

# International Alternative Care Conference

Geneva, 3 to October 2016



## Gatekeeping

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### Hosts



### Partners



## Gatekeeping

*“Good gatekeeping is more a matter of attitude and philosophy than the availability of resources.” (Tolfree)*

- A “recognized and systematic procedure” to ensure that alternative care for children is used only when necessary and that the children receive the most suitable support to meet their individual needs.

## Child rights based approach

Parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing of their children but the State should provide all possible support to them to be able fulfilling their obligations (Art. 5), and the State is also required to ensure the care and protection of all children (Art. 3(2). UNCRC

## Gatekeeping mechanisms

- Political commitment and accountability in de-institutionalisation
- High quality, accessible and affordable – preferably free – services for all, targeted and specialised for those in need
- Assessment and documentation of the child and the family situation in a multi-sectorial context
- Engagement with, and empowerment of, family members and the community
- Regular review and complaint mechanism , reunification if possible
- Child budgeting, measuring the costs and social return, well-being of children

## Moving Forward

- More data, information, research is needed
- Individualised, rights based approach to be followed
- Facilitation of empowerment of parents and children to be active partners
- Well trained, highly valued and properly paid professionals are essential
- Community, family resources mobilised
- Evidence based tools and guidance to be used and reviewed regularly
- Well-being of children is paramount

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Thank you for your  
attention!

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