

In contemporary society children constitute an important part of asylum seekers within and to Europe either they arrive with their families or alone. Many of these children have own experiences of war, violence, acts of cruelty and similar traumas. Others have been exposed indirectly by that their parents have had traumatising experiences. The problems of the adults are often very large, and children run the risk of having their problems concealed. Registration and statistics are generally not made in a way that make the exposed situation of children visible. The reasons for asylum of children in their own right are rarely investigated.

The rights of asylum-seeking children are protected in international conventions and rules, like in the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, The European Convention on Human Rights and the Geneva Convention. The rules within these conventions must be tested against the policies of asylum that are practiced in different countries. The degree of protection of children varies within and between different countries. Within the framework of the discussions of the future of Europe within the EU issues connected to asylum rights are given a high priority. There are great differences between countries but the kinds of problems that must be dealt with are similar. For this reason, it is important to highlight the perspective of the child in order to protect the rights of children.

In this book knowledge from different scientific areas, like medicine, psychiatry, psychology, anthropology, sociology and pedagogic, and from different European countries presents international and interdisciplinary perspectives on the ways in which the situation of refugee children are understood and managed both during and after application of asylum.