



DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI  
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI  
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI

**Defence for Children International  
Annual Report 2005**

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## **1. Executive Summary**

Although 2005 may have been a relatively difficult year for the Defence for Children International (DCI) movement, 2005 also marks the beginning of significant organisational changes, and therefore a turning point in the history of the movement.

It has been a difficult year because the organisation has had to struggle with a high turnover in staff and with financial difficulties. There has been internal debate over the priorities of the movement, and the location of the International Secretariat (IS).

2005 also marked the year of the triennial International General Assembly (IGA) of the movement which took place in Bethlehem (Palestine) in June 2005. Thanks to DCI-Palestine, the organisation of this IGA was excellent, and contributed significantly to the success of the meeting. The environment and the difficulties met by the country helped to put into perspective the difficulties met by the movement, and to reach a consensus on the priorities of the movement.

The decision to make Juvenile Justice the movement's priority, and the unanimous election of a new International Executive Council (IEC) with a very clear mandate, were the first steps toward a new start for the movement.

The first piece of work undertaken by the International Secretariat (IS) and the IEC was the drafting of a Strategic Plan of Action for the next three years. The Plan of Action was well received by DCI's donors and other partners, during a roundtable meeting in October 2005. The IS immediately started to work on the implementation of this strategic plan of action while the IEC focused on the financing of it. These activities are outlined in the second section of the paper.

As of September 2005, IEC members have been directly involved in the everyday management and supervision of the International Secretariat. This is due to the departure of the Secretariat's Coordinator, Jorge Restrepo, who was not immediately replaced. Following his departure, the IEC members reevaluated the staffing and skills requirements for an effective and efficient International Secretariat, and decided to hire an Executive Director. The recruitment process for this began in early 2006, and the position has now been filled.

One can thus say that at the end of 2005, DCI was in a much stronger position to pursue its newly defined vision and priorities, in spite of the challenges of the past.

## 2. DCI International Secretariat

### *a) Governance and Strategic Planning*

In June 2005, Defence for Children International held its 9<sup>th</sup> International General Assembly (IGA) in Bethlehem, Palestine. The International Secretariat (IS) assisted with the organisation and preparation of this meeting in collaboration with DCI Palestine, and sent two representatives to the meeting, Jorge Restrepo and Carlos Pampin Garcia, who was later appointed as Secretary of the IGA.

One of the key outcomes of the IGA was the election of a new International Executive Council (IEC) for the coming three years.

Rifat Odeh Kassis	(President)	Palestine
Benoit van Keirsbilck	(Treasurer)	Belgium
Virginia Murillo	(Vice-president Americas)	Costa Rica
Laurencio Akohin	(Vice president Africa)	Togo
Majorie Kaandorp	(Vice president Europe)	Netherlands
Fukuda Masaaki	(Vice president Asia)	Japan
Marcos Guillen	(Member)	Argentina
Innocent Garakumbe	(Member)	Uganda

The newly elected IEC members met several times throughout 2005; 1-2 July in Bethlehem (full meeting), 18 – 19 July in Geneva (working meeting), August 2005 in Costa Rica (working meeting), 14 – 17 October in Geneva (full meeting).

The full IEC meeting held in October 2005 is particularly noteworthy as the IEC members were able to prepare an International Strategic Plan for the period 2006-2008, after careful evaluation of the structure and role of the International Secretariat and the movement as a whole. The overall aim of the International Strategic Plan of Action is “to make the situation of children and juvenile justice in the world known internationally, promoting actions that aim to include juvenile justice as a priority item on political agendas on an international, regional and national level and which aims to strengthen national juvenile justice systems, guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents in conflict with the law”. This International Strategic Plan provides both a framework and a clear direction for the activities of the International Secretariat over the next three years.

### *b) Internal Restructuring*

From the outset, the newly elected IEC members have played a strong supporting role in the IS. This is particularly so, as since the end of 2004, the International Secretariat of Defense for Children International (DCI) has undergone a series of internal changes, with a significant turnover in staff.

In September 2005, Jorge Restrepo left his position as Coordinator of the International Secretariat. He was not replaced immediately as it was felt that the terms of reference for a Secretary General needed to be revised and required careful thought and attention; the International Executive Council agreed to begin the recruitment process in early 2006.

As of September 2005, staff at the International Secretariat consisted of William Duke (Administrative Assistant) replacing Maya Arida, Carlos Pampin Garcia (Juvenile Justice Desk) who replaced Valerie Quére in January 2005, and Camille Kryspin who is responsible for the Resource Centre.

Bearing in mind the instable situation of the IS, following a careful evaluation of the situation by IEC members, and consultation with the IS staff and its donors, it was decided that certain activities should be outsourced to two of the strongest DCI sections in the movement. Firstly, it was decided that from mid-2005, the regional project on juvenile justice would be coordinated by DCI Bolivia, and financial support from the donor would be transferred directly to DCI Bolivia. Secondly, it was decided that some of the IS Child Labour Desk's activities would be outsourced to DCI Costa Rica, which already implements an active Child Labour Programme. A contract has been drawn up between the IS and DCI Costa Rica detailing the responsibilities of each party, as well as clear reporting procedures and deadlines. In the same way, the coordination of the programme "We are protagonists" has also been outsourced, and was implemented by DCI Bolivia in 2005.

### **c) Activities**

#### **I. Juvenile Justice Desk**

Carlos Pampin Garcia, Programme Officer of the IS Juvenile Justice Desk, represented DCI at several meetings and conferences relevant to the theme of juvenile justice throughout 2005. These include:

The 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, hosted by the government of Thailand from 18<sup>th</sup> until 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005. As part of the international advocacy and lobby activities for the No Kids Behind Bars! Global Campaign, Mr. Pampin Garcia formed part of an international team of representatives from several sections of DCI, namely the Netherlands, Costa Rica and Uganda. Importantly, DCI's main recommendation to develop National Action Plans directed at reducing the number of children in detention was fully adopted at the three regional preparatory meetings prior to the Congress, and was included, in part, in the *Bangkok Declaration*. DCI's recommendations were distributed at the Bangkok Congress by means of an official UN preparatory document for the Congress that NGOs are allowed to submit. DCI was the only NGO present advocating on behalf of children in conflict with the law, particularly those deprived of their liberty.

As well as producing and disseminating a bi-monthly Newsletter on Juvenile Justice in English, French and Spanish, the Programme Officer also convened the NGO Sub-group on Juvenile Justice, a thematic sub-group of the NGO Group on the Rights of the Child. It is worth noting that as convenor of the sub-group on Juvenile Justice, Mr Pampin Garcia also helped to facilitate DCI-The Netherlands' contribution to the UN Study on Violence against children. DCI-The Netherlands submitted the executive summary of their report "Kids behind Bars. A study on Children in Conflict with the Law: towards investing in prevention, stopping incarceration and meeting international standards". Mr. Pampin Garcia also assisted with other activities related to the No Kids Behind Bars campaign, which is coordinated by DCI The Netherlands. See page 7 for more details.

#### **II. Regional Juvenile Justice Programme in Latin America**

DCI's Regional Juvenile Justice Programme in Latin America is funded by Kerkinactie for a three year period (May 2004 – April 2005). Between January and July 2005, the International Secretariat coordinated the activities of this regional programme which aims to: strengthen the enforcement of national legislations that respect articles 37 and 40; develop alternative measures to deprivation of liberty; train juvenile justice professionals and raise awareness of the human rights of children in conflict with the law. During this period, the IS also prepared a set of guidelines for the preparation of narrative activity reports by each of the sections. The guidelines were very well received by the sections, who felt that the guidelines were extremely useful in the preparation of their quarterly reports.

### III. International Child Labour Programme

DCI's International Child Labour Programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a three year period (2004 – 2006). Between January and June 2005, the Child Labour Desk focused efforts on producing and disseminating several publications. The following books and manuals were produced:

- Training Manual on Child Labour for NGOs (in English, French and Spanish). With the help of the NGO Group, the Training Manual on Child Labour was distributed to 144 NGOs and NGO coalitions all over the world. In addition, it has been a policy of the International Secretariat to provide copies, free of charge, to visitors to the DCI offices in Geneva.
- The World of Working Children – second edition (in English, French and Spanish). A campaign was launched among international schools worldwide to promote this book and the corresponding teaching guide. As a result, the following orders were received and dispatched: St. George's College, Argentina; Laar and Berg College – Netherlands; Riverside School – Switzerland. Additionally, the Swiss "*Foundation Education et Developpement*" based in Lausanne placed a significant order for the book and is publicising it on their periodical bulletin (please also refer to [www.globaleducation.ch](http://www.globaleducation.ch)).
- Reading guidelines for teachers to work with The World of Working Children (in English, French and Spanish).
- International Children's Rights Monitor – Special Issue on Child Labour in English and Spanish. Although the Monitor had been published on a regular basis until September 2002, a difficult period ensued, during which it was difficult to sustain a periodic and high quality publication; 2005 therefore marks an important turning point. This special edition was prepared with the help of professor Kristoffel Lieten and Marten van den Berge of IREWOC (Institute for Research on Working Children, Amsterdam).

Throughout the year, the Child Labour Desk also participated in the NGO Sub-Group on Child Labour, which met in May and November of 2005. The main activities of the sub-group were focused on the organisation of an international conference on "poverty reduction and child rights", and on the contributions of the SubGroup to the joint World Bank/IMF 2005 PRS Review, and finally on their participation in the 94<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference.

Ordinarily, the Child Labour Desk would also produce a monthly newsletter. Since August 2004, there have however been some gaps in the publication. This irregularity is due mainly to the departure of the two programme staff in August and September 2004 respectively. As of May/June 2005 however, a new design is in place, and the publication and translation of the newsletter has returned to its normal pattern. Since the end of 2005, a new subscription system was also created to update the email addresses of subscribers and increase their number.

### IV. We Are Protagonists

This Child Rights Education and Child Participation project funded by the Arigatou Foundation, was implemented by DCI sections in Ecuador and Paraguay during 2005.

The main objective of the activities in Paraguay, was to show the community the advantages of teaching children's rights to children and adults who then will make concrete and fruitful contributions to their community. In changing and reducing cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and the worst forms of child labour, the whole community would benefit. Workshops and seminars were attended by many children and young people - the organisers were careful in their attitude and approach,

so that the young children would feel at ease. It is important to note that throughout the project, there was a continuous presence of town officials and social workers, with NGO and governmental organisation members to help with the training modules. Various media were also contacted and there were radio programmes and television broadcasts made to publicise and educate the local populations. Debates and lectures on children's rights, and how the communities could help to fight sexual exploitation, drug taking and trafficking were broadcast.

In Ecuador, the focus of work was slightly different - to promote citizen participation of minors as well as to ensure the enjoyment of their social citizenship. DCI – Ecuador engaged in several activities promoting the establishment of local systems for the integral protection of childhood and adolescence, as well as the establishment of forums for political participation where boys, girls and adolescents can be heard and where their right to social citizenship is ensured.

## **V. No Kids Behind Bars! Global Campaign**

In 2005, the International Secretariat provided support to The No Kids Behind Bars! Global Campaign, which is coordinated by DCI The Netherlands. The IS participated in two principal areas of work - information dissemination and international advocacy and lobby activities. Carlos Pampin Garcia assisted in the translation and dissemination of key campaign materials including an Information Document for the DCI movement. As mentioned under item c) I, Mr Pampin Garcia was also part of the campaign's international lobby group at the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In addition, to further advocate and lobby for the DCI recommendations made in Bangkok, the International Secretariat also participated and lobbied at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Vienna, in May 2005.

### **d) Information and Communications**

#### **I. Publications**

##### **i. Special Issue of the Child Right's MONITOR: The Child Labour Problem Issues and Solutions, edited by G.K Lieten, IREWOC, The Netherlands.**

The following articles were published in English and Spanish with support from Brück – Le Pont from Switzerland, and ILO-IPEC.

- Jaap Doek '*The CRC: Challenges ahead*'
- K. Lieten '*Globalisation and Child Labour*'
- K. Tomasevski '*Child Labour and Education*'
- Peter Bille Larsen '*Child Labour and Indigenous Children*'
- Albertine de Lange '*Child Trafficking. Observations on Burkina Faso*'
- Walter Alarcón Glasinovich '*Reflections on the Process of Eradication of Child Labour in Latin America*'
- Uday Kumar Varma & Anoop Satpathy '*Declining Trends: Child Labour in India*'
- V. Murillo '*The Implementation of the ILO Convention 182*'
- Ans Kolk '*Corporate Codes of Conduct and Child Labour*'

##### **ii "The World of the Defenseless", by Dr. Einar Helander**

In 2003, Dr Einar Helander came as a user of our resource centre, to research child abuse and neglect. Later on he invited DCI to sponsor the above-mentioned publication at no cost and as an expression of his support to DCI activities. Dr Helander's book examines the abuse of children in residential institutions,

asylums and orphanages, and reviews some of the alternatives to residential care, such as action through community-based programmes.

## **II. Newsletters**

In addition to the Child Labour and Juvenile Justice newsletters, a new International Executive Council newsletter was produced from September 2005 onwards. This is prepared and translated at the IS, and posted on the website in the three official working languages. The newsletter provides the movement with news from the national sections, the newly elected IEC members and the IS. The motivation behind the newsletter was two-fold: firstly to demonstrate the new IEC's strong commitment to bringing the movement back together; secondly, to encourage dialogue and partnership between the smaller and larger DCI sections. The newsletter will improve communications, work and efficiency within the DCI movement.

## **III. Website**

The DCI website was created in 2004 by Maya Arida. After her departure at the end of 2005, William Duke assumed the responsibility of updating the news and newsletters featuring on the website. The newly elected IEC President sees the website as a very important tool to promote and make clear the work undertaken by DCI, and to showcase its role in children's rights. From the outset clear plans were made to improve this website – as a vital tool for the visibility of the movement. The website is currently being redesigned – both in terms of layout and content.

## **IV. Resource Centre**

In May 2005 the DCI Resource Centre had accumulated a capital of approximately 17,000 documents (publications, books, research papers and others) which have been logged and summarized. This information is available on the International Secretariat's web site: [www.dci-is.org](http://www.dci-is.org).

A library of posters on children's rights and their violations has also been initiated. It contains posters produced by DCI-IS and its sections around the world; posters received from other NGOs and humanitarian organizations have also been recorded. At present we have 108 posters on record, and many others are still in stock for future recording.

A voluntary worker, Mr. Gotthilf Ruetchi came once a week to assist in the Resource Centre, and to familiarize himself with the UNESCO ISIS system which is the basis for the registration of documents. A selection of requests addressed to the Resource Centre is given below:

1. From students, University of Oslo, Sweden, : DCI work and Uganda reporting on CRC at the Committee on the Rights of the Child
2. University of Arkansas: street children in Africa
3. Australian Senior Police Officer: How could it be possible to influence authorities in favor of refugee children?
4. Swiss NGO, Sion: Children living with their imprisoned mothers
5. Journalist: Hague Convention on jurisdiction and applicable law in respect of parental responsibilities

An in-depth reflection on the future of the Resource Centre has already begun. The work necessary to organize this centre is tremendous. Fortunately, DCI has the help of Camille Kryspin, who has been volunteering in the organization for many years and thus has a lot of experience. Nevertheless, we must admit that there are less and less people visiting this centre. With the development of the internet, students

and researchers increasingly use the world wide web, rather than documentation centres even though a lot of documents, namely related to the history of the CRC, are not available on the web.

This reflection should lead to the best way to take advantage of this unique documentation, and place it at the disposal of as many people as possible.

#### **e) Presence at External Events, Networking and Building Alliances**

##### **I. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

The 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child were attended by Carlos Pampín Garcia, and the interns that came during the year: Giedre Lideikyte, Cécile Madec, Federica Fedeli, and Brian Pearsall. Staff monitored the main issues under discussion, paying particular attention to changes in legislations and other attempts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as measures aimed at setting up or improving juvenile justice systems in the concerned countries. This information, together with analysis of the official State Party and Alternative Reports was then used for the development of the bi-monthly newsletter on juvenile justice. Carlos Pampín Garcia also organised the compilation and distribution of DCI's own reports on the sessions of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which focus on the issues of child labour and juvenile justice.

##### **II. UN Commission on Human Rights**

The IS attended the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Human Rights, between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005. Staff monitored the discussions and statements made by States Parties on the issues of juvenile justice and child labor, among other issues. DCI actively participated in the morning meetings organized by the children's rights caucus. These briefings brought together many participants at the Commission and gave NGOs the possibility to dialogue with government delegations and invited experts. Both thematic and country-specific issues were touched upon such as the right to education, forced migration and trafficking of children, children in conflict with the law, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Latin America, and South Africa...

IS staff members attended several NGO parallel events. It is worth mentioning that a parallel event was organized by the sub-group on juvenile justice and the sub-group on violence against children, as part of a collaboration agreement between the two sub-groups. The panel entitled "*How can Juvenile Justice be brought on to the international agenda?*" brought together Ms. Jo Becker (Human Rights Watch), Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Independent Expert to the UN Study on Violence against Children), Ms. Virginia Murillo (DCI-Costa Rica), Mr. Sedfrey Candelaria (Ateneo Human Rights Center, the Philippines), Mr. Bernard Boëton (International Federation Terre des Hommes) and Mr. Bruce Abramson (Juvenile Justice consultant). The meeting was widely attended, attracting over 60 people and stimulating a lively discussion.

##### **III. Inter-agency panel on Juvenile Justice**

In a meeting in August 2005, the members of the panel (which include UNODC, UNICEF, OHCHR, Save the Children UK, Terre des Homes & Casa Alianza) decided that there was a need for a permanent Secretariat to coordinate and publicise the activities of the Panel. At this meeting, DCI offered to have this Secretariat at its office - members of the Panel agreed that this was an excellent idea. A funding proposal to support this work is currently being developed by Terre des Hommes, UNICEF and DCI's IEC members.

##### **IV. UN Study on Violence against Children**

In February 2005, it was decided that the members of the NGO Sub-groups on Juvenile and Justice and on Violence against Children, would actively input into the UN Study on Violence against Children. As convener of the sub-group on Juvenile Justice, DCI's Juvenile Justice Programme Office, Mr Pampin Garcia, coordinated the input from the subgroup. As a contribution to the study, DCI The Netherlands submitted the executive summary of their report "Kids behind Bars. A study on Children in Conflict with the Law: towards investing in prevention, stopping incarceration and meeting international standards."

#### **V. NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a coalition of international non-governmental organisations, which work together to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The International Secretariat is an active member of the network, both as convener of the sub-group on Juvenile Justice, and as a member of the Coordination Committee.

#### **f) Fundraising**

External funding for DCI's activities in 2005 was kindly provided by the following donors:

- Kerkinactie (Bureau Europe and the Americas of the Department for Global Ministries of the Protestant Church in Netherlands)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Arigatou Foundation
- Ministry of Luxembourg

In October 2005, DCI hosted a roundtable meeting for missions and donors at the IS offices in Geneva. The IEC gave a presentation on the DCI movement, including the vision and mission of the organisation, the new International Executive Council, and the International Strategic Plan of Action 2006 - 2008. Participants in the roundtable included: representatives from the permanent missions of Italy, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Jordan, Austria, and Denmark, Nigel Cantwell, the Oak Foundation, UNICEF, NGO Group, Arigatou Foundation and Terre des Hommes.

Valuable contacts were made during the event, and the IEC members received positive feedback on DCI's new vision and Strategic Plan of Action. Several donors also responded positively to the possibility of funding part of this strategic plan in the future.

### **3. National Sections**

The sections represent a key dimension of the DCI Movement worldwide. One of the defining characteristics of DCI is the fact that each section has its autonomy, its own priorities and its own agenda depending on the country context – but are all united in their child-rights- based approach to all activities.

There is a large variety in the size and strength of the sections. Some of them are important NGOs in their country, able to implement ambitious programmes, with a large number of staff, whilst others are small entities, sometimes relying only on volunteers.

The challenge for the IS, is the necessity to organize communication among the sections, to implement programmes in conjunction with several sections, and therefore developing regional as well as international priorities. The IS must also provide support to the sections, help them in their lobbying work, especially at the international level and more precisely towards the UN. Moreover, the IS has to provide support in the fundraising work of the sections, using connections existing at the international level to present the work of

the section, and try to obtain funding on its behalf.

Ideally, the support should go both ways, the IS also needs to be fed by the work of the sections, the outcomes of their activities, the impact they make, in order to improve lobbying at the international level. In the same way, there should be a permanent communication between the IS and the permanent representative in New-York.

### **Participation in Global Action Week**

During Global Action Week 2005, several DCI sections contacted the Child Labour Desk concerning the planning of this event and how they could participate.

In Togo, DCI produced large banners to inform the public about this week and thus promote the knowledge and raise awareness of children's rights. T-shirts were produced for students, teachers, members of DCI, personalities and invited participants.

In Cameroon, DCI led a strong media campaign and organised 2 seminars to train and educate school principles on child labour and the exploitation of this.

13 thousand children took part in the "Bring Your Friend to School" event, which was organized in 11 districts of Albania, by DCI Albania. A poster in Albanian was produced to raise awareness for teachers, students, families and government officials. Campaign Teams talked to children about the ongoing and growing problem of child drop-outs and the importance of education.

The primary objective for the Global Action Week for DCI Costa Rica was to coordinate the organisation of activities of the actors and public on the promotion and sensitization of the issue on the right to education. This was done with the help of the Central American UNESCO office and the National Centre for Culture, the Ministry of Culture, youth and sports. The press were given information bulletins about Global Action Week. Banners were put up at each activity and everyday the media were sent more bulletins informing them of the events that had taken place and those that were going to take place the following day.

The sections were grateful for the technical and financial support provided by DCI - and all felt that the activities organised for Global Action Week had been a success.

## **4. Conclusion and Prospects**

As we have seen, DCI's International Secretariat has undergone significant changes in 2005. There can be no doubt that the overall situation of the IS has improved, both in terms of clarity of direction, financially, and with regard to personnel. The staff has been stabilised, the "terms of reference" for the hiring of a new Executive Director have been drafted, and at the end of 2005 there were also prospects for hiring a new staff member for the Child Labour desk. The implementation of the strategic plan of action had begun, and the contacts with donors were yielding some positive first results.

Nevertheless, significant challenges remain. The plan of action is extensive, and will need a lot of work; there will also be a need to build alliances with other NGOs, UN agencies and especially with the members of the Committee on the rights of the Child.

The work to build new and trusting relations with our historic donors is only in its first stages, and the work to seek new donors needs still to be developed.

It is however clear that the framework for development of the International secretariat and the plan of action is in place, and the prospects seem to be better than they have been in a long time.