



Concept Note

FRUN Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Adolescents

Everyone has a right to family unity and family life. In the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), States committed to “facilitate effective procedures and clear referral pathways for family reunification”. The Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN) is the first global platform devoted to family reunification for refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection.

Launched in December 2020, the FRUN draws together key stakeholders, experts and academics in the realm of family reunification with the collective purpose of promoting and facilitating greater access to family reunification procedures.

The FRUN provides States and other relevant stakeholders with a common space for advocacy, sharing good practices and exchanging ideas, promoting State-to-State engagement, capacity building and resourcing of relevant operational actors, testing pilot programmes and information sharing.

Working groups draw together actors from multiple disciplines to enable collaboration and learning on topics of key relevance to their work, while helping to advance priority workstreams of the wider network.

Working group on unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents

There are a number of child protection concerns related to family reunification for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents. In addition, there are wider complexities and challenges affecting all children and adolescents engaged in family reunification procedures. As such, this is an area of significant interest and concern to the FRUN membership. A working group on unaccompanied children and adolescents will

facilitate coordination under this work stream, including promoting research, sharing good practices and exploring practical solutions that help to safely reunite refugee children and adolescents.

The working group is open to all FRUN members, including both State and non-State members. Membership of the working group is inclusive and informal, and members can opt in/ opt out via email to the FRUN Secretariat (frun@refugepoint.org)

The working group will meet regularly, in principle once per quarter. The lead/co-leads will organize meeting agendas and provide summaries of the meetings for distribution to all working group members and the FRUN Secretariat for onward sharing with the Advisory Group. Additional meetings and/or events may be organized by the working group on an as-needed basis, including at the annual FRUN conference.

Working group objectives for 2025

1. Host an **online webinar** highlighting current good practices, challenges and opportunities in family reunification for unaccompanied and separated refugee children and adolescents.
2. Convene a **multi-stakeholder expert workshop** (funds permitting) to further explore common challenges/impediments as well as good practices in family reunification for unaccompanied and separated refugee children and adolescents. Producing a workshop summary to inform the subsequent mapping exercise.
3. Facilitate a **global peer-learning meeting of State representatives** (funds permitting) to share promising practices in family reunification for unaccompanied and separated refugee children and adolescents, and consider the key challenges and concerns of States related to reunifying refugee children. Producing a FRUN-branded meeting summary to inform the subsequent mapping exercise.
4. Produce a FRUN-branded **mapping of good practices** in family reunification for unaccompanied and separated refugee children and adolescents in a limited number of pilot countries.

Date approved by the FRUN Advisory Group:
5 February 2025