

The Permanent Missions of *Austria*, Federal Democratic Republic of *Ethiopia*,  
State of *Qatar* and Eastern Republic of *Uruguay*,  
in collaboration with *Defence for Children International*  
and in partnership with \*,  
cordially invite you to attend the launch of a *CALL* for a

# Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Thursday, 13 March 2014

18:00 - 20:00

Palais des Nations,  
in front of Room XX

## Keynote speakers

- H.E. Ms. **Laura Dupuy Lasserre**, Permanent Representative of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay
- H.E. Mr. **Faisal Abdulla Al-Henzab**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar in Geneva
- H. E. Mr. **Minelik Alemu Getahun**, Permanent Representative of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Ms. **Marta Santos Pais**, United Nations SRSG on Violence Against Children
- Ms. **Renate Winter**, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Mr. **Gerold Vollmer**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Austria

## Presenter

- Mr. **Benoit Van Keirsbilck**, Defence for Children International

The aim of this event is to launch a Call for a Global Study: a number of NGOs, UN agencies and experts strongly support that a Global Study be carried out in order to comprehensively collect data and statistics on the number and situation of children in custody; in order to share good practices and formulate recommendations for the concrete implementation of the human rights of children deprived of liberty.

Call for a



Global Study on  
Children Deprived of Liberty



For more information, please visit: [www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info](http://www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info)

\*African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Casa Alianza (Switzerland), Child Helpline International (CHI), Child Rights International Network (CRIN), Consortium for Street Children, Coram Children's Legal Centre, Defence for Children International (DCI), Geneva Infant Feeding Association - International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN-GIFA), Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Institut international des Droits de l'Enfant (IDE), International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB/BICE), International Detention Coalition (IDC), International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), Our Children Foundation, Penal Reform International (PRI), Plan International, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, War Child Holland (WCH), World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

The *Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty* derives from the need to comprehensively collect data and statistics from across regions on the number and situation of children in custody; share good practices; and formulate recommendations for effective measures to prevent human rights violations against children in custody and reduce the number of children deprived of liberty.

Deprivation of liberty has very negative consequences for the child's harmonious development and is to be a "measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time". Children deprived of liberty are exposed to increased risks of abuse, violence, acute social discrimination and denial of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; certain disadvantaged groups are more affected than others; and society is affected at large as deprivation of liberty tends to increase social exclusion, recidivism rates and public expenditure.

The Study should take into account deprivation of liberty in all its forms, including: children in conflict with the law; physical or mental health; drug use; children living in detention with their parents; immigration detention; children detained for their protection; national security; etc. In order to ensure that deprivation of liberty is clearly understood and thus used as a measure of last resort, there is also critical need to improve the clarity around key concepts which are related to children's rights and deprivation of liberty.

The Study should map out, through monitoring and evaluation analysis, how existing international laws and standards are being implemented on the ground and assess the concrete possibilities for States to improve their policies and responses. Through the collection of sound evidence and reliable data, the Study should also provide a consolidation of good practices and the formulation of recommendations, which are to support the work of States, UN agencies and other stakeholders to more effectively implement international standards and ensure that children deprived of their liberty actually enjoy their human rights.

The Study should be framed to have the following main strands:

- Collect quantitative and qualitative data and statistics on children deprived of their liberty, addressing gender, age, vulnerable groups, and disparities (e.g., urban/rural, regions, ethnic groups);
- Describe the situation of children in detention facilities and the use and abuse of deprivation of liberty, considering international human rights law and standards;
- Explain the key concepts which are related to children's rights and deprivation of liberty. Aim to inform, and to promote greater commitment to improving justice systems, and the enjoyment of rights;
- Analyze the effective application of prevention measures and alternative measures that ensure that detention is used only as a last resort (privileging diversion & restorative justice, inter alia), and leads to adequate rehabilitation measures;
- Formulate recommendations and good practices to implement standards, as well as reduce the number of children deprived of their liberty.

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