

To Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

On the occasion of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly meeting at New York, September 2019

We, civil society organisations, at the Meeting Of Youth And Migration, convened in Mexico City on 25th and 26th September 2019, express our profound concerns to the Secretary-General Of The United Nations, its Member States and its Institutions and Agencies about the appalling experiences of the many young people, on migration journeys, with and without their families, of violence, of inhumane and degrading treatment, of the dereliction and denial of their fundamental human rights as children, as migrants and as members of our society.

And we call upon all Member States to desist immediately from all policies and practices, within, at and beyond their borders, which cause, by design or by defect, directly or by proxy, such harm and injury to the interests of children and young people.

Migrant children are being denied their right to survival and development, to education and family unity, to their cultural identity and to participation in our society by discriminatory and arbitrary migration policies and practices, are denied access to psychological recovery from those harms and to psycho-social, health and welfare resources, detained and separated from their families deliberately and without access to justice and protection measures. Those civil society members who provide assistance and who defend the rights of young migrants must also be free from the fear of prosecution and persecution for so doing, including punitive measures against their families.

Children are the future society of our world and its future custodians. States' practices increasingly undermine their enjoyment of their childhood and their future adult lives.

There are no justifiable reasons for this systemic harm and abuse of children. States must find new solutions to their legitimate concerns to manage immigration. These measures **MUST** comply with all existing universally adopted children's rights standards, not be set against them.

We the undersigned call upon The Secretary-General to condemn such states' practices and to escalate the UN's own priorities in protecting the interests of all migrant children and use its full range of human rights monitoring mechanisms to identify and bring an end to such harmful practices.

Childhood denied is lost forever.

Signed

Last Rights Project
Fund for Global Human Rights
Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques Et Sociaux
Justice in Motion (USA)
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights (USA)
Democratic Network for Action (Ghana)
Pan-African Network in Defence of Migrants' Rights (Mali)
Caminando Fronteras (Spain/Morocco)
Prodein (Spain/Morocco)
Kids in Need of Defense (USA)
Young Republic (Greece/Sweden)
UC Davis Immigration Clinic (USA)
Association of Senegalese Jurists (Senegal)
Association Lumiere sur l'Emigration Clandestine au Maghreb (Morocco)
Casa Arcoiris (Mexico)

30 September 2019