



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CHILDREN,
EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
CH 1211 Geneva 10

Your ref

Our ref

Date:

14/1980-

12.06.2014

General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/179 on the Protection of migrants

We refer to your letter regarding General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/179 on the Protection of migrants dated 8 May 2014. Norway is asked to provide information on challenges and best practices in promoting and protecting the human rights of migrants, and to describe ways and means to promote and protect the human rights of migrant children.

The Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion has the responsibility for some aspects of the policy regarding unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMA).

In Norway the responsibility for UMA is divided between the immigration authorities and the child welfare authorities. Pursuant to the Child Welfare Act, UMA under the age of 15 years are provided with accommodation in special care centres. The Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion is responsible.

UMA between 15-18 years are accommodated in reception centres run by various entities under the immigration authorities. The Ministry of Justice and Public security is responsible.

The child welfare services are obliged to provide care in all aspects during UMA's stay at a care centre while the application for asylum is processed (by the immigration authorities). UMA are ensured most of the same rights every other child in the country has, like access to education, health care and so on. The employees at the reception centres have special duties in fulfilling the children's needs, much in the same way parents would do. They are all professionals. If the child is granted a residence permit, he or she will be offered care and accommodation in one municipality, and the responsibility will shift to this level of authority. Particular measures have been taken in order to ensure the safety of possible victims of trafficking.

Immigrants who have been granted a residence permit as a refugee or with humanitarian status enjoy full freedom of movement. In principle, they may choose to settle wherever they want. However, initially most will depend on public assistance to find suitable housing and to ensure their subsistence needs. Those who depend on public assistance, have to settle in a municipality that accepts them.

Norwegian municipalities are sovereign when it comes to deciding on the number of refugees to accept if they require assistance. Through a state grant of a fixed sum per refugee over a five-year period, the municipalities are compensated financially for the extra expenses. In 2014, the sum for the whole five year period is NOK 669 600 for unaccompanied minors and for children under 18 years.

To ensure that unaccompanied minors are settled as fast as possible and are offered sufficient care services, the municipalities are compensated with an additional grant. The municipalities receive the additional grant every year until the unaccompanied minor reaches the age of 20 years. In 2014 the sum is NOK 185 400 per person per year.

The time unaccompanied minors have to wait in reception centres have decreased during the latest years. In 2013 most of the unaccompanied minors are settled in a municipality within 3 months after they have been granted a residence permit. In comparison the waiting period was 6,2 months for families with children and 9,3 months for adults without children.

Yours sincerely,

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The document is approved electronically, as such no handwritten signatures are required.