

Global Online Peer Learning Exchange

Case Management for Case Resolution: Scaling Up Alternatives to Detention

Tuesday, 29 June 2021, 14:30 – 17:30 (CET)

The event is co-hosted by the UN Network on Migration Working Group on Alternatives to Detention and the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Ghana, Nigeria, Portugal and Thailand in Geneva

Concept Note

Background and Rationale

Following on from the [first global online peer learning exchange on 17 November 2020](#), many States have expressed interest in continuing the conversation and exchange of knowledge and experience on sustaining and expanding the use of alternatives to immigration detention. Particular interest has been expressed in the issue of case management for case resolution. In the context of COVID-19, the issue of how to leverage technology in an ethical way in order to scale up alternatives to detention (ATD) has also generated attention.

As discussed in the first peer learning exchange in November 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a situation in which many governments have had to adapt their policies and practices relating to migration, to immigration detention and to alternatives to detention. This second global online workshop will bring together governments from all regions to discuss the issues that have arisen in this context, and to focus on the scaling-up and expansion of the use of alternatives to detention.

Participants will establish a dialogue with experts from a wide range of backgrounds working in the fields of case management, of the ethical use of technology for ATDs, and of the scaling-up of ATDs – practitioners, government officials who have spearheaded changes, and legal and academic experts.

The meeting will provide an open space to analyse States' experiences; share challenges and concerns; identify promising practices; and explore opportunities for multi-stakeholder cooperation and technical support. It will contribute to supporting the establishment of a global community of practice on alternatives to immigration detention, building on different peer-learning efforts ongoing since 2018, such as the Cross Regional Peer Learning Platform on Alternatives to Child Immigration Detention. Since all of the Working Groups of the UN Migration Network are winding up their work in mid-2021, it will provide an opportunity to consider how inter-governmental work on this topic will be continued going forward.

This will be a closed meeting under the Chatham House Rule for representatives from relevant governmental departments at national, regional and global level convened by the UN Network on Migration Working Group on Alternatives to Immigration Detention, the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Ghana, Nigeria, Portugal and Thailand in Geneva.

AGENDA

14:30 Opening remarks by co-hosts

- *Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Head of Secretariat for the UN Network on Migration*
- *Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN in Geneva, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargés d'Affaires a.i.*

14:40 Session I – Case Management leading to Case Resolution

Moderated by Carolina Gottardo, Executive Director, International Detention Coalition (IDC)

Panel:

- *Mr. Anderson Selvasegaram – Executive Director, SUKA Society, Malaysia*
- *Ms. Alison Wray - Strategic Projects, Strategy and Planning Directorate, Immigration Enforcement, Home Office, Government of United Kingdom*
- *Ms. Lucie Thuwis - General Counsel, Head of Alternatives to Detention Department, Directorate-General Immigration, Government of Belgium*
- *Rev. Dr. Comfort Asare - Director of the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Government of Ghana*
- *Mr. Pierre Stecker - Director of the Department of Children and Families, Seine Saint Denis, France*
- *Mr. Andrew Rose - Minister Counsellor (Home Affairs), Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN in Geneva*

15:25 Q & A and interventions from government participants

15:40 Video on ending immigration detention of children

15:45 Session II – Ethical use of technology for alternatives to detention

Moderated by Madeline Garlick, Chief of Section, Protection Policy and Legal Advice, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Panel:

- *Ms Jessica Bither – Senior Expert Migration, Global Issues, Robert Bosch Foundation – on ethical use of technology in the context of migration governance and ATD*
- *Ms. Christina Vasala Kokkinaki - Senior Legal Officer - Institutional Law and Programme Support, Office of Legal Affairs at International Organization for Migration – on the implications of use of technology for ATD for data protection, privacy and private life*
- *Professor Cristina Blasi Casagran - Autonomous University of Barcelona, Faculty of Law - on The Role of Emerging Predictive IT Tools in Effective Migration Governance*

16:15 Q & A and interventions from government participants

16:25 Session III – Scaling up alternatives to detention/phasing out immigration detention

Moderated by Verena Knaus, Chief of Migration and Displacement, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Panel:

- *Dr. Rafael Darío Eugenio, Deputy Director of Immigration Verification, Government of Colombia*

- *Ms. Aishatu Yabi, Assistant Comptroller of Immigration, Government of Nigeria*
- *Mr. Mohamed Ben Maouloud, Vice Mayor of Gao, Mali*
- *Mr. Bassam Kantar - Commissioner of International Relations and Information- Lebanese National Commission on Human Rights*
- *Mr. Brett Bush - Director, Inland Enforcement Program Management Division, Canada Border Services Agency, Government of Canada*
- *Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid - Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children*

17:10 Q & A and interventions from government participants

17:20 Closing Remarks

- *Mr. Mário Martins, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in Geneva*
- *WG Co-leads*

Participation

All States are invited. Participation by government representatives working in capitals at the technical level on migration management and migration-related detention issues is encouraged.

Representatives of the UN Migration Network Working Group on Alternatives to Immigration Detention will participate to facilitate the exchange and contribute their specific expertise, as well as some external speakers.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

The UN Network on Migration Working Group on Alternatives to Immigration Detention

The UN Migration Network Working Group on Alternatives to Detention aims to provide technical assistance to States to facilitate the practical application of non-custodial community-based alternatives to immigration detention that are in line with international law, respect the human rights of migrants and respond to the migration governance needs of governments.

In April 2020, the Working Group published a [policy brief on COVID-19 & Immigration Detention](#) to support States and other stakeholders in preventing and responding to COVID-19 by prioritizing alternatives to immigration detention and operationalizing the Global Compact for Migration.

The brief calls on States to:

1. Stop new detentions of migrants for migration- or health-related reasons and introduce a moratorium on the use of immigration detention.
2. Scale up and urgently implement non-custodial, community-based alternatives to immigration detention in accordance with international law.
3. Release all migrants who are detained into non-custodial, community-based alternatives, following proper safeguards.

4. Improve conditions in places of immigration detention while alternatives are being scaled up and implemented.

In February 2021, the Working Group produced an [Annex](#) updating on developments since the policy brief.

The Working Group is co-led by UNHCR, UNICEF and the International Detention Coalition (IDC). Members of the Working Group include: Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Asylum Access Thailand, Better Care Network, Bloque Latinoamericano, Cornell Law School, Global Detention Project (GDP) (observer), HOST International, Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts, International Social Service (ISS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (observer), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY).