

Each member of your panel will address the following questions:

- 1) In what ways do current practices or policies provide for the holistic needs of children who have been displaced across borders?

International Standards recognize youth as including persons from late teens through early twenties.

United States Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau recognize persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two years of age as developing youth, requiring positive youth development practices, trauma informed and harm reduction approaches to support development and transition to independent living. Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs are provided in response to recognized needs of these youth in the United States.

United States Immigration laws do not recognize persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two years of age as developing youth. When apprehended by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, youth who may have entered the United States under eighteen years of age, have good immigration legal cases but do not have families or sponsors (runaway and homeless youth) in the U. S., are placed in federal detention centers with adults.

- 2) In what ways do current practices or policies make it difficult to respond to the holistic needs of children who have been displaced across borders?

Federal Detention Centers do not respond to the holistic needs of these children who have been displaced across borders.

- 3) If you could identify two key aspects of policy or practice that need to be changed to ensure the holistic survival and development of displaced children, what would you recommend and why?

Differential and more holistic care to meet the of youth who are approaching or have reached 18 years of age, providing separate care from the general adult population, incorporating positive youth development, trauma-informed and harm reduction approaches to care.

- 4) If you could identify one critical question that future research should investigate to address challenges to the healthy survival and development of displaced children, what would that be, and why?

The impact of no holistic support services for immigrant youth (18 to 21 years) who are placed in federal detention centers and mixed with general adult populations, should be researched and alternatively contrasted with programs that provide holistic support services in youth-centered settings to increase the likelihood of success in acclimation to U. S. society.

