



Do you work in gender-based violence but want to know more on how it affects refugee & migrant children/youth?

Do you work with migrant/refugee children and youth and want to know more on how they can be affected by gender-based violence?

Inform Yourself!

Migrating children and youth are among the most vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV)

Where can they experience GBV?

- in their home country (and leave to escape it)
- during their journey
- in the destination country.

What makes them more vulnerable to GBV?

- Migration can be a traumatic experience for children and youth
- They sometimes travel thousands of kilometres in dangerous conditions with limited access to food, shelter or medical care
- The increased vulnerability puts them at risk of GBV
- This may include **violence** and **exploitation** by traffickers, civil servants, other migrants, or family members.

What is GBV and child exploitation?

- Child exploitation is characterised by the notion of 'reward' (e.g. money, food, gifts, promise of better future)
- Child exploitation turns children into products
- **Migrant children** can be **exploited sexually** (e.g. prostitution, abuse material), **for crimes** (e.g. stealing), and in several other forms
- Exploitation is often **gender based**: it takes **different forms for girls, boys and LGBTQI+** children.

How do I recognise signs of GBV?

Most cases of GBV on children are not reported. It is up to an adult to recognise the signs of GBV. These signs can be:

- Physical signs (e.g. bruising)

¹ Child Protection Hub for South East Europe. 2019. <https://childhub.org/en/child-protection-news/european-union-5-questions-and-answers-about-gender-based-violence-affecting>

² https://childhub.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/exploitation_and_trafficking_of_migrant_children_a_focus_on_belgium_final.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=42710

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- Social patterns (e.g. child traveling with unrelated adults)
- Behavior patterns (e.g. depression)

Where can I get more information?

An **online (1 hour) course for professionals** who come in contact with children and youth migrants guides professionals in **preventing, identifying and responding to GBV**:

<https://childhub.org/en/online-learning-materials/gender-based-violence-affecting-children-and-youth-move>

What do I do if I encounter a case of GBV involving a child/youth refugee or migrant?

There are various resources available which can guide you on responding to identified cases of GBV among refugee and migrant children and youth.

How to respond:

- **Questions and answers on GBV affecting children and youth refugees/migrants:**
<https://childhub.org/en/child-protection-news/european-union-5-questions-and-answers-about-gender-based-violence-affecting>
- **Factsheet on GBV and how to intervene with refugee & migrant survivors of GBV:**
<https://www.wrf.org.mt/post/fact-sheet-on-how-to-deal-with-survivors-of-sgbv>
- **Leaflets on FGM (female genital mutilation), how to identify it and how to stop it:**
<http://www.pfcmalta.org/publications-and-research.html>

What are the services available for (migrant/refugee) children & youth survivors of GBV in Malta?

- Child/Adult helpline (Aġenzija Appoġġ): **179** or
- Online support service for children & adolescents (Kellimni, SOS Malta):
<https://kellimni.com>
- Online service for survivors of GBV (Violet Support Online): **<https://www.vso.org.mt>**
- Free legal helpline on GBV in various languages (Women's Rights Foundation): **80062149**
- GU Clinic, Mater Dei Hospital: Tel: +356 2122 7981 or 2545 7494
- Child Protection Services (Aġenzija Appoġġ): Tel: +356 2295 9000
- Therapeutic Unit for asylum seeking youth aged over 18 (AWAS): Tel: + 356 2568 7200
- Victim Support Unit (Police): +356 2294 2160

³ <https://childhub.org/en/online-learning-materials/gender-based-violence-affecting-children-and-youth-move>

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What information is available for migrant children survivors of GBV in Malta?

- Leaflets (in various languages) on what GBV is and how to seek help:
<https://hungary.iom.int/sgbv>
- Leaflets (in various languages) on what GBV is and why it is important to seek support:
<https://www.wrf.org.mt/post/what-is-sexual-and-gender-based-violence>

Inform yourself further:

- **Free eLearning course on protecting migrant children:**
<https://childhub.org/en/online-learning-materials/protecting-children-move-gvets-e-learning>
- **Free eLearning course on FGM:**
<https://childhub.org/en/online-learning-materials/e-learning-female-genital-mutilation-fgm>
- **Infographic on migrants' abuse and human rights violations in Libya:**
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/InfographicsMigrationReport.pdf>
- **Briefing paper on vulnerability to abuse among migrants going to Europe:**
https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/2019/New_Strive_Study_Final.pdf

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