

**FORUM:** Human Rights Council (HRC)

**QUESTION:** Assessing the effects of deportation on family unity and children's rights

**SUBMITTED BY:** Italy

**CO - SUBMITTERS:** Algeria, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Germany, Ireland, Venezuela, Poland, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Russia, Spain, The United Kingdom, The United States of America

*THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,*

*Acknowledging* the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which affirms in Article 3 that the best interests of the child must be a primary concern,

*Taking into consideration* in all actions concerning children, and Article 9, which underscores the child's rights not to be separated from their parents unless necessary,

*Noting with appreciation* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), specifically Article 23, which recognises the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society entitled to protection,

*Acknowledging* that migration policies, while necessary to manage borders and security, must not undermine fundamental human rights or disproportionately affect vulnerable populations such as children,

*Recognising* further the global need for comprehensive frameworks to address the impact of deportation on family unity and children's rights, ensuring a balance between immigration control and human rights obligations,

1. Encourages Member States to raise awareness on the matter of deportation, especially on the child's emotional well-being and the family's stigmatisation, in ways such as, but not limited to:
  - a) conducting comprehensive studies on the social, economic and psychological impacts of deportation on family unity and children's development and presenting the results to the public,
  - b) establishing public awareness campaigns that focus on the emotional and psychological burden of deportation and the importance of family unity, which could be achieved through:
    - i) national media and digital platforms,
    - ii) community outreach, by engaging local communities through campaigns, seminars, and social platforms,
  - c) partnering with international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), so that the aforementioned campaigns be promoted to

every member state, regardless of its financial or social status, those NGOs could be:

- i) United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF),
- ii) International Organization for Migration (IOM),
- iii) Human Rights Watch (HRW);

2. Urges Member States to prioritize the best interests of the child in all deportation proceedings, ensuring that decisions are made based on clear criteria that fully assess the potential harm to children and family unity, the criteria shall include, but will not be limited to:

- a) the child's health and safety during deportation, which means evaluating whether the deportation may disrupt their access to essential services such as
  - i) healthcare,
  - ii) therapy,
- b) the child's emotional and psychological development and the psychological impact of separating a child from one or both parents due to deportation,
- c) the child's right to a stable education and social integration,
- d) ensuring that the procedures become more child-friendly by:
  - i) legal representation for the children concerned by the deportation,
  - ii) psychosocial assistance to minimize trauma,
  - iii) that the children be heard and their opinions put into consideration in the course of the proceedings;
- e) to avoid statelessness by:
  - i) deprivation of the right from the parents who are being deported to their possibilities to have the birth of their children registered,
  - ii) to collaborate with the country of origin to provide documentation for children,
  - iii) legitimization of nationality to a left-behind child;

3. Encourages the development of mechanisms that enable families affected by deportation to get adequate help and support, including but not limited to:

- a) guidance in navigating local legal systems, including obtaining identification, legal residency, or refugee status, to ensure that children and families can access public services;
- b) financial support to children and their remaining families after having lost their main source of income due to deportation, those support mechanisms could be:
  - i) funds commissioned by their home country,
  - ii) job placement or vocational training programs for parents or guardians to reduce economic pressures,
  - iii) discounted prices for vital goods or services crucial to their survival,
  - iv) assistance in finding stable housing to provide a safe and secure living environment,

- c) integration programs to help children adapt to their new environments and regain a sense of normalcy and stability, essential for their long-term well-being:
  - i) enrollment in schools or alternative educational programs to ensure continuity in learning,
  - ii) language classes for children relocating to areas where a different language is spoken,
  - iii) activities that promote peer interaction, such as sports, arts, and cultural events, to build relationships and reduce isolation,
  - iv) community mentoring to help children and families navigate their new environments;
  
- 4. Requests that Member States integrate family reunification provisions into their immigration policies, ensuring that deported individuals have accessible avenues to reunite with their families, to safeguard the integrity of the family unity and the well-being of children, consistent with international human rights standards, those policies should include:
  - a) accessible Legal Avenues, such as clear and straightforward processes for deported individuals to apply for family reunification,
  - b) priority for children, meaning to implement children-centered policies such as special provisions for unaccompanied minors to reunite with their families safely and promptly;
  - c) cross-border coordination which can be met through:
    - i) agreements between countries to facilitate family reunification processes for deported individuals residing in different states,
    - ii) mechanisms for sharing necessary information while respecting data privacy;
  
- 5. Asks for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to monitor the children who are deported to other countries with or without their caregivers and help them provide the best possible care by:
  - a) checking if the foster family is in a favorable condition to look after their child,
  - b) helping children whose parents are not in good condition and cannot return to their hometowns because of dangerous conflicts, then join fostering programs to have a safer place to live,
  - c) opening local help centers with government funding where children who have been ripped apart because their family wasn't able to fulfil the basic needs of their child can have a safe space to be able to interact with:
    - i) professional counsellors,
    - ii) children who have also been ripped apart from their families,
  - d) ensuring that the children who have been transported to foreign countries are not being forced to work and are not victims of child labor;

6. Urges all Member States to recognize the Convention on the Rights of the Child and implement migration policies for the ones migrating to their countries such as:
  - a) respecting their right to work, if they are granted refugee status, and allowing them to find a workplace to continue the survival of themselves and their families,
  - b) immediate action on placing the child refugees in safe housing so that they have access to:
    - i) a shelter,
    - ii) normal nutrition,
    - iii) personal space,
  - c) monitoring the children who have been separated from their families with professional councils experienced in children with vulnerable emotions;
  
7. Calls for educational and psychological support when assessing the effects of deportation on family unity in schools and centres to establish a safe environment in schools, allowing the children to express their feelings on the topic freely, through means such as, but not limited to:
  - a) the creation of help centres where children whose families have been separated by deportation can discuss issues with professionals and other individuals who have experienced the same situation,
  - b) the incorporation of developmentally appropriate lessons in the school's curricula, across all grade levels, to teach about inclusivity, equity and the issue of deportation of families, through:
    - i) creative projects with a primary focus on highlighting the aforementioned psychological effects of deportation,
    - ii) interviews with families who have faced similar circumstances, only through clear and direct agreement of the families;
  
8. Calls upon Member States to make supporting systems for detention and deportation-stricken families including:
  - a) economic and social supporting mechanisms available to the family, including:
  - b) emergency accommodation and food to the detained or deported families,
  - c) secondary and university-level scholarships to children of parents who have been deported,
  - d) health services are available to all family members,
  - e) accompany reinsertion programs for the deported that:
    - i) provide vocational training and job placement,
    - ii) repatriate safely and in a dignified way to countries of origin,
    - iii) establish communication and reunite with family members abroad.