

**Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
Second Regional Review for Africa**

Side Event - Prioritising ending child immigration detention and implementing alternatives in Africa

3rd October 2024, 10.00AM (GMT)

Venue: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlc-igpzosHdY1eFJiWJXP8H3yMfGXtIj5>

Introduction: Immigration detention remains a widespread issue around the world faced by migrant children. Globally, each year, an estimated 330,000 children are deprived of their liberty. At least 77 countries have laws and policies that allow children to be detained based on their or their parents’ legal or migratory status. Immigration detention of children is never in the best interest of the child, constitutes a child rights violation and a form of violence against children. The SADC Regional Network on Alternatives to Detention (SADC ATD Network), International Detention Coalition (IDC) and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) are co-organizing a side event in a run up to the second regional reviews for Africa. This exchange seeks to provide a venue for multi-stakeholder engagement to share information, data and promising practices that seek to end child immigration detention.

Rationale: The Committee on the Rights of the Child, which oversees the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, has provided authoritative guidance that immigration detention is a child rights violation and that the principle of detaining as a “last resort” does not apply to children in the context of migration. The best interests of the child principle must govern any measures taken by States. Children should not be detained due their immigration status; instead, appropriate community and family rights-based care arrangements for unaccompanied or separated children remain the best measure. States are called upon to first explore the use of alternative, non-custodial measures in the community focused on case management. To this end, countries are taking various actions to end child immigration detention.

Objective(s): This Virtual GCM Talk will bring together various stakeholders and will provide an open space to:

- discuss experiences regarding the implementation of Objective 13 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) with a focus on children;
- share promising practices on ATD for children in Africa; and
- propose recommendations to States to ensure compliance of national practices with international law and standards.

Language

The language for the side event will be English with French translation provided.

Agenda

Time	Description
10.00 – 10.10	Introduction objectives of the meeting and agenda- Lilian Obiye, International Detention Coalition
10.10 – 10.40	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nabeelah Mia, Lawyers for Human Rights • Representative from National Organisation • Representative from West and Central Africa
10.40 – 10.55	Feedback from participants