



Annual Report 2018

Message from the President

In 2018 Kids Empowerment has continued to function thanks to the generous pro bono contribution of its institutional partners, volunteers and a terrific team of interns and volunteers.

We have continued to work on the projects started in 2018: country reports, data base, online training for legal guardians of unaccompanied minors and EmpowerMIE.

Our work is becoming more visible thanks to our outputs of quality, our communications, participation as speakers on various panels, our presence on social media and the great opportunity that our membership in IDC has offered.

I would particularly like to thank interns from the American University of Paris, American Graduate School of Paris and IES Abroad Paris and Kids Empowerment's team of volunteers without whom none of this would have been achieved in 2018!

We have encountered some challenge with the departure of our webdesigner but hope to find a solution in 2019 to make the work we have produced available online to the wider public.

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 meeting the needs of children on the move. 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. For the period of 2016-2020, addressing this issue is our priority. Political, economic and social variables have displaced families and individuals, and the result is kids who are highly vulnerable who 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. Presently, 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. Kids Empowerment 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 — 2018 in Review

Country Reports:

Kids Empowerment continued efforts from previous years to prepare country reports with the aid of institutional partners and legal experts. Through these reports, we aim to describe the legal frameworks affecting migrant children in reception countries, identify successful and constructive practices, and highlight practices that are in need of improvement. In 2018, Kids Empowerment published country reports covering the following countries:

- Brazil
- Finland
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- South Africa
- United States

These reports were made possible thanks to the contributions of our legal experts Anisa Mahmoudi and Tshegofatso Tracy Mothapo and the following institutional partners Mattos Filho, White & Case and Boies Schiller Flexner.

EmpowerMIE:

Kids Empowerment built on efforts from 2017 to aid in the development of a mobile application that would assist unaccompanied minors in navigating administrative and legal requirements for integration in France. Development of the mobile application, called EmpowerMIE, progressed with Marymount International School of Paris middle school contributing to the parts of the mobile app addressing unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in France or seeking family reunification in a third European country. Volunteer pupils are preparing the contents of the mobile app in a child friendly language and via visual medium.

Legal Guardianship Training:

Due to the observed lack of training for legal guardians of migrant children Europe, Kids Empowerment worked on developing training modules aimed at improving the knowledge and

preparedness of guardians. Alice Ouaknine prepared and finalized a module on the best interests of the child, and Emma Linsemayer prepared and finalized modules concerning psychology and trauma as well as communication and interview techniques. Further modules for international law (prepared by DLA Piper) and human trafficking (prepared by Hannah Linsemayer) are expected to be finalized in the coming months.

This work on the training of legal guardians has translated into a partnership between Kids Empowerment and Central European University's (CEU) School of Public Policy. Within CEU's Applied Policy Project, students Sahar Haq and Bruno Hasa began working in November in order to prepare the country specifics and tool boxes for the training of legal guardians in Finland and the Czech Republic.

Global NextGen Index:

As a member of the International Detention Coalition, Kids Empowerment is proud to have contributed its work to Global Campaign to End Child detention in the development of the Next GenIndex, a comparative tool that ranks states on their progress in ending child immigration detention. The tool was launched in the summer of 2018. Kids Empowerment contributed information on Brazil, Italy, and the United States, among others, to the Next GenIndex in order to help the IDC assess national migration policies and make recommendations on how nations can improve in accordance to the needs of child migrants.

Contribution to Conferences

Safeguarding Children's Rights in Immigration Law - Leiden Law School (November 23, 2018):

On November 22-23, Kids Empowerment was honored to have been selected to present among nearly 100 panelists and participants at the international conference on Safeguarding Children's Rights in Immigration Law organized by Leiden Law School's Institute of Immigration Law and the Department of Child Law. Caroline Newman and Anna Kurdova prepared a paper on the "Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Minors in Russia, Armenia and Ukraine," which was presented by Caroline Newman at the workshop concerning the best interests of the child in immigration law as an example of the protection of unaccompanied and separated minors on 23 November.

*Round Table at Marymount International School of Paris on the situation of Unaccompanied Minors in France
(December 5, 2018)*

A round table discussion with students at Marymount Middle School was co-organized with Kids Empowerment. Kids Empowerment facilitated the participation of the other panelists to the round table including: Kryssandra Heslop and Sylvie Brod from ADJIE (Aide et Défense des Jeunes Isolés Étrangers) and Mas Mahmoud a young refugee and human rights defender. The round table presented to 7th graders from Marymount the obstacles migrant children face and their experiences within France, as well as their work to help these children navigate their particular situations. Caroline Newman presented the work of legal representatives of unaccompanied minors carried out by Administrateurs *Ad Hoc* (French equivalent to Guardian *Ad Litem*).

Communication:

The proceedings from the conference held in Paris in the summer of 2017 on Child Brides were published in a small brochure which has been distributed widely, notably during the International Refugee Rights Conference held on 7-9 June 2018 in Toronto, Canada and during the Day of General Discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child "Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders" held at the UN headquarters in Geneva on 28 September 2018.

2018 Board Meetings and Decisions:

The board held 4 formal meetings in 2018 during which managerial decision were approved. In order to allow flexibility in the operations of the organization the board has worked remotely and board members have been solicited to pre-approve decisions by mail on numerous occasions.

2018 Human Resources

Board Members:

Rosa M. Arcuri - *Vice-President (term: 2017-2020)*

Dr. Christophe-Claude Charles-Alfred - *Co-founder and Secretary General (term: 2016-2019)*

Giulia Franchi - *Treasurer (term: 2017-2020)*

Anna Kurdova - *Co-founder (term: 2016-2019)*

Caroline Newman - *Co-founder and Executive President (term: 2016-2019)*

Operational Team:

Amy Fall – Editing

[Thibault Fiacre](#) – Web design

[Giulia Franchi](#) – Accounting

Gabriella Giotto – Communications

Kelsie Elmore – Editing

Hanna Fishman – Editing

Ellen Kitchens – Fundraising

[Anna Kurdova](#) – Project Management

Emma Lisenmeyer – Training (Psychology and Communication)

Hanna Lisenmeyer – Training (Human Trafficking)

Diana Martirosyan – Project Implementation

[Caroline Newman](#) – Programs/Overall Management

[Artur Safaryan](#) – Project Coordination

Kate Vanier – Editing

Rukman Vissimbayev – Project Implementation

The following Legal Experts have contributed to Kid’s Empowerment projects in 2018:

Luciana Apicella
Anisa Mahmoudi
Christophe-Claude Charles-Alfred
Anna Kurdova

Caroline Newman
Camille Oberkampf
Alice Ouaknine

Final statements 2018

Statement of financial positions as of December 31, 2018

Kids Empowerment

Assets		Liabilities	
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	210,00	NET INCOME	4.261,09
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4.041,09	Reserves	1.858,54
Credit Card Payments to be deposited	100,00	Net Income	2.402,55
Cash in Cash Equivalent	3.941,09		
Petty Cash	10,00		
Total assets	4.261,09	Total liabilities	4.261,09

All amounts are in €

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2018

Kids Empowerment

Expenses		Revenue	
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	258,80	OPERATING INCOME	3.550,00
Supplies	258,80	Donations	3500,00
COSTS OF OPERATIONS	404,46	Membership fees	
Rental	332,29		50,00
Insurance	72,17		
OTHER EXTERNAL SERVICES	484,19		
Travels, entertainment	331,77		
Miscellaneous	152,42		
Total expenses	1.147,45	Total revenue	3.550,00
Net Income	2.402,55		

*All amounts are in €

Kids Empowerment's income, which comes entirely in the form of voluntary contributions from the public, totaled 3.550€ as of December 31, 2018.

Total expenditures of 1.147€ are mainly related to our participation on various events to enhance our visibility as well as ongoing project development.

The amount of cash available in the bank as of December 31st 2018 equals 3.941€.

The year 2018 was closed with a positive net income amounting to 4.261,09€."

2019 Outlook

EmpowerMIE:

In 2019, Kids Empowerment will continue to work with the students and faculty of Marymount Middle School in order to develop child friendly presentations of information necessary to migrant children to navigate legal processes in France. By working with these students, Kids Empowerment hopes to move forward in the creation of an interactive model for for the application EmpowerMIE with adapted solutions to present information in various forms such as cartoons, graphs, and short movies that will be easily understood and accessible to migrant children in France.

Legal Guardianship Training:

Kids Empowerment will maintain its partnership with Central European University's School of Public Policy and work with Sahar Haq and Bruno Hasa as they continue to prepare country specifics for the training of legal guardians in Finland and the Czech Republic as part of their Applied Policy Project. Throughout 2019, they will continue their work on this project and aid Kids Empowerment in developing a guideline of good ethics and good governance in the training of legal guardians for migrant children in Europe.

Country Reports:

In 2019, Kids Empowerment will continue to build on efforts from previous years to publicize country reports with the help of its institutional and legal partners. The circulation of these reports as well as accompanying legislation will help raise awareness on policies and legal frameworks that have been successful as well as those that are in need of improvement in order to help migrant children thrive and become actors of their development in recipient countries.

Asylum Seekers:

Throughout 2019, Kids Empowerment plans to facilitate hands on learning with migrant children at the Temporary Shelter ran by association Aurore in the Paris 16e. Led by Pauline Vigan, the focus of the project is to teach both francophone and non-francophone children housed with their families at the shelter their legal rights within France in an easily understood and child-friendly presentation of information. Using interactive games and group work, Kids Empowerment will be able to not only provide these children information about their rights, but also allow non-francophone children to grasp both familiar and unfamiliar concepts in French.