



Caritas Internationalis is the official humanitarian and development organisation of the Catholic Church.

Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of over 160 national organisations dedicated to the service of the poor and the promotion of charity and justice, regardless of race or religion.

Caritas Internationalis strives for a world where the dignity of the human being is upheld and there is no exclusion, discrimination, violence, intolerance or dehumanising poverty.

Caritas Internationalis is a supporter of the End Child Detention campaign.



[www.endchilddetention.org](http://www.endchilddetention.org)



### Please support our work on child migrants by

- Being attentive to migrant children.
- Signing the End Child Detention petition.
- Getting more information from [suelzu@caritas.va](mailto:suelzu@caritas.va)
- Giving to Caritas Internationalis.

Your donations small and large make a difference to people's lives.

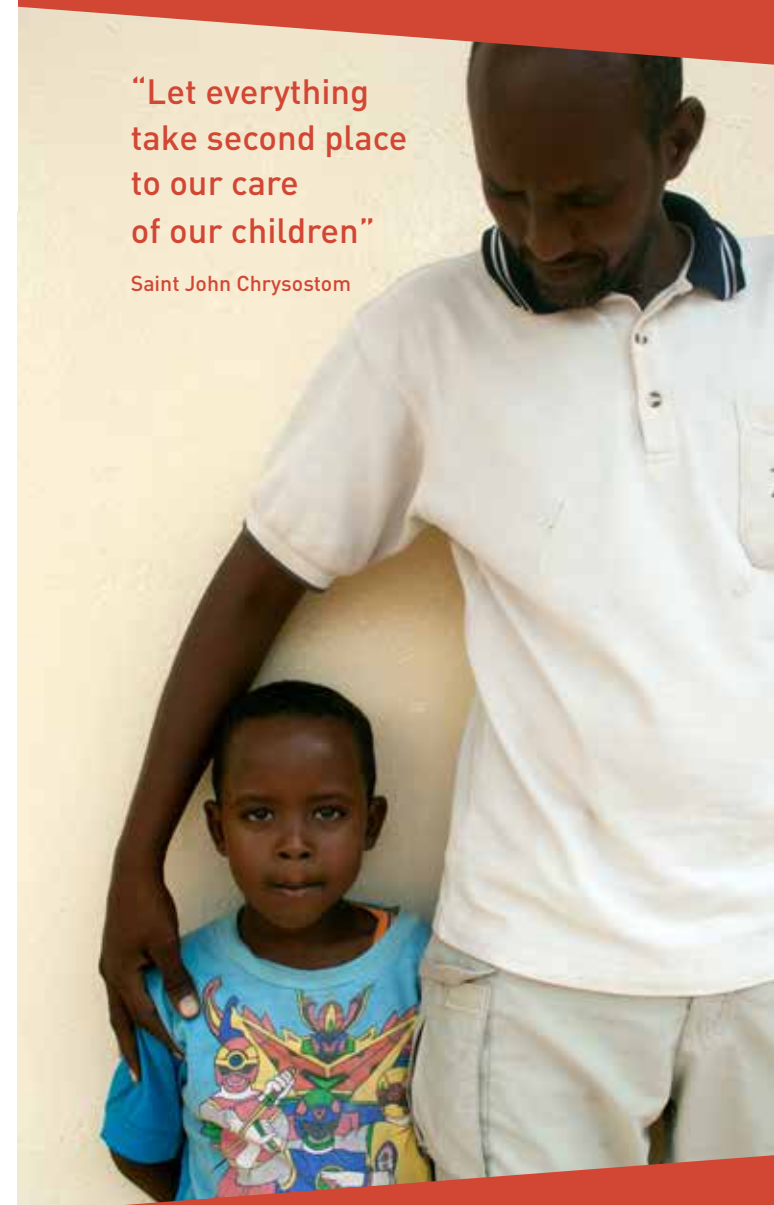
Give at

[www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org)

## CHILD MIGRANTS THEIR RIGHTS AND OUR DUTY

“Let everything  
take second place  
to our care  
of our children”

Saint John Chrysostom



 **Caritas**  
Internationalis



## Kay Doh's story

Kay Doh\* is 13. His parents sent him to a refugee camp on the Thai-Myanmar border so he would get an education. The schools in his area of eastern Myanmar closed because of conflict.

**The loneliness is hard.  
The hunger, even harder.**

"My friends at school won't visit me because I'm so poor. I can't visit my parents because it's too expensive", says Kay.

Every couple of days, a Caritas care worker called Mae\* checks to see if Kay might need something. Caritas workers in the camp keep the children's health in check and provide some essentials such as school kit.

\*Names changed

**In all actions concerning children [...] the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.**

Convention on the Rights of the Child,  
Article 3, Section 1

## **EXPLOITED UNDERFERED UNDERAGE** | ...and in your country

Child migrants are one of the most vulnerable groups imaginable.

They often move from rural poor areas to big cities in their own country in search of a way to make a living.

They often leave their homes and travel alone to countries where they are at risk of abuse.

Caritas organisations welcome these children and offer them shelter, food, medical assistance and educational opportunities.

But for child migrants to be truly safe they need governments to guarantee their legal protection and respect their rights.



## What Caritas says to governments

- 1** DON'T hold migrant children in detention – there are alternatives.
- 2** DO ensure they remain with their parents or provide them with a guardian if unaccompanied.
- 3** DO welcome migrant children into the community and ensure that their rights are protected.
- 4** DO ensure that they have access to fundamental rights, including health care, education and training.
- 5** DO work to end the violence and instability in countries that young people are forced to leave.