



DCI Newsletter

- May 2012

Foreword

THIS IS THE FIRST Newsletter of a new phase for DCI, a phase which started with the XI International General Assembly - IGA (March, 2012). I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who actively contributed to the success of this event, particularly all DCI national sections - the actual actors of this worldwide movement - and I would also like to thank the outgoing International Executive Council for its extremely inspiring and supportive commitment towards the International Secretariat (IS). I would also like to welcome the newly elected members of the International Executive Council, with whom I am sure the whole movement will maintain and ameliorate its role and position among the other child rights organisations. It is with pleasure that the IS hosted such an important event as the IGA. Special recognition must be given to the work of the numerous interns and volunteers that supported the preparation and the follow-up of this event, as we did obtain overall very positive results.

I am sure, and I have already seen it transpire in the course of 2011, that from now on there will be a stronger commitment of all DCI national sections towards the IS and vice-versa; this is a growing trend and I am sure we can find more and more ways to collaborate. On behalf of the IS, I wish to thank all those DCI sections that generously supported the IS, both financially and/or technically: Argentina, Australia, Belgium Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Italy, Netherlands, Palestine, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Uganda, Uruguay; among them a very special thank goes to Australia, Belgium, Netherlands and Palestine who demonstrated extraordinary efforts in support of the IS. DCI's associate members (Mexico and Pakistan) must not be forgotten for their kind contributions, as all the other DCI national sections - that despite difficulties - felt the need to be involved with the

worldwide movement and particularly the IS.

Apart from our two main events (the training course and the IGA), during the same week of March, the General Assembly of the NGO Group for the CRC (now officially 'International Action for Child Rights') took place: DCI, represented by the IS and a national section, is now part of the executive board. During the same week, the Geneva based meeting of the NGO Advisory Council on the follow-up to the study on violence (now officially 'International NGO Council on Violence against children') took place: it was decided that the focus of its work will be research on Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs), in light of the preparation of a major report to be presented during October's UN General Assembly in New York, which will examine children's rights and violence against children.

As you will notice while reading this edition of the Newsletter, we have decided to highlight one or more national sections in each edition (this edition will focus on Angola). The concept of focusing on specific national sections is also enhanced on the official website, with specific pages for each national section; DCI Italy, in collaboration with the IS, are working on and uploading this information which you can view [online](#). We therefore encourage you to share relevant and updated information with us, so it can be presented both on the Newsletter and on the website.

I wish you all a pleasant read.

Ileana





Overview on the Pre-Assembly and the General Assembly (9th-11th March 2012)

On FRIDAY, March 9th, 2012 DCI held a pre-assembly meeting which consisted of two parts: one, dedicated to general open dialogue; and the other, dedicated to consider concrete plans of action, providing suggestions and proposals for the development of a more comprehensive Movement. In the first part of the pre-assembly, presentations were given by the five Working Groups, specifically: the WG on strategy and structure; the WG on gender and ethics; the WG on advocacy; the WG on communication; and the WG on statutory reform.

As a movement, DCI is committed to strengthening children's rights and to promoting a progressive vision. In the growth of the DCI movement, the International Secretariat (IS) in Geneva plays a crucial role: working to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child among the national sections and within the international arena. The International Executive Council also contributes to supporting the IS when having to make decisions on behalf of the General Assembly. Not to mention the work of the national sections which promote the image of DCI in their respective countries and regions, and which share useful information with the Secretariat in Geneva.

Out of DCI's main priorities, particular emphasis is given to juvenile justice, which remains rather unpopular among governments and donors. During the pre-assembly, an attractive suggestion was put forward: create a "permanent task force" dedicated to the collection of national and international funds; hire fundraising consultants; and decentralize certain tasks carried out by the Secretariat. Furthermore, the question of the costs related to geographic location of the IS was examined. Many representatives considered it appropriate to keep the IS in Geneva in order to maintain visibility of DCI within the international arena.

Other salient points which arose during the pre-assembly include: the need to rethink the secondary priority of the movement (Child Labour, Education,

inter alia); the creation of regional offices and the professionalization of the movement at different levels; the need for greater concreteness in carrying out actions. Criticisms were also expressed: the failure to consider national experiences; the absence of political analysis; and the shortcomings in relation to the vision of long-term action.

Regional representatives put forward some proposals:

- Latin America: The representative from Latin America proposed the use of SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) to show up internal and external perspectives, and the possible risks and challenges. The representative pointed out two major challenges: the time required to complete this study and the creation of a permanent monitoring mechanism. The structure of the Movement was characterized as 'pyramidal and fairly rigid', and other approaches were considered worth taking into account.
- Africa: The African representative highlighted the fact that some national sections work as NGOs and others as voluntary associations. On the subject of the structure, it was suggested that in addition to the Vice President, there be a Committee to support the work of the Vice President and the IS.
- Europe & rest of the world: Representatives from the 'rest of the world' discussed a couple of significant points: the strengthening of the IS's role; the turnover of staff; analysis on fundraising; and the expansion of the juvenile justice priority.

On Saturday, March 10th, 2012, the XI International General Assembly (IGA) began with a speech on behalf of the President of DCI, Mr. Rifat Kassis (his term would end the following day). Mr. Kassis spoke of his many country visits and his participation in fund raising activities. For financial reasons he could not visit all DCI national sections, and recommended his successor to intensify country visits, as they are an essential means for motivating national sections.

Overview of the Pre-Assembly... (continue in page 2)



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Overview of the Pre-Assembly ... (continued from page 1)

Mr. Kassis thanked all national sections who expressed their solidarity to the Palestinian section during the War in Gaza, and also to the Colombian section when DCI's offices were vandalized. The conferences of Palestine in 2010 and Uganda in 2011 were seen, by Mr. Kassis, as a means of exposure and visibility for DCI, strengthening its overall image. At the regional level, workshops were conducted (Jordan) and other projects are currently underway. In addition, networks with other organizations have been created.

The African Vice President of the International Executive Council (IEC), Mr. Abdul Kemokai, confirmed the completion of the activities planned for the time frame 2009 -2011. An important outcome to note was a meeting held in Kenya during which clear targets were set in order to improve juvenile justice in Africa. Mr. Kemokai also participated in many forums (Civil Society Organizations Forum) and conferences (Ethiopia, Kampala), and visited national sections (Liberia, Uganda). According to the IEC member, many challenges are still to be overcome, including the multiplicity and diversity of languages, as well as the issue of travel costs. Mr. Kemokai also called on national sections present in the African region to be more proactive, and not to wait for action from the IS and the Council; he also noted the need to find other ways to intervene and to participate in the international arena.

Regarding the Americas, a regional project involving seven countries was established and meetings were organized to improve the visibility of the DCI movement. Various alliances have also emerged, particularly with The Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (MMI-CLAC), which is key in the coordination of different organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Children, Save the Children, inter alia. DCI has also actively participated in the Latin American Forum on Children, held in Buenos Aires, and many other meetings were organized with important key players, notably the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Latin American regional project is programmed to proceed until 2013, however

the budget has been subject to reduction, making it difficult to fulfill all the objectives set out. Finally, with regard to the DCI as an international movement in Europe, it was stressed that there is no coordination between the various national sections present in the region, primarily due to financial reasons. It was suggested that a guide on Juvenile Justice be published, and that further research on the issue take place. The language barrier and lack of coordination among sections were recognized as challenges yet to be overcome. To note are the national sections of Macedonia and Spain, which were suspended, failing to maintain communication. Notwithstanding mentioned reproaches, some positive activities have taken place, including the Conference on Juvenile Justice held in Brussels, to which the majority of sections in Europe and the Middle East participated; during this conference certain issues were raised, such as: the improvement of juvenile justice and securing free legal assistance. Nevertheless, the coordination of national sections present in Europe is a task which is difficult to achieve, mostly due to the fact that each national section possesses its own specific priorities pertinent to its own national context.

Sunday, March 11th, 2012 symbolized the last day of a long week of training and exchange on the future of the DCI Movement. Topics discussed on this day included DCI membership, specifically the current situation of national sections and the obtaining of DCI accreditation. Altogether about thirty national sections were present at the IGA. Two national sections were accepted as definitive members: Liberia (new organization) and Zimbabwe (formerly known as 'New Hope Foundation').

Elections for members of the International Executive Council took place; newly elected members include: Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck (Belgium), President; Mr. Désiré Aroga (Cameroon), Treasurer; Mr. Abdul Kemokai (Sierra Leone), African Representative; Mr. Juan Fumeiro (Uruguay), Americas Representative; Ms. Perla Ribeiro (Brazil), Member at large; Mr. Rifat Kassis (Palestine), Vice President Asia and Oceania; Mr. Aloys van Rest (Netherlands), Vice President Europe.



Presentation of the newly elected members of the International Executive Council (IEC)

Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck (Belgium), President

"I wish to participate in the development of a strong, united, committed and determined movement that consistently puts children's rights in the center of its concerns and denounces human rights violations"



I am currently the president of DCI Belgium and have been member of the International Executive Council (IEC) for two terms (elected in 2005 and reelected in 2008), acting as treasurer and now as the current president of the IEC. My commitment in the field of children's rights is considerable: Director of the 'Children's Rights Service' (In French: Services droit des jeunes - S.D.J.) in Brussels for more than twenty years; Chief editor of the Newspaper for Youth Rights (In French: «Journal du Droit des Jeunes - JDJ»); Founding member and president of the Defense for Children International (DCI) in Belgium; and founding member of the Coordination of Child Rights NGOs (Coordination des ONG pour les droits de l'enfant - CIDE), among others.

DCI has great potential and I am convinced that it is possible to use this potential in a much more substantial way, making a real difference in promoting the respect for children's rights. The various structures of the Movement: sections, regional offices (which do not exist in all regions), the International Secretariat (IS) and the International Executive Council (IEC), bring an important dimension to the

Movement; it is only reasonable to better coordinate these various structures in order to guarantee the more efficient progress of the Movement as a whole. The five different Working Groups, which met to prepare the General Assembly, embody an important dynamism for the improvement of the Movement, and will hence play a crucial role therein.

Organizing the Kampala Conference; membership in the NGO Advisory Council on the follow-up to the study on violence (now officially 'International NGO Council on Violence against children'); hosting of the Interagency Panel Juvenile Justice (IPJJ); partnerships built with other NGOs; involvement in the Committee on the Rights of the Child; etc. are all very positive signs. The DCI Movement is in fact made up of many internationally recognized experts. However, we must remain aware that challenges are still considerable and many aspects have yet to be improved. A strong, united, committed and determined front is needed in order to meet the - ambitious but practicable - objectives of the Movement; and all actors involved, both internally and externally, must have clear and structured roles.

Presentation of the newly elected members... (continue in page 2)



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Presentation of the newly elected members... (continued from page 1)

Mr. Désiré Aroga (Cameroon), Treasurer

“I wish to participate in the development of a strong, united, committed and determined movement that consistently puts children’s rights in the center of its concerns and denounces human rights violations”

Since 1993 (establishment of the DCI national section in Cameroon), I have consistently acted as an advocate for the DCI Movement, and I have always worked for the enhancement and progress of the Movement within the national context of Cameroon, and wherever other possible opportunities arose (i.e. during our formal and informal meetings).

During these past 19 years of advo-

cacy, I have been able to acquire an extensive experience, which I humbly put at the service of DCI Cameroon, and of other child rights organizations working alongside DCI in Cameroon.

I do not doubt my successful promotion within the DCI Movement: thanks to my aforementioned experience, which has in fact enabled me establish ties with relevant people and structures present both in Africa and worldwide.



Mr. Abdul Kemokai (Sierra Leone), Vice President Africa

“DCI should be recognized as the most resourceful organization for juvenile justice by the African Union, UN field offices and other important CSOs”

Currently the executive director of DCI - Sierra Leone, I have been part of the DCI movement since 2003, and I am now DCI vice president for Africa.

My vision for DCI is that of a Movement that has strong presence worldwide, through its sustainable and resourceful national sections. In Africa in particular, DCI should be recognized by the African Union, UN field offices and other important CSOs as the most resourceful organization for juvenile justice, the same way - or even more so - as the Movement’s reputation within the UN office in Geneva. DCI

should be able to count on a strong resource base, with many important allies that can contribute to its work both technically and financially. The Movement is envisaged to be enriched with quality human resources that have strong values and passion for children’s rights.

It is hoped that DCI will be able to strengthen its IS and establish sub regional offices that possess a sustainable resource base and clear vision. DCI should become a household name at local, regional and international level for the work that it does and examples that it sets.



Presentation of the newly elected members... (continue in page 3)



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Presentation of the newly elected members... (continued from page 2)

Mr. Juan Fumeiro (Uruguay), Vice President Americas

“What role does the Movement play in the progress towards a more just, equitable and inclusive gift of children to fully enjoy their rights?”



Having been part of the international movement for over 20 years, I am the current president of DCI-Uruguay, as well as recently elected vice president of the Americas.

The DCI Movement must define specific strategies in order to address its objectives adequately, tackling the real issues, and calling on states to implement comprehensive public policies that promote the implementation and protection of children's rights. As a way of encouraging such

promotion of children's rights, the fundamental issue of health must constantly be considered: children must be healthy in order to enjoy their rights, and to be healthy children have to be fed, educated, live in adequate housing, be free from violence, etc.

The core challenge of the Movement is therefore to achieve the support needed to realize our objectives, and increasingly escalate the momentum of the Movement.

Ms. Perla Ribeiro (Brazil), Member at large

The existing global context challenges us to understand and work in a complex scenario in order to guarantee the human rights of children.

Current President of ANCED, DCI - Brazil, I am now taking on the recently elected role of Representative for the Americas.

The existing global context challenges us to understand and work in a complex scenario in order to guarantee the human rights of children. The challenges posed by models of development, social inequalities and the criminalization of the young population of our countries have led to serious human rights violations.

ANCED places great emphasis on the need to understand that it is people that hold a principle role in the plight

for children rights, a plight that is part of a larger movement for the promotion and defense of fundamental human rights - which are inalienable to all. This plight calls for a multi-disciplinarily, intersectional, professional and multicultural approach in order to recognize and guarantee human rights holistically, by working with a broad view to protect and prevent human rights violations, and by maintaining a vision of emancipation and empowerment of children as subjects entitled to their very own rights, in alliance with other marginalized and vulnerable groups that are in need, and seek, of special protection.



Presentation of the newly elected members... (continue in page 4)



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Presentation of the newly elected members... (continued from page 3)

Mr. Rifat Kassis (Palestine), Vice President Asia and Oceania

During my terms as President, I sought to facilitate and strengthen the process of bringing national sections together and creating a culture of cooperation and solidarity.



I have served as President of the IEC and the DCI international movement for the past seven years. Beyond this position, I have 25 years' experience in the field of children's rights at the international level, both in terms of administrative experience and work on the ground. I have also worked as the director of DCI-Palestine for four years, a position I currently hold.

During my terms as President, I sought to facilitate and strengthen the process of bringing national sections together and creating a culture of cooperation and solidarity. This process and this culture, generated both through specific programs and practic-

es and through the general tone and "spirit" of the organization, are what I believe to be one of DCI's most pressing needs for consideration; and given the Movement's richness of experience and expertise, its true potential. I hope to continue cultivating an environment of collaborative and coordinated work within the Movement. Furthermore, during my presidency, I led an initiative to establish national sections in the Arab World, an initiative I would like very much to continue. I feel that this initiative poses an opportunity both to improve the state of child rights resources in the region and to develop practices of regional work within the DCI movement.

Mr. Aloys van Rest (Netherlands), Vice President Europe

"My belief is that only by working together we can develop and achieve a more impactful and successful movement"

I have been part of the DCI Movement since July 2010, prominently as Director of the Dutch Section. The primary duty of the DCI Movement is to influence public policies of governments and institutions from a child's rights perspective. Such objective is recognizably broad and ambitious, consequently the Movement must be considerably more focused, and establish strategies that will make a substantial difference worldwide.

We all hold a personal responsibility to strengthen the Movement, on both a local and regional level. We have to develop plans to strengthen the structure of the Movement. It goes without saying that the financial cuts which have occurred in the past years create an additional challenge.

I am eager to help and stimulate the professionalization of the international Movement.





DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
the worldwide movement for children's rights

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Annual meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (MMI-CLAC)

- Panama, 17 - 19 April 2012

THE MEETING of the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (MMI-CLAC) took place in Panama City in April. This entity is made up of a coalition of key organisations and Civil Society networks involved in children's rights. DCI attended the meeting, along with UNICEF and the Latin-American Children's Institute, inter alia. The main purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the results of the previously approved Strategic Plan; make the necessary adjustments for the time frame 2012-2015; and elect a new Secretary. The MMI-CLAC evaluated the importance of continuing to participate in impact areas such as SICA (Central American Integration System), CARICOM (The Caribbean Community) and MERCOSUR (South American Common Market), which work for the economic and social integration of the Latin American region. The meeting included, among others, the distinguished participation of Ms. Rosa María Ortiz, member of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Ms. Marta Maurás, Vice-president of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Ms. Cecilia Amicama, representative of Ms. Marta Santos Páiz, Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children; Ms. Lida Gloria Lonzano de Díaz, Director General of the National Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence and Family; and the President of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Institute for Children and Adolescents.

The adjustments approved in the meeting, and which are to be implemented in the time frame 2012-2015, were the following:

- **Violence:** the issue of Juvenile Justice was debated, taking into consideration the hard line proposals of States, such as the lowering of current standards within the region (i.e. reducing the minimum age of criminal responsibility - which has occurred in Ecuador, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay, inter alia). Coordination and monitor mechanisms constitute much needed means in order to make rights a reality. In this sense, the monitoring of the national and regional issues will enable actions to be organised in order to economise efforts and take effective action.

- **Participation:** child participation (article 12, CRC) is still not quite considered a reality within the Region, thus to achieve this in an integral form, much work is needed. It is necessary to work with impact areas in order to promote and implement participation, and in particular, obtain budget inclusion.

- **Investment:** With regards to investment, a recent study by CEPAL (Economic Committee for Latin America), showed that over 175 million children live in poverty in the Latin American Region. The inequality gap has widened considerably. Paradoxically, States have improved their economies, increased GDP and tax collection, yet these advances are not reflected in the more vulnerable sectors of the population. Such situation calls for the need to better administrate State budgets, so that there is a fairer allocation of resources.

The MMI-CLAC promotes placing the 'childhood' topic on the regional agenda, and encourages monitoring of the recommendations of both the UN Report on Violence and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in each country of the Region. At a national level, national coalitions must be strengthened and children's voices must be included. On this point, the production of national roadmaps and monitoring mechanisms are regarded as crucial.

As for the presentation of candidates to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, it was considered valuable to give maximum support to integrate the Committee with members from the Latin American Region, such as: Mr. Wanderlino (Brazil); Ms. Marás' (Chile), who expressed her desire to continue as member to the Committee but underlined that it is ultimately a decision to be made by the Chilean government,; and, our colleague from DCI - Costa Rica, Ms. Virginia Murillo who has the support of the social networks in Costa Rica, Central America and other regions. DCI Americas is fully aware of the decisive impact potential membership to the CRC entails: a fundamental tool for the coordination and organisation of actions to promote public policies for children within the Region.



Global Movement
for Children



Representative of DCI - Palestine at UN International Meeting

[The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) convened an International Meeting on the Question of Palestine on April 3rd and 4th, at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The theme of the meeting was: 'The Question of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention facilities: legal and political implications'. The meeting, keeping with General Assembly resolutions 66/14 and 66/15 of 30 November 2011, aimed to further raise awareness of the situation of Palestinian political prisoners and mobilize the determination of the international community to bring this issue to a solution.

On behalf of DCI - Palestine, Mr. Khaled Quzmar participated as speaker at the first plenary session (03 April), which addressed the current situation of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails and detention facilities, particularly the legal and humanitarian aspects, providing insight into the situation of imprisoned members of vulnerable groups, such as women, minors and sick persons, and the urgency of their protection. Mr. Quzmar highlighted that there are over 4,300 prisoners are held in Israeli detention, out of which 216 are children. Over the past decade over 8,000 children have been arrested, furthermore, children are often detained with adults, humiliated and exposed to ill-treatment which has a severe impact on their healthy development. The DCI representative went on to stress that the policies of the Occupying Authority are abusive and contrary to international human rights law, stating that the UN Security Council must take up its responsibilities and role, and call on Israel to honour its commitments.

Mr. Jan Borgen of the International Commission of Jurists reiterated that Israel is in fact bound by international humanitarian and human rights law, stating

that administrative detention systematically violates international law and that the way Israel uses military detention is 'patently illegal'. Borgen went on to mention the so called 'Unlawful Combatants Law' which is applied to anyone who takes part in hostilities, directly or indirectly, against Israel; this law permits detention for up to fourteen days and denies legal assistance for up to twenty-one days.

Mr. Mohammad Albatta of the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs stated the need for the reintegration of liberated prisoners: detainees often suffer psychologically from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). So far 20,000 people have benefitted from the rehabilitation programs put in place by the Ministry, often enrolling later into university or starting-up their own business -

collateral affects of detention include scarce employment possibilities, which also have a severe repercussion on the economy as a whole.

Ms. Lama Odeh Sharif, psycho-social supervisor of the rehabilitation programme at the Young Men's Christian Association, pointed out the consequences and impact of the Israeli

occupation: traumatic situation for children, where generations have been marked for life and therefore society at large is jeopardised. Children are particularly affected by detention, as their natural development is disrupted - more than 95% of children suffer from PTSD.

More information on this topic, is available on [DCI Palestine website](#). Check out the latest DCI-Palestine report: 'Bound, Blindfolded and Convicted - Children held in military detention' ([available online](#)).





Working group on Children and Violence

DCI - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (IS) acts as convenor of the Working Group on Children and Violence, a sub group of International Action for Child Rights (formerly known as the 'NGO Group for the CRC').

The Working Group on Children and Violence acts as a platform for information-sharing and strategy work with respect to follow-up of the UN Study on Violence against Children (2006). The Working Group works towards the implementation of the recommendations on violence against children put forward by the UN Study presented by Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro in 2006. The Working Group acts as a global focal point for advancing the recommendations of the UN Study on VAC through advocacy towards key players in Geneva, notably the UN, diplomatic missions and regional institutions, in collaboration with civil society organizations and networks. Specifically, the Working Group works closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC), Ms. Marta Santos Pais, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, by putting forward suggestions, following the mandates agenda and coordinating actions, organising events, etc.

The IS presented an oral statement on behalf of the Working Group during the 19th session of the Human Rights Council in March of this year. This state-

ment addressed issues pertinent to this year's annual full day meeting on children's rights theme 'rights of children and administration of justice'. Specific topics mentioned included: pre-trial detention, conditions within detention centres, inadmissible sentencing measures, immigration detention. The promotion and implementation of child-friendly justice systems was also strongly encouraged.

To view the webcast: [\(+\)](#)

Within its 2012 work plan, the Working Group intends to: collaborate with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo (violence must be tackled as a systematic and complex issue: violence against women has direct and indirect consequences on children) and the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian. The Working Group on Children and Violence also plans to participate in the presentation of the analytical report of the High Commissioner on the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice (which will occur in September); to take part in the Day of General Discussion 'the rights of all children in the context of international migration' of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (also taking place in September) and to support the renewal of the SRSG/VAC mandate (set for October).



NO CHILD SHOULD BE
MALTREATED



NO CHILD SHOULD BE A
VICTIM OF WAR



NO CHILD SHOULD BE
SEXUALLY ABUSED



DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
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the worldwide movement for children's rights

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Side Event on Kampala

THIS MARCH many activities took place in Geneva, with the presence and active participation of all DCI national representatives: an intensive training session, which included attendance to the 19th session of the Human Rights Council; the DCI International General Assembly, with the election of a new International Executive Council; and the participation to many side events - many of which were in fact organized by DCI itself.

DCI, in collaboration with the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), held a specific side event which focused on the outcome of the Kampala Conference - a global conference on child justice in Africa held in Kampala, Uganda in November of last year and organised by both aforementioned organizations. The side event, 'Child-friendly justice in Africa- Guidelines on action for children in the justice system in Africa', took place on

Thursday, March 8th; Keynote speakers included: Mr. Gerold Vollmer, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN; Mrs. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence

against Children; Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen also Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child ; and Mr. Rifat Kassis, former President DCI / DCI - Palestine. During this event the process for the adoption of the Kampala Conference was discussed, considering the background and future goals and challenges. The concept of 'child - friendly justice systems' was considered on all levels: local, national, regional and international, drawing from international children's rights obligations and standards.

The role of States in implementing child - friendly justice systems and the corresponding resource allocation for policies and programs which implement such systems was also highlighted and stressed. For further information on the Kampala Conference and its outcomes [\(+\)](#) .

It is important that the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the Kampala Conference remain consistent and enhanced by the international DCI Movement; much more has yet to be done.





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Focus on : DCI Angola

ANGOLA, A COUNTRY BORDERING THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia, is the second largest Portuguese speaking country in Africa as regards size and the third largest as regards population. Luanda is its capital.

Angola is a country, which until 2002, was suffering from civil war lead by the guerrilla groups that lasted for 27 years and resulted in: the death of nearly 500,000 people, the displacement of four million people, and the total destruction of agriculture and transport. The country was thereafter forced to depend on its oil exports.

DCI - Angola was established in 1996. In total there are 15 voluntary staff members working there, including permanent members who work hard to accomplish the section's various tasks. The section also works in close collaboration with other entities, such as the Ministry for Welfare and Social Inclusion, the Ministry for Education and Culture, UNICEF, and many others.

The vast majority of the section's activities primarily aim to promote the social and professional reintegration of children who were involved directly or indirectly in the war: having acted as fighters, spies or equipment smugglers. Moreover, many children suffered directly from the effects of the war - attacks, injuries, kidnappings, deaths of family members, separation, or even psychological traumas caused by the war itself. These children were deprived of education, food and healthcare whilst living in conditions of extreme hardship, which also stifled their development. In Angola families often do not have the means to meet their basic living needs.

Indeed the objective of DCI - Angola is to reintegrate these children into the labour market by involving

them in apprenticeships (i.e. upholstery training), but also by familiarising them with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and by offering them adequate socio-psychological support.

DCI- Angola, has recently implemented the following projects:

- In 2009, DCI - Angola organised training sessions in primary schools, targeting over 500 children and addressing themes such as: crime, child labour, sexual and commercial exploitation of children;
- From July to November 2009, more than 500 children came together to participate in a football tournament;
- In 2010, for greater visibility, the section opted for seminar cycles which took place in local churches, schools and police stations

within the three municipalities of the capital (Sambizanga, Cazenga and Cacucaco):

- o Seminar on the sexual exploitation of children (March 15th & May 11th)
- o Seminar on child labour (July 7th)
- o Seminar on children in conflict with the law (September 14th)
- o Workshop on child labour (October 24th)
- In 2011, DCI-Angola developed various projects which were presented to donors, and are waiting to receive funding. It has also recently set up a 'one-off' project for schools.





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News - from the national sections

DCI- BELGIUM

DCI - Belgium, in collaboration with Dynamo International and with the support of the European Commission - PROGRESS Programme, published a guide on 'Defending Children's Rights in Europe (A Practical Guide)'. The guide highlights the gap between formal rhetoric and substantial practice: how international documents promoting children's rights are very often unknown and/or violated on the ground; this guide tries to bridge this existing gap: explaining concretely how to activate international mechanisms and bring real experiences to the attention of the monitoring bodies. This publication may be of reference to anyone in contact with children, and more specifically for street workers who are direct witnesses of the incomppliance and violation of international standards.

DCI- IVORY COAST



The "AFLATOUN" program will introduce civic and moral education within the pre- and primary schools of the Cote d'Ivoire. This program was created by DCI - Cote d'Ivoire and is supported by Citibank. It teaches children 'the respect for commitment, savings, honesty, doing things the best way possible, sharing feelings and being kind'. The launch of this new program - which is going to educate future Ivoirians and teach the aforementioned fundamental values - took place during a ceremony held at the EPP Port- Boët 1B, on March 23rd 2012.

Find the full article [\(+\)](#)

DCI- PALESTINE

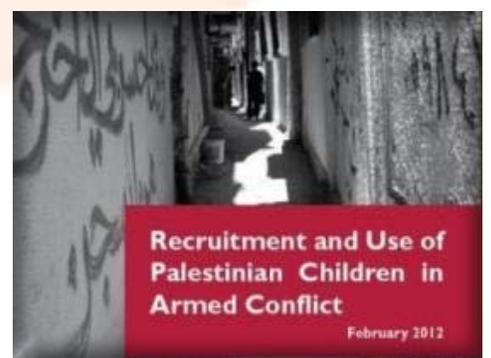
New DCI- Palestine report on the recruitment of children in armed conflict

On April, 23rd 2012, DCI-Palestine released a report: Recruitment and Use of Palestinian Children in Armed Conflict. The recruitment and use of children in armed conflict is prohibited under international law, and can take many forms, ranging from direct involvement in fighting, to subsidiary roles, such as acting as informants. The prohibition also includes using children as human shields. The report finds that in the context of the military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, both Israel and Palestinian armed groups have violated the prohibition.

The report covers an eight year period between 2004 and 2011 (the reporting period), and identifies three circumstances where children are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by both parties to the conflict:

- The use of children as human shields by the Israeli army;
- The recruitment of children as informants by Israeli interrogators; and
- The use of children in hostilities by Palestinian armed groups.

The full report is available [on line](#) and hard copies are available on request.



News from the national sections... (continue in page 2)



DCI Newsletter

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News from the National Sections ... (continued from page 1)

DCI- Palestine: Annual General Assembly

On April 20th 2012, DCI-Palestine held its annual General Assembly at DCI's main office in Ramallah. During the meeting, the narrative and financial reports were presented. The General Assembly members acknowledged the achievements of DCI- Palestine and its staff, and thus expressed their appreciation. Then elections for the new board of directors were held, the new list of board members includes: Ms. Randa Siniara (President); Mr. Zakariya Odeh (Vice President); Ms. Fatima Daana (Secretary); Mr. Husam Sababa (Treasurer); Mr. Fayez Al Fafous (Member); Ms. Sulayma Abu Al Haj (Member); Mr. Mahmoud Jiddeh (Member); Ms. Majdouleen Assaf (Member); Mr. Hassan Abed Aljawad (Member).



DCI- ZIMBABWE

Greetings to all Child Rights Defenders .We write to introduce you to our new [website](#), and our [facebook page](#) ; both are child rights advocates' platforms managed by DCI - Zimbabwe directly. These means are our way of reaching out to our beneficiaries and partners in Zimbabwe and around the Globe; an open platform to communicate and share ideas with us and to promote the spirit of networking as we work to build a child rights violations responsive mechanism for Zimbabwe.

DCI- URUGUAY

DCI Uruguay has renewed [its website](#) and hopes to provide better service and information exchange for those involved or interested in issues of childhood and adolescence in Uruguay and elsewhere. The new website includes a cover page with news updates on the situation of local children, and will gradually add new spaces for public interaction. Beyond improving the website for visitors, this page includes new management tools and management for ongoing projects. The online devices aim at the professionalization of the socio educational approach and the construction of bridges with other NGOs, INAU (the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents) and the juvenile justice system.