

## Updates, News, and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

37

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

164

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

92

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 Sanitation

Many of the children we work with live outside, in tents. A lack of state provided access to essential services means they have inadequate access to basic necessities, including clothes and fresh water. Whilst grassroots organisations work hard to fill this gap, they can struggle to reach everyone who needs support. In 17 out of the 20 sessions we ran in GS this month, our team noted concerns about the high number of children who did not have access to adequate sanitation facilities or clean clothes.

A.24: Right to Health

A lack of sanitation facilities also means that children don't have access to toilets. On 15 of the sessions in GS this month, children were forced to go to the toilet outside - without adequate privacy from passing adults. Last year, the French government committed to accepting the UN's recommendations to improve access to water for people on the move - but we are yet to see action.

### 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.

Failed crossing attempts are physically exhausting and psychologically harmful for children and their families. On one occasion, a family of children were clearly stressed, exhausted and struggling a lot after a challenging night - they were arguing more, hitting more, and struggling to emotionally regulate.

A.19: Freedom from violence

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 and psychological harm as a direct result of the hostile policies enacted by the French and UK governments. We often get disclosure from children about crossing, who talk about violent police interventions, teargas and the fear of being in the water. This month, 17 different children talked about crossing.

A.22 Refugee convention: right to seek asylum

