



The European Programme for
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)
with support from
the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



HELP Course on Refugee and Migrant Children

United Kingdom Launch Event

13th November 2018

***International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment, Lambeth, London SE1 7SR***

Introduction

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)**¹ will be launching a national version of its **new Course on Refugee and Migrant Children, aimed specifically at UK legal professionals** who wish to improve their knowledge and skills on the existing European and international standards in this area, their relevance in the United Kingdom's legal context, and how to apply them in their daily work. This launch is being supported by the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**.

The tutored online course will be launched for up to 30 participants and will last approximately three months. A launch event will be held on the 13th November 2018 to introduce the participants to the course and their tutor, and will include a number of presentations and exchanges with relevant agencies and experts working on this topic.

Those interested in registering for the course may contact Douglas Maxwell (douglas.maxwell@coe.int) at the HELP secretariat for further information.

Background

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)**² is aimed at supporting the CoE member States in implementing the European human rights standards at the national level, focusing on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), other key CoE instruments and, since 2015, EU law. This is done by raising the capacities of legal professionals to apply those instruments in their daily work.

The objective of HELP is to provide high quality education on human rights to judges, lawyers and prosecutors throughout Europe. Thanks to HELP courses, legal professionals can better protect human rights on a national level and keep up to date with the ever-evolving standards and case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). HELP courses specifically designed for EU countries increasingly incorporate relevant EU laws.

The [HELP methodology](#) takes into account the heavy time pressure imposed on legal professionals in their daily work. Its **added value** is that curricula are drafted on a tailor-made basis, meeting participants' specific training needs and learning pace, allowing for flexibility.

HELP is:

- the only pan-European Network of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 CoE Member States.
- an e-learning platform with free on-line courses on human rights.
- a human rights training methodology for legal professionals.

¹ For more information on HELP please see the last page of this document and visit HELP's website: www.coe.int/help

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Refugee and Migrant Children

The mass arrivals of those seeking refuge in Europe from war and persecution, as well as the continuing movement of persons across the Mediterranean and Turkey, act as a constant reminder of the precarious situation refugees and migrants find themselves in. All Council of Europe member states are affected by the refugee/migration flows, either directly or indirectly, as countries of origin, transit, destination or resettlement.

Children on the move, especially in an irregular way, remain one of the most vulnerable groups in Europe today. For instance, some 26 000 child migrants arrived in Europe in 2015 without any accompanying family. Regardless of their status and the fact that they are accompanied or not, children on the move may suffer persistent violations of their rights.

To aid prevent further such violations, the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), jointly with the [Office of the Special Representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General on Migration and Refugees](#), **Tomáš Boček**, developed the **HELP course on Refugee and Migrant Children**. The course is one of the measures implementing the [Council of Europe Action Plan on protecting Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe \(2017-2019\)](#).

This course explains how critical issues are addressed in the international and European legal framework and provides an overview of the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. It allows legal and other professionals to improve their knowledge and skills on the existing standards and to apply them in their daily work. The course covers the following modules:

- **Introduction to the legal framework**
- **Child-friendly procedures**
- **Alternatives to detention**
- **Family reunification**
- **Social rights and integration**
- **Guardianship**
- **Age assessment**

The National Course

Over 3 months the participants will work through the course and its national adaptation that is tailored to the specific legal context of their jurisdiction. During the launch, the participants will be registered on their respective course pages, given instruction on how to use the course, and meet with their tutor. The participants who successfully complete the course and pass the evaluation set by the tutor will receive certificates issued by the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe.

Preparation

Before the launch, participants should:

- ✓ Watch the (5 minute) video on the HELP methodology: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/home>
- ✓ Create an account on the [HELP e-learning platform](#), following the instructions available in the attached document 'HELP in 3 steps'

Further information

For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Douglas Maxwell (douglas.maxwell@coe.int) at the HELP Secretariat.

Tuesday 13th November 2018 IMO, 4 Albert Embankment, Lambeth, London SE1 7SR	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and registration of participants
09:30 – 09:45	Welcoming address <i>UNHCR Representative [TBD]</i> <i>London Field Office, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
09:45 – 10:15	Introduction to the HELP Programme <i>Eva PASTRANA</i> <i>Head of Unit, HELP Programme, Council of Europe</i>
10:15 – 10:45	The content of the course, its objectives and structure <i>John DORBER</i> <i>Migration Consultant, HELP Course drafter and Tutor</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Round table with the participants
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:50	Refugee and Migrant Children in the context of the Council of Europe, European Union and the United Kingdom <i>Douglas Maxwell</i> <i>Project Officer, HELP Programme, Council of Europe</i> Jurisprudence of the ECtHR <i>Delphine LENEUTRE</i> <i>Strasbourg Office, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i> Strategic Litigation in the Asylum Context <i>Markella PAPADOULI</i> <i>Europe Litigation Coordinator, The Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE) Centre</i>
12:50 – 13:00	Group Photo
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 16:15	Presentation of the online course and Practical information for the participants: How the platform works, the role of the tutor, assessment criteria, applicability, etc <i>John DORBER</i> <i>Migration Consultant, HELP Course drafter and Tutor</i>
16:15 – 16:45	Conclusions: Questions & Discussion