4.2. How to ensure the best interests of the child in the asylum procedure

Under the Asylum Procedures Regulation and the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all decisions affecting unaccompanied children, including the procedure to determine the responsible member state and border procedures.

Any best interests of the child process must give due consideration to child's views; the parents or guardian/caregiver's views; the identity of the child; the child's family environment, family relations and contacts; the situation in their country of origin; their protection needs; the care, protection and safety of the child, including the child's well-being and development; situations of vulnerability, including the risks that the child is facing and the sources of protection, level of integration in the host country; and mental and physical health, education and socioeconomic conditions <sup>(51)</sup>.

This analysis can be conducted by social workers employed by the asylum authority or by other actors and made available to the asylum authority. It must be set within the context of the child's gender; sexual orientation or gender identity; national, ethnic or social origin; religion; disability; migration or residence status; citizenship status; age; economic status; political or other opinion <sup>(52)</sup>; cultural and linguistic background or other status.

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<sup>(51)</sup> UNHCR, *2021 UNHCR Best Interests Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child*, May 2021, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5c18d7254.html>.

<sup>(52)</sup> United Nations, *Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration*, 16 November 2017, section I, paragraph 3, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1323014?v=pdf>.



### Practical tip

As the guardian, you have to ensure the child's best interests are assessed by the authorities whenever decisions affecting the child are made <sup>(53)</sup>. These might include, for instance, decisions about safety, accommodation, education, healthcare, leisure activities, legal representation, potential relocations and/or transfers to another Member State or another durable solution, as well as in family tracing and reunification. Multidisciplinary cooperation in best interests assessments is key, including input from guardians, social workers, legal representatives and care professionals. During the assessment, the right of the child to be heard needs to be respected (see next section). This obligation also applies in the limited situations where an application is examined under a border procedure pursuant to the Asylum Procedure Regulation, which provides for specific safeguards for unaccompanied children that guardians should actively monitor and promote.

You should follow up on decisions that have a negative impact on the child with whatever mechanism is appropriate, intervene when the welfare of the child is in danger and challenge, within the limits of your authority, any decision that is deemed to be contrary to and/or does not promote the child's best interests.

Understanding the best interests of the child requires decision-makers to assess the needs of the child in the asylum procedure in a comprehensive way and to take those needs into account. This means to support the child during the whole administrative procedure but also be able to intervene with authorities if the child has special needs, for example in terms of accommodation, education and healthcare. Your role is to promote the wellbeing of the child and to react if the child express difficulties in interacting with the authorities and the administrative system.

<sup>(53)</sup> UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, *Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration*, 16 November 2017, CMW/C/GC/3-CRC/C/GC/22, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/joint-general-comment-no-3-cmw-and-no-22-crc-context>; UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, *Joint general comment No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return*, 16 November 2017, CMW/C/GC/4-CRC/C/GC/23, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/joint-general-comment-no-4-cmw-and-no-23-crc-2017>.



### Related publication

For more detailed information on the specific action to take during the asylum procedure, refer to another tool in this series, the EUAA-FRA, *Practical Tool for Guardians – The asylum procedure*, June 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/tool-guardians-asylum-procedure>.

For a comprehensive overview, see the EUAA, *Practical guide on best interests of the child in the framework of international protection*, March 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-best-interests-child-international-protection>.



### Practical tip

As the guardian, you should participate in relevant assessments about the child to ensure that the rights and the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all decision-making processes and that the right of the child to be heard is respected. This is required by Article 12 CRC and Article 24 of the Charter.

## 4.3. How to facilitate the participation of the child

The right to be heard (Article 12 CRC) outlines the rights of children to have their views heard and taken into consideration in accordance with their age and maturity. This right applies in all decisions affecting the child, including in relation to service provision and in the context of administrative and judicial proceedings. Children have different needs to make their views heard and to be listened to, some children may be timid, may have hearing or speaking impairments, some children may need an interpreter. Some children may be used to forming and expressing their opinion, for others this might be more difficult. The guardian should also manage the expectations of the child, as the decisions of the authorities might not always correspond with the child's wishes.

In the case of unaccompanied children seeking international protection, state officials and service providers will have to ensure for most children that they have access to assistance from an interpreter and that interpretation services respect quality standards, do not interfere with the content and substance of the communication, are neutral and at no point intimidate the child. The sex of an interpreter and the case officer may be relevant for a child and a child should be asked for their preferences, especially where the child is a victim of violence or exploitation or where the subject of the communication touches upon other sensitive issues.

This right is strictly correlated with the right to be informed. At all times, the child has a right to seek, receive and share information<sup>(54)</sup>. Information must be provided in a language that the

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<sup>(54)</sup> UN CRC, see footnote 7; UN General Assembly, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 999, p. 171,

child understands. Providing information to the child is the responsibility of all actors who are in contact with the child, but it is also a very important aspect of your role as guardian. The child might not receive adequate information, or might have misunderstood, or might have forgotten. This right is strictly linked with the importance to receive legal assistance.

The right to confidentiality in the framework of asylum should be granted at all times. The child should be informed that all the information shared is confidential and under no circumstances will it be shared with the authorities of the country of origin. The information should be provided in a child-friendly manner, including taking into account the child's age and maturity.



### Practical tip

As a guardian, you have a responsibility to make sure the appropriate information reaches the child.

Other practical steps may include allowing and encouraging children to speak without the interruption, do not judge, contradict or challenge the children on the information they provide. Give children and families the right to ask questions and actively seek consent prior to sharing the information. Allocate enough time for the pauses and breaks in which the child is allowed to move, play and interact with friends. Information provision is not a one-time action but an ongoing process, as children may only gradually understand the procedures and their rights over time. Help identify and use the most appropriate way to communicate with the children with disabilities. Provide writing and drawing material to help children describe their stories <sup>(55)</sup>.

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3aa0.html>; UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General comment No. 6 (2005): Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their Country of Origin*, 1 September 2005, CRC/GC/2005/6, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/general/crc/2005/38046>; UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General comment No. 12 (2009): The right of the child to be heard*, 20 July 2009, CRC/C/GC/12, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4ae562c52.html>; UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1)*, 29 May 2013, CRC /C/GC/14, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/51a84b5e4.html>; Council of Europe, *European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights*, ETS No. 160, entry into force 01.07.2000, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=160>.

<sup>(55)</sup> UNHCR, *Technical Guidance: Child Friendly Procedures*, 2021, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/61b7355a4.html>.

# Annex 1. Additional resources

## EUAA

### Access to the asylum procedure and registration

EUAA, *Practical guide on the registration and lodging of applications for international protection*, December 2025, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-registration-lodging>.

EUAA, *Practical Guide on Information Provision in the Asylum Procedure*, February 2024, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-information-provision-asylum-procedure>.

The EUAA's Let's Speak Asylum portal available at <https://lsa.euaa.europa.eu/> compiles resources for information providers and professionals designing communication and information provision activities in the field of asylum and reception.

### Examination of the application

EUAA, *Practical Guide on Qualification for International Protection*, June 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/qualification-international-protection-practical-guide>.

EUAA, *Guidance on Membership of a Particular Social Group*, May 2025, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-membership-particular-social-group>.

EUAA, *Practical Guide on Evidence and Risk Assessment*, January 2024, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-evidence-and-risk-assessment>.

EUAA, *Practical Guide on Political Opinion*, December 2022, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-political-opinion>.

EUAA, *Practical Guide – Interviewing applicants with religion-based asylum claims*, November 2022, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-interviewing-applicants-religion-based-asylum-claims> (update forthcoming).

EASO, *Practical Guide: Personal interview*, December 2014, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-personal-interview>.

### Child-related resources

EUAA guides on family tracing:

- *Practical Guide on Family Tracing – Part I. Principles and practices on family tracing in the EU+ and third countries*, April 2025,

<https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-family-tracing-part-i-principles-practices>.

- *Practical Guide on Family Tracing – Part II. Tracing and identifying family members under the asylum and migration management regulation*, April 2025, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-family-tracing-part-ii-tracing-AMMR>.

The EUAA family tracing forms are available as both static and interactive versions:

- Family Tracing Form – Child – interactive, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/family-tracing-form-child-interactive>.
- Family Tracing Form – Child – static, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/family-tracing-form-child>
- Family Tracing Form – Adult – interactive, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/family-tracing-form-adult-interactive>.
- Family Tracing Form – Adult – static, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/family-tracing-form-adult>.

EUAA, *Practical guide on best interests of the child in the framework of international protection*, March 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-best-interests-child-international-protection>.

EUAA, *Operational Standards and Indicators on Reception including Vulnerability-related aspects*, April 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/operational-standards-indicators-reception-including-vulnerability-aspects> or EASO, *Guidance on reception conditions for unaccompanied children: operational standards and indicators*, 2018, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/guidance-reception-conditions-unaccompanied-children>.

EUAA-FRA, Practical tools for guardians series on the following topics:

- the asylum procedure, June 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/tool-guardians-asylum-procedure>;
- transnational procedures, 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/tool-guardians-transnational-procedures-framework-international-protection>.
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