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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Need to Strengthen International Efforts to Protect Migrant Children In The United Kingdom Of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

According to UNICEF analysis based on the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) “Global Internal Displacement Database 2022” (GIDD), the number of refugee children worldwide has increased dramatically, reaching nearly 36.5 million children by the end of 2021. The report highlights the growing The number of refugee children between 2005 and 2021, and the global number of refugee children has doubled under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from four million in 2010 to more than 10 million in 2021, a rate of 132%. While the total number of non-refugee migrant children increased by 10 percent during the same period, the report highlights the dark reality that the world faces in terms of child refugee issues, as children constitute less than a third of the world's population, while they represent more than 40 percent of the total refugees in the world in The year 2021. This represents 1 out of every 3 children living outside their countries of origin who are refugee children, which is a dangerous reality that reflects an unhappy childhood lived by nearly half of the refugees in the world, who live in extremely difficult conditions and are exposed to the worst types of violations and crimes that prevent them from enjoying their childhood and deprive them To exercise their rights and freedoms guaranteed to them by international legislation.

In view of this, we draw the attention of the Council to place the issues of refugee children at the top of the priorities of the Council, and to discuss it according to the attention that the Council calls for human rights cases that require the attention of the Council, and work to take decisions and procedures that ensure full protection for child refugees, and strengthen policies and procedures Which guarantees them protection from all violations and crimes to which they are exposed because of their weakness and the failure of governments to make sufficient efforts to provide them with protection and hold perpetrators accountable for the violations and crimes they are exposed to, especially since they are at great risk with their lack of family protection and the lack of procedures to improve and enhance the protection and care of refugee children adopted by the countries of asylum with regard to them. Despite the adoption by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the policy for refugee children approved by the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in October 1993 concerned with ensuring and strengthening special care for refugee children, the suffering of refugee children in many countries of the world in terms of violations, crimes and denial of rights is considered a very serious matter. And it requires the Council to activate your mechanisms to provide protection for them and prevent all kinds of violations to which they are exposed, especially in many European countries that do not show much concern for what refugee children are exposed to, or take measures and policies to ensure that they enjoy their childhood and their rights approved by international legislation equally and without discrimination, and to ensure that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity.

In this regard, we draw the attention of the Council to the number of international human rights and media reports related to the rights of refugees since 2017, which indicate, in a certain and documented way, the loss of many refugee children in many European countries, which confirm and document many cases of dropouts, disappearances, and losses that refugees are exposed to. Of the children in particular, who, with great regret, have not received from the council or from the UN bodies concerned with refugee affairs or human rights that attention commensurate with the size of this human crime, and the gravity of the crime committed against young children who were deprived of the protection of their families and left despite their weakness and incapacity to face extreme conditions Cruelty and difficulty without protection, which made them face many violations that are represented in depriving them of their right to enjoy a decent and safe life, and not being subjected to violence, persecution and slavery, and guaranteeing their right to health, education and nutrition, and their right to the family and the enjoyment of their childhood and the whole of their civil, economic, social and cultural rights without derogation, In addition to what was indicated by the many reports that documented with certainty the vulnerability of refugee children to exploitation in crimes Human trafficking, drug trafficking and international cross-border crime, in light of the international silence that raises a lot of fear and anxiety, and the

failure of governments and the international community to carry out their responsibilities in protecting refugee children who are legally subject to their jurisdiction and are required by international laws to protect them.

In this regard, we raise to the Council our deep concern as non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights, and in light of the number of documented reports regarding the loss of nearly 200 refugee children from the centers designated for their accommodation and care, and the great fears of their exposure to sexual exploitation or their exploitation and exploitation. In criminal activities such as human trafficking or drug trafficking and international crime, which are crimes that amount to crimes against humanity, the Council and the international community in general are subject to and will be at the forefront of attention, especially in light of the many reports confirming the exposure of refugee children to such crimes and violations on a large scale and for years. For a long time without the concerned agencies taking the initiative to enhance the protection that guarantees preventing their exposure to these crimes and violations, and official statements from government representatives in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that acknowledge the existence of these cases for long periods, especially the statement of the Minister of Immigration before the British Parliament during his urgent briefing to the House of Representatives on the issue of the disappearance of refugees children, without activating its protection measures, holding perpetrators accountable and providing justice to victims, in A serious failure to fulfill international obligations related to the protection and promotion of human rights, and we also stress the importance of the initiative of the Council to fulfill its international responsibilities and play its international role in protecting and promoting human rights in the world, especially since these refugee children are the first to be protected, and we also urge the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner The United Nations for Refugee Affairs to play its role in protecting human rights and protecting refugees, especially children, from exposure to any violations, crimes or assaults that endanger their lives, security and safety or prevent them from enjoying their full rights as stipulated in all international human rights instruments and legislation.

In this regard, we make the following recommendations:

- The Human Rights Council, within the framework of their mandate and responsibility for the protection and promotion of human rights, activates its mechanisms urgently to find out the issue of the disappearance of refugee children from the care centers designated for them, and to ascertain the full truth in this regard.
- Both the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, within the framework of their mandate, work to take the measures guaranteed by their mandate to provide protection for refugee children in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and to strengthen the search and investigation processes concerned with following up the missing, ensuring their safety, enhancing protection for them, and holding the perpetrators accountable in order to achieve justice.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland government takes measures to fully protect child refugees, track down missing children and ensure their safety, and hold perpetrators accountable, in addition to strengthening the laws and procedures in place to enhance the protection and safety of child refugee shelters.
- The Human Rights Council requested a comprehensive report on the situation of refugee children in Europe, the violations and crimes they are exposed to, and the procedures and legislation required to ensure their security and safety.

European Association for The Defense of Minorities, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

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