



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

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A Mega child prison to be built in the UK

This is the crazy proposal of the British government, which wants to build a « secure college » for young offenders, with a capacity of 320.

Members of the British government proposed to create a new center for young delinquents, which they call “secure college”.^{1 2}

Nick Clegg (Deputy prime Minister) and Chris Grayling (Secretary of State for Justice) propose to put together up to 320 young offenders aged between 12 and 17, and lock them up in a center called “secure college”. This school would actually be one of the biggest child prisons for children in Europe. (That they renamed this place “secure college”, “rehabilitation center” or “closed educational center” does not change the incarceration and the confinement). This “secure college” would have at its head a head teacher or a principal instead of a prison manager, only difference between this institution and a regular prison.

Everybody knows that a child’s place is not behind bars. Prisons for children are known to be dangerous and violent, do not promote rehabilitation and ultimately threaten public safety because youth who were placed there leave even more dangerous than when they entered the center.³

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25766557>

² <http://www.itv.com/news/story/2014-01-17/young-offenders-secure-college-leicestershire/>

³ This is clearly stated in this UN’s report: “Whether in pretrial detention, administrative detention or detention as a sentence, there is a significant risk of violence that arises simply from being deprived of one’s liberty. The

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The *Howard League for Penal Reform* (charity founded in 1866, working for less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison) denounces the huge project that is clearly against international principles and recommendations on juvenile justice and treatment of children and youth who have committed crimes.

International standards recommend:

- Educational measures for the rehabilitation and the reintegration into society
- Not to remove a child from its family, except for exceptional cases, when there is no other option;
- To apply the deprivation of liberty only as a last resort measure;
- And if there is a need of confinement, it must occur in a place entirely suitable for minors and for the shortest duration possible. Also, small organizations focused on the needs of the child have to be preconized.

This project, like any other construction of a detention center for children, will be extremely expensive; in its building at first, (£85million, more than €103million) but also for its functioning (it takes a lot of staff members, highly qualified, expensive security measures, guards, teachers, educators, psychologists, psychiatrists,...). The same amount of money put on prevention, education, treatment, the implementation of measures with educational purposes... would lead to more positive effects for the children and the entire community.

Defiance for Children- international wants to denounce firmly this project and to give its support to the Howard League for penal reform, in its request to the British government to change its plans and to invest this money in alternatives to fight against the causes of delinquency, improve the educational monitoring of young people who committed a crime and to reduce the overall number of children behind bars.

more overcrowded the facility, and the lower the staff-to-child ratio, the greater the risk becomes. The possible sources of violence in institutional settings are numerous. Violence occurs at the hands of staff working in the institutions, adult detainees where children are not separated, other child detainees, and also in the form of self-harm"http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session21/A-HRC-21-25_en.pdf



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To sign the petition, go here: <https://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/chris-grayling-no-children-s-super-prison>

Defence for Children International is an independent non-governmental organization that has been promoting and protecting children's rights for 30 years in 48 countries.

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