

## Article 12: Respect for children's voices

1989, UN Convention on  
the Rights of the Child

### A Child's Voice

Expat Valley is introducing the first-of-its-kind, yearly-returning research project that aims to collect data and present insights on international children's wellbeing: 'A Child's Voice'. This first edition will focus on **The flipside of international migration**: it's adults' decisions that lead to children moving internationally, often these decisions are made without realizing how children's lives are impacted.

Both the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and Sustainable Development Goals draw attention to inclusion of children when decisions are made that impact their lives. The first edition of A Child's Voice emphasizes exactly that: to what extent are children's voices being listened to in the decision-making process surrounding international migration?

Expat Valley's formal research partner is Johan de Kam, PhD candidate in the field of global mobility, at Warwick University. Other contributors to this project are subject-matter experts, and sponsoring partners: organizations that are part of the system surrounding international children.

Previous research has shown that moving internationally as a child can significantly influence a child's sense of belonging, and therewith the development of their identity and their ability to form successful relationships growing up. In the field of corporate global mobility, surveys have indicated that 70% of failed international assignments are due to family stress. Recommendations for further research emphasize obtaining more insight on the child's perspective to positively influence the outcome of international migration. We bring a paradigm shift, by delivering insights that change the way decisions are made, and by introducing best practices in a market looking to do better.

### Sponsor Benefits

- Receive exclusive access to research insights relevant to your wellbeing **strategy**, which strengthens your position as thought leader towards external stakeholders.
- Increase your organization's **relevancy** by associating your brand with an innovative and new sound in the landscape of global mobility.
- Acknowledge the diverse international backgrounds and stories of your own organization's workforce by showing **empathy** for children currently growing up across borders.
- Invest in your **attractivity** for young generations that increasingly care about organizations' legacy, purpose and reputation.
- For organizations that seek to make business decisions more **ethically**, future generations' best interests can be part of your North Star vision.

### About Expat Valley

Expat Valley believes that international migration should be an enriching experience that allows children to thrive. Our team combines its international experiences with expertise on children's development, empathy and creativity to provide Assistance, Research and Tool Kids that support the entire system surrounding international children. With our extensive network we form an ecosystem that is on a mission to care for all 40 million children growing up outside of the country they were born in.

[www.expatvalley.com](http://www.expatvalley.com)



*peace of mind*

# Timeline

On November 20th 2021, the day that we celebrate World Children's Day and the adoption of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, Expat Valley will start its public communication campaign surrounding this research project with acknowledgment to the contributions of all partners.

The research itself will start October 2021 as we will review existing literature and relevant publications to lay the foundation for the children's survey. Throughout the research period we will obtain additional insights and perspectives by interviewing subject-matter experts, experts by experience, and the most important experts: children. Data collection itself will take place early 2022, with data analysis and preparation of publications scheduled for April - July 2022.

In September 2022 we will present the findings of A Child's Voice in the form of a research report, white papers for sponsoring partners, and in the form of a book with the working title: The Flipside.



# The Flipside

The findings of A Child's Voice will be translated into a graphic novel for children and adults: The Flipside. This book will combine research insights that could contribute to the foundation of successful international mobility programs for all stakeholders involved, with a storyline that encourages alignment between the needs of children and all other stakeholders. We expect The Flipside to be a conversation piece that positively impacts the world of international migration.

