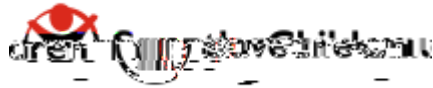


International  
Detention Coalition

www.internationaldetentioncoalition.org



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES

A loving home for every child

Intervention on behalf of International Detention Coalition, Save the Children and SOS Children's Villages

called on States to adopt custodial, community based alternatives to detention that allow children to remain with family members and/or guardians while their immigration status is resolved.

A number of studies have shown the detention of children has a profound and negative impact on their health and well-being. A UK study indicated that even after a relatively short period of detention (an average of 43 days), children showed symptoms such as post-traumatic stress, depression, behavioral difficulties and developmental delays. An Australian study of 200 families, including 20 children detained for a prolonged period found that all but one child suffered from major depression and half from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have all expressed their concern over the detention of children. In 2011, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families adopted a joint comment on the rights of children in migration. This position has now been adopted and reinforced by an overwhelming number of UN and regional human rights experts, including but not limited to: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.