

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN ASYLUM APPEAL PROCEDURES

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## INTRODUCTION

Children and young people represent a significant portion of the migrant population. Simultaneously a 'child' and a 'migrant', their interactions with adults and the State are characterised by various tensions. Extensive ethnographic research at the Belgian Council for Alien Law Litigation (CALL) shows how these tensions operate in an asylum courtroom.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How can the challenges and tensions on the intersection between migration and childhood be understood and overcome in the context of asylum appeal procedures in Belgium and beyond?



What is the meaning and implication of children's rights as a framework for analysis of these challenges and tensions?

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## CHILDREN AT THE CALL



- The CALL is the Belgian appeal court in matters of asylum and migration. Despite the written nature of the asylum procedure, hundreds of children visit the CALL yearly for an oral hearing with a judge.
- There are no procedural guarantees that differentiate between adults and children. Initiative for child-friendly interaction lies with individual judges.

## METHODOLOGY

- Ethnographic observations (active + passive) of spatial and relational experiences of children in the courtroom
- Interviews with children, young people and families who have experienced an appeal procedure at the CALL

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Towards child-friendly asylum justice in the CALL courtroom
- Critical perspective on children's rights
- Doing research at the intersection of agency and vulnerability