



June 2016

***Alternatives to the immigration
detention of children***

**International
Detention Coalition**

Human rights for detained refugees,
asylum seekers and migrants

Global trends

Governments are increasingly using detention as a migration management tool

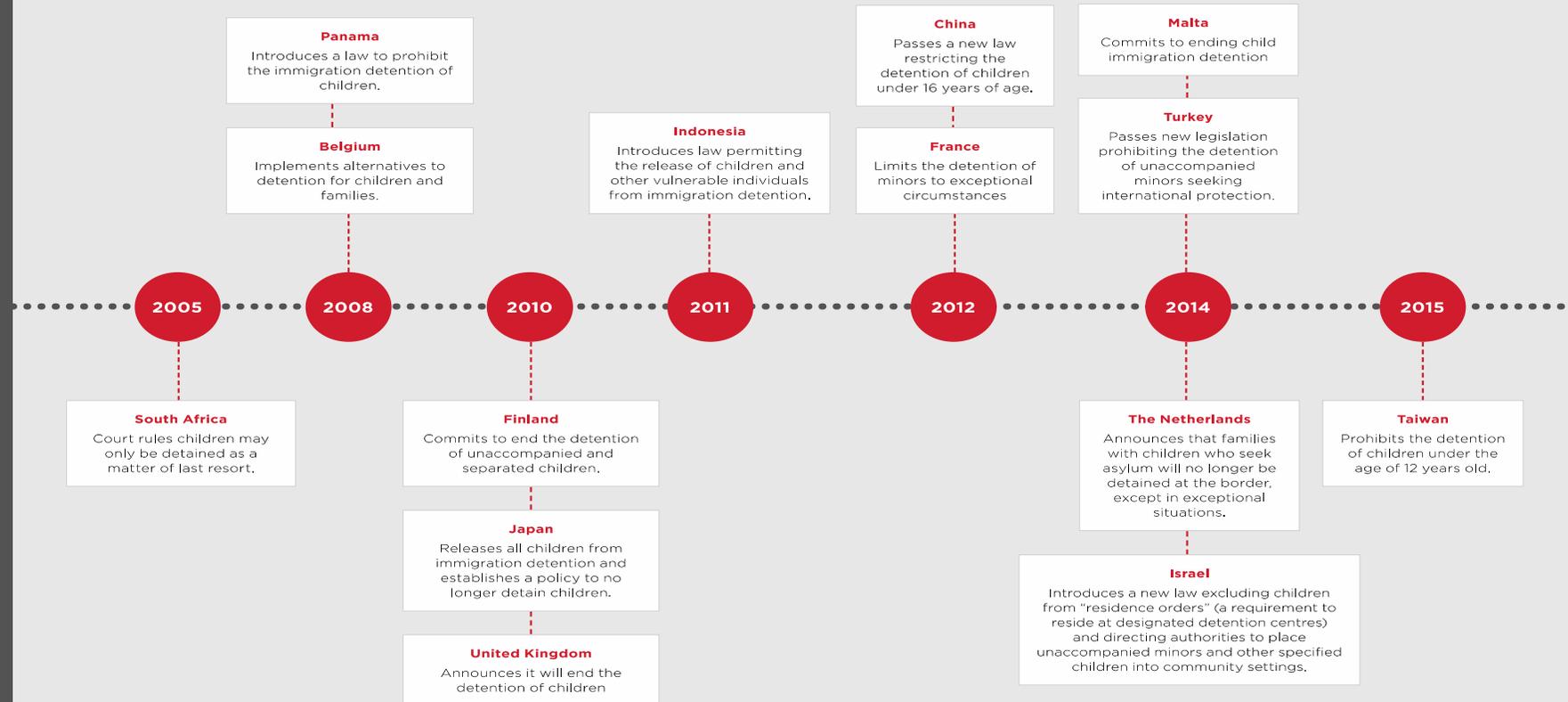
Children are detained as they do not have the documentation allowing them to cross international borders

Global trends

BOX 5

ENDING IMMIGRATION DETENTION OF CHILDREN

A SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL TRENDS



Why this move?

Detention has a profound and negative impact on child health and development, with associated risks of physical and sexual abuse and lasting psychological damage

Why this move?

“The detention of a child because of their or their parent’s migration status constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child”

*UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
Recommendation*

Why this move?

The Committee has called on states to “expeditiously and completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their immigration status”

and to “adopt alternatives to detention that allow children to remain with family members and/or guardians in non-custodial, community-based contexts”

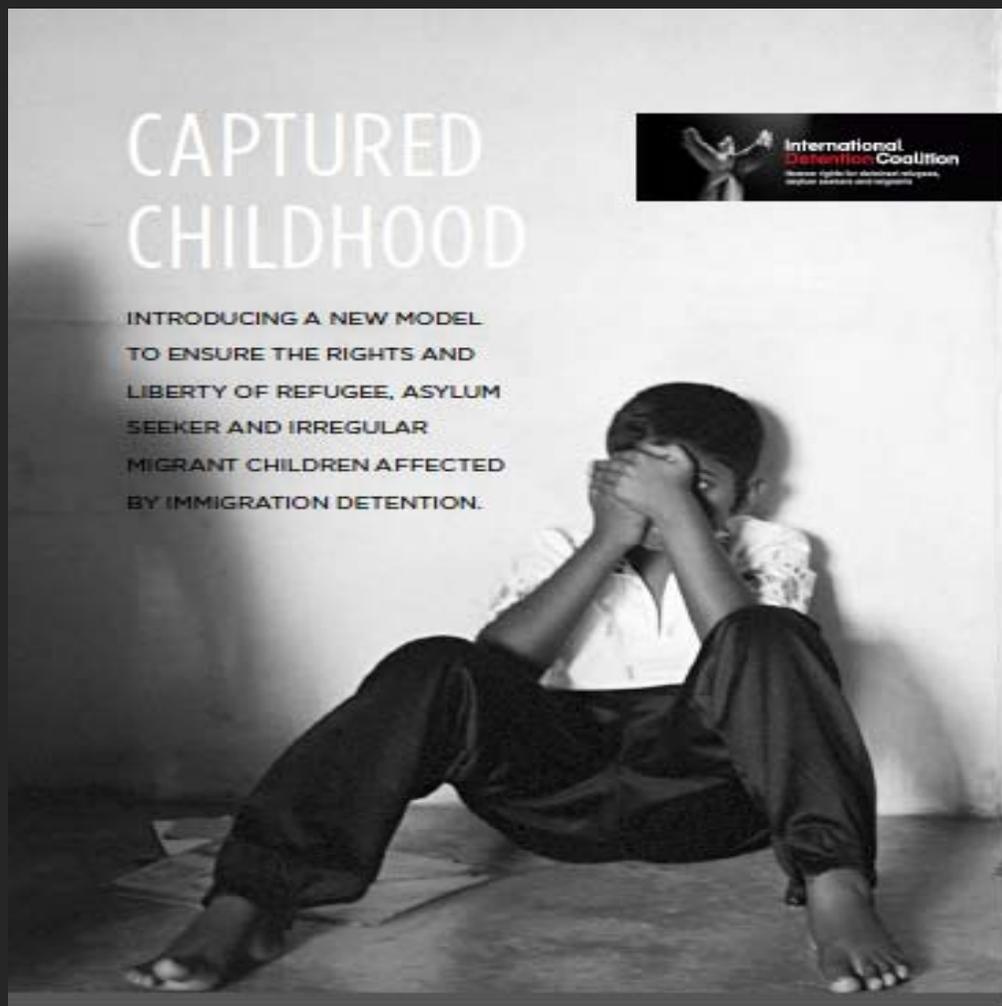
Why this move?

Alternatives are cheaper and more humane than detention and can be effective in meeting government requirements of compliance and co-operation.

“Alternatives are any law, policy or practice by which persons are not detained relating to their migration status”

How states have implemented these:

IDC Research



Steps to prevent child detention

- 1. Screening** – Undertaking age assessment & best interest determination
- 2. Referral** – Assigning a guardian for UAMs and a case manager for children and family
- 3. Placement** – Placing into community housing and support
- 4. Reviewing and Safeguarding** – Ensuring best interest
- 5. Case Resolution** – Finding sustainable solutions

Case management in the returns context

- Identifying barriers to departure
- Stabilizing health and assisting individuals cope and have trust in the process
- Assisting individuals explore a long-term sustainable solution, such as:
 - Exploring legal options to remain
 - Reassessment of new case information
 - Exploring third country options and relocation to other areas in country of origin
 - Exploring repatriation support needs



www.idcoalition.org

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