



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

Defence for Children International

Annual Report 2006



Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	2
2. DCI: A brief introduction to the movement	3
3. DCI International Secretariat	4
a) Administration and Personnel.....	4
b) Fundraising	6
c) Activities.....	7
i) International Plan of Action on Juvenile Justice	7
ii) International Child Labour Programme.....	11
d) Networking and Building Alliances.....	12
4. DCI International Movement.....	14
a) Activities of National Sections and Associated Members	14
b) UN Representatives in New York.....	16
c) International Advocacy Committee	16
d) New DCI National Sections.....	17
5. International General Assembly 2008	17
6. Conclusions and Prospects for 2007.....	18



1. Executive Summary

The year 2006 marks an important period of growth and consolidation within the Defence for Children International (DCI) movement. Earlier in the year, DCI welcomed three new DCI sections, DCI Italy, DCI Niger, and DCI Mauritius (formerly an associated member) to the movement. DCI's 46 national sections and associated members continued to be active at the national and regional level, in the areas of child labour, juvenile justice, education in children's rights, street children, and violence against children, among others. At the International Secretariat (IS), this period has been characterised, most specifically, by the launch of a Strategic Plan of Action for the coming three years with a special focus on juvenile justice.

DCI was able to develop and implement a significant part of its Strategic Plan of Action (2006-2008). This included for example: preparing and disseminating reports on the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, focussing on juvenile justice related issues; providing input to and planning the follow-up of the Committee's General Comment No.10 on Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice; participating actively in key networks including the Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice and the NGO Advisory Panel to the UN Study on Violence Against Children, and producing a bi-monthly newsletter on juvenile justice.

One of the most significant events of year was DCI's Regional Consultation on Juvenile Justice in Africa which took place October 30 - November 3 2006, in Nairobi, Kenya. Key outcomes of the meeting included the training of African DCI sections on advocacy and lobby strategies, on international juvenile justice standards, and on the preparation of alternative reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. DCI also developed a Regional Action Plan on juvenile justice, as well as the mechanisms for intra-regional cooperation and communication.

DCI ends the year with a more united movement, particularly at regional level, led by a stronger and more stable Secretariat. Whilst challenges remain, particularly in the areas of fundraising and visibility of the movement, DCI faces 2007 with several interesting opportunities for further growth and development.



2. DCI: A brief introduction to the movement

Defence for Children International (DCI) is an independent non-governmental organisation that has been promoting and protecting children's rights for over 25 years.

On a regional, national and local level, DCI is active through its associated members and national sections in 46 countries across the globe. All national sections and associated members focus their intervention and design their programmes according to the specific needs and priorities of the children in their respective countries, focusing on various areas of work, including juvenile justice, child labour, child rights' education, child participation and children in armed conflict, among others. On the international level, through its International Secretariat, DCI mainly focuses on lobbying, research, networking and advocacy work, primarily around issues of juvenile justice, as well as carrying out technical assistance and capacity-building to its national sections and other bodies.

DCI's International Secretariat, located in Geneva, Switzerland, is the focal point of the movement. It represents the movement at the international level, and functions as a link between its national sections and the United Nations Systems.



3. DCI International Secretariat

a) Administration and Personnel

With regards to administration and personnel, 2006 can be seen as a period of growth and consolidation for DCI's International Secretariat. The existing team of a Juvenile Justice Programme Officer, Child Labour Programme Officer, and Administrative Assistant expanded in May 2006, when a new Executive Director, Ms Rebecca Morton, was appointed. Ms Morton's key functions include the daily follow-up and monitoring of the Secretariat's activities, programme development, financial and administrative planning and management, supervision of staff and follow-up of donor relations.

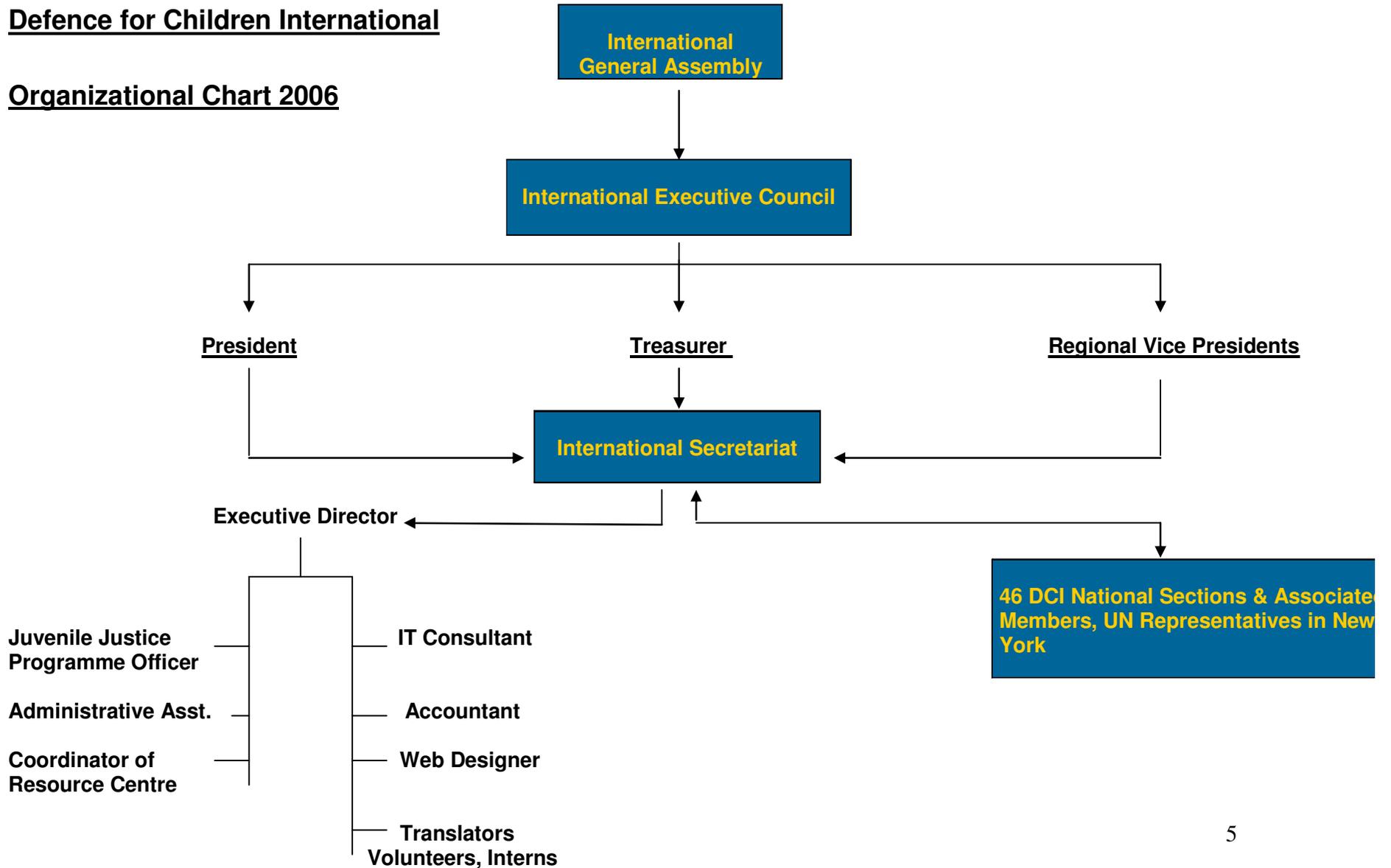
DCI's International Secretariat has a well-developed intern and volunteer policy. DCI gives opportunities to recent graduates, senior undergraduate and post graduate students, as well as child rights practitioners, with internships, research opportunities etc. From July 2006 onwards the International Secretariat was joined by several interns and volunteers to support its expanding work-load. This included: research assistants for the juvenile justice and child labour programmes, two translators, a web designer, and fundraising assistant.

During 2006, and with the support of our volunteers, DCI's International Secretariat invested a significant amount of time in updating its filing systems, records, and inventory of publications among other things. On the financial side, the Executive Director and Treasurer developed several tools to more effectively monitor the financial situation, including a detailed cash-flow forecast for 2006/7. The Secretariat's accounts for 2005 were audited and approved at the beginning of the year, and the Secretariat underwent another 6-month financial audit in July 2006.



Defence for Children International

Organizational Chart 2006



b) Fundraising

In 2006, external funding for the activities of DCI's International Secretariat was kindly provided by the following organisations (in alphabetical order):

- CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Kerkinactie (Bureau Europe and the Americas of the Dept for Global Ministries of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands)
- Kinderpostzegels
- OAK Foundation
- OXFAM Novib

Throughout 2006, the International Secretariat also maintained contact with several diplomatic missions in Geneva, informing them of DCI's current activities in the field of Juvenile Justice, publications and other recent developments. In turn, this permitted the Secretariat to stay up-to-date on possible funding opportunities in respective countries and to begin building a database of these contacts for future projects. DCI's International Secretariat also devoted efforts to researching and sharing information on potential donors for its national sections.



c) Activities

i) International Plan of Action on Juvenile Justice

At its most recent International General Assembly in July 2005, the DCI movement decided that juvenile justice would be its priority for action at the international level. In October 2005, DCI's International Executive Council worked together to develop a 3 year international action plan (2006-2008) for DCI to reflect this new priority. The overall goal of the action plan 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."

In 2006, DCI's International Secretariat was able to implement a significant part of its plan of action, despite limited funding. An overview of the achievements, grouped according to the specific objectives of the Plan, can be found below.

Objective 1: To monitor the implementation of the CRC, its optional protocols and other human rights instruments, in particular those related to juvenile justice, in order to measure the achievements and the difficulties in protecting, defending and guaranteeing the rights of the child by States Parties and to propose recommendations to improve the life conditions of children and their families, on the one hand, and child rights' protection mechanisms on a national and regional and international scale.

- 1) The International Secretariat of DCI attended and prepared **reports on the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child** (15th May - 2nd June and 11th - 29th September respectively) - focusing specifically on the issue of juvenile justice. These reports provide key stakeholders, including DCI National Sections, other NGOs and partners, with relevant information on the state of juvenile justice in the countries under review in a concise and accessible manner. DCI National Sections in particular, can use this information to feed into their research and advocacy initiatives at the national level. These reports were disseminated among DCI national sections, partner organisations and other individuals and experts working within the children's rights and juvenile justice field. Copies of these reports can be downloaded from DCI's website: www.dci-is.org.
- 2) DCI began developing the first in a series of 3 **Annual reports on Juvenile Justice**. Each report will focus on a selection of DCI countries per region,



analyzing the current situation of juvenile justice. Particular attention will be paid to issues such as the length and conditions of pre-trial detention, public perceptions of juvenile offenders, and the incidence of sexual and other forms of abuse in the juvenile justice system. Over a three year period, and in collaboration with its DCI national sections, the Secretariat will follow evolutions in the juvenile justice systems, as well as the impact of its work and that of its partners in these countries, using a combination of qualitative and quantitative indicators. DCI has already drafted the guidelines to be used by national sections in their research, and 16 national sections have now begun initial stages of research.

- 3) As part of its role to independently monitor the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, also publishes its interpretation of the various provisions of the Convention in the form of General Comments on thematic issues. The Committee's General Comments are an important tool in understanding the Convention, and in promoting its implementation. What's more, they give practical insight into the kinds of implementation measures that should be taken. In 2006, the UN Committee began drafting a General Comment (No.10) on Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice. During the drafting process, **DCI played a lead role in coordinating the input of other NGOs and relevant experts to the General Comment, in addition to contributing its own feedback and expertise.** In 2007, in close collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, DCI will undertake follow up action to promote the use of General Comment no. 10 in the implementation of the Convention. See section 5 (Conclusions and Prospects for 2007) for more details.

Objective 2: To advocate for juvenile justice systems that are respectful of children's rights and for measures that aim at preventing situations in which children come into conflict with the law.

- 1) DCI's Juvenile Justice Programme Officer has been responsible for proofreading and translating several key campaign documents for DCI's **No kids behind bars! Global Campaign** - which aims to reduce the number of children in detention, by promoting the development and implementation by governments of National Action Plans.
- 2) The 15th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Vienna, Austria, from 24 to 28 April 2006. DCI's Juvenile Justice Programme Officer accompanied a delegation from DCI The Netherlands to this event, including Sharon Detrick (Coordinator of DCI's No kids behind bars! Global Campaign). As a result of DCI lobby efforts towards the Dutch delegation, certain changes were made to the resolution



“Providing technical assistance for prison reform in Africa and the development of viable alternatives to imprisonment”, in order to ensure special attention to girls. Due to DCI lobby efforts, it was also agreed with the Dutch delegation, as well as the Norwegian delegation, to develop a specific resolution on juvenile justice for the 2007 annual session of the Crime Commission.

Objective 3: To network for building international alliances for the promotion and defence of children’s rights in particular those in conflict with the law

- 1) The staff of the International Secretariat has been present at relevant discussions of the **Human Rights Council** during its first and second sessions (19-30th June and 18 September - 6th October respectively). DCI has participated in several of the formal and informal discussions on what roles NGOs will play in the new Council, and what space children’s rights will occupy on the agenda. At the end of September, Mr Pampin Garcia (Juvenile Justice Programme Officer) attended an informal brainstorming session organised by the NGO subgroup on the Human Rights Council. The event brought together representatives of human rights and children’s rights NGOs, diplomatic missions, UN agencies, as well as members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The event was envisaged as a way to identify new innovative working methods within the Human Rights Council to promote, strengthen and protect the rights of the child, while not duplicating work undertaken by Treaty Bodies. As part of the subgroup on the Human Rights Council, DCI was also able to contribute to a joint position paper on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. The International Secretariat regularly updates its national sections on developments in this sphere through its bi-monthly newsletters.
- 2) The Juvenile Justice Programme Officer convened a meeting of the **NGO Sub-Group on Juvenile Justice**, on the 11th September 2006. This is a thematic sub-group of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was attended by representatives of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, International Federation of Social Workers, NGO Group for the CRC, Quaker UN Office and DCI. During the meeting, participants shared the recent and planned activities of their respective organisations in relation to juvenile justice - and shared information on relevant upcoming events and possible opportunities for joint action. On the 22nd November 2006, DCI also convened an extraordinary meeting of the sub-group, to enable members to provide input into the draft of the General Comment No.10 on Children’s Rights in Juvenile Justice.



- 3) On the 22nd and 23rd September 2006, 4 DCI representatives (Benoit Van Keirsbilck, Sharon Detrick, Rebecca Morton and Carlos Pampin Garcia) attended the annual meeting of the **Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice**. The meeting was hosted jointly by DCI and Terre des Hommes (TDH). Other participants included the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and UNICEF. Issues for discussion included the Panel's website, and the possibility of hiring a part-time employee to coordinate a Permanent Secretariat for the Panel. At its annual meeting in Vienna (2005), members of the Panel had agreed that in order to have a permanent coordination and follow up of the Panel's activities, it would be necessary to have a Secretariat. During the most recent meeting of the Panel (September 2006), **DCI's International Secretariat was requested to coordinate the Panel Secretariat**, and directly supervise the member of staff who would coordinate it. UNODC, UNICEF and TDH pledged financial support for this initiative at the end of 2006, allowing DCI to begin a recruitment process for the Panel Coordinator in early 2007.

Objective 4: To build the capacities of the different bodies of DCI so that they are better equipped to defend children's rights in a more holistic and effective manner.

- 1) DCI organised a **Regional Consultation on "Juvenile Justice in Africa"** (30th October - 3rd November, Nairobi, Kenya). The aim of this consultation was to lay the framework for a DCI regional juvenile justice programme in Africa. The specific objectives were to develop a plan of action for the regional programme, to strengthen regional coordination mechanisms, to build the capacity of African sections in this field, and to learn from the experiences of DCI's regional programme on juvenile justice in Latin America. In collaboration with DCI Kenya, the International Secretariat organised the meeting of 12 African DCI sections, 2 representatives from the Latin American Programme as well as other resource persons from within the movement, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The **African DCI sections received training** in lobby and advocacy strategies, writing alternative reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and UNICEF's indicators on juvenile justice, among other things. The sections worked together to finalise a regional plan of action for the programme, which will then be used by each section to develop their own national plans.



Objective 5: To raise awareness among the public in general and targeted groups in particular about the situation of children's rights and juvenile justice issues, so that they can be mobilised in favour of protecting and defending the rights of children and adolescents and in particular those in conflict with the law.

- 1) The Juvenile Justice Programme Officer has continued to research, write and disseminate bi-monthly editions of the **Juvenile Justice Newsletter** in English, French and Spanish. This publication provides information on the latest news, events and resources in the field of juvenile justice.
- 2) The staff of the International Secretariat has also been working hard to update and expand the pages of the **DCI website** - particularly so that they reflect our new focus on juvenile justice. A volunteer web designer worked with DCI on the technical side. It is expected that the new website will be ready to launch in spring of 2007.

ii) International Child Labour Programme

During 2006, DCI's International Child Labour Programme continued to be coordinated by DCI Costa Rica, with DCI's International Secretariat providing a platform for research, advocacy, monitoring, networking, and information dissemination around the issue of child labour, at international level.

Information Dissemination

The Child Labour Desk continued to research, write, and translate monthly newsletters on child labour (Eng,Fr,Sp), giving readers information on the latest development, resources, and events in the field of child labour. The pages of DCI's website devoted to child labour, were also rewritten, to coincide with the launch of the new site planned for 2007. In addition, a *Children's Corner*, or child-friendly section of the site, was developed, which includes pages explaining the meaning of child labour and children's rights.

Monitoring

The Secretariat's Child Labour Desk attended and prepared reports on the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with a particular focus on child labour related issues. Similar reports were also prepared on the first three sessions of the Human Rights Council, the 37th Session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the ILO's 94th Annual Conference.

Advocacy and Lobby



Significant efforts were put into the launch of the international campaign on Inclusive Education. In particular, the staff at Geneva's Child Labour Desk contributed to: the development of the campaign strategy and objectives, the development of a slogan; the preparation of a guide on "*How we can all make a difference*" aimed at schools, parents, teachers, children, and communities; the writing, and translation of a newsletter that will be included in the *Campaign Kit*.

Networking and Building Alliances

The Child Labour Desk in Geneva continued to be active in the NGO Sub-group on Child Labour (a thematic sub-group of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child), and also participated in a planning meeting of the Children's Global March for Peace at the Hague, in June 2006. The Child Labour Desk also assisted in the preparation of DCI's contributions to the UN Study on Violence, with special focus on Child Labour and Work Conditions.

Support to DCI National Sections

DCI national sections were contacted, and encouraged to participate in Global Action Week 2006. In particular, the Secretariat's Child Labour Desk coordinated the efforts of DCI Togo, Cameroon, Paraguay, and Ecuador to implement their activities for the Global Action Week, in April 2006. An international press release was subsequently prepared and disseminated through the DCI network.

d) Networking and Building Alliances

At internal level, the International Secretariat has worked hard to increase the frequency and quality of communications within the DCI movement, particularly through its **bi-monthly organisational newsletter**. These newsletters, produced in English, French, and Spanish, provide a forum for DCI's national sections, International Executive Council, and International Secretariat to share news on their latest activities, achievements, and challenges. DCI's International Secretariat has also been able to make visits to certain DCI National sections including DCI Macedonia, DCI Albania, DCI Kenya, and DCI Belgium. In September 2006, for example, representatives of the Secretariat and Executive Council visited colleagues at DCI Macedonia, in order to get a better sense of their national context, their strengths and weaknesses, the challenges they face, and how they could be better supported.

At external level, DCI has continued to be active in certain key forums including the:



- **Inter Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice** (for which DCI will host a permanent Secretariat in 2007)
- **NGO Sub-group on Juvenile Justice** (of which DCI is the convenor)
- **NGO Sub-group for the Human Rights Council**

In 2006, DCI was also represented on the **NGO Advisory Panel to the UN Study on Violence against Children**. Through the Panel, and as part of the activities of DCI's International Child Labour Programme, DCI contributed to the report chapter on "Child Labour and Work Conditions," and gave comments on the final draft of the document produced by the Secretariat for the UN Study. Notably, DCI called attention to the violence that is inherent to certain activities in which children participate, such as child domestic labour. In November 2006, the DCI Child Labour Desk published a special edition of its international newsletter dedicated to the UN Study on Violence Against Children.



4. DCI International Movement

a) Activities of National Sections and Associated Members

Throughout 2006, DCI's national sections and associated members were continually active at the national and regional level, on diverse issues including child rights education, child soldiers, child labour, and juvenile justice among others.

Recent developments in three of the DCI regions are worth particular mention:

DCI Africa:

As mentioned in section 3.c) of this report, DCI held a regional consultation on Juvenile Justice in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya (October 2006). Although the primary aim of this consultation was to lay the groundwork for a regional programme on juvenile justice in Africa, this consultation also brought about other positive and unanticipated outcomes for the African region.

For some African DCI sections, this was a first opportunity to meet in person with other representatives of African DCI sections. The sections decided that it would be opportune to use this occasion to work together on an overall vision for the African Region, which will inform this, and other Regional Programmes. 7 members were elected to sit on this committee. During the consultation meeting, the Planning and Development Committee took time to meet together and draw up their Terms of Reference, and an Action Plan for 2006 - 2008.

The Planning and Development Committee also developed the following vision and objectives for the African region, which were later approved by all DCI African sections:

Vision

A Responsible and Empowered Africa, guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other relevant Human Rights instruments, where Children enjoy a just and better life and their rights are respected and implemented.

Objectives

1. To ensure the adoption and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other relevant Human Rights instruments by all African Countries;



2. To realise more and improved attention at national, regional and international levels for the situation of children in Africa taking particularly into account the need for institutional development;
3. To achieve full enjoyment by all children in Africa of all their fundamental rights

DCI Europe:

In 2006, a selection of European DCI sections worked together on a proposal to undertake a regional research project in the field of juvenile justice. The proposal received a positive and encouraging response. In 2007, with support from the European Commission, DCI-Belgium, DCI-France, the Howard League for Penal Reform and DCI-the Netherlands will begin a research project in four European countries on violence against children in conflict with the law. The research methods used in the study, entitled “*Violence against Children in Conflict with the Law: A study on indicators for better data collection in Europe*”, will be used in other regional initiatives concerning children in conflict with the law.

DCI Americas.

In 2006, DCI Americas, led by DCI Costa Rica, played a leading role in establishing a Regional Secretariat to follow the development of the UN Study on Violence against Children. Other participating organisations included Plan International, World Vision, ILO, Save the Children Alliance and UNICEF Regional Office. The Regional Secretariat prepared the documentation that accompanied the launch of the study in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, as well as a document illustrating best practices in each of the countries in the region where DCI is present.

DCI Americas, represented by the Vice Presidency, participated in a series of key meetings at regional level, including: Regional Meeting on Child Domestic Labour (Lima, Peru); Regional Meeting on Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Lima, Peru); Sub-regional meeting for the follow-up of Recommendations made to State Parties in Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic; and the 3rd Iber-American Forum of NGOs.

In 2006, DCI Americas also began work on a website for the region; this will be an excellent tool to showcase the work done by DCI sections in the region. A plan of the website was developed and each DCI national section was requested to send information to be included in the website. This is still a work in progress.



b) UN Representatives in New York

It is also important to highlight that *DCI's UN Representatives in New York* were particularly active during 2006, participating in various meetings and forums of interest to DCI.

Mercedes Roman attended the **High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (14-15 September 2006)**. Participants were country delegates at the ministerial level, though NGOs were able to attend as observers and participate in the various side events. Ms. Roman paid particular attention to the consequences of migration for children and their rights, of which there was little mention. Ms Roman identified a clear opportunity for DCI to lead a proposal for a forum on International Migration and Children's Rights - mostly around the areas of family reunification, and the right to education and health in countries of destination. This idea will be explored further in 2007.

Ms Avis Sri-Jayantha represented DCI at **UNICEF's NGO Working Group on Children's Rights** in September. This meeting was dedicated primarily to the UN Study on Violence. Subsequent meetings of the Working Group went on to focus on the Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (February 2007), for which the subject is "The Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child." Ms Sri-Jayantha will also be one of the DCI representatives at this meeting, together with Ms Mercedes Roman and Ms Virginia Murillo Herrera. Ms Sri-Jayantha also began work with a Sub-Committee aiming to secure the participation of a girl child at the Meeting.

c) International Advocacy Committee

An important achievement in 2006 was the establishment of DCI's International Advocacy Committee. The aim of this Committee is first and foremost to respond to emerging and current grave violations of children's rights. Among the members of this nascent body, are child rights experts from different corners of the DCI world. The Committee also asked Dr. Norberto Liwski, President of DCI Argentina and former Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to join the Committee; an invitation which he graciously accepted. The Committee produced several statements in 2006 One on Lebanon, Gaza and Israel (14.08.06), as well as a call to action for an independent investigation into the killing of seven family members in Gaza (12.06.06). The Committee shared many ideas for further work, though its still needs more time to define the scope of its mandate.



d) New DCI National Sections

In 2006, the International DCI Movement welcomed the following new sections:

DCI Niger

DCI Italy

DCI Mauritius (originally an associated member of DCI - The Halley Movement)

The welcome addition of these three new members brings DCI's total number of National Sections and Associated Members to 46.

5. International General Assembly 2008

In September 2006, DCI began to accelerate preparations for its next International General Assembly (IGA), to be held in Tirana, Albania in June 2008.

Representatives of DCI's International Secretariat and International Executive Council visited the national section in Albania, who will host the event, to discuss practical questions around the budget, fundraising, logistics, and to visit a potential venue for the event.

Each IGA is usually preceded or followed by an international conference on children's rights that attracts children's rights experts, representatives of other organisations, non-governmental and governmental, and members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The conference usually lasts for 2 to 3 days, and can be comprised of debates, roundtables, working seminars, capacity building and training activities, among others. The conferences usually attract an audience of roughly 150 people.

Given that juvenile justice is the movement's priority at international level, it is clear that this will be the main focus of 2008's International Conference. In 2006, DCI's Vice President for the Europe Region began a dialogue with DCI's European sections to establish which juvenile justice issues are most pertinent at European level - and would be interesting themes for the conference. DCI has also established a small committee dedicated to the planning and organisation of this Conference, as well as another committee to focus specifically on the organisation of the IGA.



6. Conclusions and Prospects for 2007

During 2006, the DCI movement experienced an important period of growth and consolidation. The relationships between DCI's national sections, international secretariat and executive council were noticeably strengthened through more frequent communication, and through personal contact and exchange. DCI's International Secretariat also secured a permanent and stable team of staff, able to implement activities as per the Action Plan for 2006-2008.

At the end of 2006, DCI is faced with several interesting opportunities for further growth and development.

Firstly, with financial support from UNODC, TDH, and UNICEF, DCI will be hosting a new permanent secretariat for the Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice. The Inter-Agency Panel aims to coordinate technical advice and assistance provided by international organizations to UN Member States. By hosting the secretariat, DCI hopes to develop and strengthen the Panel, as well as its own role within this important network. DCI is also confident that closer working relationships with, and among the Panel members, will help DCI to more effectively fulfill several of its own advocacy, lobby and awareness raising objectives.

It is also worth mentioning that at the end of 2006, DCI began a recruitment process to hire a Communications and Advocacy Officer (CAO) for DCI's International Secretariat. The CAO will support the work of the Secretariat and the movement as a whole, particularly in implementing DCI's advocacy strategy and policy, in building DCI's relationships with and exposure to the media, and in raising awareness of DCI's work among local, regional and international audiences.

A third important opportunity for DCI relates to the General Comment No.10 on Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice. In order to promote and monitor the use of this General Comment in the implementation of the Convention, in 2007-2008, in close consultation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, DCI will undertake follow-up action, including awareness raising, training, capacity building, advocacy and lobby. DCI will begin fundraising for this at the beginning of 2007, although it will be possible to begin implementing a small number of activities within its current capacity. Funds permitting, this follow-up action will be undertaken at the international, regional and national levels and as such, creates an opportunity for the DCI movement as a whole to use its experience and expertise in this field to have a global impact.

In 2006, the actions of DCI's national sections at country level had a direct impact on the fulfilment of children's rights in their everyday lives. These



direct interventions are strongly complemented by the activities of DCI's International Secretariat as part of its Plan of Action (2006-2008). The secretariat's networking, lobbying, research, and capacity building actions have served as an important support and strengthening mechanism for the work of DCI's national sections.

The International DCI Movement would like to give special thanks to all those organisations and individuals who have supported their work throughout 2006, and looks forward to working together in 2007.

