

## Agenda

[The Mind Game](#) (2023)

**Date:** 10th October 2023

**Time:** 18:30- 21:00 (CEST) - 17:30- 20:00 (GMT+1)

**Location/ access:** Geneva Graduate Institute (**in person/** hybrid panel)

Time (CEST/ BST)	Activity	Who
18:30/ 17:30 (10 mins)	Introduction and welcome	Dr. Shirin Heidari, Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute
18:40/ 17:40 (1 hour)	FILM SCREENING	
19:50/ 18:50 (10 mins)	Introduction to the panel discussion and framing.	Dr. Christos Christous, MSF
20:00/ 19:00 (40 mins)	Panel discussion: 5-10 mins each - reflections/ themes drawn out on what they saw/ have experienced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SK, Producer</li><li>• Eefie Blankevoort, Producer</li><li>• Sarah Harrison, IFRC</li><li>• Pieter Ventevogel, UNHCR</li><li>• Leyla Kayacik, Council of Europe (TBC)</li></ul>	Moderated by Dr. Christos Christous
20:40/ 19:30 (20 mins)	Q&A from the floor/ virtually	
21:00/ 20:00	CLOSE	Dr. Shirin Heidari

### Summary of event:

A screening of 'The Mind Game,' a gripping documentary following the difficult journey of unaccompanied minor refugee, exposing the mental pressure they endure. After the film, we will delve into a panel discussion on the trauma, systemic violence and barriers to safety these young people face. In order to raise awareness on World Mental Health Day, October 10, 2023, from 18:30- 21:00 CEST.

### Film Screening and panel discussion purpose:

The aim of showing the film, followed by a panel discussion is to:

- Raise awareness on the journey young people are forced to take to find sanctuary, the systemic violence they face, and imposed trauma of the asylum system.
- To facilitate discussion about harm reduction within the context of the political and systemic barriers young people face in their search for safety.

On World Mental Health Day (October 10th, 2023), we want to explore the systemic drivers of border violence, xenophobia, and arduous asylum procedures and their damaging consequences. The aim is to discuss **systematic approaches to reducing the trauma of the migrant journey for these young people, including safe and reliable access to support services in their destination country.**

Through the panel discussion of policy and lived experience experts we want to debate the way forward by looking at these themes:

- Mental health and trauma: The asylum process and its implications
- Accountability and responsibility: How can people challenge the system
- Migration systems: How pushbacks and border violence is not a way of managing migration

### **Summary of the film:**

The Mind Game is an intimate documentary about the psychological pressure that unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors deal with, largely filmed from a first-hand perspective.

They call it ‘the game’: the life-threatening journey that many unaccompanied minors undertake seeking protection in Western Europe. For Sajid Khan Nasiri, the game started at 14 after the Taliban killed his father. Via Iran and Turkey to Eastern Europe he progressed ever closer to his destination, hunted down by violent police and hostile civilians. In clips recorded with his telephone camera, and in messages to filmmakers Eefje Blankevoort and Els van Driel, he keeps track of his progress.

He is sure that when he arrives, he’ll be able to relax, go to school and start a new life. But once in Belgium a new game begins: the mind game. Being a child, how do you deal with the enormous mental pressure of the journey, with distrustful authorities, and disturbing messages from the home front? An intimate documentary about the psychological pressure young refugees face.

### **Key Audiences:**

- Policy makers, Researchers, and representatives from International organizations and civil society organizations
- MSF associations
- Students/ friends of MSF in the UK
- Geneva Graduate Institute students