



Mapping of good practices in family reunification for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents

Ukrainian refugees embrace after reuniting on their way back to Ukraine along the Ukrainian-Moldovan border at the Palanca border crossing. Photo by CHRISTOPHE ARCHAMBAULT/AFP via Getty Images.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN) is the first global platform devoted to family reunification for refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection. The FRUN draws together key stakeholders, experts and academics with the collective purpose of promoting and facilitating greater access to family reunification procedures. The FRUN Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Adolescents (UASC) was established in 2025 in recognition of the specific challenges and complexities in securing family reunification for this population. The Working Group is intended to facilitate coordination, including promoting research, documenting and sharing good practices and exploring practical solutions that help to safely reunite refugee children and adolescents with their families. This Mapping Report has been prepared by Co-Leads of the FRUN Working Group on UASC, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and Nadine Liddy, together with members of the FRUN Working Group on UASC.

BACKGROUND

International law recognises that unaccompanied and separated children are entitled to special protection, care and assistance because of the distinct and significant protection risks they face in the forced migration context. These special protections include the obligation to facilitate family reunification procedures for UASC as a matter of priority in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child. Family reunification pathways play a critical role in addressing the most fundamental protection needs of refugee children and families, enabling them to access safety, security and stability in third countries. However, many of these pathways are not designed to reflect the lived realities of UASC. Administrative and legal barriers—such as strict documentation requirements, narrow definitions of family, and procedural delays—often impede access and undermine timely reunification. Despite existing constraints, family reunification remains the most critical pathway for supporting third-country solutions for unaccompanied and separated children and often the only protection pathway available to them. In the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), States committed to expand and facilitate access to family reunification procedures as a critical third country solution and complementary pathway for refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection. Promoting promising practices in family reunification for UASC can serve as a foundation for strengthening and expanding pathways for UASC globally.

PURPOSE

This mapping has been prepared by the Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN) Working Group on UASC to highlight promising laws, policies and practices relevant to family reunification for unaccompanied and separated refugee children and other children in need of international protection. The mapping aims to raise awareness of current legal, administrative, and programmatic barriers as well as highlight a range of promising practices that enable unaccompanied and separated children to reunite with parents or other caregivers across borders. The mapping is intended to inform efforts to strengthen, adapt, and expand family reunification pathways for UASC in line with child-centred, protection-driven, and rights-based approaches.

FINDINGS

Through desk research and consultations with experts on family reunification for UASC, the mapping identifies seven key domains of promising practice that underpin access to timely, safe, and child-centred family reunification. They are: (1) enabling legal and policy frameworks; (2) access to timely, accessible and accurate information; (3) availability of legal assistance and representation; (4) flexible documentation and evidentiary requirements; (5) child-centred case management and integration support; (6) cross-border and intersectoral collaboration; and (7) capacity strengthening of relevant stakeholders. While promising practices exist across all seven domains, their application remains uneven, and gaps in coordination, procedural flexibility, and institutional and sector capacity continue to limit access to family reunification for many unaccompanied and separated children. The findings of this mapping underscore that family reunification pathways for unaccompanied and separated children are most effective where enabling legal and policy frameworks are complemented by coordinated action among governments, international organizations, civil society and refugee-led organisations, including the provision of child and adolescent-centred, cross-border case management, legal assistance, training and capacity building, and child-centred integration support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The mapping highlights the need for States and stakeholders to strengthen rights-based, child and adolescent-centred family reunification for unaccompanied and separated children by prioritizing the child's best interests and aligning laws and policies with international human rights and refugee obligations. Key recommendations include broadening eligibility and definitions of family, removing procedural, financial, and evidentiary barriers, and ensuring flexible, accessible, and expedited procedures that are traumainformed and protectionfocused. The findings also emphasize investing in holistic supports such as legal aid and psychosocial services, and strengthening community-based and Refugee Led Organization (RLO) led approaches. Finally, enhanced coordination, data collection, and participation in regional and global platforms are critical to improving policy coherence, learning, and accountability in family reunification efforts.

I. BACKGROUND

I Facts and Figures

The past few decades have seen increasing migration and ever-expanding refugee crises. According to the most recent United Nations estimates, there are about 281 million international migrants¹ in the world—about 3.6 percent of the global population—up from 150 million international migrants in 2000.² This 2024 number includes 35.4 million refugees, which is over double the number of refugees accounted for in 2000.³ These movements show no sign of slowing, with the last few years witnessing major displacement events, including conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia and Myanmar, and large-scale climate and weather-related disasters around the world.⁴

The increase in international migrants and refugees has been accompanied by a rise in family separations and children travelling alone. Although global data is limited on the scale of this phenomenon due to a range of data collection challenges,⁵ the data that does exist is alarming.⁶ Between 2015 and 2016, UNICEF registered at least 300,000 unaccompanied and separated children crossing international borders across 80 countries. This figure represented nearly five times the number recorded just five years earlier, during 2010–2011.⁷ In 2022, unaccompanied or separated children submitted 51,700 new asylum claims globally, an 89% increase from the previous year.⁸ UNICEF has noted that this figure likely understates the true scale of the problem, and that the total number of such children on the move is probably far higher.⁹

I Impact of family separation

Family separation, especially when prolonged, can have a devastating impact on the psychological and physical well-being of children, whether in countries of origin, of transit, or of asylum or long-term stay.¹⁰ It can also negatively impact successful integration and the ability of children and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency.¹¹ UASC experience heightened vulnerabilities and protection risks precisely because of their ‘unaccompanied’ and ‘separated’ status from family. These vulnerabilities and risks are extensive and well established. They include sexual exploitation and trafficking, widespread, high-levels of violence and gender-based violence, forced marriage, neglect, detention, forced/child labor, recruitment into armed forces or militia, exclusion from economic and social rights and essential

¹ For statistical purposes, the United Nations defines an international migrant as any person who has changed his or her country of residence. The statistical definition of an international migrant makes no reference to the reason for migration or to the legal immigration status of persons changing their country of residence. UN DESA, [International Migrant Stock 2024: Key facts and figures](#).

² IOM, [World Migration Report 2024](#), p.8.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*, at p.3.

⁵ See Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) [Migration Data Portal 2024](#); International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) [Alone, On the Move and Unseen: Spotlighting the Urgent Needs of Unaccompanied and Separated Children](#), 2025

⁶ Human Rights Council, [Rights of the Child and Family Reunification: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), 49th session, UN Doc No. A/HRC/49/31, (2 March 2022), para. 4.

⁷ UNICEF, [UNICEF Working Paper: Family Unity in the Context of Migration](#), p.1.

⁸ UNHCR, [Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2022](#), p.3.

⁹ UNICEF, *supra* note 7, at p.1.

¹⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), [Family Reunification for Refugees and Other Beneficiaries of International Protection, Guidelines on international legal standards relating to family reunification for refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection](#), para 2, (hereinafter UNHCR Guidelines).

¹¹ Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN), [Concept Note: The Multistakeholder Pledge on Supporting Refugee Family Reunification](#), 2023; UNICEF, *supra* note 7, p.4.

services and loss of their legal identity.¹² Prolonged family separation can also compel family members to seek irregular and unsafe paths to reunify with their loved ones. Hopes for reunification with family can be a key driver of dangerous migration journeys for UASC.¹³ UASC may be hoping to locate family in another country, reunite with family in a ‘third’ country (where family members may or may not have a legal right to stay) or they may have left family in search of safety and security, with the intent to facilitate safer, secure futures for family members through formal family reunification procedures.¹⁴

I Family reunification in international law and policy

All States have an obligation to protect the rights to family life and family unity, including through implementing family reunification procedures. International and regional human rights law broadly recognizes that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”¹⁵ This right to family life and family unity includes both a positive obligation for States to protect families and facilitate family reunification and a negative obligation to refrain from any unlawful or arbitrary interference with the exercise of the right to family life.¹⁶ The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognises the right to family unity as essential to a child’s life, survival and development. The CRC sets out procedural obligations of States to realize the right to family unity through family reunification in accordance with the best interests principle, including the “positive, humane and expeditious” handling of family reunification applications.¹⁷ In the refugee context, the Final Act of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, at which the 1951 Refugee Convention¹⁸ was adopted, “recommends Governments to take the necessary measures for the protection of the refugee’s family, especially with a view to ensuring that the unity of the refugee’s family is maintained.”¹⁹ Soft law instruments and policy, such as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants²⁰ and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR),²¹

¹² Human Rights Council, *supra* note 6, at para 41; [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children \(UASC\)](#) 2018; [UNHCR, Best Interests Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child](#) 2021

¹³ UNICEF, *supra* note 7; Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) *MMC Eastern and Southern Africa Snapshot: Understanding the role of family reunification within mixed movements in Sudan* 2023

¹⁴ Liddy, N. (2025). Examining Family Reunification as a Complementary Pathway and Third Country Protection Solution for Unaccompanied and Separated Refugee Children and Adolescents (UASC). MA Thesis, Geneva Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (IHEID)

¹⁵ *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (10 December 1948) 217 A (III) (UDHR), Art. 16(3). See also, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (16 December 1966) 999 UNTS 171 (ICCPR), Art. 23(1); *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (16 December 1966) 993 UNTS 3 (ICESCR), Art. 10(1); *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (20 November 1989) 1577 UNTS 3 (UNCRC), Art. 10(1); *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families* (18 December 1990) 2220 UNTS 3 (ICRMW), Art. 44; *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 13 December 2006, 2515 UNTS 3 (CRPD), preambular para. (x); Council of Europe (CoE), *European Social Charter (Revised)* (3 May 1996) ETS 163, Part I, para. 16 and Part II, Art. 16; Organization of American States (OAS), *American Convention on Human Rights* (22 November 1969) (Pact of San Jose), Art. 17(1); Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), *Inter-American principles on the human rights of all migrants, refugees, stateless persons and victims of human trafficking*, Resolution 04/19, 7 December 2019, Principle 32; Organization of African Unity (OAU), *African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights* (27 June 1981) CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982) (Banjul Charter), Art. 18(1); OAU, *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (11 July 1990) CAB/LEG/24.9/49 (1990), Art. 18(1); *Arab Charter on Human Rights* (15 September 1994), Art. 38(A).

¹⁶ Council of Europe (CoE), [Family Reunification for Refugee and Migrant Children: Standards and Promising Practices](#), p. 19.

¹⁷ CRC, Art. 10(1).

¹⁸ *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (28 July 1951) 189 UNTS 137 (1951 Refugee Convention).

¹⁹ UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, *Final Act of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons* (25 July 1951) A/CONF.2/108/Rev.1, Section IV B.

²⁰ *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, UN Doc. No. A/RES/71/1 (3 Oct 2016), paras. 57, 79 and Annex 1, para 14(a).

²¹ *Global Compact on Refugees*, UN Doc. No. A/RES/73/195 (19 Dec. 2018), para. 95.

have further incorporated a political commitment to facilitate expeditious refugee family reunification.²² Family reunification as a fundamental human right and critical protection pathway for refugees was further endorsed through multistakeholder pledging commitments to expand access to family reunification as a third country solution at the 2021 and 2023 Global Refugee Forums (GRF) and supported by the creation of the Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN) in 2020. In 2024, UNHCR's Executive Committee unanimously adopted Conclusion No. 117 on Durable Solutions and Complementary Pathways which, among other things, calls upon States to facilitate family reunification as an important pathway to durable solutions, including through adoption of clear, effective and flexible procedures to restore refugees' family unity and enjoyment of their right to family life.²³

I Challenges to accessing family reunification

Unfortunately, a variety of barriers remain to the humane and expeditious reunification of refugee children with their families. Numerous States impose different conditions for accessing family reunification based upon whether a person has refugee status or is a beneficiary of subsidiary or other forms of complementary protection.²⁴ Narrow definitions of family can also undermine the effective enjoyment of these rights and hinder reunification. In some States, reunification is limited to the 'nuclear' family (parents of unaccompanied or separated children) while disregarding non-Western concepts of family that can be more representative of family in forced displacement contexts — ignoring the multitude of strong and loving family ties that can exist in diverse families with members socially, emotionally and economically depending on each other.²⁵ Such restrictive practices are difficult to reconcile with international human rights norms that require a substantive, rather than formalistic, assessment of family, as well as the obligation to treat the best interests of the child as a primary consideration. In some contexts, unaccompanied or separated children may be barred from sponsoring family members to reunite in their country of asylum under laws apparently designed to deter irregular migration but risk subordinating children's rights to migration control objectives.²⁶

Even where refugees are eligible for family reunification, significant procedural hurdles exist, undermining the effective enjoyment of the right to family unity. Requirements to provide the documentary evidence of identity, family relationship or custody frequently pose difficulties for refugees who many not have access to passports, birth, marriage or death certificates, guardianship papers, or other important records. These difficulties are compounded by the fact that approaching the authorities of their country of origin to obtain such documentation may be unsafe or impossible – particularly for UASC who would need to travel alone to secure such documentation.²⁷ Short and inflexible application deadlines further exclude many who would otherwise be eligible for family reunification²⁸ while lengthy processes, delays or years-long waiting periods for reunification can unduly extend separation and suffering.²⁹ Financial requirements and burdensome expenses, such as high application, administrative and visa

²² Council of Europe, *supra* note 13, at p.28. Other soft law instruments that have incorporated a commitment to family reunification include CCPR, [General Comment No. 19: Article 23 \(The Family\) Protection of the Family, the Right to Marriage and Equality of the Spouses](#), 27 July 1990, para. 5; [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights \(IACHR\), Inter-American Principles on the Human Rights of All Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons, and Victims of Human Trafficking](#), Resolution 04/19, (7 Dec. 2019), principles 33 and 60; *Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom) Conclusion No. 117 (LXXV)*, 2024, para. (f)(iv); *ExCom Conclusion No. 24 (XXXII)* 1981, paras. 1 and 2; *ExCom Conclusion No. 15 (XXX)*, 1979, para. (e); *ExCom Conclusion No. 85 (XLIX)* 1998, para. (w); *ExCom Conclusion No. 88 (L)*, 1999, para. (b)(i).

²³ Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), *Conclusion No. 117 (LXXV): Durable Solutions and Complementary Pathways - Adopted by the Executive Committee (2024)*, No. 117 (LXXV), October 2024.

²⁴ Council of Europe, *supra* note 14, p. 44.

²⁵ *Id.*, at p. 42; UNHCR, "[What we do: Family reunification](#)", accessed 30 March 2026.

²⁶ UNHCR Guidelines, *supra* note 10, para. 46.

²⁷ *Id.*, at paras. 31-32.

²⁸ UNICEF, *supra* note 29.

²⁹ UNICEF, *supra* note 7, p.8.

fees, strict income requirements, and onerous costs to obtain or translate documents, health insurance, or legal representation, may prove out of reach for many refugees—especially children or those with limited access to the labor market, banking systems or private loan schemes.³⁰ Travel itself can prove expensive or dangerous for family who live in places with a limited embassy presence, in refugee camps, or in conflict zones.³¹ And, a general lack of support around the complex legal processes—including a lack of accessible information, legal aid and co-operation between states—further complicates family reunification.³²

I Family reunification

Despite these challenges, family reunification as a rights-based solution remains one of the most important protection pathways for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents, restoring security and stability and protecting their wellbeing and development.³³ Moreover, data suggests that family separation and the intention to reunite with family is a key driver of irregular migration, often along unsafe routes.³⁴ The benefits of increasing access to safe and regular pathways for family reunification are many: it saves lives and deters smuggling networks by preventing migrants and refugees from resorting to dangerous journeys to join their loved ones;³⁵ it boosts integration, worker productivity and economic self-sufficiency as united families tend to adapt more comfortably in their new communities,³⁶ and reuniting with family can provide a sense of safety for particularly vulnerable migrants and refugees and help those affected with trauma to heal.³⁷

Acknowledging the importance of family reunification, States and other stakeholders pledged to expand access and streamline procedures for safe, regular and expeditious family reunification pathways. In the context of the Global Refugee Forum 2023, the Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN), a global platform dedicated to bringing together stakeholders to facilitate meaningful access to family reunification, is mobilizing diverse actors to support a multi-stakeholder pledge to expand access to family reunification as a third-country solution.³⁸ As of August 2025, 40 pledges were made by States, international organizations, municipalities, civil-society organizations, private-sector entities, and others.³⁹

Given the enormous importance of family reunification to safeguard the rights of refugees, as well as the central role it plays in facilitating better integration within host societies, it is crucial that all actors fulfil their pledges to remove the many barriers that exist and enable safe, regular, efficient and timely family reunification pathways. Strengthening such pathways will promote the rights to family life and family unity, resolve the fundamental protection gap for UASC, reduce the burden on refugee-hosting countries, reduce reliance on irregular and perilous migration routes, and lead to stronger families and stronger societies.

³⁰ See e.g., Council of Europe, *supra* note 14, p. 63; UNICEF, *supra* note 7, p.7; UNHCR Guidelines, *supra* note 9, para 29–30.

³¹ See e.g., UNICEF, *supra* note 29; UNHCR Guidelines, *supra* note 10, para 56; UNICEF, *supra* note 7, p.7.

³² See e.g., UNICEF, *supra* note 29; UNICEF, *supra* note 6, p.7; Council of Europe, *supra* note 14, p. 9.

³³ UOED and UNHCR, Safe Pathways for Refugees – 2026 update, [UNHCR-OECD study on pathways used by refugees linked to family reunification, study programmes and labour mobility between 2019 and 2024](#), June 2026.

³⁴ See e.g., Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), [Understanding the Role of Family Reunification Within Mixed Movements in Sudan](#) (August 2023); Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), [Understanding the Role of Family Reunification Within Mixed Movements in Tunisia](#) (August 2023).

³⁵ UNICEF, *supra* note 25; UNICEF, *supra* note 7, p.1.

³⁶ UNICEF, *supra* note 25.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ FRUN, *supra* note 10.

³⁹ UNHCR, [“Multi-stakeholder Pledge: Supporting Refugee Family Reunification”](#), accessed 30 March 2026.

II. PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

I Purpose

This report presents key findings from a mapping exercise undertaken between July and December 2025 to gather information on good practices in facilitating access to family reunification for unaccompanied and separated children. Such good practices include effective legal frameworks, support in navigating family reunification processes, flexibility in policy and practice, safeguarding and child-centred policy and practice, cross-border coordination and collaboration. This mapping report attempts to address a gap in documentation to provide concrete examples of laws, policies, practices and initiatives that may be replicated, adapted or scaled.

This mapping was undertaken by the FRUN Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Adolescents (the FRUN Working Group on UASC), an initiative aimed at addressing child protection concerns related to family reunification through promoting research, sharing best practices and exploring practical solutions that help to safely reunite refugee children and adolescents. It is our hope that this mapping will contribute to raising awareness of the significance of family reunification as a safe, regular pathway and critical sustainable solution for unaccompanied and separated children, support commitments to facilitate and expand family reunification under the Global Compact on Refugees, and ultimately serve to better protect unaccompanied and separated children on the move.

I Methodology

This mapping is a result of desk research conducted by lawyers and migrant and refugee rights experts from July–August 2025, inputs received during an online FRUN Expert Meeting held in October 2025,⁴⁰ and a FRUN Practitioner Webinar and inputs provided by members of the FRUN Working Group on UASC and the FRUN Advisory Group. Seven domains were identified to provide a framework for the mapping – both identifying and presenting promising practices that underpin access to timely, safe, and child-centred family reunification. These are: (1) enabling legal and policy frameworks; (2) access to timely, accessible and accurate information; (3) availability of legal assistance and representation; (4) flexible documentation and evidentiary requirements; (5) child-centred case management and integration support; (6) cross-border and intersectoral collaboration; and (7) capacity strengthening of relevant stakeholders.

II. WHAT ARE FAMILY REUNIFICATION PATHWAYS?

Family reunification pathways are safe and regulated avenues for migrants and refugees to relocate to a third country for the purpose of reuniting with a family member. Based on the fundamental right to family unity, family reunification procedures are established to bring separated families back together.⁴¹ All individuals moving to a third country via a family reunification pathway, regardless of status, should enjoy certain minimum safeguards, such as legal entry, a right of residence in the third country, and protection against *refoulement*.

For refugees, family reunification pathways are often understood as one of a broader set of complementary pathways which may also include labor mobility, education pathways, humanitarian

⁴⁰ FRUN/KIND, [Summary Report: Expert Meeting on Challenges and Promising Practices in Facilitating Family Reunification of Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Adolescents](#), 9 October 2025.

⁴¹ See FRUN, [“Family Reunification and the Principle of Family Unity”](#), accessed 30 March 2026.

admission schemes, and private or community sponsorship pathways. These pathways are designed to complement traditional refugee resettlement while offering safe and regulated avenues for refugees to meet their protection needs through a lawful stay in a third country.

As discussed in Section I, family reunification pathways are based on the fundamental right to family unity which is protected under binding international and regional legal instruments. Therefore, unlike other third country solutions, which are often discretionary, States have a legal responsibility based on their international and regional obligations to establish humane and expeditious frameworks that enable families to reunite.⁴² This is particularly critical for unaccompanied and separated children, who, because of their 'status' as children, are largely unable to access complementary pathways like education or labor mobility. Family reunification as a fundamental protection solution has become even more crucial in recent years which has seen a radical reduction in resettlement quotas amid shifting political priorities.

IV. FINDINGS

This section summarizes key findings emerging from desk research, expert observations, and the extensive practical experience of FRUN members. The mapping reveals several notable promising practices, which are grouped under seven key domains identified as critical to supporting UASC access to family reunification.

I A. ENABLING LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The first key finding was that by adopting enabling laws and policies, States can significantly increase access to family reunification procedures. Enabling legal and policy frameworks include laws providing an entitlement to family reunification, dedicated visas for family reunification, and expansive or flexible definitions of family that include non-nuclear family members or other caregivers.

Examples include:

- **Mexico's** [General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents \(LGDNNA\)](#) establishes family reunification as a right and core principle regarding children on the move who may experience family separation, making it possible to reunite them with their loved ones either in Mexico or in a third country, if their best interests and the effective protection of their rights so dictate. The law also obliges the Attorneys General (Procuradurías) for the Protection of Children and Adolescents to activate special protection procedures to determine the best interests of each child on the move and to dictate the measures that must be complied with by the various authorities of the country, including the National Institute of Migration (INM), to guarantee their well-being and comprehensive restitution of rights.
- In the **European Union**, implementation of the [Family Reunification Directive \(2003\)](#) in some EU Member States allows flexible interpretation of family membership and provides procedural safeguards for UASC. Some EU States also grant exemptions for UASC sponsors in relation to income/financial thresholds, health insurance, or accommodation requirements, for example [Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia, Republic of Slovak](#). [Italy](#) has introduced priority processing for reunification applications involving unaccompanied minors.

⁴² UNICEF, *supra* note 25; UNICEF, *supra* note 7, p.1.

- In **Belgium**, the principle of the best interests of the child must be taken into consideration when adopting decisions relating to minors, as explicitly stated in the Constitution and relevant provisions (arts. 10 and 12) of the [Law on Access to the Territory, Residence, Establishment, and Removal of Foreign Nationals \(1980\)](#). Moreover, based on the caselaw of the EU Court of Justice, the Belgian Law provides for procedural safeguards against “aging out”, granting an extra 3-months to submit family reunification applications when the UASC turned 18 during or shortly after the international protection procedure (art 10).
- In **Australia**, children under 18 can be reunited with family in Australia through the [Special Humanitarian Program \(SHP\)](#) within the broader Refugee and Humanitarian Program. Three of the four SHP priorities apply to separated children. For this visa, Australian law defines family broadly, including cases based on psychological dependency, and there is a positive practice of waiving welfare waiting periods and providing financial support to families once settled in Australia. Children can propose their parents to join them in Australia through the ‘split family’ provision in the Special Humanitarian Program.
- **Australia’s Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor (UHM) Program** provides for the care, supervision, accommodation, and settlement support of eligible children who enter Australia without a parent or legal guardian and who hold a Refugee or Humanitarian visa. The UHM program also provides targeted case management services to unaccompanied minors residing, or intending to reside, with a relative who is not a parent. The UHM program’s service providers facilitate family connection and reunification, ensuring that all actions are consistent with, and give primary consideration to, the best interests of the child.
- **Canadian immigration guidelines** provide for reunification for de facto family members, including children under the care of an adult without being formally adopted. [Discretionary provisions](#) under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, known as “[humanitarian and compassionate consideration](#)”, allow the inclusion of children who do not meet the legal definition of a family member, taking into consideration the best interests of the child. The Canadian government also gives priority processing to applications for family reunification involving one or more children that are separated from both parents and are seeking to reunite with one or both parents in Canada, through an agreement between the Canadian government and the [Canadian Council for Refugees \(CCR\)](#). While not strictly law or formal policy, the agreement requires cases to be referred by the CCR, and the progress of the applications is monitored jointly by the immigration department and the CCR until the arrival of the children.
- The **Uganda Refugees Act (2006)** includes provisions recognizing the right to family reunification for refugees, which can extend to UASC. The Refugees Act and the [National Child Policy \(2020\)](#) prioritize family unity and the best interests of the child. These policies facilitate family tracing, documentation, and reunification efforts.
- **Uruguay’s National Law (No. 18.250)** explicitly recognizes as an inalienable right of all non-nationals and their family members—regardless of their migratory status—the right to family reunification, without any distinction whatsoever on grounds of sex, race, color, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, nationality, age, economic status, assets, marital status, birth, or any other condition. The Law further guarantees that the right to family reunification includes reunification with parents, spouses, partners, and unmarried children—whether minors or adults with disabilities—in accordance with Article 40 of the Constitution of the Republic.

| B. ACCESS TO TIMELY, ACCESSIBLE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION

The second key finding was that timely, accessible, and accurate information is a critical enabler of family reunification. Clear guidance on eligibility, procedures, documentation requirements, timelines, and rights—provided in multiple languages and through trusted channels—helps individuals and families understand and navigate complex processes. Proactive outreach and tailored information provision were particularly important for children, caregivers, and individuals in vulnerable situations.

Examples include:

- **Romania** has rolled out an open-source software platform, [Primero](#), that features user friendly information management tools for development, social welfare, humanitarian and child protection stakeholders to manage protection-related data thus facilitating family tracing and reunification, especially for children fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine. The Primero platform matches tracing requests made by caregivers, with children registered as separated or unaccompanied. It is possible to configure matching criteria to satisfy context-specific requirements.
- In **Belgium**, the [Agency for Integration and Civic Integration](#) (*Agentschap Integratie en Inburgering*), an external autonomous agency of the Flemish government, provides information on the family reunification procedure and has developed an online simulator to check which conditions and procedure applies to each specific situation.
- **Brazil** is improving the clarity and accessibility of information on family reunification procedures, particularly through updated content on government websites and refugee-focused communication channels.
- In **Turkey**, [Refugee Rights Turkiye \(RRT\)](#) provides information for UASC about their Rights and Procedures, including family reunification procedures and how to access support to be reunited with family. Information is provided on a dedicated [website](#) in several formats (booklet, video, 'Q&A'). Information is provided in Turkish, English, Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Urdu, Russian, French, Somali, and Sorani Kurdish.
- In the **Netherlands**, [Migration Inc.](#), a refugee-led organization, provides information on family reunification procedures in native languages through trusted community members, including cultural mediators and key figures. They use outreach, WhatsApp groups and informal channels to ensure information is tailored to different groups, accessible and understandable, and to reach those often missed by formal systems.
- In **Kenya**, [Youth Voices Community \(YVC\)](#), a refugee-led organization, conducts community outreach, small-group sessions, and individual walk-in support to provide simplified, multilingual information on family reunification processes, including eligibility and documentation. The organization also supports referrals to specialized service providers, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children and vulnerable families.

- In **Kenya**, [RefugePoint’s Family Reunification Program](#) shares information about available reunification pathways and application procedures and assists qualified individuals in obtaining the necessary documentation to support their application. This information is gained from research on family reunification procedures and requirements in destination countries, resources provided through the UNHCR website, as well as information provided by the network of partners available through the FRUN. Information on family reunification is also disseminated through general and targeted community outreaches in addition to other forums such as interagency meetings.

I C. LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION

The third key finding was that access to specialist legal assistance and representation significantly improves outcomes in family reunification processes. Given the complexity of family reunification laws and procedures for UASC, legal support helps applicants and beneficiaries understand their rights and navigate complex procedures: prepare and submit applications, respond to requests for additional information, and challenge negative decisions where appropriate. The mapping highlights the importance of early, specialist affordable/free legal assistance, including through partnerships with civil society and pro bono providers.

Examples include:

- **(Global)** [Kids in Need of Defense \(KIND\)](#) provides attorneys to represent unaccompanied children throughout their legal proceedings, including family reunification cases, working in collaboration with a network of over 850 law firms, non-governmental organizations (NGO), corporations, law schools and bar association partners. KIND’s work in providing specialized legal assistance to UASC through direct services and through training, mentoring and capacity building of pro bono partners helps to fill gaps in legal aid in the United States, Mexico, Central America and Europe.
- **(Global)** The [International Refugee Assistance Project \(IRAP\)](#) deploys an in-person and remote legal aid model with offices in the U.S., Lebanon, Jordan, and Germany to provide vital legal representation to people living in, and fleeing from, violence and persecution around the world. Through partner referrals, IRAP provides direct legal services and counselling to UASC who wish to reunite with their families. IRAP also provides training and capacity-building sessions to practitioners who support UASC in family reunification proceedings. IRAP is an independent organization.
- In **Kenya**, [Relon Kenya](#), a refugee-led network, through its network of paralegals, provides legal support and representation to refugees to build knowledge of family reunification, identify eligibility and make referrals to its partner, IRAP to support family reunification to U.S, Belgium, France, Germany and Sweden. Legal support also includes delivering legal aid clinics in Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, representing clients in court to secure documentation (e.g. identity and custody/guardianship orders), as well as assisting with navigating complex processes, and coordinating with relevant stakeholders to facilitate successful reunifications. As part of its model, Relon Kenya also provides psycho-social counselling, alongside assessment and referral into child protection and/or other support services (including identification and registration of UASC).
- In **Australia**, a network of community legal centres that deliver specialist migration services, including [Refugee and Immigration Law Service \(RAILS\)](#), [Refugee Advice and Casework Services \(RACS\)](#), [Refugee Legal](#), and [Circle Green Community Legal Centre](#), receive funding from the

government to provide free legal advice to refugees and humanitarian entrants, with priority focus on cases involving UASC. RACS provides free, specialist legal support to unaccompanied children and, through its [specialist family reunion program](#), provides free legal advice for families reuniting in Australia.

- In **Belgium** each minor can benefit from free legal aid and be freely assisted by a lawyer specialised in migration law and family reunification procedures (pro bono legal services).

I D. FLEXIBLE DOCUMENTATION AND EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS

The fourth key finding was that flexibility in documentation and evidentiary requirements is essential to ensuring access to family reunification, particularly for displaced persons and those affected by conflict or crises. Good practices include accepting alternative forms of evidence, allowing sworn statements or testimonies, and adapting procedures to account for the loss or unavailability of official documents or the challenges in accessing or sourcing such documentation. Such flexibility helps prevent procedural barriers from unduly separating families.

Examples include:

- In **Australia**, the [Orphan Relative Visa](#) allows children under 18 to be brought to Australia without requiring proof of humanitarian need. This visa provides for permanent residence. The definition of “orphan” is flexible, allowing for missing or incapacitated parents. The visa allows a single minor, with no parent to care for them, who has a relative that is a settled Australian citizen or permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen to stay, work and study in Australia. The visa also allows the recipient to enroll in Australia’s public healthcare scheme and, if eligible, to apply for Australian citizenship.
- In the **European Union**, the [Family Reunification Directive \(2003\)](#) recognizes that there may be situations where “official documentary evidence of the family relationship” cannot be provided. Article 11(2) of the Directive requires Member States to “take into account other evidence, to be assessed in accordance with national law, of the existence of such relationship”. In Bulgaria and Finland applicants may submit written declarations of their family life/relationships, while Germany and the Netherlands provide the opportunity for personal interviews to establish identity. The **Netherlands**, **Sweden** and **Switzerland** allow for a lower standard of proof for refugees who are unable to submit official documentation, and in **Ireland**, courts are required to afford applicants an opportunity to explain inconsistencies or resolve questions about the validity of their documents.
- **United States:** The [Central American Minors \(CAM\)](#) program was revised in 2021 to allow parents seeking asylum and other protections in the United States to apply for their children in Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador to reunify with them. These broader eligibility criteria allowed many more families to apply and seek reunification faster, rather than waiting years for a parent’s claim to be resolved. CAM offered multiple pathways to protection for unaccompanied children through refugee status and humanitarian parole, and centered children’s well-being by allowing a range of accompanying family members to apply with the child, including the child’s other parent or caregiver and older siblings. The CAM program was suspended in early 2025.

I E. CASE MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRATION SUPPORT

The fifth key finding underscores the importance of child-centred, trauma-informed case management and integration support throughout the family reunification process. Individualized and specialised case management can help applicants navigate complex legal and administrative procedures, coordinate services, and address practical or protection-related needs. Post-arrival integration support, including housing, education, psychosocial services, and livelihood assistance, also plays a critical role in ensuring that family reunification leads to durable and sustainable outcomes.

Examples include:

- In **Ecuador**, the [Comprehensive Support Space](#) (*Espacio de Apoyo Integral*) is a UNICEF initiative implemented through several organizations in collaboration at the site. The Space has the capacity to receive 120 people at a time, with areas designed for children, adolescents and their families. Support includes educational workshops on music, dance, plastic arts, sexual and reproductive rights, psychological counseling, and legal advice for refugee and migrant families. The Comprehensive Support Space has provided over 63,000 services, as well as “Friendly Spaces” where over 20,000 children received care, and more than 5,000 received legal assistance, with an emphasis on comprehensive care for unaccompanied and separated children where over 500 received emergent foster care and case management services.
- In the **Netherlands**, the guardianship authority for unaccompanied and separated children, [Nidos](#) (*Jeugdbescherming Voor Vluchtelingen*), appoints dedicated officers to assist children in the process of family reunification and support guardians. The dedicated officers have expert knowledge on the family reunification framework and procedure. They are in close contact with the child and his/her family to forward their stories to the IND (immigration service) and to support them in collecting the required documents. The guardians are involved to mentally support the children during this often long procedure. The number of children assigned to each officer varies from 40-45 (on full-time basis) and currently 45 persons are assigned with such tasks.
- In **Germany**, the [Family Assistance Program \(FAP\)](#), which was suspended for subsidiary protection holders as of 24 July 2025, works across 11 countries and provides case management support to beneficiaries. This program intentionally streamlines the complex family reunification application process by providing in-country support to beneficiaries to access and compile evidentiary documentation and complete relevant procedures. This includes cross-border coordination support, liaison with child protection and other actors and access to pre-departure health checks.
- In **Türkiye**, [Refugee Rights Türkiye \(RRT\)](#) has specialized legal case management services for unaccompanied minors mainly targeting four interrelated themes: identification and placement at child-care facilities; registration and documentation; access to education and family reunification procedures. Regarding family reunification, RRT coordinates with family members or legal representatives in the destination country, accompanies the minor throughout the Consulate/Embassy procedures, provides evidentiary, interpretation related or other types of support, coordinates with Ministry of Family and Social Policies and Turkish migration authorities regarding exit permit procedures, assists the minor about the predeparture procedures and also provides support for appeal procedures in case family reunification applications are rejected.

- In **France, Greece** and the **United Kingdom**, [Safe Passage International \(SPI\)](#) is a specialized organization dedicated to family reunification procedures for unaccompanied children and adolescents. In response to the challenges faced by beneficiaries of family reunification after their arrival, Safe Passage International provides post-arrival legal and social support through comprehensive assistance throughout the process, including securing embassy appointments, strengthening case files, submitting applications, and, where necessary, challenging refusals before the French courts. Since 2022, SPI has operated either independently or in close collaboration with pro bono law firms in handling these family reunification cases.

I F. CROSS-BORDER AND INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION

The sixth key finding was that cross-border and inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation between authorities in countries of origin, transit, and destination, as well as coordination among migration, child protection, social services, child welfare authorities and civil society actors, can reduce delays and address procedural gaps. Information-sharing and referral mechanisms, as well as clearly defined roles were found to be particularly important in complex or transnational cases.

Examples include:

- Since 2019, **Mexico's** [Executive Secretariat of the System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents \(SIPINNA\)](#) has coordinated the Commission for the Comprehensive Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescent Asylum Seekers, a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism aimed at strengthening the Mexican State's institutional response to the protection needs of children on the move. The Commission convenes federal authorities, international organizations, and civil society actors to promote the articulation and implementation of strategies that uphold the human rights of children and adolescents in contexts of migration, transit, return, and international protection, in line with the principle of the best interests of the child. In 2025, a collaborative effort was undertaken with the consulates of Colombia and Venezuela to enhance protection measures for migrant children from these countries in Mexico, strengthening coordination on consular assistance, identification, and protection pathways.
- In **Kenya**, an [Inter-Agency Family Reunification Working Group \(IAFRWG\)](#) was established in 2024 bringing together a growing community of organizations in the Kenyan capital supporting refugees at different stages of the family reunification application process. The IAFRWG connects a broad range of stakeholders—government agencies, NGOs, refugee-led organizations (RLOs), and international bodies—to share expertise, align strategies, and promote solutions that address legal, administrative, and practical barriers to family reunification. A key feature of the IAFRWG is its structured referral mechanism, which facilitates efficient case management and avoids duplication of efforts.
- In **Europe**, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC Movement) has established a [Family Reunification Working Group \(FRWG\)](#) to enhance operational collaboration and evidence-based humanitarian coordination. The FRWG promotes sustainable solutions for separated families including beneficiaries of international protection, by facilitating engagement around effective procedures and clear referral pathways as well as supporting the RCRC global movement to enhance all aspects of its family reunification work.

- **(Global)** The [Central Mediterranean Family Reunification Project](#) was a partnership between UNHCR, IRAP and RefugePoint to facilitate reunification of children and youth at risk located in Cairo, Egypt; Tripoli, Libya; Addis Ababa and Shire, Ethiopia; and Kassala and Khartoum, Sudan with Europe and North America. Working with child protection actors and States, it identified eligible cases and provided case management support to beneficiaries to coordinate and execute documentation and logistical requirements. This included liaising with host countries to organise exit visas/formalities, advocating with embassies for fast tracking of cases where appropriate, assistance to obtain travel documents and facilitate travel, facilitate POCs movement from one location to another to facilitate Embassy interviews. The Project operated between 2020 and 2022.

I G. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Finally, the mapping highlighted capacity strengthening as a foundational enabler of access to family reunification. Training and guidance for government officials, (child protection and child welfare) service providers, legal practitioners, and civil society actors can improve the quality, consistency, and child-sensitive implementation of family reunification procedures. Investments in institutional capacity, resources, and tools were found to support more efficient, child/adolescent-centred, fair, and rights-based decision-making.

Examples include:

- In **Belgium**, the [Guardianship Service](#) supports guardians in their role regarding family reunification including through the provision of training, a helpdesk and a coaching programme in co-operation with NGOs that work with volunteer and self-employed guardians, such as Caritas International and the Flemish Red Cross. All activities are funded by the Guardianship Service. An annual training on family reunification provides information and guidance on the procedure for family reunification in Belgium and the role of the guardian throughout the procedure. In addition, guardians are provided with individual coaching through assigned experts and can call or e-mail a dedicated helpdesk to seek information and support on both legal and practical aspects in the family reunification process.
- **(Europe)** The [Reunification Pathways for IntegRation \(REPAIR\)](#) project, was implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Office for Europe from January 2022 through December 2024 in partnership with four European Red Cross national societies. It aimed to assess and reduce obstacles families face in their family reunification journeys and improve service provision before, during and after families arrive. In addition to training national networks of volunteers to strengthen national family reunification responses, and sharing knowledge gathered to improve family reunification access, the project aimed to increase and expand the National Societies capacities to support beneficiaries of international protection during all phases of the family reunification process. This included support such as information provision, translation and legal advice, and post-departure support to facilitate the smooth integration of families, for example through psychosocial support, information provision, language classes, and assistance to local authorities.
- In the **Netherlands**, the [Dutch Council for Refugees](#) (*VluchtelingenWerk Nederland*) supports the family reunification procedure across the country through trained volunteers supervised and supported by professional staff. The quality of services is ensured through proper training and professional supervision of volunteers. Volunteers are supervised by team leaders (paid staff).

Each team leader is responsible for 10 to 25 volunteers, but this can vary according to the number of volunteers or the financial resources available. Once recruited, volunteers receive a three-day induction course on DCR and cultural communication, a two-day course on refugee law and a two-day course on family reunification. Additional training on legislation and jurisprudence on family reunification is provided on an annual basis. Further training is available and accessible through the organisation’s training portal website and intranet website. Furthermore, volunteers may receive more information via the “helpdesk” service that is available, daily from 10am-1pm by telephone or by e-mail.

- In **France**, [Safe Passage International \(SPI\)](#) provides targeted training to child welfare authorities/guardians and other child protection organisations to build knowledge about family reunification and family reunification procedures for UASC, as well as available supports, referral options and protocols.
- In the **European Union**, the [CO.A.ST Project](#) (*My Coming of Age Story*) is a two-year project co-funded by the European Union, through the 2021- 2027 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). This project is implemented by five partners: the Italian Council for Refugees (Italy), who led a consortium composed of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) (Belgium and Slovakia), European Lawyers in Lesvos (Greece and Poland), the Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights (France), and PIC – Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (Slovenia). The goal of this project is to improve the support given to guardians of unaccompanied and separated children when they transition to adulthood. One of the outcomes of the project is a practical toolkit for guardians, including a section on facilitating access to family reunification.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this mapping, the FRUN recommends that States and other relevant stakeholders take the following actions to strengthen and advance the implementation of rights-based family reunification pathways for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents:

1. **Prioritize the best interests of the child** in all family reunification decision-making, including by applying child and adolescent-centred, trauma-informed approaches, and grounding decisions in existing best interests procedure policy and guidance.
2. **Review and revise national legal frameworks**, as needed, to ensure they align with international human rights and refugee law obligations regarding the rights to family life and family unity, as well as global commitments on family reunification.
3. **Simplify and broaden eligibility criteria** for family reunification, including by ensuring that UASC are eligible to sponsor their family members, that there is no distinction between applicants based on their status as a refugee or as a holder of subsidiary protection, and that children are not excluded from eligibility either as sponsors or beneficiaries of family reunification due to “aging out” or reaching the age of adulthood during processing.

4. **Recognize a broad definition of “family”** consistent with international law and policy, including de facto caregivers, extended family members, and non-traditional family structures, based on the principle of dependency rather than biological family relations.
5. **Strengthen family unity and accompaniment in other complementary and/or legal pathways**, such as humanitarian visas, work and education pathways, and regularization efforts, including by ensuring they explicitly include UASC, uphold the rights to family life and family unity, and facilitate family reunification for recipients of these pathways.
6. **Ensure family reunification procedures are protection-centred, child and adolescent-friendly, and accessible**, including through simplified procedures, extended deadlines, child and adolescent friendly information, child safeguarding measures, and the possibility to submit applications both remotely or in the country of destination.
7. **Waive or reduce burdensome requirements** for UASC and their families seeking family reunification, including financial, accommodation, language tests, and geographic requirements.
8. **Adopt flexible evidentiary standards**, including acceptance of alternative documentation or other means of proving identity and/or family relationships while maintaining robust child safeguarding and best-interests determination processes.
9. **Provide expedited processing** in urgent or high-risk cases, including all cases involving UASC.
10. **Develop dedicated policy guidance and/or operational tools** to facilitate family reunification for UASC.
11. **Invest in holistic, trauma-informed, child and adolescent-centered supports** throughout the family reunification procedure, including case management, legal aid (including pro bono legal services), psychosocial support, education, and housing.
12. **Strengthen decentralized and community-based models**, including those led by NGOs and RLOs, to improve outreach, increase awareness of and access to family reunification.
13. **Facilitate transnational and inter-institutional coordination**, including through formal Working Groups on facilitating family reunification and/or informal diplomatic coordination to unblock complex cases.
14. **Enhance quantitative and qualitative data collection and evidence generation**, including on the voices and opinions of UASC, the perspectives of States, data on the number of UASC accessing family reunification and socio-economic outcomes of family reunification, in order to inform family reunification law, policy, and programming.
15. **Participate in and support global and regional coordination platforms** to contribute to peer learning, facilitate referrals, support joint advocacy and to strengthen regional and global commitments on family reunification, including the [Global Family Reunification Network](#) and the [GCR Multi-Stakeholder Pledge on Supporting Refugee Family Reunification](#).

RECOMMENDED READING

Council of Europe (CoE), Family Reunification for Refugee and Migrant Children: Standards and Promising Practices [Link](#)

European Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Practical Tool for Guardians: Transnational procedures in the framework of international protection [Link](#)

European Migration Network (EMN), Family reunification of third-country nationals: State of play of law and practice (2024/2025) [Link](#)

IFRC, Reunification Pathways for Integration (REPAIR) Project (2025) [Link](#)

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Family Reunification Working Group (FRWG) [Link](#)

IOM, Family Assistance Programme (FAP) [Link](#)

Liddy, N, Examining Family Reunification as a Complementary Pathway and Third Country Protection Solution for Unaccompanied and Separated Refugee Children and Adolescents (UASC). Masters Theses, Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) (2025) [Link](#)

Liddy, N, Examining the Viability of Family Reunification as a Third Country Solution for Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Adolescents (UASC): Research Summary Report (2026) [Link](#)

OHCHR, Leveraging Regular Migration Pathways for Human Rights (2025) [Link](#)

Refugee Rights Türkiye (RRT) and Refugee Solidarity Network (RSN), Reuniting Families: Opportunities and Challenges for Refugees in Turkey (2022) [Link](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Rights of the child: Realizing the rights of the child and family reunification (A/HRC/RES/49/20) (2022) [Link](#)

UNHCR, UNHCR Guidelines on international legal standards relating to family reunification for refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection (2024) [Link](#)

UNHCR, Central Mediterranean Family Reunification Project [Link](#)

UNICEF, Working Paper: Family Unity in the Context of Migration (2025) [Link](#)