

## **Review of barriers to mental healthcare access for unaccompanied migrant children in Europe before and during the Covid-19 pandemic**

**Team members:** Rivka Lim (Editor), Helen Little (Researcher), Julia Johnstone (Researcher), Clarissa Fisher (Researcher)

### **Abstract**

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the lives of many, especially refugees. Within that population, Unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs) have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. One major challenge URMs face is accessing quality gender and culture sensitive mental health care and support. This paper addresses and discusses the barriers to mental health care this group encounters. Our aim is three-fold: to discuss the barriers to mental health care URMs faced prior to COVID-19; explain pre-pandemic institutional and legal mental health care assistance available to URMs; analyse how the pandemic has exacerbated the barriers URMs face in accessing mental health care along with how institutions have adapted to help this population during the pandemic. We hope that through this research we bring to light the unequal access to mental health care experienced among this population and suggestions for improvement from researchers in the field.