GBV AoR HELPDESK
Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

Annotated Bibliography: Integrating GBV Risk Mitigation in Programming and in Foster Care Procedures for Adolescent Girls on the Move in Europe

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1. Overview and scope of the annotated bibliography

This annotated bibliography includes key resources and guidance related to integrating GBV risk mitigation in programming and in foster care procedures for adolescent girls on the move in Europe, with specific focus on Italy.

It also looks at relevant experiences and best practices related to this from European and other countries. It is structured according to resources and guidance found on:

- GBV Risk Factors for Adolescent Girls on the move (Section 2)
- Best Practices to mitigate GBV risks faced by adolescent girls on the move in programming and in foster care (Section 3)
- Case studies (Section 4).

As is evidenced by the resources featured in this annotated bibliography, it is rare to find resources addressing the specific GBV risks and vulnerabilities of migrant adolescent girls, as this vulnerable group is often grouped with migrant women, or with children in general, highlighting the need for further focused and tailored studies. In fact, migrant adolescent girls (aged 10 to 19) face unique and specific GBV risks. Adolescent girls in general are highly vulnerable to many forms of GBV worldwide, in humanitarian contexts and during migration, due to unique risks that they face. They often remain invisible, and their needs are influenced by various factors such as migration, physical development, cultural expectations, economic conditions, life experiences, and exposure to crises like disasters, conflict, and displacement.[1] Migrant adolescent girls seeking refuge are at elevated risk GBV, including sexual violence, child marriage, early pregnancy, female genital cutting, sexually transmitted infections, unsafe abortion, and psychosocial issues[2]. Accordingly, GBV specialists must recognize their specific needs, including the risk of sexual violence, child marriage, and more. These girls are diverse in age, status, and experiences, so tailored support is crucial. GBV specialists should provide compassionate, accessible care

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[1] UNFPA (2019), The Interagency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming
[2] UNICEF (2022), The COVID-19 pandemic and violence against refugee and migrant girls and women in Italy

for both younger and older adolescent girls. Both GBV and child protection (CP) actors must enhance their teams' capacity to support these girls, prioritizing their well-being and involving them in safety planning and service referrals.[3]

Like refugees and migrants all over the world, girls migrating to Italy face GBV risks before, during and after their migration journey. Many of them are fleeing violence in their countries of origin, where GBV risks are exacerbated by a plethora of emergencies, including conflicts, natural disasters, famine, and a lack of education and job opportunities, as well as discriminatory social norms and harmful practices.[4] While all migratory routes are dangerous, the Central Mediterranean route is particularly so. During their transit through and stay in Libya, refugee and migrant girls and women are highly exposed to GBV, especially sexual violence, with an overwhelming majority of women and adolescent girls reporting being raped or sexually assaulted.[5] It is thus extremely important to take all necessary measures to include GBV risk mitigation and response in programming with migrant adolescent girls and in foster care procedures.

> **Box 1. Guiding Principles for Working with Child Survivors (including Adolescent Girls)**
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> 1. Promote the Child's Best Interest
> 2. Ensure the Safety of the Child
> 3. Comfort the Child
> 4. Ensure Appropriate Confidentiality
> 5. Involve the Child in Decision-Making
> 6. Treat Every Child Fairly and Equally
> 7. Strengthen Children's Resiliencies
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> *International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNICEF (2012), Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse Guidelines for Health and Psychosocial Support Providers in Humanitarian Settings, Chapter 4, page 89.*

1.2. Research strategy and limitations

For this annotated bibliography, resources were identified through online desk-based research on the topics of GBV risk mitigation and response in programming with migrant children including adolescent girls, and in foster care procedures in Europe and in other countries. The following key words were used in the online research (non-exhaustive list): migrant adolescents on the move, GBV risks, identification of girls on the move, migratory routes of adolescent girls, hosting and alternative care for refugees, alternative care arrangements, neglect, maltreatment, guidance on GBV risk mitigation procedures in alternative care settings, etc. The search strategy thus used key words, phrases and acronyms associated with adolescent girls and a variations of search terms on GBV and on Child Protection (e.g., GBV risks faced by migrant adolescent girls), and search terms related to GBV response (e.g., GBV risk mitigation in foster care systems, response to migrant adolescent girl survivors of GBV, trauma-informed care in foster care) in European and international settings.

It is important to note that this online desk-based research has limitations. The resources listed in this annotated bibliography are limited to English documents that are publicly accessible online. It is worth noting that International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), other organizations, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) stakeholders may have generated additional resources that are not readily available online. Also, while this bibliography does include resources addressing diverse characteristics such as age and migration status, other diversity characteristics such as sexual orientation, gender identities and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), as well as disability status, relationship or marital status were not found. It is also important to note that the resources featured in this bibliography were published between the years 2008 and 2023.

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[3] UNFPA (2019), The Interagency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming
[4] UNICEF and IOM (2017), Harrowing Journeys, Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea
[5] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Support Mission in Libya (2018), Desperate and Dangerous: Report on the human rights situation of refugees and migrants in Libya

2. Overview of GBV Risk Factors for Adolescent Girls on the move

This section outlines key resources that highlight the unique challenges faced by adolescent girls who find themselves in migration and displacement situations. Sub-section 2.1 includes resources that examine how the process of migration intensifies GBV risks and vulnerabilities, while sub-section 2.2 further examines the evolution of these risks as adolescent girls progress through various stages, from identification to placement in foster care.

2.1. Adolescent girls on the move: Risks and vulnerabilities related to migration and displacement.

European Network of Migrant Women (2018), [#GIRLSVOICES: Meeting Needs of Migrant Girls on the Move](#)

This brief Info sheet shows that girls face some of the strongest challenges when making the migration journey for asylum and a new life, yet this groups' needs often remains a significant gap in law, policy, funding, and service provision. As also shown in the majority of resources in this annotated bibliography, adolescent girls as a group are often subsumed under the terms 'children' and 'women and girls', data specific to the experiences of girls through migration and resettlement is often lacking. The infographic presents worrying statistics:

- A total of 42% of all child asylum seekers in Europe are girls.
- In France, 12% to 21% of girls were at risk of FGM out of 205,683 girls originating from countries where FGM is practiced.
- 75% of refugee children have experienced violence and assault by an adult along their migration route.
- 4 out of 5 girls arriving from Nigeria to Italy are potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) (2018), [Alone and Unsafe: Children, Migration, and Sexual and Gender-based Violence](#)

This report focuses on separated and unaccompanied children who are on the move, and the harrowing journeys and risks of unspeakable suffering that they face. The report found that in 2017, 60% of children arriving in Italy, Greece, Spain, and Bulgaria were unaccompanied or separated, nearly double the figure from 2016. This underscores the magnitude of the issue. Children, and especially adolescent girls traveling alone are highly susceptible to exploitation, abuse, and trafficking, putting them at significant risk of GBV including sexual violence throughout their migration journey. When unaccompanied, they face the threat of assault, sexual abuse, rape, trafficking into sexual exploitation, or being forced into survival sex. The study highlights that needs and risks are different for boys and girls migrating alone. However, an in-depth gender and diversity analysis is needed to better understand the specific and unique needs of unaccompanied and separated girls and boys at risk of, or suffering from, GBV.

The study also highlights the urgent actions required from governments and humanitarian organizations to better protect and assist unaccompanied child migrants.

Galos, E., Bartolini L., Cook H. and Grant N. (2017), [Migrant Vulnerability to Human Trafficking and Exploitation: Evidence from the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Migration Routes](#)

This report examines the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking and exploitation, based on evidence collected by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix in 2016. It presents findings from surveys conducted with over 16,000 migrants in seven countries along Mediterranean migration routes to Europe, including Italy. The vulnerability to human trafficking and exploitation included potential human trafficking for labor exploitation or forced marriage but did not cover potential human trafficking for sexual exploitation or other forms of GBV.

The assessment found that 50% of girls travelling without their families on both Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes responded positively to the human trafficking and exploitation indicators. Sub-section 3.4 of the report (pages 38 – 44) focuses on migrant children's vulnerability to human trafficking and exploitation.

2.2. Different risks and vulnerabilities from identification to placement in foster care

UNICEF (2020), [Making the invisible visible: The identification of unaccompanied and separated girls in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Serbia](#)

This report is an analysis of unaccompanied and separated girls in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Serbia. It underscores how a lack of comprehension regarding gender dynamics and the specific needs of girls, as well as the absence of appropriate identification and support systems, results in girls remaining 'invisible.' This invisibility acts as a barrier to their access to rights and essential services, leaving them even more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and violence. The analysis delves into fundamental information concerning the circumstances of unaccompanied and separated girls, detailing their experiences both during their journeys to and when they arrive in Europe. It also addresses the difficulties associated with identifying these girls. To facilitate the work of frontline workers, the analysis includes a practical ['tip sheet'](#) (also produced in 2020) outlining ten indicators that might suggest a girl is unaccompanied or separated. Lastly, the analysis offers recommendations aimed at European institutions, authorities in Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, and Serbia, as well as United Nations agencies.

The Women's Refugee Commission (2016), [No Safety for Refugee Women on the European Route](#)
This report from the Balkans region sounds the alarm on the dire protection risks including GBV faced by refugee women, girls, and vulnerable groups at every stage of the migration process. The report found that access to essential services upon arrival to the host country is often limited, including sexual and reproductive health care, in part due to a lack of information and interpreters, specifically female interpreters. The assessment found that there is little to no consideration of GBV throughout the process to ensure safe environments, safely receive disclosures by GBV survivors and conduct referrals when needed and ensure that services are provided to them. The findings of the report pay specific attention to gender sensitivity across services from transit sites to access to information and asylum.

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the European Parliament, Policy Department C: Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs (2016), [Female refugees and asylum seekers: the issue of integration](#)

The study offers a thorough look at the main challenges encountered by refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls in their host country in Europe. Challenges range from securing suitable housing with privacy, and shelter options for domestic violence situations, accessing training and language courses, entering the job market, and utilizing healthcare systems, including psychological support and trauma recovery. The report also provides an overview of international standards and relevant European legislation and available funding. Furthermore, it highlights promising international projects that can guide prospect efforts in this regard. Section 6 of this report (starting page 43) specifically tackles GBV and the risk of becoming subject to trafficking in human beings.

3. Best Practices to mitigate GBV risks faced by adolescent girls on the move in programming and in foster care

According to the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action [6], GBV risk mitigation comprises a range of activities within humanitarian response that aim to first identify GBV risks and then take specific actions to reduce those risks. GBV related risks can exist in the general environment, within families and communities, and in service provision. In practical terms, GBV risk mitigation means taking actions to:

- "Avoid causing or increasing the risk of GBV associated with humanitarian programming.
- Facilitate and monitor vulnerable populations' safe access to and use of humanitarian services.
- Identify and actively reduce the risks of GBV in the environment and programming/service delivery."[7]

In the context of providing services to migrant adolescent girls in Italy, this means[8]:

- Understanding the specific vulnerabilities and GBV risks faced by migrant adolescent girls and working on programming and the foster care process to avoid causing or increasing these risks.
- Facilitating and monitoring migrant adolescent girls' safe access to and use of services including healthcare, education, shelter, and foster care. These services should be age-appropriate and gender-sensitive.
- Identify and actively reduce the risks of GBV in the environment and programming, service delivery and foster care.

GBV risk mitigation should be integrated into programming and response work, rather than being viewed as something separate or additional. In fact, integrating GBV risk mitigation actions into programming not only contributes to safer programming, but often results in better outcomes for the service provider.

The **IASC GBV Guidelines** (2015) cited above also includes a **thematic area guide for integrating GBV in Child Protection** which provides a checklist of "Essential Actions for Reducing Risk, Promoting Resilience and Aiding Recovery throughout the Programme Cycle" on page 39a, and a sub-section on "Addressing Gender-Based Violence throughout the Programme Cycle" starting page 41. Both these tools can be useful to adapt for the Italian context when working on programming and foster care procedures that respond to the specific needs of migrant adolescent girls.

In the four sub-sections below, key resources will be presented for the integration of GBV risk mitigation in the different stages of the foster care process (3.1), for general prevention and awareness raising (3.2), and for the provision of trauma informed care (3.3).

3.1. Integrating GBV Risk Mitigation in every stage of the foster care process

This sub-section is further divided to categorize resources according to the different steps of the foster care process in Italy, namely: Identification, communication, and information sharing, first response, access to first level reception, referral to case management (to UNICEF and Italian social services), transfer and placement in foster care, follow up and the monitoring of the foster care process.

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[6] Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2023) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, also known as the GBV guidelines.
[7] Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2021) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, What is Gender-based Violence Risk Mitigation? Page 1
[8] Adapted from: Hanna Smit for the GBV AoR (2022), Literature Review of Family Based Accommodation, Hosting and Alternative Care Guidance and Procedures for Promising Practice of GBV Risk Mitigation in Private and Community Based Accommodation

Before going into the different resources for each step of the foster care process, one resource is cited in this introductory paragraph as it includes comprehensive guidance and information relating to the different steps of this process:

Temin, Miriam, Mark R. Montgomery, Sarah Engebretsen, and Kathryn M. Barker (2013), [Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls & Migration in the Developing World," A Girls Count Report on Adolescent Girls](#). New York: Population Council.

This report highlights the migration of adolescent girls from the global majority, showcasing both involuntary and voluntary aspects of their journeys. It emphasizes the potential for social and economic advancement that migration offers these girls. The text discusses the importance of successfully navigating the migration journey and the significant impact it can have on the girls' lives. The report suggests that successful migration can empower girls economically, boost their human capital, and contribute to positive social changes. It emphasizes the need for policies and programs that consider the diversity of migrant girls' experiences and effectively engages with them. It concludes by asserting that migrant adolescent girls have the potential to be agents of social change, positively influencing their families and motivating younger girls to pursue better opportunities.

Sections most relevant in the context of this annotated bibliography are:
- "Take action for migrant girls": key recommendations summarized on pages ii and iii.
- Chapter 3: On the Move: Migrant Girls in Transit (page 32-41)
- Chapter 4: Settling in: Connections and Social Capital (page 42-49)
- Chapter 7: The State of Migrant Adolescent Girl Programming, including current Programming Approaches and lessons learned (page 74-85)
- Box 27 2.1 Fostering (page 27).

3.1.1. Identification, and communication and information sharing

Council of Europe (2018), [How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration: A Handbook for Frontline Professionals](#)

This handbook addresses aid professionals, service providers and volunteers who work on the frontline and interact with migrant and refugee children including adolescent girls who constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in Europe. It addresses the issue of inadequate access to information, preventing children from understanding their rights and the relevant procedures to be followed. The handbook aims to equip frontliners with child-friendly communication skills to convey international children's rights in a child-friendly way and in the national context. It provides practical steps to ensure the child's right to information and their right to be heard effectively. The guidance is applicable to all children under 18, with special focus on adolescent girls who are unaccompanied or separated, due to their high numbers and specific vulnerabilities. On pages 34 – 35, specific guidance and practical tips are provided for communicating and working with married girls.

Box 2. Information children need upon arrival.

Migrant children including adolescent girls may feel overwhelmed if given too much information. It is important to identify key information that must be given to the child promptly upon their arrival and information that can be given once their basic needs have been met. Make sure that the girl understands:
- They have the right not to be pushed back: everyone should be protected from being pushed back. For children this means they should not be sent to another country before an individual assessment of their best interests.

Box 2. Information children need upon arrival (cont.)

- They have the right to a life free from violence: nobody is allowed to beat or hurt them and if it happens it is illegal, they can ask for help and the perpetrators should be punished.
- They have the right to have their basic needs met.
- They are entitled to special protection, such as the appointment of a guardian, access to age-appropriate accommodation and education.
- Where they will be moved to. For example, a reception center, or another state (for example under a relocation agreement or family reunification procedure).
- That they should promptly make themselves known to authorities to be registered as a child to avoid being considered as an adult: border guards can play a particularly important role here by informing children that they have specific rights and protections.
- Why their fingerprints are taken and what happens with this data afterwards: explain to the child that fingerprints are part of the identification procedures and not a punishment or a constraint.
- What procedures will apply and the consequences of registering as a child or an adult, including preliminary information about family reunification, internal relocation procedures within the state and the European relocation procedure.

The Council of Europe (2018), [How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration: A Handbook for Frontline Professionals](#)

GBV AoR Helpdesk (2019), [Identification of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking, Refugee and Migrant Adolescent Girls](#)

This descriptive annotated bibliography tackles available research and resources that support service providers in their identification of unaccompanied asylum seeking, refugee and migrant adolescent girls. The document states that girls are often grouped under broad terms like 'children' and 'women and girls,' with limited data specific to unaccompanied girls. The report focuses on the increased risks and challenges related to GBV faced by unaccompanied adolescent girls before, during, and after migration, including a specific section on trafficking. It also highlights the deficiencies and obstacles in identifying, assessing, and referring unaccompanied girls to appropriate services and support mechanisms. Additionally, the report includes an annotated bibliography (see pages 8-15) with case studies, research, and tools related to the identification of unaccompanied adolescent girls.

UNHCR, UNFPA and WRC (2016), [An Initial Assessment: Protection Risks for Women and Girls in the European Refugee and Migrant Crisis](#)

In this assessment report, the Women's Refugee Commission, UNHCR and UNFPA share their findings following a seven-day assessment mission in Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in November 2015. The report outlines the assessment's findings and provides key recommendations for various stakeholders, including the European Union (EU), governments of transit and destination countries, humanitarian organizations, and civil society groups. Findings showed that women and girl refugees and migrants confront severe protection risks throughout their migration journey, and the existing responses are insufficient. These findings highlight the need to improve response efforts, implement innovative solutions, and fortify protection mechanisms and services across and within borders to effectively address the protection threats facing women and girls. Recommendations include allocating additional resources to ensure effective protection, particularly for individuals with specific needs and those facing heightened risks during this crisis.

The findings from this specific assessment can serve as an indicator of similar protection risks in other countries along the migration route in Europe, such as Italy. The annexes in the assessment report also

include valuable resources such as the template for the questionnaires used during the assessment:

- Questionnaire 1: Focus Group Discussions or Interviews with Women and Girls
- Questionnaire 3: Individual interviews
- Questionnaire 4: Service Providers, Humanitarian Agencies, Government Authorities, NGOs, and Other Stakeholders.

3.1.2. First response, access to first level reception and referral to case management services (UNICEF and social services)

GBV AoR Helpdesk (2020), [Cross-Border Care, Safety and Risk Mitigation for Child and Adolescent Survivors on the Move: Practical Guidance for Frontline Services and Workers](#)

This document provides guidance for frontline workers to support the continuity of care, safety, and risk mitigation for migrant, displaced, or asylum-seeking children on the move, with a specific focus on girls who are GBV survivors and boys who have survived sexual violence and who are crossing international borders. The guidance outlines three steps for child protection services and workers to follow:

- Prepare: Map services and establish cross-border referral pathways and protocols, and train and resource staff
- Plan: Work with the child/carer or unaccompanied adolescent to develop a plan to: Enable cross-border continuity of care to foster the survivor's healing, recovery, and protection from further violence, and promote safety while in transit and on arrival in a destination country.
  o In this section on page 7, a table lists the Do's and don'ts when engaging with child and adolescent survivors.
- Link: which is most relevant for guidance on referral to case management services, and includes the following strategies:
  o Strategy 1: Transferring case management to a new service.
  o Strategy 2: 'Warm referral' to facilitate continuity of care and safety.
  o Strategy 3: 'Cold referral' to facilitate continuity of care. This also includes a useful table listing the do's and don'ts when linking survivors to cross-border services. See page 9 for details.

World Health Organization (2018), [INSPIRE Handbook: Action for Implementing the Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children](#)

In this Handbook, ten agencies working on prevention and response to violence list and expand on seven strategies for ending violence against children. The handbook is a technical package of selected strategies based on the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention programs and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children. Within this handbook, a box on page 223 lists steps for preparedness and response for when displaced, migrant or unaccompanied children may be detained by authorities, which puts them at further risk of violence: in terms of preparedness, essential steps include:

- "Support establishing or strengthening child-friendly courts and spaces in police stations.
- Support capacity building of personnel within both formal and informal justice systems who regularly encounter children. Support inclusion of female officers in law enforcement" (page 223)

In terms of response, essential steps include:

- "Identify and maintain records on all children in detention: their whereabouts, status, and treatment.
- Set up an interdisciplinary team of front-line workers to monitor and respond to cases.
- Advocate for release of children when detention is illegal, or facilities are inappropriate." (page 223)

Council of Europe (2022), [CM/Rec (2022)17 on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls](#)

The Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States of the Council of Europe CM/Rec (2022)17 emphasizes the importance of protecting the rights of migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women and girls, including adolescent girls. It states that, "Member States should ensure that migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls do not face discrimination on any grounds" (Page 4. Para. 5). It also outlines measures to safeguard their rights, including access to education, healthcare, and protection from gender-based violence, while recognizing the specific vulnerabilities and needs of this group. In the appendix, a section specific to girls states that:

- "Member States should adopt a child rights-based approach to migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking girls, which takes account of the age and specific vulnerable situations and needs of girls.
- Child protection measures should be implemented without discrimination based on migration status.
- Member States should mainstream gender considerations across policies, guidance, and capacity building on unaccompanied and separated children in line with the scope and mandate of each national authority in order to:
  - Strengthen identification procedures, including age assessment when appropriate, in accordance with international standards.
  - Ensure full respect for the best interest of the child by considering the specific situation of every girl, whether she is visibly unaccompanied, travelling with another family or married.
  - Ensure that reception systems are appropriate to the sex and age of unaccompanied and separated girls and include suitable and safe alternative care arrangements.
  - Unaccompanied and separated children should be promptly assigned an independent and adequately trained guardian.
  - Member States should make efforts to ensure continued access to essential services for migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking girls to support their transition to adulthood beyond the age of 18." (Page 4. Para. 9 – 13)

Gisela Wurm for the Council of Europe (2017), Doc. 14284: [Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence](#)

This report argues that Europe Member States should take concrete measures to ensure the protection of refugee women including adolescent girls from violence, by for example providing separate safe sleeping areas and well-lit bathrooms reserved for women and girls in transit and reception facilities, creating safe spaces, ensuring the presence of an adequate number of female staff members among social workers and security personnel , as well as providing information on rights and assistance services in an understandable language. Another recommendation is to provide specific training on detecting and preventing GBV for staff working in transit and reception facilities, including guards.

The report also includes a list of recommendations that can serve as a checklist regarding women's safety in transit and reception facilities on page 3, paragraph 5.2., sub-paragraphs 5.2.1 – 5.2.7.

Box 3. Checklist and recommendations to improve the protection of women and girls fleeing conflict

"In 2016, the European Women's Lobby (EWL), Women Refugee Commission (WRC) and ENoMW led a project, #Womensvoices, to raise awareness on the situation of women and girls fleeing conflict and travelling through Europe, looking especially at the protection risks they face. As part of this, they developed checklists and recommendations to improve the protection of women and girls, some of which include special provisions for addressing the needs of unaccompanied girls:

- Within centers, create safe spaces, including separate accommodation, for girls, with specialized culturally sensitive personnel.
- In interviews, ensure there is a trained appropriate adult to remind asylum officials of the rights of the child.
- Systematically appoint a social worker to actively follow the case.
- Provide child-friendly (age-appropriate) information on asylum procedures (through cartoons, leaflets etc.).
- Train all staff, guardians, and foster families on increased risk of sex trafficking and prostitution, child marriage, sexual violence, FGM and traditional harmful practices for unaccompanied girls.
- Provide girls with access to information on sexual health and reproductive rights.
- Provide all minors with therapy and trauma counselling, by female professionals for girls.
- Provide girls with mentors from host communities to facilitate integration and peer support and establish a mechanism of foster families for unaccompanied minors.
- Provide funding for UNICEF and NGOs working for the protection of children's rights."

Excerpt from: GBV AoR Helpdesk (2022), [Identification of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking, Refugee and Migrant Adolescent Girls](), pages 6 & 7.

3.1.3. Transfer and placement in foster care

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019), [Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action]()

The Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) is a comprehensive framework to guide organizations in delivering effective child protection interventions during emergencies. It outlines the central principles and guidelines for ensuring the protection and well-being of children in humanitarian settings. These standards cover a range of aspects, including the prevention and response to abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence against children.

Standard 19 of the CPMS focuses on alternative care for children in humanitarian settings. It highlights the importance of assessing and addressing the individual needs of children without parental care, while keeping families together whenever possible. When separation is unavoidable, the standard calls for providing appropriate and safe alternative care options, such as foster care, temporary shelters or supervised independent living. Standard 19 emphasizes the importance of legal frameworks, proper documentation, and monitoring to ensure the well-being of children in alternative care. The standard also advocates for culturally sensitive and community-based approaches, with a strong emphasis on the best interests of the child as a guiding principle.

GBV AoR Helpdesk (2022), [Literature Review of Family Based Accommodation, Hosting and Alternative Care Guidance and Procedures for Promising Practice of GBV Risk Mitigation in Private and Community Based Accommodation](#)

This literature review aims to inform the development of practical guidance for mitigating GBV risks in private and community-based accommodation for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. It focuses on best practices in hosting, shelter, and alternative care to address GBV risks, particularly for women and girls who are disproportionately affected. The review highlights the importance of putting the agency and autonomy of women and girls at the forefront of programming and response. The review considers a wide range of global sources, including child protection guidance, alternative care programming, GBViE standards, and governmental guidance. It also provides recommendations for GBV risk mitigation in private and community-based accommodation for women and girls fleeing the Ukrainian crisis. Although it focuses on providing services to Ukrainian refugees, the resources listed in this annotated bibliography are useful in the context of providing services to migrant adolescent girls in the European context. The sub-section titled "Lessons and guidance from alternative care programming and foster care", on pages 6-7 of the literature review is the most relevant for the focus of this specific bibliography since it focuses on GBV risk mitigation for girls.

GBV AoR Helpdesk (2022), [Supporting Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine Guidance and Tips for Private Accommodation Hosts](#)

This resource also stems from the response to the Ukraine refugee crisis in Europe. It directly addresses private accommodation hosts with practical guidance and tips to ensure the safe hosting of women and girls who fled Ukraine into neighboring countries. It lists and expands on key guidelines to be followed by hosts:
- Be aware of power imbalances and boundaries.
- Provide basic emotional support (Look, Listen, based on the principles of Psychological First Aid)
- Signpost to support services (based on a list of available services to be shared with hosts)

This practical and concise guidance could be contextualized to Italy, and then be used for training host families, or adapted to a short pocket guide for host families.

SOS Children's Village (2009), [Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, a United Nations Framework](#)

This resource addresses alternative care for all children, without specific mention of migrant adolescent girls. However, it remains a useful resource as it addresses gaps in implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) for children worldwide who lack parental care. The guidelines emphasize two key principles: necessity and appropriateness. Necessity underscores the importance of supporting children to stay with their families, making removal from the family a last resort after rigorous assessment. Appropriateness defines various suitable alternative care options tailored to each child's specific needs, whether short or long-term care, or keeping siblings together. It also recommends regular reviews to assess the continued need for alternative care and the possibility of family reunification. The guidelines include reflective questions for national policy implementation, emphasizing the importance of translating words into actions for the benefit of children, families, and communities.

SOS Children's Village (2012), [Moving forward: Implementing the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#)

This handbook is a tool for informing and guiding practitioners, organizations, and governments globally who are seeking to provide rights-based care for children who are, or who may be, in need of alternative care. The goal is to enable policymakers and practitioners to best implement the 'Guidelines for the

Alternative Care of Children' (cited above) in their international, regional, and country contexts. It contains relevant information regarding the development of policies for alternative care, care settings and support for after care.

Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (2013), Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit

This resource provides tools and guidance for planning and implementing interim care for children separated from their families during emergencies. The legal framework emphasizes the rights of children to stay with or be reunited with their families, and if not possible, to receive alternative care in family-based settings. The focus is on preventing separation, supporting families, and facilitating reunification. Poorly planned interim care can have lasting negative consequences, including unnecessary separation, abuse, or difficulty reintegrating into society. The toolkit emphasizes the importance of assessing individual needs and community norms, offering options for family-based care. Key priority actions identified in this resource include emergency preparedness, rapid-onset planning, initial care response, and preparing longer-term care options. The resource emphasizes the importance of coordination involving relevant government departments, local communities, and relevant coordination bodies.

Family for Every Child (2015), The place of foster care in the continuum of care choices: A review of the evidence for policymakers

This paper tackles the expansion of foster care services in low and middle-income countries as an alternative to large-scale institutional care for children without family support. The paper defines essential elements for safe and effective foster care, including appropriate decision-making processes, recruitment and support of foster carers, and monitoring of placements. It emphasizes the importance of strong legal and policy frameworks, collaborative efforts, a well-trained child welfare workforce, and a holistic child protection system. The recommendations include investing in foster care as part of a comprehensive childcare system, supporting different types of foster care, allocating suitable resources, including local stakeholders in policy design, monitoring and evaluating programs, and upholding the role of communities and NGOs while ensuring proper regulation and coordination.

The paper acknowledges limitations related to the lack of research and understanding on effective implementation of foster care programs, expressing concerns about the potential misuse of foster care when family separation is avoidable.

Annex 2 of the paper (pages 33 – 37) titled "the status of foster care around the world" attempts to draw a global picture of foster care around the world (in 2015), with examples from different regions. These examples include examples from Western Europe, and a separate section for examples from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Devon County Council, United Kingdom (2022), A guide for foster carers supporting separated migrant children

This guide addresses families and individuals providing foster care for separated migrant children. It is divided into concise guidelines on specific topics such as advice from young people themselves, understanding age, physical health, mental health, trafficking, and child sexual exploitation, and sticking by the young person.

3.1.4. Follow up and monitoring foster care process.

Better Care Network and UNICEF (2009), Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care

This manual provides a set of global indicators for children in formal care, including those in institutional care or arranged foster family care. The manual emphasizes that regularly collecting and analyzing data on

children in care is crucial, as it helps service providers and authorities monitor and improve their well-being within care systems. The manual provides 15 indicators with four core indicators, and guidance on mapping childcare systems and data collection. The suggested indicators serve several purposes, including monitoring policy improvements, identifying children's needs, guiding program development and budgeting, advocating for better systems and services, and demonstrating national commitment to global care standards.

The manual highlights that the data generated will be valuable for monitoring and making management and programming decisions when further disaggregated by age, sex (gender) and other categories. A table with disaggregation categories is presented on page 7.

Family for Every Child (2015), [Strategies for Delivering Safe and Effective Foster Care: A Review of the Evidence for those Designing and Delivering Foster Care Programs](#)

This report focuses on the development and delivery of foster care services in low and middle-income countries as alternatives to large-scale institutional care for children without family support. It emphasizes that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to successful foster care programs and suggests core components that should be present. The most relevant to the scope of this annotated bibliography are:

- High-quality foster care requires proper recruitment, assessment, and support of foster caregivers, as well as careful matching of children with caregivers.
- Continuous capacity-building for foster caregivers, support for children in foster care, monitoring of placements, and assistance for young adults transitioning out of care are essential.
- Starting with small-scale programs and gradually scaling up is a valuable approach, with awareness-raising, policy reforms, and capacity building necessary for effective foster care integration.

Section 6.7 tackles 7 Monitoring care placements and evaluating foster care programs, starting at page 26.

3.2. GBV Prevention Education and Awareness Raising

This sub-section looks at training and education on GBV prevention for service providers and community engagement and awareness campaigns for community engagement.

3.2.1. GBV prevention education for service providers

International Rescue Committee and United Nations Children's Fund (2012), [Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Guidelines for health and psychosocial service providers in humanitarian settings and training materials](#)

This comprehensive resource includes guidelines, case management forms, resources, and training materials. These field-tested guidelines and tools were developed for health and psychosocial staff working with child survivors of sexual abuse in humanitarian settings and can be useful when training staff working with migrant adolescent girls. The resource includes care guidelines for child survivors and tools to build the capacity of service providers working with children affected by sexual abuse and their families. An updated version of these guidelines and training materials is anticipated for release and publication end 2023/early 2024.

International Organization for Migration (2021), [PROTECT - Preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Migrants and Strengthening Support to Victims](#)

This toolkit was developed for the "PROTECT - Preventing sexual and gender-based violence against migrants and strengthening support to victims" project. The different resources include a mapping report,

a training package, a video in several languages, info sheets and leaflets, with the aim of strengthening support services for survivors of gender-based violence and awareness-raising of preventing sexual and gender-based violence among refugees, asylum seekers and migrant communities. It includes specific awareness raising resources to be used with children including adolescent girls.

GBV AoR (2019), [The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming](#)

These standards define what agencies working on specialized GBV programming need to achieve to prevent and respond to GBV and deliver multi-sectoral services. It is an overarching comprehensive resource that includes the guidelines document, facilitator's guide, PowerPoint presentations and other materials that can be adapted to train service providers on including GBV risk prevention and response into their work with migrant adolescent girls who are at risk of or survivors of GBV.

International Rescue Committee (2008), [GBV Core Concepts Training: Facilitator's Guide and Participant's Handbook](#)

This Handbook and Facilitator's Manual is a basic introduction to the issue of violence against women and girls, the scope and scale of violence they experience, and its long-lasting consequences in conflict-affected and post-conflict settings. It can be adapted for the context of service providers to migrant adolescent girls in European host countries. It can be used to support and train GBV staff as well as other humanitarian staff to implement programming that is grounded in gender equality and the needs, wishes, and dreams of women and girls in the places where they work. Note: This training is currently in the process of being updated and revised so monitor the website for updated content.

3.2.2. Community engagement and awareness campaigns

Integrating Mapping of Refugee and Migrant Children (Immerse), [Webpage on Resources for Awareness Campaigns](#)

This webpage lists several previous awareness campaigns conducted by Immerse for the rights of refugee and migrant children, including adolescent girls, in several countries in Europe. The webpage includes examples of existing campaigns such as "You have the Key" campaign, conducted in 2022, and available in several languages including Italian, complete with their videos, press kit, posters, leaflets, and other communication tools. These examples can be used and further tailored for awareness campaigns on the rights and protection of migrant adolescent girls in Italy.

Fice Youth and Better Care Network (2010) [Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children: A Tool for Reviewing the United Nations Framework with Children – Facilitators' Guide](#); and Fice Youth and Better Care Network (2010) [Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children: A Tool for Reviewing the United Nations Framework with Children – Childrens' Guide](#)

These two tools are based on explaining and raising awareness on the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children by The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Their aim is to equip facilitators to work directly with children and explain the main points in the Guidelines. It raises key questions and suggests activities to help children and facilitators think about the principles of alternative care and what these mean for children and families in different situations. The activities can be further adapted and used with migrant adolescent girls to engage with them, raise their voices, and develop key messages that they would like to share with adults in the community including duty bearers, as key messages can be used at a conference, or to lobby government or other service providers to protect all the rights of all children, including those of migrant adolescent girls in Italy.

UNICEF (2018) [My Safety and Resilience: Pocket guide for girls](#) (2018)

This pocket guide addressing girls (aged 10 to 19) directly outlines the standards and guidelines for designing, implementing, and evaluating girls' empowerment programs within the Roma communities and among the migrant and refugee populations in Serbia and Bulgaria. The pocket guide provides girls with tools, space, and encouragement, to increase their ability and power to express their voices in their communities and navigate the challenges of adolescence.

Council of Europe (2009), [Children and Young People in Care Discover your Rights!](#)

In this child friendly booklet, three protagonists representing three young people share stories about their own experiences and experiences of other children and young people in alternative care. The booklet can help migrant adolescent girls and children in general gain a better understanding of how alternative care works, what their rights are as a young person in care and whether these rights are being respected. There are also some concrete examples of issues that arise during the care process that should help them make decisions and improve communication with their caregivers and social workers.

3.3. Trauma-Informed Care and mental health support

Karen Baynes-Dunning & Karen Worthington for the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy (2013), [Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Foster Care](#)

This article looks at the Child welfare systems in the United States that is increasingly adopting trauma-informed approaches, recognizing the importance of understanding the intersection of gender and trauma. The authors demonstrate that boys and girls experience different forms of trauma and respond to it differently, with girls being more likely to be victims of sexual abuse and assault, often internalizing their trauma, leading to self-harm, substance abuse, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These responses put girls at risk for negative outcomes, including continued victimization, teen pregnancy, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. The report demonstrates that addressing the needs of girls in the child welfare system starts with recognizing their gender-specific requirements. Comprehensive efforts are needed to understand the experiences and needs of girls in the child welfare system, while simultaneously implementing gender-responsive and trauma-informed services. The focus of the article is on adolescent girls, particularly during puberty, a period of significant developmental change when gender-specific needs become more pronounced. It raises questions about how systems can meet the unique needs of this population and offers suggestions for improving their well-being.

Section 2, starting page 11, specifically addresses how to design a gender-responsive, trauma-informed child welfare system. It includes sub-sections on elements of gender-responsive programming and elements of trauma-informed care. Both these sub-sections include checklists to be followed to implement gender-responsive programming and trauma-informed care for girls in the foster care system.

Emily M. Cohodes et al. (2022), [Migration-related trauma and mental health among migrant children emigrating from Mexico and Central America to the United States: Effects on developmental neurobiology and implications for policy](#)

Although this research paper focuses on migrants from Mexico and Central America to the United States, it tackles issues that are universal to migrating children including adolescent girls. It looks at trauma exposure prior to migration, during migration and detention and post migration. This includes specific mention that there are documented accounts of families' accounts of witnessing rape, murder and other violent and sexual crimes against children when in transit. It then showcases policy implications, with recommendations for the implementation and dissemination of mental health services, and how to avoid the infliction of trauma upon migrant and refugee children.

Vittoria Ardino and Giacomo Di Benedetto for the Italian Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (2017), [Psychosocial Care for Unaccompanied Minors in Europe: Is there an Economic Case?](#)

This document provides an overview of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) activities related to the protection and psychosocial support of unaccompanied migrant children. It is based on IOM's operational data, programmatic information, and research conducted between 2009 and 2011. The document emphasizes the rights of unaccompanied children, the challenges they face, and the need for psychosocial care and support. It also delves into an economic evaluation of psychosocial care services, seeking to understand their societal impact and cost-effectiveness. The study collected data in Italy and Germany and aims to provide insights and policy recommendations related to the psychosocial care of unaccompanied children.

Lisa Bunting et al. (2019), [Trauma Informed Child Welfare Systems—A Rapid Evidence Review](#)

This journal article looks at Trauma-informed care (TIC), defined as a comprehensive organizational change process rooted in the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study that shows a strong link between childhood adversities and negative lifelong outcomes. This study includes a systematic review of trauma-informed implementation in the child welfare system in the United Kingdom. The findings show that training is the most frequently evaluated component, consistently improving staff knowledge, skills, and confidence. Other aspects like trauma-informed screening and evidence-based treatments also yield positive results. While some study limitations hinder generalizability, there is promising evidence that trauma-informed approaches can enhance the well-being of children in child welfare services, reduce caregiver stress, and enhance placement stability.

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiatives (2012), [Issue Brief #5: Trauma-Informed Practice with Young People in Foster Care](#)

This issue brief targets people working in youth-serving systems in the United States of America to understand young people's responses to trauma to promote healing and emotional security. It recognizes that not everyone interacting with young people in foster care should be a trauma specialist, but stresses that they do need to engage in trauma-informed practice. Trauma-informed practice involves understanding the impact of trauma on young people's current functioning and recognizing the ways systems can add to young people's trauma. Trauma-informed practice provides support and opportunities to promote healthy recovery and optimal brain development throughout adolescence and emerging adulthood. The brief also looks at what makes child welfare services for young people in foster care trauma-informed and lists in the appendix a table with examples of trauma-specific interventions for adolescents supported by clinical and research evidence.

Huemer, J., Karnik, N.S., Voelkl-Kernstock, S. et al. (2009), [Mental health issues in unaccompanied refugee minors](#). Child Adolescent Psychiatry Ment Health 3, 13

In this article, authors found that the literature from 1998 to 2008 on unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs) highlights their heightened vulnerability and greater psychiatric morbidity compared to the general population. The authors found that the emphasis has predominantly been on assessing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, revealing elevated levels in comparison with norm populations and accompanied refugee minors. In addition, several studies noted that factors like age and female gender are predictors or influencers of increased PTSD symptoms. The authors stressed that the reviewed literature lacks a broader perspective, for example perspectives integrating coping models, personality profiles, resilience, and exploring the full spectrum of psychopathology in this vulnerable group, as well as examining the influence of legislative systems on emotional and behavioral well-being, considering factors like employment during asylum-seeking, and care systems.

The article highlights that developing culturally sensitive measures for multicultural populations is crucial for adequate mental health care. Authors conclude that interventions for mental health issues among

URMs should be multi-modal and culturally sensitive, considering their diverse backgrounds and vulnerable circumstances shaped by legislation, past stress, and the sensitive developmental period during which these events occur.

4. Case Studies

In this section, key resources have been mapped to showcase case studies on successful integration of GBV risk mitigation in foster care systems in Europe (4.1), in addition to promising initiatives from other countries (4.2), and lessons learned and transferable practices (4.3).

4.1. Successful integration of GBV risk mitigation measures in foster care systems in Europe

UNHCR (2022), Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response in Europe: Promising Practices and Recommendations for the Way Forward

This document showcases some of the promising practices related to GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response by service providers working with asylum seekers and refugees and offers recommendations for the way forward. Although not specific to adolescent girls, some of the case studies including those from Italy are applicable in the context of working with migrant adolescent girls. The best practices identified in these case studies led to recommendations and lessons learned (found on page 9), which include:

- Ensure timely identification, support, and referral of survivors of GBV.
- Ensure information provision on rights and services are available to survivors of GBV through multiple channels.
- Address linguistical, practical, legal, and administrative barriers to access services.
- Regularly assess and enhance the safety of reception facilities and other collective accommodation hosting asylum-seekers and refugees through GBV safety assessments.
- Enable effective access to national systems of prevention and response for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons including adolescent girls.
- Build the knowledge and capacity of frontline staff working with asylum seekers and refugees, as well as refugee-led organizations and women-led organizations, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through sensitization and training.

4.2. Promising initiatives in other countries

Council of Europe (2022) Handbook on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in crisis and emergency situations

The Handbook aims to outline the standards of the Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse[9] applicable in crisis and emergency situations, specifically concerning children's right to protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It provides concrete information to be used by national authorities and practitioners in reception, transit, destination, or other countries to improve existing programs, measures and services in place or set up new ones, as appropriate; Also, it highlights promising practices in Parties to the Convention that may be replicated in other settings, including:

- Promising practices from several European countries on information and advice to children, and on the exchange of information on awareness raising, and on the prevention of the phenomenon of missing children can be found on pages 18-22.

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[9] Also known as Lanzarote Convention and can be found at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/lanzarote-convention

- Promising practices put in place by parties to the Convention on collecting and using data can be found on pages 28 – 30.
- Relevant practices on the establishment and functioning of helplines to child victims, and on the protection of child victims and the effective collaboration between national agencies can be found on pages 37 – 42.
- Relevant practices on prosecuting offenders and ensuring child-friendly proceedings can be found on pages 48 – 51.

Alternative Care Guidelines (2023), [Promising Practices on Moving Forward: implementing the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#).

This Webpage includes a list of forty (40) promising practices by agencies and organizations who are implementing the "Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children". These case studies offer inspiration to practitioners around the world as they describe the type of promising developments in alternative care. Case studies are not specific to migrant adolescent girls in the European context, but some can be inspiring and useful in this context, such as but not limited to those which focus on ensuring the participation of children and young people in care decisions and care settings:
- [Collective participation in child protection services, Norway](#).
- [Who Cares? Scotland training initiative.](#)

The Women's Refugee Commission (2022), [Backgrounder: European Migrant Reception Center Models](#)

This document lists legal frameworks and case studies from European Migrant Reception Center models to inform contextualization of such centers for the United States, on the US-Mexico border. It examines asylum processing in Europe and identifies crucial lessons for US policymakers. In this backgrounder, WRC recommends that the development and implementation of any reception centers for migrant processing protect the human rights of and guarantee dignity and due process for people seeking asylum, not least by minimizing restrictions on movement and ensuring that stays are extremely limited. It includes case studies from reception centers on Greek Islands (page 6), and best practices for reception centers in Portugal, Switzerland, and Belgium (page 7).

4.3. Lessons learned and transferable practices

The Women's Refugee Commission (2016), [Falling Through the Cracks: Refugee Women and Girls in Germany and Sweden](#)

This assessment looks Germany and Sweden which have accepted a significant number of refugees especially after the Syrian refugee crisis. However, the rapid influx has led to short-term solutions that exacerbate the risks faced by women and girls on the journey. Findings show that accommodation centers often lack proper and gender-sensitive facilities for women and girls, making them vulnerable to violence. Another finding is the lack of a standardized processes to support GBV survivors, while access to psychosocial support and shelters was limited at the time of the assessment, especially in Sweden. The study also found that current policies and asylum procedures further complicate existing challenges faced by women and girls. Finally, with restrictions on family reunification and the absence of a coordinated EU response, women and girls were stranded in conflict zones or forced into dangerous journeys to reunite with family members.

The study resulted in a list of recommendations which are further detailed in the report. These have been adapted below for consideration in programming and foster care procedures for migrant adolescent girls in Italy:
- Improve procedures to identify vulnerable populations upon arrival in country, including by training

staff and asylum adjudicators to recognize adolescent girls who are survivors of GBV and other vulnerable individuals.

- Ensure that basic measures that protect vulnerable girls and mitigate risks of GBV are implemented in all accommodation centers.
- Create standard operating procedures to identify and support survivors of GBV — experienced in the home country, along the route, or in the destination country — with access to health care, psychosocial support, and safe shelter.
- Ensure that claims based on GBV are sensitively and fairly adjudicated and that all asylum-seekers have an individualized, timely, and fair review of their asylum claims.
- Protect adolescent girls separated from family members and unaccompanied girls, roll back proposals that would delay or restrict access to family reunification for asylum seekers and implement fair and timely family reunification policies, enabling family members to join their relatives safely rather being stranded along the route or making the life-threatening journey.

United Kingdom Parliament European Union Committee (2016), [Children in crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU](#)

This publication provides evidence from across the EU of the high-level issues and practical challenges for unaccompanied migrant children. These fall into four broad categories: the deplorable reception conditions they face; the phenomenon of 'living in limbo'; vulnerability to smugglers and traffickers; and large numbers of missing children. Throughout the document, case studies are presented from several countries such as France (Calais), the United Kingdom and others. The challenges and inadequate practices highlighted in this document can serve as lessons learned while working on making programming and foster care processes in Italy suitable for the needs of migrant adolescent girls.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Summary of key findings

This annotated bibliography included key resources and guidelines on the critical issue of mitigating GBV risks faced by adolescent girls on the move in Europe, with a particular focus on integrating GBV risk mitigation into programming and foster care procedures. The findings from the selected sources highlight various key aspects of this complex problem.

- GBV Risk factors and Vulnerabilities: Adolescent girls on the move in Europe face multiple risks and vulnerabilities related to migration and displacement, such as GBV and sexual violence, exploitation, human trafficking, and psychological trauma. Understanding these risks is fundamental to developing effective mitigation strategies in programming and foster care procedures.
- Integration of GBV risk mitigation in programming and in foster care: It is essential to integrate GBV risk mitigation measures at every stage of the foster care process, from identification and communication to placement, follow-up, and monitoring. This comprehensive approach is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of girls in foster care. It is also essential to include GBV risk mitigation and response into all aspects of programming with migrant adolescent girls, including in GBV prevention and education.
- GBV Prevention Education: Educating service providers, foster caregivers, and communities about GBV prevention in general and specifically for migrant adolescent girls is vital. Training service providers in recognizing GBV signs and offering trauma-informed care can significantly improve the support available to adolescent girls on the move.
- Case Studies and Lessons Learned: Case studies from Europe and other countries offer insights into successful integration of GBV risk mitigation measures and transferable practices as well as crucial areas for strengthening and improvement. While documented case studies of successful

integration of GBV risk mitigation in programming with migrant adolescent girls are not readily available online, many real-world examples document promising practices and lessons learned that provide valuable guidance for service providers, practitioners, and policymakers.

5.2. Actionable recommendations

The following actionable recommendations can be derived from the literature to effectively include GBV risk mitigation in programming and foster care for adolescent girls on the move in Europe:

- Holistic Approach: Implement a holistic approach that considers the unique risks and vulnerabilities faced by adolescent girls on the move. This approach should encompass identification, communication, placement, follow-up, and monitoring, ensuring that GBV risk mitigation is integrated into every stage of the foster care process.
- Training and Capacity Building: Invest in training and capacity building programs for service providers and stakeholders involved in the care of migrant adolescent girls. GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response education, and trauma-informed care training are a must.
- Community Engagement: Engage with local communities and children themselves to raise awareness about GBV and ensure respect, safety, and access to services. Community-based awareness campaigns can also help reduce stigma and discrimination against adolescent girls on the move.
- Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish robust systems for continuous monitoring and evaluation of foster care programs. Regular assessments can help identify areas of improvement and ensure that GBV risk mitigation measures are effectively implemented.
- Knowledge Exchange: Promote knowledge exchange and collaboration between European countries and other nations that have successfully integrated GBV risk mitigation measures into their foster care systems, amongst key stakeholders including GBV, child protection and social care providers, and policymakers. Learning from the experiences of others can facilitate the implementation of best practices.

In conclusion, addressing GBV risks for adolescent girls on the move in Europe in programming and foster care procedures requires a comprehensive approach. The findings and recommendations presented in this annotated bibliography can serve as a valuable resource for organizations, practitioners and policymakers working to create a safer and more supportive environment for migrant adolescent girls, noting that there remains a need to focus on and address the specific GBV risks and vulnerabilities of diverse migrant adolescent girls, by conducting further focused and tailored studies and developing tailored responses to their needs.

The GBV AoR Help Desk

The GBV AoR Helpdesk is a unique research and technical advice service which aims to inspire and support humanitarian actors to help prevent, mitigate, and respond to violence against women and girls in emergencies. Managed by Social Development Direct, the GBV AoR Helpdesk is staffed by a global roster of senior Gender and GBV Experts who are on standby to help guide frontline humanitarian actors on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response measures in line with international standards, guidelines, and best practice. Views or opinions expressed in GBV AoR Helpdesk Products do not necessarily reflect those of all members of the GBV AoR, nor of all the experts of SDDirect's Helpdesk roster.

The GBV AoR Helpdesk

You can contact the GBV AoR Helpdesk by emailing us at:
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The Helpdesk is available 09.00 to 17.30 GMT Monday to Friday.

Our services are free and confidential.