Good Practices in Regard to Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs)

**Challenges**

- Death of many adults due to armed conflict or disease
- Separation of families during crises
- Child trafficking networks
- Poverty
- Not being cared for
- Children sent for better and more easily accessible education, child labor

**Main Causes for Departure**

- Child: “every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, Article 1)

**Age Assessment**

- Lack of proper documents
- Lack of uniform procedure and expansion of information of the adult
- Children consider procedure unfair and therefore do not understand it
- Children wrongly advised about their age

**Legal Guardian**

- The legal guardian is responsible for doing so
- In case of a legal majority, children are often unfamiliar with their rights or who assumes it

**Reception Centres**

- Not always adapted to UAMs’ needs
- Children not being cared for
- Not being asked about their legal status
- Information provided to children on... (risk of re-trafficking)

**Family Tracing and Reunification**

- Return of children due to institutional neglect by family, their legal status and lack of family members might base
- Children consider procedure unfair and do not understand it

**Origin**

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- General Comment No. 14
- Convention against human trafficking
- Protocol to the UN Convention against trafficking
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Protocol to the UN Convention against trafficking
- United Nations Convention against Trafficking
- Specific Frameworks
- Children’s rights and specific national context
- Specific national context
- Psychological assistance
- Practical support

**Good Practices**

- Prevention of access to education and development of childhood system
- Awareness-raising in families and communities on dangers of involving children
- Repatriation
- Specific Frameworks
- Children’s rights and specific national context
- Psychological assistance
- Practical support


- "A renewed commitment to the protection of unaccompanied minors rights while adjusting their conditions of admission, detention, and reintegration.
- "A specific focus on children in conflict and coordination in all areas, particularly awareness-raising, prevention, protection, as well as assisted return and reintegration" (Page 15, Section 7)