



*Organisation Mondiale Pour L'Éducation Préscolaire
Organización Mundial Para La Educación Preescolar
World Organization for Early Childhood Education*

Declaration of the 68th OMEP World Assembly and Conference

URGENT CALL TO ADDRESS THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS
OF THE YOUNGEST DISPLACED, MIGRANT, REFUGEE, AND ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN

Seoul, Korea
July 2016

The world community is accountable and must immediately take action to end the inhumane and unjust treatment of millions of displaced, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children and their families throughout the world, with special attention to those who are in their most formative years, birth to age 8. Failure to act is unethical and a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our governments have the duty to protect and restore every child's right to live and to develop to full potential. Therefore, OMEP calls on our local, national, and global leaders to

1. Ensure humanitarian and just conditions for all displaced, migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking children and their families.
2. Create public policies and mechanisms through which the treatment of these young children will be transparent and realistically assessed.
3. Protect these young children by providing secure places for them to play and learn.
4. Educate teachers and caregivers to work successfully with these and other traumatized children as they gain access to educational programs and systems, as is their inalienable right guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

With members in nearly 70 countries throughout the world, OMEP is the oldest and largest international organization devoted to the general wellbeing, rights, optimal development, and education of children between birth and age 8. OMEP has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations and UNESCO. OMEP animates the organization's commitment to the youngest displaced, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children through our work with the UN NGO Committee on Migration, as well as through our participation in activities and events by the UN High Commission on Refugees, the Red Cross, and other organizations and agencies sharing our concern for children in high-risk situations, including poverty, conflict, and social exclusion.

OMEP members throughout the world offer to the world community, and especially to our leaders, our unwavering commitment, energy, and expertise in pursuit of these goals.