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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

Opinion on PACE Recommendation 2196 (2021) on “Impact of labour migration on left-behind children”

- Prepared by the Bureau and adopted by the CDENF by tacit approval -

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Opinion on PACE Recommendation 2196 (2021) on “Impact of labour migration on left-behind children” (in appendix)

1. Following the adoption on 19 March 2021 of Recommendation 2196 (2020) on “Impact of labour migration on left-behind children” by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (hereafter “PACE”), the Committee of Ministers, at the 1400th meeting of the Minister’s Deputies held on 31 March 2021, “agreed to communicate it to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), to the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and to the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), for information and possible comments by 30 April 2021”.
2. The Bureau of the CDENF examined the Recommendation by applying the procedure set out in Article 13(b) of [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#), and approved the following comments concerning those aspects of PACE Recommendation 2196 (2020) which are of particular relevance to its Terms of Reference and shared it with the CDENF for tacit approval.
3. The CDENF welcomes the initiative taken by the PACE and by its Rapporteur to instigate work on the very topical issue of the impact of labour migration on children and on children’s enjoyment of their rights, including, notably, the right to the protection of their family life and the right to be cared for by their parents. The Committee appreciates the encouragement to systematically consider, along with the other relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, the issue of left-behind children in its work. Within the remits of its terms of reference, the CDENF is committed to consider situations of vulnerability for children across all of its priority areas and takes duly note of the importance that the PACE attaches to this issue.

Appendix

Recommendation 2196 (2021) (Provisional version)

Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated migrant children

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its Resolution 2366 (2021) “Impact of labour migration on left-behind children” and to its Resolution 2310 (2019) “Labour migration from eastern Europe and its impact on socio-demographic processes in these countries”, and notes that the Council of Europe has a broad range of legal instruments that can help its member States in improving the situation of left-behind children, including the European Social Charter (revised) (ETS No. 163), the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No. 201, “Lanzarote Convention”), the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, “Istanbul Convention”) and the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197). However, the Assembly is concerned that the impact of labour migration is often underestimated, and that left-behind children are a particularly vulnerable group who are largely invisible and are not given sufficient attention.
2. The Assembly calls on the Committee of Ministers to encourage the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, including the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, the European Committee of Social Rights, the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child, the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention and the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) to systematically consider the issue of left-behind children in their work.
3. The Assembly recalls its Recommendation 2108 (2017) “A comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis and the continuing flows into Europe” and its Recommendation 2109 (2017) “Migration as an opportunity for European development”, and reiterates its calls for the possible creation of bodies or committees to support co-operation among the member States in the area of migration. The Assembly is convinced that such bodies would provide a useful “common platform for exchange, experience sharing and policy making among Council of Europe member States, as well as a solid basis for directing the Organisation’s action”.
4. The Assembly notes that the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers (ETS No. 93), which entered into force in 1983, has only been ratified by 11 Council of Europe member States. It invites the Committee of Ministers to examine the barriers to the ratification of this convention; consider reviewing this legal instrument in view of the latest developments in the area of labour migration; and examine the modalities for monitoring effectively its implementation.

Related documents:

- [PACE Resolution 2366 \(2021\) “Impact of labour migration on left-behind children”](#)
- [PACE Report Doc. 15173 “Impact of labour migration on left-behind children”](#)