



Ending immigration detention of children

Under Canada's immigration law, children are supposed to be detained only as a "last resort". But children are regularly detained in Canada.

They are detained on grounds of:

Identity or **Flight risk**

Or they are a "guest" in detention accompanying a detained parent

Some examples:

An unaccompanied 16-year-old Syrian boy fleeing the conflict was detained in isolation in Toronto for nearly three weeks.

Five children were detained three weeks, along with their mother, when they arrived in Canada and made refugee claims.

A 9-year-old Canadian citizen girl spent a year in detention accompanying her mother who was detained on identity grounds.



In 2012, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child called on States to cease the immigration detention of children. "The detention of a child because of their or their parents' migration status constitutes a child rights violation".



Research has shown that even short-term detention has a long-lasting negative impact on the health of children.

Canada has an opportunity to play a global leadership role in addressing the detention of children for immigration purposes.



Recommendation

Join the CCR in asking that the immigration law be changed to:

- End the detention of children
- Preserve children's right to family unity by not detaining accompanying parents
- Make the best interests of the child a primary consideration in all detention decisions