

Mahdi, 17 years old

Mahdi is from Syria and he is 17 years old. His migration process has been pending since he arrived in the hostel eight months ago.

In his everyday life, he has displayed behaviour which has prompted staff to speculate about his sexual orientation. Staff reported he has adopted a provocative attitude towards the other children, dancing and moving "provocatively" in front of them.

Additionally, he tried to sexually arouse other children by kissing them on the neck etc. Consequently, he has been the victim of bullying several times as other children shunned his behaviour.

Therefore, an educational program about bullying was set up for the workers. Its goal was to enable them to manage their speculations and ensure their continued neutrality towards all minors. An individual and group intervention was prepared for Mahdi and the other residents. Since then, the situation has improved, but the issue of bullying returned from time to time and remained a source of concern.