

Family
for every child



[CHILD] FRONTIERS

WEBINAR

**Kinship Care Learning Series #3 | Kinship
care during emergencies and across borders**



Family
for every child



Introduction

Learning series - Kinship care - Nov 2022 - July 2023

Inter-agency global guidance on kinship care - ongoing

Paradox of kinship care (2019)

A diverse, global alliance of **46 local civil society organisations** in **38 countries**.



Introducing our panelists



Rima Mohsen
Save The Children
Lebanon



Carolyn Housman
Children and Families
Across Borders
(CFAB)
UK



Frances Edwards
Family Rights Group
UK



Save the Children

Kinship Care during Emergencies and Across Borders

Supporting Kinship Care during Crisis in Lebanon

Lebanon is undergoing a series of overlapping crises on the political, economic, social front, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts from the devastating blast in the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020.

These crises are reinforcing existing vulnerabilities as well as devastating humanitarian implications for livelihoods, food security, health, and wellbeing.

Supporting Kinship Care during Crisis in Lebanon

Ten years into the Syria conflict, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises. The Government of Lebanon estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million of the 6.6 million Syrians who have fled the conflict since 2011.

- Huge influx of refugees has a significant impact on Lebanon's population who are considered most vulnerable due to the socio-economic crisis that pushed almost the entire Syrian refugee population into a situation of severe protection vulnerabilities.
- Lack of access to basic social services, protection and livelihood opportunities, among the displaced population and the host community, has increased the vulnerabilities of already deprived families.
- Violence, exploitation and abuse against children in the home, community and schools are recognized as a priority for the response

Supporting Kinship Care during Crisis in Lebanon

The Alternative Care guidelines pilot was drafted in 2019 targeting children in need of protection from abuse and neglect who have already been separated from parents or are at high risk of this separation in need for family based alternative care setting.

- This pilot aimed to contribute to wider efforts in Lebanon to ensure that children can grow up within families.
- Provides technical procedures for social workers to assess, match, place and support alternative carers- Extended family members to host children whether emergency- short- medium- and long-term placement.
- Focus on the decision for a child to go into alternative care MUST be based on a comprehensive and holistic assessment of the child's situation and be in their best interests.

Supporting Kinship Care during Crisis in Lebanon

Key activities in relation to supporting kinship care:

- Ensure that more children at risk of or having experienced abuse and neglect can remain with their parents or other extended family members.
- To give social workers the option to place children in another family setting such as kinship or foster care.
- Extended family caregivers should always be explored as an option before the option of placement with a host family or other residential care.
- To maintain the contact and that children are re-integrated into their biological caregivers as soon as possible when possible.

Supporting Kinship Care during Crisis in Lebanon

The crises have affected the need for kinship care:

Save the Children have been working since 2015 mainly with refugee kinship carers due to the:

- Huge numbers of separated and unaccompanied children that fled to Lebanon to work or left their biological caregivers for protection concerns.
- Struggling to find appropriate protective alternative care solutions for children at risk in need for urgent placements due to protection concerns in line with the best interests of the child.

For the support needs of kinship care families

Save the children worked on the best interest and wellbeing of the child while placing in kinship care by:

- Ensuring basic needs, medication and core relief items of the child are met.
- Providing the extended carers with parenting skills to support the child and recover.
- Referring children for specialized mental health psychosocial support.
- Case management for the child, extended family and biological caregivers

Supporting Kinship Care during Crisis in Lebanon

Save the Children has supported kinship care through:

- Awareness about the risks caused by institutional care, increase understanding of community attitudes towards family based alternative care through delivering social behavior sessions which focus on different child protection topics such as violence, child marriage and child labor, as well disseminating family preservation – family unity key messages.
- Conduct trainings for extended families on the SCI “Kinship and Host family toolkit” in order to strengthen the capacity of caregivers to provide adequate care for hosted children as well ensuring the appropriate development of the children psychically, emotionally, mentally and socially.
- Link the extended caregivers with available social protection service mapping and livelihood within the communities to sustain long term placement without any breakdown in the placement.
- Capacity building for social workers and caseworkers on the alternative care guidelines and procedures through training, case discussions and case conferences.



THANK YOU

Children and Families Across Borders

Presented By:

Carolyn Housman
CEO

CFAB is the UK branch of the International Social Service network

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Registered Charity no. 1085541

What we'll cover

- Who is CFAB?
- What is international kinship care?
- Scenarios
- International kinship care: UK study?
- What additional information needs to be considered in international kinship care cases?

About Us

CFAB changed its name from International Social Service UK to Children and Families Across Borders in 2009

- UK Branch of International Social Service
- Established in the UK in 1955
- The only NGO in the UK which specialises in the provision of inter-country social work
- Provides assistance to vulnerable children in public law and private law cases

The Network- International Social Service

CFAB is the UK Branch of the International Social Service network

- Network established in 1924
- Provides assistance on cases involving vulnerable adults and children that cross international borders
- Has a presence in 120 countries
- General Secretariat based in Geneva
- Network members – government agencies, central authorities, charities

What CFAB does:

Our Services

For further details and costs, please see our website for further details.

www.cfab.org.uk

Advice Line

CFAB runs a free Advice Line, five days per week, to provide guidance and practical support on cross-border children and family cases.



International child protection alerts

Reporting child protection concerns to child welfare organisations abroad within 24 hours.



Record checks

Requesting and receiving social services records and information from authorities abroad



Welfare checks and home visits

A visit made by an overseas social service professional to the family home usually to ascertain the safety and welfare of the children and their living circumstances



Assessments

(including initial, kinship, parenting and best interest assessments)

Requesting and obtaining assessments from our partners overseas.



Pre-placement preparation

Direct support to prepare the family ahead of the arrival of the child.



Post placement support

Welfare visits by an overseas professional to confirm the children's health, safety, routine and emotional development within the new family environment



Life story work

Direct support for the child to help them process their feelings, to come to terms with their current circumstances linking to events in their past, to make sense of their present and to develop a clear sense of identity for the future.



Family reunification – in the UK

Practical and emotional support for young refugees who are reunited with family members in the UK. We also offer assessments for the family reunification process.



Legal advice service

Legal advice for local authorities in England and Wales on care proceedings with an international element.



Additional ISS services:

- International Adoption
- International Tracing
- International Surrogacy
- International Family Mediation
- Child Abduction
- Moving Children with Disabilities to Family Care Settings

*Not all available through CFAB

Defining Kinship Care

Family-based care within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal in nature.

(UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children)

Equity in Permanence Planning

Based in UN Convention on Rights of Child

- Article 2 – non-discrimination
- Article 3 – best interests
- Article 8 – preservation of identity and family relationships
- Article 20 – respect of culture, language and religion in alternative care

Scenarios



Scenario 1: Asylum Kinship Care



Scenario 2: Refugee kinship care



Scenario 3: Family care



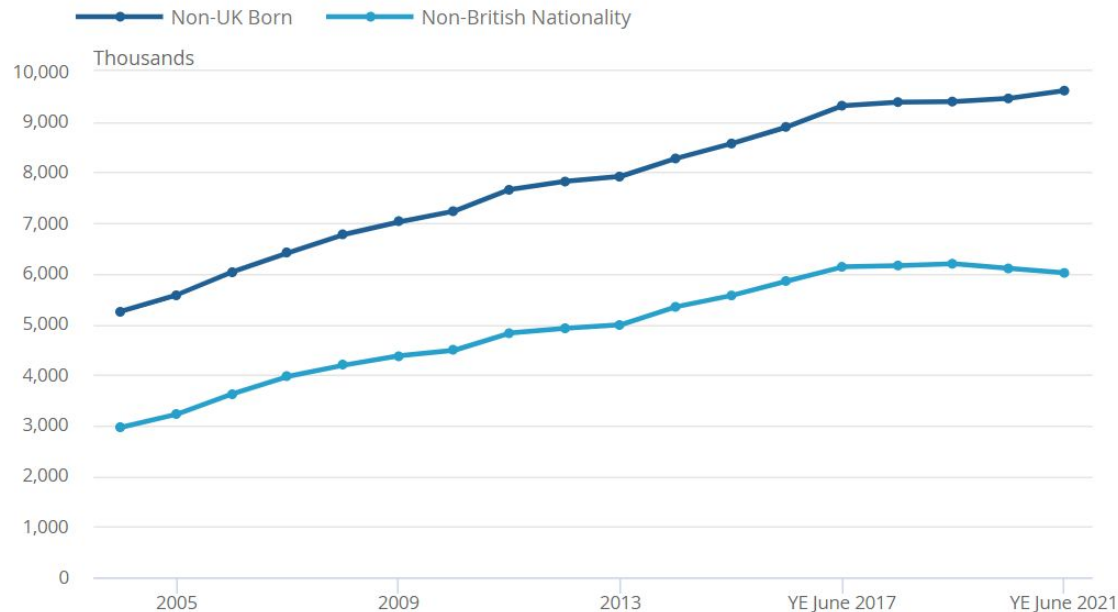
International Kinship Care: UK study



Countries of birth: UK population

Figure 1: Non-UK-born and non-British populations remain broadly stable

Estimates of the non-UK-born and non-British resident population of the UK, 2004 to year ending June 2021



More children on the move & families separated by borders than since
World War II

Out of all live births in England & Wales in 2020*:
Just over **1/3** of babies born had at least one parent born outside the UK
66.4% of babies born in London had at least one parent who was born
outside the UK

CFAB estimates there are over **18,500** children in care with family
overseas.

*This is the highest proportion since 1969, when information on parents' country of birth was first collected at birth registration. Statistics from the Office for National Statistics 2020.

Freedom of Information Results (2022)

Nation	Children in Care (2019)	% of Las which explored family overseas (2019)	% of children in care placed with family overseas (2019)
Scotland	16,530	19% (out of 32)	.01% (2 children)
Wales	7,170	14% (out of 22)	.03% (2 children)
England	78,150	11% (out of 152)	.04% (34 children)
Northern Ireland	3,281	40% (out of 5)	.5% (c. 17 children)
Total	105,131		.05%

1 in 3

international family placements explored led to
the child/ren being placed

Hague 1996 Contracting States

- Albania
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lesotho
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Nicaragua
- Norway
- Paraguay
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Uruguay

An up-to-date table of contracting states is available on the HCCH Website:

www.hcch.net

In 2020/21, we took enquiries from 176 UK local authorities on children and families cases involving 132 different countries.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Spain | 16. Jamaica | 31. Lebanon | 46. Ireland |
| 2. Lithuania | 17. Viet Nam | 32. Mauritius | 47. Israel |
| 3. Germany | 18. Belgium | 33. Namibia | 48. Malawi |
| 4. Latvia | 19. Ghana | 34. Romania | 49. Malta |
| 5. Portugal | 20. Bangladesh | 35. Slovak Republic | 50. Morocco |
| 6. Canada | 21. Bulgaria | 36. Algeria | 51. Philippines |
| 7. Pakistan | 22. China | 37. Cameroon | 52. Poland |
| 8. Australia | 23. Dominican Republic | 38. Cyprus, Republic of | 53. Rwanda |
| 9. Nigeria | 24. France | 39. Ecuador | 54. Switzerland |
| 10. South Africa | 25. Thailand | 40. Ethiopia | 55. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 11. United States of America | 26. Turkey | 41. Gambia | 56. Tunisia |
| 12. Netherlands | 27. Albania | 42. Guinea | 57. Uganda |
| 13. Czech Republic | 28. Bermuda | 43. Guinea - Bissau | 58. Ukraine |
| 14. Italy | 29. India | 44. Hungary | 59. Zimbabwe |
| 15. Greece | 30. Japan | 45. Indonesia | |

Next Steps: International Kinship Care



Respecting human rights

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - Best interests (art 3)
 - Identity and family relations (art 8)
 - Family reunification (art 10)
 - The child's right to express his/her views

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has as ultimate objective **a durable solution that respects the child's best interest and family reunification is seen as a durable solution**

- European Convention on Human Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing The Rights of The Child in ASEAN

Practical considerations

- Nationality/ citizenship of child AND family
- Considering country of origin and transit countries, particularly for refugees
- Recognition of legal orders
- Recognising additional support needs
- Contingency planning
- Managing contact

Key Resource

International Kinship Care Guide

The screenshot displays the CFAB website's navigation bar and a main content area. The navigation bar includes the CFAB logo, a phone icon with the text 'ADVICE LINE 020 7735 8941', a clock icon with 'Mon - Fri: 10:00 - 15:30', and a location pin icon with 'Lower Ground Floor, 136 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SA'. The main navigation menu contains links for 'About Us >', 'Services >', 'Resources >', 'How can you help? >', 'Advocacy >', 'News', and 'Contact Us', followed by a pink 'DONATE' button. The main content area features a large image of a young girl and an older man smiling together. Overlaid on this image is the text 'Resources' in a pink box, 'International Kinship Care Guide' in large white font, and a pink 'Learn more ->' button. At the bottom left, there is a 'COOKIE SETTINGS' button. The Windows taskbar at the very bottom shows the search bar, taskbar icons, system tray, and the date/time '12:02 16/03/2022'.

Further Resources

ISS practical guide: [Children on the Move: from protection to a quality sustainable solution](#)

Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts

UASC Health - <https://www.uaschealth.org/> *This site contains key documents, templates, tools and clinical guidance used in Kent to support the health needs of our unaccompanied asylum-seeking children population*

London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit

https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/201/1/london_safeguarding_trafficked_children_toolkit_july_2009.pdf - In the appendix section you can find tools such as 'The assessment framework for trafficked children' and a risk matrix

Liberty – A guide to the Hostile Environment

<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/policy/policy-reports-briefings/guide-hostile-environment-border-controls-dividing-our-communities-%E2%80%93> **Signs of Safety** approach, created by Andrew Turnell & Steve Edwards <https://www.signsofsafety.net/signs-of-safety/>

Coram Migrant Children's Project

<https://www.coram.org.uk/how-we-do-it/upholding-childrens-rights/migrant-childrens-project> - Resources and information aimed at informing professionals on how to support children access their rights and services

Book: Social Work with Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants: Theory and Skills for Practice edited by Rachel Larkin, Lauren Wroe, Reima Ana Maglajlic - Each chapter speaks to a skill and knowledge area that is key to this work, bringing together myriad voices from across disciplines, interspersed with the vital perspectives of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants themselves.

Call our Advice Line

Call 020 7735 8941
Monday to Friday
09.30 am - 4.30 pm

Contact us

Website: www.cfab.org.uk

Email: info@cfab.org.uk



www.facebook.com/CFABUK



[@CFABUK](https://twitter.com/CFABUK)



Discussion

You're invited
to join the social network
for child rights practitioners



Changemakers
for children

changemakersforchildren.community

Family
for every child



Thank you!