



2017 Annual Report

Message from the President

Overall, 2017 was a very good year for Kids Empowerment. Despite the quasi inexistence of available funds, we were able to start producing outputs and disseminate our work! We have achieved so much in such a little period of time and without any financial support for our projects that it is hardly possible to imagine. This was made possible because Kids Empowerment had the tremendous opportunity to have an excellent team of both volunteers and interns. We are really grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them and hope that the knowledge they acquired during their internship or contribution to our projects will be useful for them to continue to raise awareness on the problems encountered by children on the move in their future endeavors. Further, we have entered a partnership agreement with major law firms that have enabled us to strengthen our expertise and prepare reports of the utmost quality.

Finally, our membership in two major international organizations, the International Detention Coalition and Keeping Children Safe, are the consecration of the value and recognition of our work. It is very encouraging and an asset for our future activities.

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 2017!

The challenges for Children on the Move are great and we hope that our work will continue to contribute to their betterment.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Caroline L. Newman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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 – 2017 in Review:

Online Legal Library:

During the first year of operation, our organization compiled an online legal library. This library is currently being published on our website. By the end of 2017, 109 legal documents in the library were accessible to the general public. 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:

Kids Empowerment 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. In 2017, Kids Empowerment published country reports covering the following countries:

- Czech Republic (made possible with the support of Dentons)
- Italy (prepared by Rosa Arcuri)
- Mexico (made possible with the support of Creel)
- Ukraine (made possible with the support of Dentons)

Pro-bono agreements with White and Case, Central Law, Boies_Schiller_Flexner and Mattos Filho were agreed upon in 2017 to cover reports for additional countries which will be published in the course of 2018.

Mobile App project for unaccompanied minors:

In April 2017, Artur Safaryan and Rukman Vissimbayev represented Kids Empowerment as volunteers at a BarCamp on democracy organized by Vote&Vous and sponsored by the OFAJ (Office Franco-Allemand pour la Jeunesse) and BPB (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) in Marseille. During this event, Artur and Rukman were able to meet other youth interested in human rights and the rule of law from various European countries like France, Germany, Italy, Austria, etc. They took full advantage of this meeting to promote the idea of the mobile app and discuss with other refugees from Germany who were undertaking a similar project in Berlin. The mobile app is working to improve the situation of young migrants, the assessment of need in the French migratory system, as well as the accessibility of useful information through the creation of a digital tool.

The working group composed of Artur Safaryan, Rukman Vissimbayev, Diana Markosyan, Jennifer Smith and Anna Kurdova held several meetings in order to develop the project further. They created a questionnaire which will be used to survey the needs of unaccompanied migrants in the Paris and Strasbourg area.

Conference on Child Brides:

On July 20, Kids Empowerment organized a conference, entitled “Children or Brides? What is the Legal Status for Migrant Child Brides?”, at the Maison des associations in the 7th arrondissement of Paris. This conference took place within the summer event organized by the Local City hall of Paris’ 7th arrondissement: “Eté Solidaire”. Isabel Bogdanos, with the help of summer interns, organized the successful event. Kids Empowerment was able to invite prominent speakers who gave the following presentations:

- Isabelle Gillette-Faye – Brief presentation on the geopolitics of the reception of refugees in Europe. Contrasting realities.
- Nyea Mary Magdalene Buam – No to child marriage: an overview to the law putting an end

- to premature marriage in Germany.
- Elsbeth Faber (participated in video conference) – Child Marriage: rights and politics in the Netherlands.
- Christine-Sarah Jama – What is the effectiveness of French legislation in relation to the reality of forced marriages of minors in France?

The conference was live streamed on Kids Empowerment's Facebook page. Alice Preat prepared the French version of the Conference proceedings, which will be published in 2018.

Legal Guardianship Training:

After analyzing surveys carried out in 2016 among Slovenian, Swedish, French, Italian and Irish legal guardians of unaccompanied minors, the results revealed a lack of training of legal guardians in Europe. With this discovery, Kids Empowerment started developing an online training specifically designed for legal guardians in Europe.

Kids Empowerment began developing seven modules for the training which include: international law (compiled by Sarah Ciambrone); best interests of the child (prepared by Alice Ouaknine); human trafficking; psychology and trauma (prepared by Emma Linsemayer); communication and interview techniques (prepared by Emma Linsemayer); court pleading and preparation; and standards for legal guardians.

All modules will be finalized and electronically adapted to stream the online training program by the end of 2018.

2017 Engaging with international organizations:

During our time at the Global Conference on Children on the Move, held in Berlin on the 12th and 13th of June 2017, we were invited to present recommendations to the Draft Joint General Comments prepared by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers. Shortly after the conference we were able to prepare and send Kids Empowerment's recommendations to the UN Committee on Migrant Workers on the Draft Joint General Comment on the Human Rights of Children in the Context of International Migration. Kids Empowerment's recommendations were published and are available for consultation on the UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner's website:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CMW/JointGC_CRC_CMW/Add/KidsEmpowerment.pdf

Membership in International Networks

Kids Empowerment became a member of the International Detention Coalition on May 31st, 2017, an international organization with its international secretariat located in Melbourne, Australia. We are proud to have been accepted as members of this unique global network, which advocates for, researches and provides direct services to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants affected by

immigration detention. This membership is essential for the effective dissemination of Kids Empowerment's work and for further information on IDC consult: <https://idcoalition.org/>

On July 14th, 2017, Kids Empowerment became an associate member of the Keeping Children Safe network, with headquarters in London, UK. Keeping Children Safe's mission is to work with organizations to safeguard all children from exploitation, abuse and violations of their human rights. We advocate for the universal adoption and monitoring of international standards on safeguarding, build the capacity of organizations to safeguard children and work to advance a global movement of organizations committed to ensure that their staff, operations and programs do no harm to children. For further information on KCS consult: <https://www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk>

**International
Detention Coalition**

Human rights for detained refugees,
asylum seekers and migrants



**Keeping
Children
Safe**

2017 Board Meetings & Decisions:

The board met on March 14, April 12, April 22 and October 7, 2017.

The General Assembly was held on April 22. During this Assembly, Rosa Arcuri and Giulia Franchi's application to Kids Empowerment's Board of Directors was approved.

An Extraordinary assembly was also held on April 22 in order to modify Kids Empowerment's name and remove "Aide à l'Enfance" from the name and convert it to a slogan for the French public.

Given Giulia Franchi's expertise in accounting and auditing and her joining the board on April 22nd, Anna Kurdova chose to step out from her position as treasurer and Ms. Franchi accepted to become Kids Empowerment's next Treasurer. We are all very pleased and thank her for accepting.

Rosa Arcuri's contribution to Kids Empowerment in 2016 and 2017 was remarkable and we are also grateful that she accepted to join the board and become Kids Empowerment's Vice President.

Communication:

The excellent work and dedication of Thibault Fiacre, Lauren Olsen and Irina Uberti, permitted the inauguration of Kids Empowerment's website early 2017. In addition, Kids Empowerment increased its social media presence and created LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter social media channels thanks to the valuable work and initiative of Isabella Bogdanos.

Brochures were developed in English and French in the summer of 2017 and have been distributed

to all interested parties throughout the year, including at international conferences we attended such as the international conference “Immigration Detention of Children: Coming to a Close?” held on the 25th and 26th of September 2017 in Prague, Czech Republic.

2017 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:

Rosa M. Arcuri - *Fellow, Research and project development specialist. (Fellowship in partnership with the Scuola Sant'Anna)*
Christophe-Claude Charles-Alfred - *Pro-bono Research specialist*
Thibault Fiacre - *Pro-bono Web Designer*
Giulia Franchi - *Pro-bono Accountant*
Anna Kurdova - *Pro-bono Field Project Development specialist*
Isabella Bogdanos - *Intern - Conference coordination and communication*
Sarah Ciambrone - *Intern -- online training development*
Emma Linsemayer - *intern -- specialist in child psychology*
Caroline Newman -- *Pro-bono Overall management and program management*
Lauren Olsen - *Intern -- communications*
Alice Preat - *Intern - editing*
Artur Safaryan - *Pro-bono Project Coordination*
Jennifer Smith - *Pro-bono Project Coordination*
Irina Uberti - *Pro bono Project development and management, communication and fundraising specialist*
Rukman Vissimbayev – *Project Implementation*

The following Legal Experts have contributed to KE's projects in 2017

Rosa M. Arcuri	Anna Kurdova
Peggie Ayesiga	Caroline Newman
Nyea Mary Magdalene Baum	Camille Oberkampf
Anisa Mahmoudi	Alice Ouaknine
Christophe-Claude Charles-Alfred	

2017 Financial Situation

Statement of financial positions as of December 31, 2017

Kids Empowerment

Assets		Liabilities	
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	140.00	NET INCOME	1858.54
INTERIM ACCOUNTS	-2.19	Reserves	569.06
Expenses to be Accounted For		Net Income	1289.48
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1746.76	CURRENT LIABILITIES	26.03
Credit Card Payments to be deposited	100.00	Deferred Income	26.03
Cash in Cash Equivalent	1646.57		
Total assets		Total liabilities	1884.57

All amounts are in €

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2017

Kids Empowerment

Expenses		Revenue	
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	163.80	OPERATING INCOME	2518.00
Supplies	163.80	Donations	2200.00
COSTS OF OPERATIONS	89.15	Membership fees	150.00
Rental	16.66	Other income	168.00
Insurance	72.49		
OTHER EXTERNAL SERVICES	874.57		
Travels, entertainment	778.41		
Miscellaneous	96.16		
OTHER GENERAL AND ADMIN COSTS	31.00		
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION, PROVISIONS AND OTHER CHARGES	70.00		
Amortization fo Intangible Assets	70.00		
Total expenses	1228.52	Total revenue	2518.00
Net Income	1289.48		

All amounts are in €

Kids Empowerment's income, which comes entirely in the form of voluntary contributions from the public, totaled 2.518€ as of December 31, 2017.

Volunteer work contributions are valued at 25€ per hour and amounts to a total of 23.540€ in 2017.

Total expenditures of 1.228€ are mainly related to the conferences and training organized in 2017 by Kids Empowerment in relation to its ongoing projects.

The intangible asset is the brand name of Kids Empowerment, the amount of cash available in the bank as of December 31st 2017 equals 1647€.

The year 2017 was closed with a positive net income amounting to 1858€."

2018 OUTLOOK

Mobile App Project for Unaccompanied Minors:

Kids Empowerment is currently seeking funding for the mobile app project and hopes to secure it in order to be able to carry out the project.

More Country Reports:

Our organization will continue to work on and publicize country reports, capitalizing on our work in 2017. 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 Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, India, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, and the United States are currently being edited and will be published in 2018.

Proceedings of the Conference of July 12, 2017 on the Legal Status of Child Brides

The English version is currently being transcribed and edited and will be published in 2018.

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 2018 through the online training and 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.

*2017 Annual Report
Edited by Jennifer Smith
Reviewed by Caroline Newman*

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