LEAFLET FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN – Accommodation in children's homes

You are in a place that takes care of children.

The institution is called ____________________________________________, in the town/city of ____________________________________________, at the address ____________________________________________.

You and other children are taken care of by the caregivers who work every day with children. You can talk to them if you have any questions about your accommodation.

Accommodation here means you have your own bed in a room that you share with other children. Apart from the bedrooms, there is a communal bathroom with a shower, a wash hand basin, and a toilet. During the day, you can spend time in the common room, the yard, or in other areas, in agreement with your caregivers.

You have a total of five meals (3 main meals and 2 snacks) daily, prepared by the cooks working here. If you cannot eat some food for religious reasons, or if you have specific needs regarding food for health issues, tell your caregivers. They will talk to the cooks and arrange special meals for you.

Your caregiver will give you necessary personal hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, a toothbrush and toothpaste. If you need underwear, clothes and shoes, tell the caregivers, and they will make sure you get them. You can wash your laundry, clothes and shoes. Ask your caregivers about how the laundry is organised here.

During your stay, you have the right to receive visitors. A person who makes sure that your rights are respected and who, in cooperation with you, manages all the procedures related to the police, a doctor, school and other institutions will visit you. This person is called a special guardian. Apart from the special guardian, representatives of international organisations and other associations working with unaccompanied children will also visit you.

Considering that you are staying in a place that takes care of a large number of children, please obey the rules and the house rules. Caregivers will introduce you to the house rules. This means that there is a time for waking up and going to your room to sleep, a schedule for leisure activities and
studying, mealtimes, and certain rules and obligations so that staying here is more pleasant for everyone.

Please keep the area where you are staying clean and tidy, particularly the area you share with others. You can arrange everyday activities, such as watching television, using a computer and the internet, sports, and other activities, and going out, with a caregiver. Please respect these arrangements.

Caregivers will be glad to hear about your way of life and where you come from, your religion and your customs. In this way, they will be able to adjust the accommodation to your specific needs. Please respect the customs and habits of other children who, just like you, need accommodation here.

Caregivers will introduce you to the town you are staying in, and places such as the town squares, shops, public transport, schools, etc.

If you are frightened, or if somebody is threatening you or if anyone is making you feel unsafe, please tell your caregiver or special guardian. They will protect you.

If you have any health issues, feel unwell, or if you are in pain, please tell a caregiver so he/she can take you as soon as possible to a doctor who will examine you and prescribe medication or therapy.