



Recommendation 2056 (2014)¹

Final version

The alternatives to the immigration detention of children

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its [Resolution 2020 \(2014\)](#) on the alternatives to the immigration detention of children.
2. The Assembly stresses that States which practise the immigration detention of children contravene the principle of the best interests of the child and violate children's rights. They deprive children of their fundamental right to liberty and put them at risk of severe and lifelong physical, mental and developmental harm. They may also violate other fundamental child rights, such as the rights to family, health, education and play. The Assembly considers that in order to stop this inhuman practice, the Council of Europe has an important role to play in promoting alternatives to the immigration detention of children.
3. The Assembly therefore calls on the Committee of Ministers to:
 - 3.1. launch a study to collect qualitative and quantitative data on the immigration detention of children and the use of non-custodial, community-based alternatives to detention for children and families, and promote the sharing of these practices across Europe;
 - 3.2. set up guidelines for conducting child-friendly age-assessment procedures for migrant children.

1. *Assembly debate* on 3 October 2014 (36th Sitting) (see [Doc. 13597](#), report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, rapporteur: Ms Tinatin Bokuchava). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 3 October 2014 (36th Sitting).