

August 2024



Updates, News, and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

29

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

182

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

74

HOURS

Both France and the UK have signed and ratified the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, meaning they have the obligation to **respect, protect and fulfill** the rights within it. Instead, they **pursue hostile border policies** which prevent children on the move from accessing their rights.

Access to Water

Many of the children we work with live outside, without access to adequate running water. In GS this month, 22 children expressed that they were very thirsty. Whilst we provide water on our sessions, and other organisations work to meet this essential need, more needs to be done. Last year, the French government committed to accepting the UN's recommendations to improve access to water for people on the move in northern France - but we are yet to see action taken.

A.24: Right to Health

Access to Asylum

Seeking asylum is a fundamental human right - and one that no-one should have to risk their lives to access. However, safe routes to seeking asylum in the UK are increasingly limited. This means that the families we work with have no other option but to make the treacherous journey across the Channel to do so. Many of the children we work with are already trauma experienced - yet instead of being able to access the support and stability they need, they are exposed to further physical & psychological harm as a result of the hostile policies enacted by the French and UK governments.

A.22 Refugee convention: right to seek asylum

Police Violence

The children we work with face regular police hostility and violence whilst in limbo in France. "Eviction" operations see French riot police systematically move people from an informal living site, destroying their tents, blankets and personal belongings in the process. They are a source of physical and psychological violence. During a session at a living site in Calais this month, we were present as the police evicted the site. The children were visibly distressed as a result.

A.19: Freedom from violence

A.28: Right to education

This month, we worked with an 11yo who had fractured their foot after having to walk all night as part of a failed crossing attempt.

Education

The lack of access to safe routes to seek asylum means that children and their families cannot create stable lives for themselves - and children are often out of education for long periods of time. This month, we worked with a 13 year old who told us that they really missed school and their friends.



www.project-play.org/take-action

Contact us:
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