



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



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

Special thanks are due:

To all the DCI National Sections for their collaboration,  
To our sponsors for their support, and  
To our interns for their contribution.

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## ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

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**ACPF** – African Child Policy Forum

**ACERWC** – African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

**ANCED** – Associação Nacional dos Centros de Defesa da Criação e do Adolescente (National Association of Centres of Defence for Children and Adolescents, Brazil)

**CRC** – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

**CRCA** – Children's Rights Centre of Albania

**DCI-IS** – Defence for Children International – International Secretariat

**DPKO** – Department of Peacekeeping Operations

**ECOSOC** – United Nations Economic and Social Council

**ECPAT** – End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes

**GC No. 10** – General Comment No. 10 (of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

**HRC** – Human Rights Council

**IEC** – International Executive Council (of DCI)

**IGA** – International General Assembly (of DCI)

**ILO** – International Labour Organisation

**IPJJ** – Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice

**OHCHR** – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**OIJJ** – International Juvenile Justice Observatory

**OMCT** – World Organisation Against Torture

**PRI** – Penal Reform International

**SPARC** – Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (Pakistan)

**SRSR** – Special Representative of the Secretary General (e.g. on Violence against Children)

**UNDP** – United Nations Development Programme

**UNESCO** – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

**UNODC** – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UNICEF** – United Nations Children's Fund

**UPR** – Universal Periodic Review

**WG-CAV** – Working Group on Children and Violence

**YMCA** – Young Men's Christian Association



### I. A FOREWORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR: Ileana Bello

More than 30 years have passed since the establishment of our movement, and its achievements have been many, but many more will be the future challenges we face. Throughout 2010, DCI has been struggling more and more to defend children's rights and to fight for their respect throughout the world.

The international economic crisis made some governments put human rights last on the list of priorities in their financial politics, which has resulted, to varying extents, in budgetary reductions for the implementation of effective legislations and measures respectful of human rights. Children's rights, which should be a priority everywhere, were also neglected, and so the role of human rights organisations has become as crucial as ever – especially with regard to those focused on children, who seem to be most in need. DCI has been very active, both through its wide movement all around the world and its International Secretariat (DCI-IS), in reminding governments that no excuse is valid when children's rights are violated, and that investing in policies aimed at improving children's quality of life is tantamount to investing in the future of the country and of the wellbeing of society as a whole.



This year, too, DCI, together with other human rights organisations and international human rights institutions, has worked to mainstream juvenile justice and child justice in a broader sense as its priority concern at the international level. Children who come in contact with the law are rendered more vulnerable, are exposed to violations, and are confronted with the justice system in a context of the incarceration. The report issued this year by DCI-IS is dedicated to the theme of pre-trial detention, showing evidence of the ineffectiveness of the deprivation of liberty and its grave consequences on children's physical and psychological wellbeing. Compromising the future of a child means affecting the life of an adult within the society where he or she will be living. It is with this in mind that governments and institutions should make every possible effort to abide by the international rules and standards dedicated to children's rights.

The preamble of our Statutes says: "DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) affirms that all children must be respected and that their basic rights must be guaranteed, without any discrimination whatsoever, independent of their ethnicity, sex, language, religion or any other type of personal or family condition". Once more, DCI has been on the front lines and has been able to achieve numerous concrete improvements toward children's fulfilment of the rights around the world – although many more remain to be achieved. We will keep struggling as long as such struggles exist in our world. Let's hope for a time in which human rights won't require any more defence, a time in which children can freely and happily enjoy their rights!

Ileana Bello, Director of the DCI-IS



## II. AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Rifat Odeh Kassis

As we reflect upon another year of work here at DCI – another year of promoting, protecting, prioritising, and strengthening the rights of children around the world – we likewise reflect upon our challenges throughout the year; how they have informed our decisions and collaborations; and how we have worked to create substantive contributions and sustainable changes despite the obstacles we face.



The obstacles are by no means small. In addition to the inherent challenges posed by the field of child rights itself – and by getting these rights securely onto the agenda of local, national, regional, and international governments and legislation – DCI, like many human rights organisations around the world, is undergoing serious economic difficulties. The global financial crisis is straining both NGOs and donors, which ultimately deprives many communities (including and especially children) of many resources and support systems they urgently need. Further, some donors and donor states have increased the conditions imposed on NGOs, particularly the anti-terrorism clauses in contracts. This means that some NGOs will be wrongly defined in their contexts as agents for the war on terror rather than as agents for a better world. These erroneous restrictions pose further setbacks to human rights organisations.

Despite the challenges, DCI's International Secretariat (DCI-IS) and our 43 national sections are working hard to keep our work comprehensive, effective, mutually supportive, and sustainable, and there has been much to celebrate this year. In November, DCI-IS and DCI-Palestine co-sponsored an international conference in Palestine on child participation and protection, "Protective Environment – Active Participation"; DCI sections from around the world, as well as many other international child rights actors, attended and relished the chance to share experiences and expertise. Important regional projects, such as the Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America (run by the eight DCI sections in this region), continue to thrive. Planning is under way for DCI's triannual International General Assembly (IGA), in combination with an international children's rights conference, "The Deprivation of Liberty as a Last Resort: African Experience," to be held in Uganda in November 2011. And DCI has welcomed two new national sections as provisional members of the movement: Russia and Zimbabwe.

DCI is lucky to have such a wide network of dedicated national sections and committed partners in the struggle for children's rights – because their true and complete fulfilment is a long way off. Across the globe, 215 million young people participate in child labour; 115 million are engaged in hazardous work. Hundreds of thousands are ensnared in violent conflicts as child soldiers. In these and many other situations, the rights of children are violated en masse, and they live without adequate political, legal, social, and psychological protection. We are committed not only to improving this reality, but to changing it. And with the help of our partners and friends around the world, we come closer every year.

Sincerely,

Rifat Odeh Kassis, President of DCI movement



### III. WHO WE ARE: Actors for Justice, Advocates for Rights

Defence for Children International (DCI) is an independent non-governmental human rights organisation that has been promoting and protecting children's rights on a global, regional, national, and local level for over 30 years. DCI is represented in 43 countries worldwide through its national sections and associated members, each working on the child rights issues that are most directly relevant to their respective national contexts: these range from ending child labour, child trafficking and violence against children to advocating for the rights of children in conflict areas to promoting child participation. Juvenile justice is the overarching priority of the global DCI movement, with over 75% of national sections conducting activities in this field.

DCI's International Secretariat (DCI-IS), located in Geneva, is the "hub" of the movement. It represents the national sections at the international level, develops projects promoting children's rights across the globe, and provides support (institutional, technical, advocacy) for the activities and development of DCI's national sections and associated members.

In this annual report, you will read about DCI according to its structure as a movement: activities realised by DCI-IS; activities undertaken cooperatively by DCI sections across entire regions; and activities conducted by specific national sections within those regions.

#### Mission

DCI is dedicated to ensuring ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted international action directed toward promoting and protecting children's rights as articulated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), its optional protocols and all other standards and instruments of human rights.

#### Vision

Children should enjoy and exercise their rights in a just and responsible society.

### IV. WHERE WE WORK: A Global Network of National Members

DCI has national sections and/or associated members in the following countries:

**Africa:** Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe (provisional section). **The Americas:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as a representative at the UN in New York. **Asia and the Pacific:** Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. **Europe:** Albania, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Russia (provisional section), Slovakia and Switzerland. **The Middle East:** Israel, Lebanon and Palestine.





## V. HOW WE WORK: Striving for Children's Rights, Protection and Participation

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DCI's work at the national, regional and international levels is directed by the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Based on the CRC and other relevant international standards and regional instruments, DCI national sections develop actions in response to the issues affecting children's rights in their respective countries. These actions can include monitoring the implementation of standards for children's rights; advocacy and lobby on local, national, and/or international levels; targeted research; awareness-raising and the dissemination of information; training policy-makers, justice officials, police officers, social workers and educational professors; and direct interventions with children, their families and their local communities.

DCI-IS works to support such initiatives, whether realised by individual sections or regional efforts, in a variety of ways; this support sometimes includes technical assistance to sections as they elaborate specific proposals/programmes or as they prepare alternative reports for submission to the CRC Committee or to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other international human rights instruments.

DCI strongly believes in the importance of networking and building strategic alliances in order to strengthen its work and increase its impact. DCI has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1991 (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe, as well as working relations with UNESCO, UNICEF and the ILO. DCI is also a member of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, also serving as the co-convenor of the Working Group on Children and Violence. DCI is an elected member of the NGO Advisory Council for Follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against children, and is a host and active member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ).

## VI. DCI AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

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The International Secretariat's Major Programmatic Activities of 2010

### 1. Strategic Plan of Action on Juvenile Justice

Throughout 2010, DCI's International Secretariat (DCI-IS) continued to implement its strategic plan of action on juvenile justice. Its overall goal 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 at an international, regional and national level and to strengthen national juvenile justice systems, and guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents in conflict with the law."

This year, with ongoing and renewed support from our donors and sections, DCI was able to pursue and advance its guiding objectives:

- To monitor and report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments in order to keep abreast of achievements and challenges and to propose recommendations, particularly in the field of juvenile justice, toward achieving justice for children in accordance with the Convention.
- To uphold and lobby for the safeguarding of children's rights in juvenile justice, including the implementation of policies and practices which privilege alternatives to the deprivation of liberty, address violence and respect the dignity of all children.
- To strengthen the use of current international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms and enhance DCI's active role in the coordination of child rights in juvenile justice advocacy, maintaining a juvenile justice focus and disseminating expertise on juvenile justice in all regions of the world.
- To improve the capacities of DCI national sections in particular and children's rights activists in general to promote and defend the rights of all children, but especially of children in conflict with the law, and to lend technical and moral support to the advocacy and lobby efforts of the sections at the international level.
- To build and consolidate strategic partnerships and alliances to respond adequately to the challenges of the rapidly changing global context, between members of the movement and with other partners.

The sections that follow will describe DCI-IS's major activities performed, and partnerships secured, in order to translate these objectives into action.

#### a. Juvenile Justice Advocacy

- Along with representatives from DCI national sections in Latin America – and, specifically, from the DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America – DCI-IS attended the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (held in April 2010 in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil), of which juvenile justice was one of the central topics, and co-sponsored (together with DCI-Americas) a one-day seminar on juvenile justice. [For more information about the event, DCI's involvement, and the Regional Programme, please see Section VII, Regional Programmes and Projects.]
- At the 13th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) held in March, DCI-IS, along with other NGOs, delivered an oral statement inviting States to address the issue of children subjected to sexual abuse while in detention (the subject of the HRC's 2010 Annual Full-Day Meeting on the rights of the child). This statement emphasised that States should take special measures to promote alternatives to detention, as well as



to foster quality staffing, access to complaint and investigation mechanisms, prosecution of perpetrators, and effective and independent access and monitoring of places of detention. The statement also invited relevant UN agencies to carry out a study on the scope, causes and consequences of sexual abuse of detained children. For the same HRC session, DCI-IS and OMCT submitted a joint oral statement on violence against children in places of detention, and DCI-IS co-signed another oral statement read during the discussion (led by Plan International and co-organised by DCI-IS among several other organisations) on violence in schools and within families. DCI was also actively engaged in the main meetings of the session and participated in several side-events organised by various organisations and institutions.

- DCI met twice in March with the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais: first via DCI's representation in the NGO Advisory Council for the Follow-up of the UN Study on Violence against Children, and second as a co-convenor of the Geneva-based Working Group of the NGO group for the CRC on Children and Violence. DCI-IS presented to the SRSG its report on "Ending Violence against Children in Justice Systems" and reiterated the importance of paying attention to the issue of violence against children in detention.
- DCI also contributed to the report that the SRSG submitted to the UN General Assembly in New York, in October, providing specific inputs on institutional violence and juvenile justice – with particular emphasis on violence in pre-trial detention, during arrest procedures and in detention centres. This contribution also brought to the SRSG's attention the growing issue of adolescent detention as a response to urban insecurity. Many of the priority issues in the information mainly submitted by the DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America was present in the SRSG's eventual report (A/65/262), such as the criminalisation of impoverished/marginalised children; the abuse of detention and the deprivation of liberty as a preventative tactic rather than a last resort; violence and abuse suffered by minors in detention, including pre-trial detention; and the increasing culture of impunity with respect to violence against children, such that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards of child rights become increasingly difficult to enforce.
- During three sessions of the UN CRC, DCI-IS participated in the sessions and presented information notes related to juvenile justice issues in countries where DCI has sections. For the 53rd session in February, DCI-IS issued notes on Cameroon, Ecuador, Israel, and Paraguay; for the 54th session in June, on Argentina, Belgium, and Nigeria; and for the 55th session in October, on Angola and Sri Lanka.
- In August, DCI-IS co-sponsored and attended an international juvenile justice forum, "Justice for Adolescents and Measures in Liberty," in Mexico City. This forum was carried out in the context of the Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America run by DCI's eight Latin American sections. [For more information on the forum, DCI participation, and the Regional Programme, please see Section VII., Regional Programmes and Projects.]

## **b. Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice**

This year, DCI-IS continued to host the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ). It also forms part of its Steering Committee.

With a Permanent Secretariat established in 2007, the IPJJ was mandated by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to facilitate and enhance country- and global-level coordination in providing technical advice and assistance for juvenile justice in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant norms and standards. As of June 2010, the IPJJ has been composed of twelve members: six UN bodies and six non-governmental organisations active in juvenile justice reform. In addition to DCI, they are the OHCHR, UNICEF, DPKO, UNDP, UNODC, CRC, the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, IJJO, PRI, Terre des Hommes, and OMCT.

The IPJJ also seeks to strengthen its role as a platform for the exchange of information and expertise on juve-



nile justice at the national, regional, and international levels. It is in this spirit that its members have chosen to bring juvenile justice issues onto the agenda of the international community.

As the co-convenor of the Working Group of the NGO Group for the CRC on Children and Violence, DCI worked closely with other Panel members involved in the group's activities (OMCT, Terre des Hommes and OHCHR), paying particular attention to the follow-up to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children concerning children in detention.

## **Outcomes in 2010**

- As a host and Steering Committee member of the IPJJ, DCI was active and involved any time the CRC Concluding Observations were referring to technical assistance in juvenile justice, in those countries where DCI has sections. This also entailed efforts to ensure coordinated follow-up action at the national level, including by means of CRC Concluding Observations follow-up meetings at the international level with States parties. The IPJJ Secretariat also underlined the specific countries in which the Committee recommended that State parties contact the IPJJ and its member organisations for assistance.
- The IPJJ Secretariat compiled and disseminated those CRC Concluding Observations that related to juvenile justice for 2010, covering the Committee's three sessions (53rd through 55th) that occurred in this period. Their subjects spanned the administration of juvenile justice; justice pertaining to child victims and witnesses of crime; torture and/or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; the death penalty for children; and corporal punishment. The compilation, available in English, French, and Spanish, can be found on the IPJJ website [www.juvenilejusticepanel.org](http://www.juvenilejusticepanel.org)
- In November, DCI-IS, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Secretariat Coordinator represented the IPJJ in a meeting with the staff of the Permanent Mission of Argentina and of Pakistan. These meetings – two of several conducted with governmental representatives of States – was held in order to follow up on the final recommendations from the CRC. Further, it offered an opportunity to present the IPJJ, its members and their activities to States representatives, as well as to share information and best practices.
- Throughout the year, the IPJJ sought to raise the internal visibility of the Panel among staff at international, regional and country levels, an effort that included regular contacts and information requests from and with Panel member representatives and juvenile justice actors. This included IPJJ attendance at a DCI reception for the presentation of two publications on juvenile justice in September 2010 [for more information, see Section IV.2, Publications, below.]
- In another instance of collaboration among Panel members, DCI was named a member of the Honorary Committee of the IV Conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (OIJJ), titled "Building Integrative Juvenile Justice Systems: Appropriate Methodologies Regarding Mental Disorders and Drug Misuse." (The OIJJ is a member of the IPJJ.) The conference was held in Rome in November.
- DCI-IS attended the IPJJ's Annual Meeting on 24 and 25 June in Sion, Switzerland, a further opportunity to share greater country- and global-level cooperation in technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice through the exchange of information on juvenile justice projects and programmes.

## **c. International Child Rights Advocacy**

In addition to its thematic focus on juvenile justice, DCI has maintained broader attention to other child rights issues and, where possible, has responded to serious violations of children's rights on a case-by-case basis



– particularly in countries where DCI has a national presence. [For more information on the statements and press releases that conveyed DCI’s positions, please see Section IV.2, Publications, below.]

The following are some of DCI-IS’s primary child rights advocacy efforts during the past year.

### **Outcomes in 2010**

- DCI-IS contributed, with important input from national sections, to the UN resolution entitled “Human Rights in the Administration of Justice” (N.A./C.3/65/L.35), adopted by the UN General Assembly’s Third Committee in October 2010.
- DCI-IS participated in the 13th, 14th, and 15th sessions of the UN HRC and organised and co-organised two side-events: one on sexual violence against children during the 13th Session of the HRC and another on juvenile justice reform during the 14th Session of the HRC, both in March.
- DCI made an intervention during the launch of the International Campaign for the Ratification of the Optional Protocols to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on 25 May 2010, during a special event in New York. The statement was presented by DCI volunteer representative in New York, Avis Sri-Jayantha.
- In June, DCI-IS was named the new co-convenor of the Working Group on Children and Violence (WG-CAV), together with War Child Holland. The WG-CAV forms an integral part of the NGO Group for the CRC’s work in ensuring that children’s rights are actively advanced within the UN system, as well as within other international forums. It provides its members with a platform for debate and joint action in order to protect children from violence and to strengthen cooperation among institutions and organisations, both local and international, active in the field of children’s rights.
- DCI is a member of the NGO Advisory Council for the Follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against children, and it has been represented since its inception by Virginia Murillo Herrera, President of DCI-Costa Rica, in representation of the DCI movement.
- In June, DCI-IS and War Child Holland co-chaired a meeting between the SRGS on Violence against Children and the NGO Working Group on Children and Violence. The purpose of this meeting was to confirm support from the INGO community to the activities of the SRGS and to seek means of closer cooperation. It was also an opportunity to confirm the WG’s willingness to support the Campaign for the Universal Ratification of the Optional Protocols of the CRC, as well as to contribute to the subsequent expert consultation (see following item) organised by the SRGS and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children.
- DCI-IS attended an expert consultation in September on child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms. Organised by the SRSG on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais; the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Najat Maala M’jid; and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the consultation – in which ombudspersons for children from Mauritius, Greece and Ireland were among the panellists – served to gather information for Ms. Santos Pais and Ms. Maala M’jid’s joint report to the Human Rights Council on the same topic.
- DCI-IS continued functioning as the secretariat for DCI’s Advocacy Committee. Urgent letters of appeal and press releases were sent to governments and other stakeholders in response to violations of children’s rights around the world.

## 2. Publications



- Two bimonthly newsletters were written, published, and disseminated by DCI-IS throughout 2010: first, the DCI Newsletter, which compiles updates about DCI sectional activities and those of DCI-IS, as well as publishing articles and information produced by the sections themselves; second, the Juvenile Justice Newsletter, which deals specifically with events and discussions in the field of international juvenile justice, predominantly those in which DCI participates. The 2010 newsletters included two special editions: a three-part juvenile justice newsletter on the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in April 2010 in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, and a DCI newsletter on issues related to modern slavery on the occasion of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. All of these publications can be downloaded on the DCI website, [www.defenceforchildren.org](http://www.defenceforchildren.org)
- DCI-IS authored and released two new fact sheets – one on aftercare and one on the right to be heard in the juvenile justice system – as part of its project on the follow-up to General Comment No. 10 of the CRC. These two fact sheets join the seven that had already been produced by DCI-IS on key topics of GC No.10 (prevention of juvenile delinquency, diversion, minimum age of criminal responsibility; fair trial; prohibition of death penalty and life imprisonment, and the deprivation of liberty as a last resort). As with the previous resources, the two new fact sheets are available in English, French, and Spanish. Feedback and support were provided by the coordinator of the Latin American Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice, Rose Marie Acha (DCI-Bolivia) as well as by DCI-Costa Rica’s president and child’s rights expert Virginia Murillo Herrera.
- DCI-IS wrote and distributed numerous statements and press releases on topical events in the field of children’s rights, including and most frequently in response to violations of those rights. The subjects of these documents include the state of children’s rights in Tunisia, Egypt, and the Ivory Coast during the distinct times of violence and political unrest experienced by these countries; the launch of the Universal Ratification Campaign of the Optional Protocols to the CRC; and a discussion on the ongoing effects of the global financial crisis on international human rights organisations and the need for governments to continue supporting their significant work, to name a few. DCI-IS also helped national sections disseminate their own statements and press releases to the international media, particularly sources located in Geneva; for example, SPARC (DCI’s associated member in Pakistan) wrote several documents on violations of children’s rights that DCI-IS worked to publicise.
- DCI-IS published a review-of-evidence report called “Stop the Violence!: The Overuse of Pre-Trial Detention, or the Need to Reform the Juvenile Justice System.” Part of a collection of reports on priority juvenile justice issues that DCI-IS produces almost every year, the 2010 report focuses on the fact that it is in pre-trial detention facilities, including police lock-ups and prisons, that children’s rights are violated most frequently and egregiously – and it is in this area that international standards and detention and treatment are least respected. Taking a thorough, evidence-based approach, the report also examines the detrimental consequences of pre-trial detention on the efficacy of the juvenile justice system overall, and addresses the need for a comprehensive reform of this system in order to stop the overuse and abuse of detention. This publication received extremely positive feed-backs from juvenile justice experts and will be used as basis for the establishment of a thematic group of the IPJJ on pre-trial detention.



*DCI- IS’s review-of-evidence report : “Stop the Violence!: The Overuse of Pre-Trial Detention, or the Need to Reform the Juvenile Justice System”. The report focuses on the the situation of children in pre-trial facilities, the place where children rights violations happen most frequently.*



### 3. Other Key Achievements

- Together with its host, DCI-Palestine, DCI-IS co-sponsored an international conference on child participation and protection, titled “Protective Environment – Active Participation” in November. Held in Bethlehem, Palestine, the conference was attended by DCI sections all over the world, as well as by many international partners, colleagues, child rights actors, and interested individuals. Children played an important role; a child spoke in every panel, sharing his/her own experiences and analysis. In addition to the Palestinian child participants, children from Latin America (Costa Rica and Mexico) shared their experiences as well. Among the child rights panellists were DCI representatives from sections in Bolivia, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Costa Rica.



*DCI Palestine and DCI-IS co-sponsored a conference on child participation and protection entitled “Protective Environment- Active Participation. The Conference put particular attention on experiences and point of view of the children themselves, with children from different countries actively taking part to every panel.*

- DCI-IS participated in the “Making Peace” exhibition and accompanying Global Peace Meetings that were hosted by the International Peace Bureau (celebrating its centenary Nobel Peace Prize) in Geneva in June. DCI-IS had a stand with a presentation of the movement’s publications and activities worldwide, permitting greater knowledge of DCI in Geneva and among the general public.



*The stand of DCI-IS at the “Making Peace” exhibition, held in Geneva in June by the International Peace Bureau to celebrate the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize.*

- Also in June, DCI-IS, along with YCare and the YMCA, welcomed a group of young child rights activists – representatives from YMCAs in Sierra Leone, Ireland, Togo, England and Guatemala – at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva. These young activists presented their research on their respective government’s implementation of the Resolution on the Administration of Justice (including juvenile justice) adopted by the HRC with Resolution 10.2(1). They also participated in a training session run by DCI-IS about UN mechanisms (CRC, HRC, Special Procedures, etc.) and how to use them from their respective countries, as well as in a side-event called “Juvenile Justice Reform in Light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,” which was organised by DCI, YCare and the YMCA and co-sponsored by the Mission of Austria.



*stand of DCI-IS at the “Making Peace” exhibition, held in Geneva in June by the International Peace Bureau to celebrate the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize.*

- DCI-IS was invited to give lectures/trainings on children’s rights to students from the Geneva Centre for education and research in humanitarian action, the Human Rights Institute of Lyon, the University of Hamburg and the Murdoch University of Australia.

- DCI-IS held a reception for the presentation of two publications on juvenile justice:



its report “Stop the Violence!: The Overuse of Pre-Trial Detention, or the Need to Reform the Juvenile Justice System” and a report on juvenile justice in Switzerland produced by DCI-Switzerland. This event took place in Geneva in September and was attended by some members of the Committee on the Right of the Child, the SRSG on Violence against Children, representatives from UNICEF, and members of numerous international civil society organisations.

*DCI-IS held a reception for the presentation of two publications on Juvenile Justice; report “Stop the Violence!: The Overuse of Pre-Trial Detention, or the Need to Reform the Juvenile Justice System”, focused on the situation of children in pre-trial detention, its consequences for the children and for the Juvenile Justice system, and a report on juvenile justice in Switzerland produced by DCI-Switzerland.*



- saw the provisional admission, as voted by the IEC in its November session, of two new national DCI sections: Zimbabwe and Russia.

## VII. DCI AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

### 1. Regional Programmes and Projects

#### a. Americas

The DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America, established in 2004, promotes specialised systems of juvenile justice in accordance with the CRC and other international human rights standards. Its three priority thematic areas are 1) defending the rights of adolescents in conflict with the law in Latin America, with a strong emphasis on preventing and reducing institutional violence in Latin American penal systems; 2) non-custodial sanctions, socio-educational measures and alternative solutions to the legal process, with the goal of promoting wider application; and 3) the age of criminal responsibility, with the goal of promoting a reduction in the age range for criminal responsibility by raising the minimum age and maintaining the maximum age at 18 years old, as per the recommendations of the CRC.

A combination of national projects and both regional and international activities, the Regional Programme’s activities complement each other in a coordinated process of mobilisation, lobbying, denunciations, and proposals. Headquartered at DCI-Bolivia, the programme is realised by DCI sections in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and involves the additional participation of DCI sections in Brazil, Chile, and its associated member in Mexico.

Among the key achievements of the DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America in 2010 are:

- In order to advance the three primary themes on its agenda and ensure their visibility in the international arena, the DCI Regional Programme took part in the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Held in April in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, the Congress included the one-day Latin American Seminar on Juvenile Justice that was co-organised by the Regional Coordination of the Juvenile Justice Programme, the Vice-Presidency of DCI-Americas, and DCI-IS. DCI participated actively in the discussions and side-events of the Congress, as well as successfully lobbying States for the inclusion of the Regional Programme’s priority issues on juvenile justice in the final “Salvador Declaration,” including for a reference to alternative sanctions. DCI also disseminated an appeal for juvenile justice systems that are effective, fair, respectful of rights and adherent to international commitments. This call was endorsed by more than 30 non-governmental organisations at international, regional and national levels; it was also distributed to all governments represented. Further, DCI was invited to intervene as a speaker at three side events: one organised by the IPJJ, one by the UK-based NGO Howard League for Penal Reform, and one by the International Institute for the Rights of the Child.



*The 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador de Bahia. On this occasion DCI-Americas and DCI-IS held a seminar on Juvenile Justice and managed to obtain the inclusion of the Regional Programme's priority issues in the final "Salvador Declaration".*



- The Regional Programme provided the context for and participated in an international forum, "Justice for Adolescents and Measures in Liberty," in Mexico City. The forum was organised by Reintegra (DCI's associated member in Mexico) in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the Executive Leadership of the Treatment of Minors in the Federal District [Mexico City] government; and the Legislative Assembly, the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico City, and the Human Rights Commission, all of the Federal District. These institutions combined their efforts to promote an integral juvenile justice system and establish non-custodial social and educational measures as the most effective means of achieving the reintegration of young people in conflict with the law.

*The "Justice for Adolescents and Measures in Liberty", organised by Reintegra (DCI's associated member in Mexico) to promote the improvement of the juvenile justice system and the establishment of alternative measures to detention for the reintegration of young offenders*



- The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRS) on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, is continuing to make juvenile justice in Latin America a high priority. In 2010, she formally requested the support and input of DCI and OMCT to learn more about the topic. In July, DCI-IS sent a document prepared by the coordination of the DCI Regional Programme, together with OMCT, to provide some key considerations and recommendations regarding the state of juvenile justice in Latin America.

Many of these issues were highlighted in the subsequent report (A/65/262)

prepared by the SRS on juvenile justice; they are referenced above in

Section VI.1.a, Juvenile Justice Advocacy.

- The Regional Programme is preparing for an audience with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; a report will be submitted on the situation of the various juvenile justice systems throughout Latin America, which will be comprised by the results of DCI's research and investigations in the region.
- An augmented media and communications plan is in progress for the Regional Programme, which will include a website, a virtual forum, and the production of electronic bulletins.

For more information on the national activities of the sections that comprise the Regional Programme, please see Section VIII, "DCI at the National Level."

Website: [www.dnijusticiapenaljuvenil.org](http://www.dnijusticiapenaljuvenil.org)

## **b. Africa**

Since 2009, DCI sections in Africa have met to build a regional juvenile justice programme that seeks to promote a peaceful and cohesive environment: one aimed at fostering advocacy at national, regional and international levels in order to achieve child survival, protection, participation and development, always working in the child's best interest to enhance non-discrimination, access to justice and the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. In particular, this programme intends to strengthen the DCI network in order to influence positive justice changes in the spheres of law and practice throughout Africa,

where there are still numerous and alarming gaps in local legislations, policies, structures and resources that affect the administration of child justice.



In 2010, African sections of DCI, DCI-IS, and the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) have been planning an event that will work towards the achievement of these goals. Together, they aim to develop guidelines for child-friendly justice in Africa, which will be presented, discussed, amended and adopted during an international conference to take place in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2011. Both DCI and ACPF will subsequently advocate for the enforcement of these guidelines by African states through the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), as well as the African Union.

This conference, and the entire process of developing guidelines for child-friendly justice, will be an important opportunity for DCI sections in Africa to exchange experience and expertise (among themselves as well as with other international juvenile justice actors) and to work cooperatively toward the establishment of a regional juvenile justice programme in Africa.

DCI, through its Vice-Presidency in Sierra Leone, is part of the Civil Society Forum on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and is working to collaborate more closely with the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

## VIII. DCI AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

### Key Achievements and Activities of National Sections

#### By Region

##### 1. Africa

- **DCI-Angola led various child rights seminars throughout the year in order to increase the organisation's visibility and outreach.** Tackling subjects such as the sexual exploitation and trade of children, child labour, and children in conflict with the law, these seminars were held in a variety of local community venues like churches, schools, and police stations found in the three municipalities (Sambizanga, Cazenga and Cac-uaco) of the capital, Luanda, where DCI-Angola is involved.
- **DCI-Congo has pursued various activities in the field of juvenile justice after the national law on the protection of children was extended in 2009.** These activities include an awareness-raising campaign for the establishment of an observatory of the rights of children in prison in the DRC, realised in accordance with the parallel campaign conducted by DCI-IS in Geneva. DCI-Congo has also continued its project for the education of children in prison, conducting research in collaboration with the police, the ministries, and children themselves. In addition, DCI-Congo has begun an exchange of communication with the International Observatory of Turkey in order to share perspectives and advice in the areas of education, training and research.
- **DCI-Ivory Coast continued to develop a partnership with the Dutch organisation Aflatoun,** and with the governemental inspection of the primary education to work on a balanced social and financial autonomy of children in schools and institutions.
- **DCI-Liberia has carried out advocacy and intervention strategies on behalf of 52 child offenders (charged with minor offences) subjected to prolonged pre-trial detention in the central prison of Monrovia; 12 of these youths have subsequently been granted clemency.** DCI-Liberia has also formed a partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Development, and has established/strengthened seven Child Welfare Committees (CWC) and seven children's clubs in Monrovia, empowered toward protecting, preventing, and reporting violations of children's rights. Among DCI Liberia's other accomplishments were



training beneficiaries; publishing posters on various central juvenile justice issues; conducting a joint juvenile justice baseline survey in collaboration with DCI-Sierra Leone; following up on cases for juvenile offenders referred from police stations and facilitating psychosocial interventions; and carrying out extensive advocacy in favour of passing the Child Act Bill in the Liberian Parliament.

- **DCI-Niger has begun a program to train teachers and groups of students in primary schools on the child’s right to education, with a particular focus on school and financial education.** This program is carried out in partnership with Aflatoun. DCI-Niger has also received support from Solidarité Laïque through its national local network in order to train teachers on children’s rights in Tillaberi, a region in south-western Niger.
- **DCI-Nigeria strengthened and expanded its relationships with the Lagos State Government,** including the Department for International Development through its education sector programme, the State Universal Education Board, and the Lagos State Action Committee on AIDS – partnerships that have allowed DCI-Nigeria to take part in relevant training programmes, policy reviews, and summits on subjects such as youth and policing; the provision of quality education; education infrastructure; and diabetes in children, all focused on the Lagos state. Expanded work with school administrations and local civil society organisations has allowed DCI-Nigeria to coordinate workshops and meetings on the community level, most notably a seminar on the prevention of child abuse. DCI-Nigeria also incorporated a volunteer programme into its work, a creative strategy toward greater financial efficacy as well as stronger programmatic impact.
- **DCI-Sierra Leone is part of the regional “Girl Power” project, which focuses on equal rights and opportunities for girls and young women via three DCI sections in Africa and three ECPAT sections with support from the Dutch Foreign Ministry.** (This project was submitted by the Child Rights Alliance in the Netherlands, of which DCI-Netherlands is a member.) In preparation, DCI-Sierra Leone participated in a training led by the Child Rights Alliance team in November. As it houses the Vice Presidency of the African region, DCI-Sierra Leone also provided technical support to other sections in Africa and coordinated further with the IS to advance DCI’s plans for a regional juvenile justice programme in the region.

*DCI-Sierra Leone published the report “Beyond the law: assessing the realities of Juvenile Justice in Sierra Leone”, a thorough analysis of the Juvenile Justice system in Sierra Leone, from the moment of the arrest to the reintegration in the society.*



- **Uganda has been selected to host DCI’s next International General Assembly (IGA) in combination with an international children’s rights conference, “The Deprivation of Liberty as a Last Resort: African Experience.”** The IGA and conference will be held in Kampala in November 2011. In 2010, DCI-Uganda continued to implement the Socio-Legal Defence Centre Project (SLDC), which provides minors legal representation in court, diverts the cases of minors at lower levels, resettles and reintegrates released children, and offers psychological support and counselling for children and parents. DCI-Uganda also carried out its Cordaid-funded Follow-up and Empowerment for Children in Conflict with the Law project, which works to provide vocational training to former child offenders between 12-18 years old and successfully reintegrate them into their families and communities.

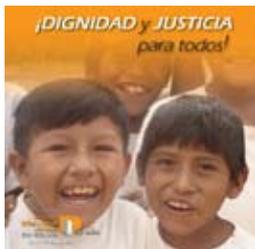
## 2. Americas

- **DCI-Argentina, as part of its programmatic activities for the DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America, conducted courses for 190 participants that emphasised the Optional Protocol against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and led various trainings for 150 adolescents.** DCI-Argentina developed data-collection methods

following the research frameworks of the Regional Programme, and both designed and conducted a survey for adolescents with respect to juvenile justice and rights. One of its major advocacy initiatives involved, along with other organisations, activities to block the current (inadequate) bill on juvenile justice in Argentina. DCI-Argentina is also realising a number of socio-educational measures for children in conflict with the law (among them, a journalism project for adolescents, mediation for children in the court system, and support for formative labour initiatives, all in specific districts of the country) and awareness-raising campaigns, including workshops addressed to parents and community leaders on the subject of adolescents as objects of violence.

- **DCI-Bolivia continued to serve as the headquarters for the DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America.** Still focusing on four key thematic areas (domestic abuse, sexual abuse, adolescents in conflict with the law, and child labour), DCI-Bolivia marked its 25th anniversary as a national section. In coordination with the DCI Regional Programme and with support from ICCO, DCI-Bolivia has continued to conduct inter-institutional workshops on juvenile justice in four cities; technical assistance and capacity-building for public officials who work with children; capacity-building within civil society; and trainings for students in police academies. DCI-Bolivia is also planning to embark on a long-term, large-scale project that will ultimately seek to lay the foundation for an effective national juvenile justice system in Bolivia.

Website: [www.dni-bolivia.org](http://www.dni-bolivia.org)



*DCI-Bolivia marked its 25th anniversary as a national section. In coordination with the DCI Regional Programme and with support from ICCO, DCI-Bolivia has continued to conduct inter-institutional workshops on juvenile justice in four cities; technical assistance and capacity-building for public officials who work with children; capacity-building within civil society; and trainings for students in police academies.*

- **DCI-Brazil (ANCED) worked to facilitate discussion and strategic planning on the construction of a national human rights policy, focusing on the rights of children and adolescents;** this was a particularly topical campaign given the intense country-wide political debate corresponding to the Brazilian general elections (on the level of the president, state representatives, and governors) in 2010 and to the launch of a national campaign to tackle all key human rights issues (National Human Rights Plan III, or PNDH III). With various partners and sponsors, DCI-Brazil (ANCED) continued its work in a project to monitor child and adolescent rights; a project to survey homicides of adolescents deprived of liberty in socio-educational institutions; and a project to establish an advocacy model on sexual violence targeting children and adolescents. Along with DCI's Latin American vice-presidency, DCI-Brazil (ANCED) also co-organised the Latin American Seminar on Juvenile Justice held in April in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

Website: [www.anced.org.br](http://www.anced.org.br)

- **DCI-Canada submitted a paper to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights of the Canadian House of Commons, which is reviewing proposed amendments to Canada's Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).** The amendments, collected and published as Bill C-4, take a "tough on crime" approach to juvenile justice in Canada, seeking to render the YCJA more punitive in its dealings with children and adolescents in conflict with the law. DCI-Canada's submission on Bill C-4 criticises several specific amendments and the damage they will cause to the rehabilitative potential and practice of an effective juvenile justice system – as well as to the overall state of children's rights in Canada. DCI-Canada also presented the annual Lowlery Lecture on the subject "The Children of Afghanistan: Protection, Education and the Challenge of Peace."

Website: [www.dci-canada.org](http://www.dci-canada.org)

- **DCI-Colombia led the Colombian Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers that, in June, organised a side-event prior to the official session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child with the goal of providing information on the current situation of children affected by forced recruitment in Colombia and presenting the activities of the Coalition.** On the occasion of the CRC's examination of the Colombian government, the Coalition, with the active participation of DCI-Colombia, also submitted an alternative report



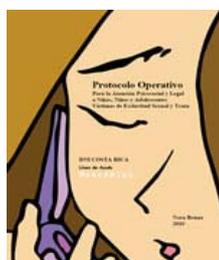
concerning the Optional Protocol of the CRC on children involved in armed conflict.



*DCI-Colombia co-organised a side-event to the official session of the UN CRC providing information on the forced recruitment of children in Colombia.*

- **DCI-Costa Rica continued its “Mano Amiga” phone line to provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking, producing materials and training target groups on the issue.** Through its “Vías Alternas” (Alternate Routes) program co-implemented throughout Central America, DCI-Costa Rica promoted the specialisation of juvenile justice systems; its results included debates, forums, and research/materials on juvenile criminal responsibility, the specialisation of juvenile justice systems, and the issues of violence, youth and the media. DCI-Costa Rica also launched advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns on various topics related to children’s rights; developed educational school supply trainings, worked on study skills with children and adolescents in rural and poor urban communities, and provided teachers with tools and methodologies to implement in school; promoted child and youth participation and organised artistic and cultural spaces on the issue of child domestic labour in third houses and their own houses; launched a musical play called “La Brujita;” and created community murals. DCI-Costa Rica held national forums about children’s rights and the national reality, focusing on violence against children and adolescents as a central topic of discussion in all areas. Monthly newsletters and thematic bulletins were produced throughout the year at both national and regional levels.

Website: [www.dnicostarica.org](http://www.dnicostarica.org)



*DCI-Costa Rica continued its “Mano Amiga” phone line to provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking, producing materials and training target groups on the issue.*

- **DCI-Paraguay implemented its project on “Comprehensive Attention to Female Adolescents in Conflict with the Law and to Children and Adolescents Deprived of their Family Environment in Paraguay,”** which involved extensive collaboration between the DCI-Paraguay technical team, the Ministry of Justice and Labour, and the director of shelters within this department. DCI-Paraguay also concluded a project on shelters as a possibility of inclusion and protection for children and adolescents deprived of their family environment, and participated in the DCI Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice toward the prevention of institutional violence in the Paraguayan juvenile justice system; this included a report on the human rights situation among children and adolescents in Paraguay during the last two years, particularly those of children in conflict with the law (DCI-Paraguay’s principal beneficiaries).

- **DCI-Uruguay remains an important contributor to DCI’s Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice for Latin America, standing out for its construction and maintenance of an online platform for distance learning that has permitted the training of over 400 operatives in the juvenile justice system in Uruguay.** DCI-Uruguay has also continued its Herramientas (Tools) Project, which works to implement socio-educational measures not involving the deprivation of liberty, in collaboration with the Uruguay Institute for Children and Adolescence (INAU) and the Justice Department. Additionally, DCI-Uruguay is a member of the “Grupo Privados de Libertad” (Detained Persons Group), which monitors adolescent



detention centres in Uruguay on the long term, and is conducting a regional investigation on violence in the juvenile justice systems of countries participating in the DCI Latin American Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice. DCI-Uruguay collaborates with OMCT, which is one of DCI's-co-members in the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, for this project.

Website: [www.dniu.org.uy](http://www.dniu.org.uy)

*DCI-Uruguay has continued its Herramientas (Tools) Project, which works to implement socio-educational measures not involving the deprivation of liberty, in collaboration with the Uruguay Institute for Children and Adolescence (INAU) and the Justice Department.*



Reintegra (DCI associated member in Mexico), through its multiple programs and reintegration services for adolescents and their families in several high-risk zones of Mexico City, worked with over 9,000 young people in 2010, helping to incorporate 65% of these into academic activities and 11.5% into labour activities. Reintegra's community prevention centres focus on positive, alternative spaces for adolescents at risk; its programmes focus on human development; education; culture, art and recreation; and psychosocial support. In 2010, Reintegra also continued its three programmes targeting adolescents in conflict with the law: support during judicial proceedings, socio-educational opportunities during parole, and trainings for directors and personnel of treatment centres. Additionally, in collaboration with Telmex, Reintegra sustained a program that provides bail for minors detained for minor infractions.

Website: [www.reintegra.org.mx](http://www.reintegra.org.mx)

### 3. Asia and Pacific

- **DCI-Australia pursued its campaigns for juvenile justice and against child labour, the sexual exploitation of children, and other forms of harm and exploitation.** DCI-Australia also continued its involvement in the activities of the International Network of Juvenile Justice, the National Working Party (which seeks to develop Australia's national agenda to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children), the Australian Child Labour network, and several human rights consultative forums with the national government and other NGOs.

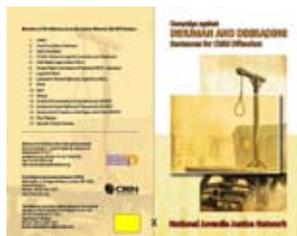
Website: [www.dci-au.org](http://www.dci-au.org)

- **SPARC (DCI associated member in Pakistan) responded to the unprecedented floods afflicting Pakistan through immediate relief activities and establishing 28 child-friendly spaces in four regions, as well as organising a national conference, "Flood Impacts and Implications for Children: The Way Forward," in November.** In collaboration with various government bodies, SPARC continued its child rights law reform work and launched a letter/postcard campaign, addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, for the approval of the Charter on Child Rights Act, the Child Protection (Criminal Law Amendment) Bill, the Child Marriages Restraint (Amendment) Act, and the NCRC Bill. As a result of letters sent by SPARC to the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court about Indian juveniles arrested and detained by Pakistan, both youths were released and repatriated, and 690 bonded labourers were released as a result of 34 cases filed by SPARC. Further, SPARC realised numerous trainings for police officers, prison officials, and labour inspectors; inaugurated its office in the Balochistan province in March with a consultation on the state of child rights there; and was named a member of the KP Child Protection and Welfare Commission by the Provincial Assembly.

Website: [www.sparcpk.org](http://www.sparcpk.org)



SPARC launched a letter/postcard campaign, addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, for the approval of the Charter on Child Rights Act, the Child Protection Criminal Law Amendment) Bill, the Child Marriages Restraint (Amendment) Act, and the NCRC Bill.



#### 4. Europe

- **DCI-Albania (CRCA) collaborated with UNICEF and the Albanian government for the launch of an awareness-raising campaign among children and adults on the benefits of “Alo 116,” a free helpline for the reporting of any child rights violations in Albania.** This campaign provided schools and NGOs involved in human rights protection with print and electronic material; it also involved the broadcasting of several television ads and the distribution of 7000 leaflets and 1500 posters.

Website: [www.crca.org](http://www.crca.org)



*DCI-Albania (CRCA) collaborated with UNICEF and the Albanian government for the launch of an awareness-raising campaign among children and adults on the benefits of “Alo 116,” a free helpline for the reporting of any child rights violations in Albania*

- **DCI-Belgium has elaborated, produced and published ten “pedagogical tools” on the rights of children.** This is part of a project started in 2008 that plans to elaborate at least ten such tools per year, seeking to help adults explain to children the key issues related to child rights and to generate discussion and debate. Since 2008, 30 modules have been produced, which have been circulated on several occasions and can be found on DCI-Belgium’s website. In other news, DCI-Belgium co-organised a several-city study tour in June for Belgian child rights practitioners, meeting with various governmental and non-governmental organisations, experts, and institutions working on both European and international levels. Additionally, in June, DCI-Belgium intervened during a side-event organised by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, speaking about migrant children’s right to attend school.

Website: [www.dei-belgique.be](http://www.dei-belgique.be)

*One of the ten “pedagogic tools” published by DCI-Belgium in 2010, as part of a project started in 2008 to help adults explain to children the key issues related to child rights and to generate discussion and debate.*



- **DCI-France has performed a number of initiatives that seek to influence the French government toward respecting child rights.** It has interacted with the UMP parliamentary group regarding the project to establish a penal code for minors; with other MPS, it has discussed additional legislative reforms concerning the rights of children, particularly the “Défenseur de droits” bill and the agreement between France and Romania on separated children. DCI-France has also taken part in the “Etats généreux pour l’enfance” initiative in which, in conjunction with more than 80 other organizations, it has compiled a list of child rights-related demands addressed to the government.

Website: [www.dei-france.org](http://www.dei-france.org)

- **DCI-Italy remains highly involved in the issue of child migrants and is implementing various**



**projects within this field.** One such project is called “Contextus” ([www.contextus.org](http://www.contextus.org)), of which DCI-Italy is the coordinator; this project provides training and information to employees of centres hosting asylum seekers and to individuals working in the region. DCI-Italy created an online resource centre where much of the information is recorded. Another project – conducted in cooperation with Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Slovenia, Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands – is called “Core Standards for Guardians: Closing a Protection Gap,” a European initiative to strengthen the protection of unaccompanied minors.

Website: [www.defenceforchildren.it](http://www.defenceforchildren.it)



*DCI Italy is the coordinator of “Contextus”, a project that provides training and information to employees of centres hosting asylum seekers and to individuals working in the region.*

- **DCI-Netherlands (ECPAT) was active in the European project mentioned above, “Core Standards for Guardians: Closing a Protection Gap,” which aims to study the state of separated children in each participating country and develop core standards with a focus on qualifications for guardians – those based on separated children’s own perspectives with respect to their rights according to the CRC and EU directives.**

Other projects continue to lobby and advocate for the rights of children in conflict with immigration law, and DCI-Netherlands remains in partnership with ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Pornography, and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) to fight against the sexual exploitation of children. DCI-Netherlands has submitted a project entitled “Girl Power” to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused on equal rights and opportunities for girls and young women. The project involves five DCI sections in Africa: Sierra Leone, Benin, Ghana, Togo and Liberia, all of which are considered priority countries by the Dutch government.

Website: [www.defenceforchildren.nl](http://www.defenceforchildren.nl)

- **DCI-Slovakia continues to provide psychosocial support and a supportive environment through a resource and activity centre for children and adolescents called MIXKLUB and another for parents and families called MIXACIK.** Throughout 2010, DCI-Slovakia worked with 50 children under six years of age and 150 children between 6 and 18; they also worked with over 90 parents and other caregivers. DCI-Slovakia also offered counselling to families with children who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), offering both long-term and short-term support services. In addition, DCI-Slovakia trained doctors and hospital personnel on guiding family bereavement with respect to the loss or serious illness of a child, publishing brochures on the same subject, and conducted a media campaign on the prevention of injury among children.

- **DCI-Switzerland has completed its “Programme on Justice for Minors in Switzerland: July 2008-October 2010.”** This two-year programme, carried out in collaboration with DCI-IS, has systematically examined the state of juvenile justice in Switzerland, compiling research that has been regularly released in the Swiss Bulletin on Child Rights. Its results have been published in Volume 14 of the Cahiers des droits de l’enfant as “The Rights of Children in the Juvenile Justice System of Switzerland” and will be updated when Switzerland makes its own report and submits for examination by the CRC.

Website: [www.dei.ch](http://www.dei.ch)

## 5. Middle East

- **DCI-Palestine established two new programmes, the Accountability and Legal Work Programme and the Protection and Community Mobilisation Programme, which more intensively coordinate several of DCI-Palestine’s key priorities:** child protection in conjunction with community-based organisations, legal representation of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons, and advocacy for children’s rights in both areas. DCI-Palestine provided legal representation and consultations for scores of children in conflict with the law and child victims of rights violations in both Israeli and Palestinian courts; monitored



and documented their cases, including via several submissions to the UN; conducted capacity-building for Palestinian law enforcement; published a manual on children in armed conflict; and led numerous workshops for families and young people on children's rights. DCI-Palestine also hosted and co-organised DCI's international conference on child participation and protection, titled "Protective Environment – Active Participation" in November; adopted a child-led data collection method it will continue to enhance in 2011; intensified its work with other human rights organisations through the Palestinian Human Rights Council; and was selected as a member of the national Committee for Children in Conflict with the Law. Website: <http://www.dci-palestine.org/>



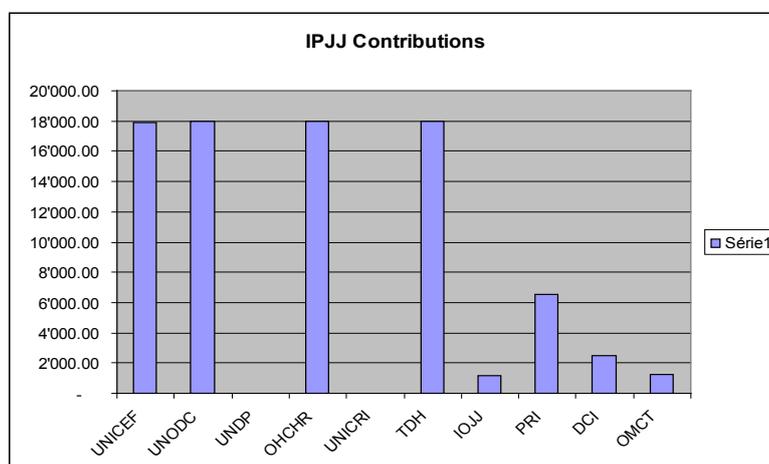
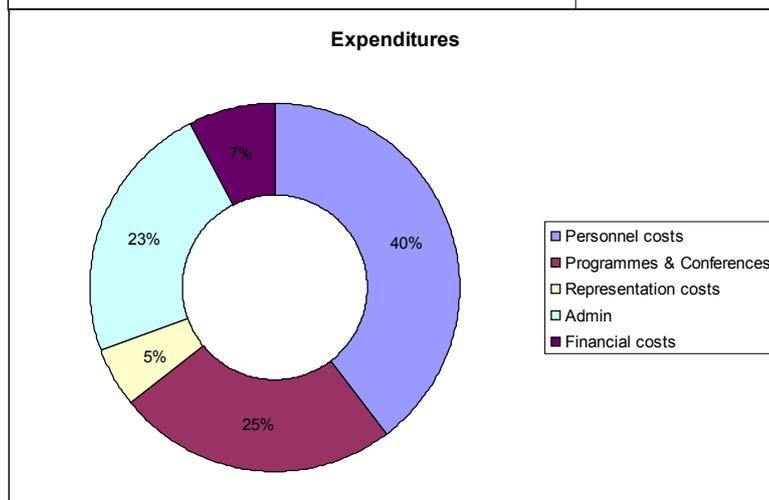
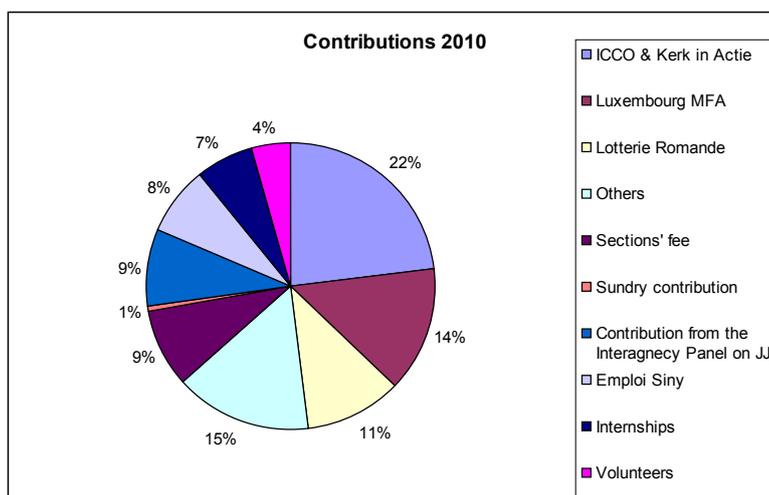
*In November, DCI Palestine hosted and co-organised DCI's International Conference on child participation and protection titled "Protective Environment - Active Participation".*

- **DCI-Israel has been working to follow up on the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report).** DCI-Israel also works on a continual basis to increase the Israeli military's accountability for violence enacted against children; this includes contacting the military authorities each time a Palestinian child is killed by an Israeli soldier and calling for an investigation to be opened. Additionally, DCI-Israel runs a child help hotline for parents, teachers and children; runs a support program for Israeli children awaiting trial; is part of a forum on internet safety; and is a member of the Forum of Prisoners' Rights, which is composed of 8-9 NGOs working on different issues related to data on children in prison.



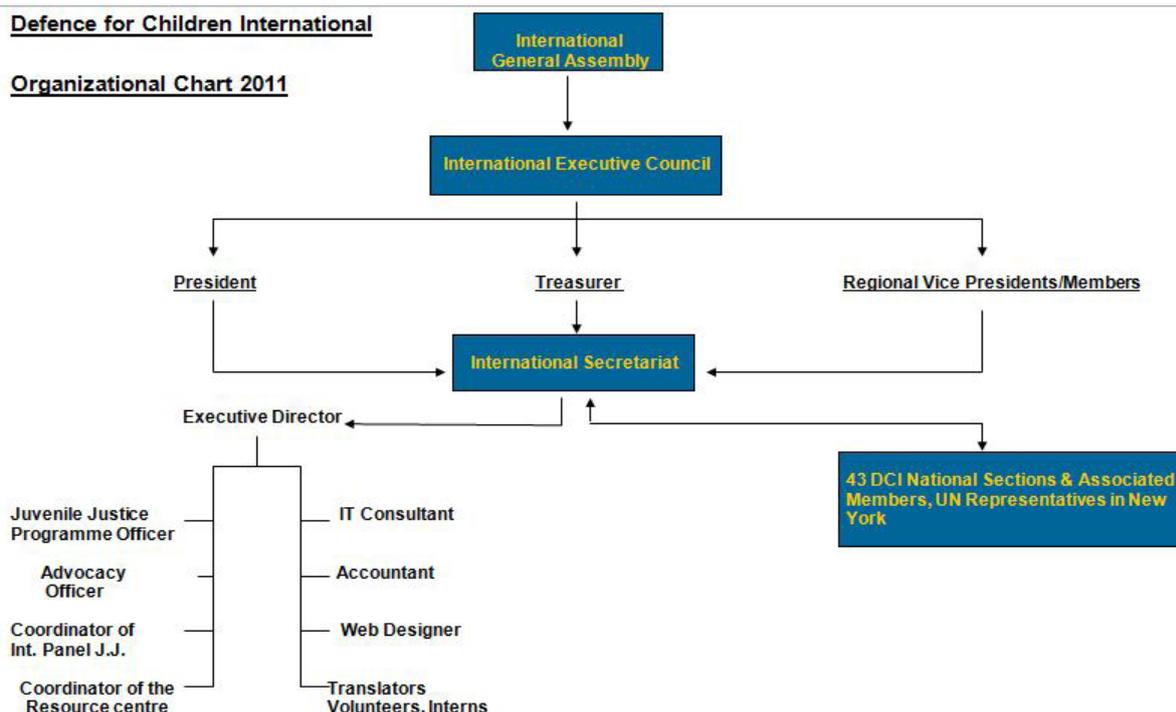
## IX. An Overview of DCI-IS Funding Sources in 2010

Throughout 2010, DCI's activities continued to be funded by the following organisations: ICCO/Kerkinactie, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, and the Loterie Romande, for DCI's Strategic Plan of Action on Juvenile Justice; UNODC, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNDP, Terre des Hommes, PRI, OMCT, and IOJJ for the functioning of a permanent secretariat for the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice; and all DCI national sections that provided membership fees to support the International Secretariat.





## X. DCI-IS Staff and International Executive Council in 2010



### 1. Staff of DCI-IS

Executive Director: Ileana Bello

Juvenile Justice Programme Officer: Anna Volz

Advocacy Officer: Aisha Rahamatali

Communications Officer: Robin Myers

Coordinators of the IPJJ Secretariat: Davinia Ovet Bondi and Séverine Joliat

Coordinator of Resource Centre: Camille Kryspin

Interns and Volunteers: Vincent Arah, Cristina Barcenás López, Anne Laure Bornand, Kate Bertino, Mercedes Carnerero Rodríguez, David Safdié, and Kate Stevenson

DCI-IS's work is also generously supported by a network of volunteer translators.

### 2. Members of the International Executive Council (IEC)

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The IEC meets at least biannually. In 2010, its sessions were held first in Geneva in January and next in Bethlehem, Palestine, in November.





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