

ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

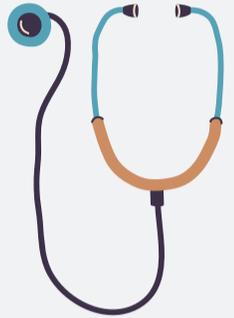
What are alternatives to detention?

Any option in law, public policy or in practice that provides migrant children **with alternatives other than being held in migrant detention centres.**



Why are they important?

An adequate response that guarantees the best interests of migrant children should avoid detention, which increases risks of sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse, a lack of information, family separation, a lack of access to basic services, mental health issues and psychosocial disorders, stigmatization and exclusion.



How are they guaranteed?

Through a coordinated legal framework, where the best interests of the child is the guiding principle of actions, policies, and government practice, taking preference over immigration policies of security and immigration containment; also, **by strengthening and consolidating institutions for the protection of the rights of migrant children.**



What is being done in Mexico?

An important step was the creation of the Commission for the Protection of Migrant Children and Asylum Seekers, which will lay the foundations for the national policy for the protection of migrant children that will guide the actions of federal, state and municipal authorities, jointly responsible for migrant children. This Commission has 4 main axes:

1.

Protocol for the Protection of Migrant Children. It will have protocols, procedures and instruments that are adequate for attending to the specific needs of migrant children, with the participation of states and municipalities. It will be evaluated every six months and will include a system for the registration and management of cases.

2.

Promote the rights of migrant children and asylum seekers, though a clear strategy of prevention of discrimination and xenophobia; materials regarding immigration procedures; and the training of specialized personnel in a child-focused approach.

3.

Actions centred on alternatives and shelters, which will increase installed capacity, temporary residence and work programmes for families, as well as educational and cultural activities specifically for children.

4.

Institutional strengthening through an adequate budget for the Protocol for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Children and the federal and state Attorney Generals for the Protection of Children.