

MODULE 6: THE BEST INTERESTS PROCESS

OBJECTIVES

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Define the concept of the best interests of the child
- identify the key stages involved in the best interest determination process
- Show how a multidisciplinary BID Committee balances the different rights of a child to determine the solution in his/her best interests

REF. HANDBOOK

[Module 6](#)

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Discussion and interactive presentation with 2 group exercises

TIME

1 session (1h30)

- Initial discussion and introduction: 15 mins
- Exercise 1 and debrief: 15 mins
- Exercise 2: 20 minutes
- Interactive presentation: 35 mins
- Conclusion: 5 mins

MATERIAL

- Presentation
- Paper with 7 stages of the Best Interests Process (to cut-up)

GROUPS

1 exercise composed of 3 groups and another composed of 4 groups

LINK WITH OTHER SESSIONS

Should be presented before the session on reintegration of children.

KEY MESSAGES

- The child' best interest assessment and determination are important tools of child protection
- Establishing best interest determination procedures demands close cooperation between child protection agencies, governmental and non-governmental, in countries of transit, destination and origin.

FACILITATION

This session is facilitated through a presentation, ideally facilitated by staff trained in child protection. There are detailed notes in the PowerPoint presentation itself.

Below are further instructions when presenting this session:

- Slide 4: Try and start the presentation with a discussion on the definition of the best interest of the child. You can collect key words on a board.
- Slide 11 is an interactive exercise. Participants are divided up into small groups and are given small pieces of paper with the 7 stages of the Best Interests Process (available in the materials, to be printed and cut-out before the session). Each group will need to try and arranges the pieces of paper according to the order of the best interest process. 5 minutes is sufficient for this exercise.
- Slide 12 gives a recap of the exercise
- Slides 13-14: Ask someone to read the case study. Divide participants into 4 small groups (can be the same as for the previous exercise) and ask each group to discuss one of the first 4 steps of the best interests process and identify the key actions and considerations for the step assigned to them. Then ask each group

to provide their feedback to the plenary (going through the slides 15-18). The case study is built as a series with new elements provided as we progress. At each step the presenter will provide new elements, found in the notes section of the PPT.

- Slides 19-28: Continue presenting the remaining steps and considerations
- Slide 29: Ask a participant to read the last case study, then invite them to discuss the case and identify the next steps needed to conduct a best interest determination. This can be done in plenary or in small groups.
- Slide 30: Conclude with key messages

IMPORTANT REMARKS

- It is recommended that this session be facilitated by staff trained in child protection.

