



## Kids Empowerment 2016 Annual Report

### **Message from the President:**

Kids Empowerment (KE) was founded early in the summer of 2016, and after a summer dedicated to identifying our governance and to our administrative establishment, we were able to launch our activities in September 2016. At the global level, KE was represented in high-level events including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Day of General Discussion held in Geneva on September 23, 2016, and the Franco-German Forum on the Situation of Young Refugees, held in Berlin on November 6-9, 2016.

In a very short period of time, KE was able to mobilize a strong worldwide network of experts on children's rights and migration, as well as start working on developing a thorough analysis of the legal frameworks affecting migrant children in numerous countries. We have also begun developing a comprehensive library of legal material covering issues affecting migrant children, which will soon be available online. We are grateful and very privileged to have been able to work with such a great team here in Paris and throughout the world. We would particularly like to thank the operational team and the legal experts who have all contributed in a very dedicated manner, and on a pro-bono basis, to our development in 2016.

We look forward to continuing our work in promoting the rights of migrant children during these very challenging times and are impatient to see the first results expected in early 2017.

Caroline L. Newman  
Kids Empowerment Executive President

## **About our Organization:**

Kids Empowerment is a registered NGO in France, and was founded in 2016. Created by a team of lawyers who identified a gap in the meeting of needs of migrant children, the organization aims to empower children and youth, as well as advocate for the compliance of international law and children's rights.

## **Our Mission:**

The rate of migrant children in Europe is on an unprecedented rise. In 2016, addressing this issue was our priority. Political, economic and social variables have displaced families and individuals, and the result is kids who are highly vulnerable—they often become targets of trafficking, experience lack of access to education, experience alienating language barriers, and/or poverty. Many of these children receive very little, if any, relief aid. At present, because there is a lack of clarity and precedence in policies, states are often unable or unwilling to implement appropriate legal action. The resulting divisions between and within states regarding the application of international law is an enormous obstacle to the rights of migrant children. Our mission at Kids Empowerment is to encourage host and reception countries to comply their laws and policies with the standards and protocols of international law, so that migrant children cannot just survive—but thrive—in their host countries.

## **Our Objectives? We *Empower, Develop, and Transform*:**

Rather than just offer general recommendations for advocacy action, Kids Empowerment aims to offer states with concrete solutions, based on successful practices and pilot projects, in order to effectively implement international law. Our team works on policy, utilizing comparative analysis to identify the practices that work, and establishes appropriate contextual measures as well as develops tools that apply to local needs. KE does this by taking a participatory approach, consulting with affected youth so that provided solutions respond directly to their immediate needs, and by employing experienced lawyers who can contribute their expertise on child and migrant rights in their own country (or country of specialty.)

## **Projects – 2016 in Review:**

### Online Legal Library:

During the first year of operation, our organization compiled an online legal library which will be published on its website in 2017. This database contains copies of domestic and international law, regulations, case law, and comprehensive reports that address the rights of migrant children, particularly

as related to their legal representation, detention, placement, family reunification, international protection, age assessment, data protection, and access to rights.

### Country Reports:

With the help of our worldwide local partners, our team began undertaking country reports, which describe the legal frameworks affecting migrant children in reception and transit countries. Through these reports, we aim to identify best practices and highlight the areas which are in need of improvement. Furthermore, through these reports, we aim to offer technical professional support to public authorities and private organizations that aspire to improve their practices in relation to children and youth in compliance with international law. Reports will be published online upon completion and availability. In 2016, KE started drafting country reports covering the following countries:

- Cameroon
- Cambodia
- France (including Guyana and Mayotte overseas territories)
- India
- Italy
- Rwanda
- Slovenia
- Uganda
- UK
- United States

### Legal Guardianship Survey:

Kids Empowerment initiated surveys at the end of 2016 among Slovenian, Swedish, French, Italian and Irish legal guardians of unaccompanied minors. In many European countries, these guardians carry out this function on a voluntary basis and have not received comprehensive initial trainings to carry out their activities in the most effective manner. The purpose of this survey is to identify the needs of guardians and develop a tailored response to their needs. The results will be analysed in early 2017.

### **2016 Engaging with international organizations:**

In December 2016, Kids Empowerment nominated a young political refugee from Bangladesh to the Women's Refugee Commission, Voices of Courage Award for 2017. The laureates will be announced by the WRC in the Spring of 2017.

### **2016 Board Meetings & Decisions:**

The board met on July 13, 2016, and November 11, 2016. Decisions were related to the establishment process and the adoption of a workplan for the year 2016-2020.

### **Communication:**

In 2016, Kids Empowerment created its website, which went live in early 2017. In addition, our organization created LinkedIn and Facebook social media channels.

### **2016 Human Resources:**

#### Board Members:

Dr. Christophe-Claude Charles-Alfred - Co-founder and Secretary General  
Anna Kurdova - Co-founder and Treasurer  
Caroline Newman - Co-founder and Executive President

#### Operational Team:

Rosa M. Arcuri - Fellow, Research and project development specialist.  
(Fellowship in partnership with the Scuola Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy)  
Christophe-Claude Charles-Alfred - Pro Bono Research specialist  
Thibault Fiacre - Pro-bono web master  
Giulia Franchi - Pro-bono Accountant  
Elizabeth Harris - Pro-bono Communication Specialist  
Anna Kurdova - Pro-bono Field Project Development specialist  
Caroline Newman Pro-bono Program and management specialist  
Irina Uberti - Pro bono Project development and management, communication and fundraising specialist

#### Legal Experts:

Rosa M. Arcuri  
Peggie Ayesiga  
Stanila Dimitrova  
Sara Erjavec

Victoria Kerr  
 Amy Kerr  
 Camille Oberkamp

## 2016 Financial Situation:

### Statement of financial positions as of December 31, 2016 Kids Empowerment

Assets		Liabilities	
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	210.00	NET INCOME	569.06
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	429.06	CURRENT LIABILITIES	70.00
		Deferred Income	70.00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>639.06</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>639.06</b>

All amounts are in €

### Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2016 Kids Empowerment

Expenses		Revenue	
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	120.68	OPERATING INCOME	760.00
Administration costs	74.28	Donations	720.00
Publication and communication costs	46.40	Cotisations	40.00
<b>COSTS OF OPERATIONS</b>	<b>70.26</b>		
Rental	7.14		
Insurance	63.12		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>190.94</b>	<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>760.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>569.06</b>		

All amounts are in €

Kids Empowerment's income, which comes entirely in the form of voluntary contributions from the public, totaled 760€ as of December 31, 2016.

Volunteer work contributions are valued at 25€ per hour and amounts to a total of 7,888€ in 2016.

Total expenditures of 190.94€ are mainly related to the insurance premium as well as administrative expenditures resulting from the launch of the organization. The intangible asset of 210€ is the brand name of Kids

Empowerment and the amount of cash available in the bank account is 429.06€. The year 2016 was closed on December 31, 2016 with a positive net income amounting to 569.06€. This amount was allocated to Kids Empowerment's endowment by decision of the General Assembly of April 22, 2017.

## **2017 Outlook:**

### Alsace and Berlin Empowerment Project:

Through our work at Kids Empowerment, we aim to help young migrants in the Alsace region assert their rights and thrive. At least a group of 15 young migrants will be empowered to develop a digital app for their peers. The project will also enable a group of young migrants in Germany to transfer their digital development knowledge to the young migrants in Alsace, and this project involves the organization Bureaucrazy as partner and technical advisor.

In 2017, our projects will involve the creation of a digital tool at the attention of young migrants, which will act as an innovative tool for migrant youth and children to better navigate the French legal and administrative requirements and deadlines in a language they can understand.

### More Country Reports:

Our organization will continue to work on and publicize country reports, capitalizing on our work in 2016. Through the global analysis of the accumulated country reports, Kids Empowerment will have identified several best practices that will be promoted in all of its advocacy work.

The dissemination of these reports and relevant legislation will help raise awareness among interested parties on alternative policies and legal frameworks that enable migrant children to thrive and become actors of their development in recipient countries. Reports for Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cambodia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France (including Guyana and Mayotte overseas territories), India, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, the UK, and the United States will be published in 2017.

### Capacity Building of Legal Guardians in Selected European Countries:

Kids Empowerment shall provide support to legal guardians in 2-3 countries by the end of 2017 through a digital platform. This will ensure that the best interest of migrant children will be better assessed and taken into consideration regarding all decisions that affect them. These children will be able to thrive in their recipient countries and will be less likely to be tempted to

go missing with the danger of ending up in trafficking rings.

*2016 Annual Report*  
*Edited by Lauren Olsen*  
*Reviewed by Caroline Newman and Irina Uberti*

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