Keynote Address
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- Coherent approach to child protection avoids compartmentalized responses and instead integrates the individual casework of practitioners with wider advocacy and capacity building.

- WE are still discovering the scale of the problem Primary consideration should always be the best interests of child
  - Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - Children at Risk pronouncement from the UN

- It is crucial to implement a rights-based system (as opposed to a needs-based system) that is built into a country’s domestic child welfare system framework

- Children should be viewed and treated as children first, but many institutions encountered by UASC are not geared to children and their needs
  - Immigration systems – border patrol and apprehension, detention, and deportation
  - Court and legal systems – children never viewed as a stakeholder

- Best Interest Determination guidelines have been released and are in process of being implemented; there are challenges when operationalizing the best interest framework

- Results-based evaluation and program development is crucial

- Overall – conference should be aimed at discovering promising practices based on holistic knowledge