



## Session Report for a Side Event

at the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour,  
Marrakech, Morocco

### I. Session Details

- Session title: Exploring the intersection between child labour, child trafficking and migration through data and evidence
- Date & time: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 16:30 CET
- Format: Virtual format with simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish and Arabic
- List of session partners / co-organisers: The session was organized by the International Organization for Migration, through its [Migrant Protection Platform](#), in close partnership with the Government of Morocco and the Harvard FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights
- Recordings available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#)
- Media coverage via the Migrant Protection Platform's [LinkedIn](#)

### II. List of speakers

Moderator – Mr. Francesco Giasi, Knowledge Management Officer (Protection), International Organization for Migration

#### Panellists

- i. Ambassador Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- ii. Ms. Tajma Kurt, Director, Border Management, Return and Readmission Division, International Organization for Migration
- iii. Professor Jacqueline Bhabha, Director of Research, FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights of Harvard University
- iv. Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
- v. Mohamed Amine Mkika, directeur général, Association AL Karam pour la protection des enfants en situation précaire
- vi. Dr Phineas Jasi, Data Management and Research Specialist, International Organization for Migration



### III. Short Summary

This side event explored the intersection between child labour, migration and child trafficking – which is recognized as one of the worst forms of child labour. It drew on the commitments from Call to Action from the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, held in Durban ([Duban Call to Action](#)) in particular: *Commitment III: Strengthen the prevention and elimination of child labour, including its worst forms, forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons, and the protection of survivors through data-driven and survivor informed policy and programmatic responses.*

Complementing the thematic session on *Immediate and Effective Measures to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, this side event explored how data and research can deepen our understanding of the intersections between child labour, violence against children, migration and trafficking in persons. It emphasised the value of evidence-informed measures towards elimination of child labour, focusing on on global-level data and research findings and standard setting.

The side-event proposed recommendations for how to leverage these findings and operational practices for enhanced future action, utilizing migration and trafficking in persons linkages towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, with focus on trafficking in persons and violence against children.

### IV. Key Takeaways

- Many children across the globe are affected by unsafe migration, child trafficking and child labour and experience violence and exploitation. These phenomena are often intertwined. This results from conflict, climate and environmental factors, poverty, social exclusion, absence of opportunities and safe alternatives. However, migration is often overlooked in policies, programmes and protective support.
- Research and data show that child trafficking victims come from all backgrounds, genders and ages, but factors, such as limited access to quality education, poverty and inequality, among other things, represent particular trafficking risk factors for children.
- Breaking the cycle, and preventing and reducing vulnerability requires a comprehensive, coordinated, whole-of-society and whole-of-government



response, involving child-protection organizations, civil society and public and private actors, towards addressing these interconnected factors simultaneously, to ensure that no child is left behind.

- Integrated and accessible child protection systems are essential, within and across countries, as is mainstreaming child protection within child labour, migration and child trafficking policies and programmes. These approaches should be informed by lived experiences of child victims and survivors.
- There is an ongoing need for reliable and up-to-date data and evidence to continue to highlight risks and vulnerabilities and show where interventions are most needed. This should focus on the overlapping risks between child labour, child trafficking, migration and violence against children, and recognising their intertwined nature.

## V. Notable Quotes

*Ambassador Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva*

- “Child labour is a multi-faceted problem, requiring accountability from across stakeholders. The data show us the need for a proper response, working on the intersectionality between child labour, child trafficking and migration.”

*Ms. Tajma Kurt, Director, Border Management, Return and Readmission Division, International Organization for Migration*

- “Today, millions of children are on the move, whether forced by conflict, drawn by poverty, or compelled for other reasons, such as climate and environmental factors. However, migration is often overlooked in policies, programmes and protective support - yet is a reality that must be considered, particularly if we are to ensure that no child is left behind in the pursuit of the elimination of child labour.”

*Professor Jacqueline Bhabha, Director of Research, FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights of Harvard University*

- “A comprehensive and whole of society response, including governments, child organizations, civil society and public and private actors is essential to ensure that the international obligations that many countries have entered into are translated into actionable practice on the ground. Only then will these terrifying numbers be reduced.”



*Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children*

- “This overview highlights the urgent need to break the cycle of violence where too many children are trapped and left behind. Breaking this cycle requires a comprehensive and coordinated response that addresses all these interconnected factors simultaneously.”
- [If we are to address child labour, migration, child trafficking, violence, and the violation of the rights of children then...] “We need to move beyond reactive, siloed approaches, towards proactive, integrated child protection systems within and across countries. This means mainstreaming child protection within child labour, migration and child trafficking policies and programmes, that are duly informed by lived experiences of child victims and survivors.”

*Mohamed Amine Mkika, directeur général, Association AL Karam pour la protection des enfants en situation précaire*

- “Having a central system for ensuring coordinated assistance can also support multi-sectoral analysis of data in order to have stronger impact on responding to child trafficking and child exploitation.”

*Dr Phineas Jasi, Data Management and Research Specialist, International Organization for Migration*

- “We need to recognise the overlapping risks between child trafficking, migration and child labour, and where these intersect it’s important that we use our data systems to identify children who are at highest risk.”