



**Missing
Children
Europe**



*The President's
Foundation for the
Wellbeing of Society*

“Lost in migration” BLOG

Guidelines for submitting a post

Thank you for your interest in blogging for “Lost in Migration - Working together to protect children from disappearance”. Welcome to our community of field professionals, policy makers and researchers coming together to build bridges between the local and the regional levels by looking at how recommendations, guidelines and legislation can address the practical protection needs of children to prevent and respond to disappearances of unaccompanied children.

A. WHY should I write for the “Lost in Migration” blog?

The blog will be launched prior to the conference “Lost in Migration - Working together to protect children from disappearance”, taking place in Malta on 26-27 January 2017. The conference will bring together academics, researchers, media, policy makers, frontline professionals and other stakeholders working on the protection of children, to take stock of the situation and develop forward looking proposals for the protection of children in migration and to respect their rights. It will address the need for a comprehensive child protection approach to effectively prevent and respond to disappearance. The overall aim of the event will be to:

- > Help improve coordination centered around the protection of all children in migration
- > Raise awareness of the existing obligations towards all children and good practices to uphold children’s rights in the context of migration
- > Raise awareness on the situation of children in migration and the way forward to protect them at European level

The blog will be essential to feed into the conversations that will take place at the event and to create a hub for exchange of information and opinions among stakeholders concerned with the issue.

B. WHO is the audience of the “Lost in Migration” blog?

The blog will be available online and will target a diverse range of professionals, including academics, researchers, media, policy makers and frontline professionals. This public access will allow exchange of perspectives and knowledge between all the actors concerned, who often do not have the opportunity to communicate with each other but that need to cooperate to ensure the protection of migrant children. Blog posts will also be shared proactively through various social media channels, to further raise awareness on the topics addressed.

C. WHAT topics/themes is the “Lost in Migration” blog looking for?

A blog post could address any topic that is relevant for the aforementioned objectives of the conference, in particular existing obligations towards all children and good practices to uphold children’s rights in the context of migration and coordination centered on the protection of all children in migration. A non-exhaustive list of topics includes:



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- › Cross border child protection and cooperation in cases of missing children
- › The reform of the Common European Asylum System
- › Legal avenues to reach the European Union – move within the European Union (including, family reunification, relocation, etc.)
- › Guardianship and legal representation
- › Reception needs and best practices
- › Assessment of the Best interest of the child
- › Child trafficking

Blog posts can however also be of a more personal nature, for example to:

- › Talk about an own experience of being a migrating child
- › Talk about work with children in migration, children victims of trafficking, child protection needs at the frontline
- › Describe an (anonymized / depersonalized) case you have managed of a child in migration, which you feel explains or illustrates the problem
- › Best practices or re-occurring challenges you see in your day to day work with children in migration

D. HOW do I submit a post to the “Lost in Migration” blog?

The post should be in English, and **the ideal length is between 650 and 5000 words**. Ideally we would like to feature new content but if you would like to refer to a previously published post or research, please ensure publishing it on our blog entails no copyright infringement. Your submission should be in **Word format** and should be sent to info@missingchildreneurope.eu.

In addition, the submission should include **an author bio of approximately 60 words**. The bio should include your Twitter handle if you have one, as well as any other relevant links you wish to display: your blog, LinkedIn profile, Facebook page, website URL, etc.

Your submissions should also include **at least one supporting image (in PNG or JPG, ideally high resolution)**. This could be anything from the logo of your organisation, an image that illustrates the topic addressed, a picture of you. Please provide a title and credits, if applicable. Your submission may include infographics, videos, and interactive content. In this case, please include the embed code for the infographic/video within your Word doc.

Submissions will be curated by the organisers, and may be rejected if irrelevant to the theme of the conference, inappropriate or not in line with the children rights principles outlined in the UN CRC. If necessary, you may be asked for content/language tweaks. Missing Children Europe will acknowledge the receipt of your submission and will let you know within a week if it has been accepted for publication.

Need help? Here are some tips for writing an engaging blog post

- Use a title that would catch your interest- relatable, powerful and with a punch



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- What is the key message of your post? Make sure your introduction has the juiciest nugget of the story so that even if the reader only skims through the first paragraph they have the essential information
- Make it personal- Relatable stories and experiences will often make a bigger impression than statistics. If you don't have a story, use quotes from children/trustworthy or other surprising
- Now that you have your audience's interest and support, how can they help? Always end with a call to action or further information on how the audience can learn more or support the protection of children
- Keep it short, simple and to the point. Avoid unnecessarily long explanations or repetitions
- Remember to ask yourself- would you find value in this blogpost? Would the title catch your attention and make you read the article? If the answer is yes, then you're in good form



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