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DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
the worldwide movement for children's rights

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Acronyms

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACPF	African Child Policy Forum
ACRW	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AGA	Annual General Assembly
AU	African Union
CARICOM	the Caribbean Community
CAT	Committee against Torture
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEDECA/DF	Centre for the Defence of Children and Adolescents' Rights from the Federal District
CHI	Child Helpline International
CoE	Council of Europe
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRIN	Child Rights Information Network
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCI	Defence for Children International
DCI-IS	Defence for Children International – International Secretariat
DGD	Day of General Discussion
DIC	Drop in Centre
ECA	Child and Adolescent Statute
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECSR	European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe
ENOC	European Network of Ombudspersons for Children
ESAM	Solidarity for Children in Africa and the World

EU	European Union
FI	Franciscans International
HRC	Human Rights Council
IDE	Institut International des Droits de l'Enfants
IEC	International Executive Council
IGA	International General Assembly
IJJO	International Juvenile Justice Observatory
ILO	International Labour Organization
InCo	International NGO Council on Violence against Children
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IPJJ	Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice
IUKB	Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch
LAC	Local Advisory Committee
LCRNC	Liberia Child Rights NGO Coalition
MACR	minimum age of criminal responsibility
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MERCOSUR	South American Common Market
MMI-CLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGO Group	NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMCT	World Organisation against Torture
OP3 CRC	third Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure
PRI	Penal Reform International

RORAF	Network of women's organizations in French-speaking Africa
SICA	Central American Integration System
SPT	United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
SR	Special Rapporteur
SRSG/CAAC	United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict
SRSG/VAC	Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children
TDHIF	Terre des Homme International Federation
Torture Convention	UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCRC	United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WG/CAV	Working Group on Children and Violence

Foreword

Too often around the world, children who come in contact with the law enter a predominately adult-oriented justice system. With little understanding of the justice system and their rights therein, children are deprived of their liberty in a justice system unresponsive to their needs where they are increasingly vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation, and health-related risks such as injury and HIV/AIDS infection. Although there has been progress, much remains to be done by African States in bringing their justice procedures to deal with children up to speed with international and regional standards, ensure their full and proper implementation and child justice in the continent.

Recognizing the need for new tools to help African States to adapt their justice systems to the situation of children, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) of the African Union adopted in July 2012 the "Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice system in Africa," a document that Defence for Children International (DCI), together with its partner the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), actively contributed in drafting. The Guidelines were one of the outcomes of the 2011 Kampala Global Conference on Child Justice, organized by DCI and the ACPF. The Guidelines are instruments to give practical guidance to African governments to assist them meet their treaty obligations at both regional and international level. The Kampala Conference initiated the development of the Guidelines and drew a follow-up programme to the conference of lobbying and consultations to ensure endorsement for the implementation of child-friendly justice in Africa guidelines by the ACERWC and approval and adoption by the African Union (AU). Despite the significant achievements made in Africa in the promotion of children's rights, progress has been slow. Children still face persistent barriers to the fulfilment of their rights in the justice system, such as limited access to justice, diversity in and complexity of procedures, possible discrimination on various grounds, and lack of access to services.

A leader in raising key issues in juvenile justice worldwide, DCI identified the urgent need for innovative tools in Africa's justice system to address the issue of children in conflict with the law, and brought together representatives of the ACERWC, the AU, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), United Nations (UN) agencies, governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and other experts from all over Africa and other parts of the world to mobilize effective follow-up actions of national and international legislation, policies and practices for implementing child-friendly justice systems in Africa.

Commendably DCI has brought, and continues to bring, its in-depth knowledge and expertise of juvenile justice to Africa, promoting diversion from the formal justice system and working towards achieving that the deprivation of liberty for children is used as a measure of last resort. It is clear that the priority for children who come in conflict with the law should be to make sure that these children are diverted away from the formal justice system and preventive measures are in place.

Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur
Chairperson of the ACERWC, and Member of the UNCRC

Preface

2012 has been a striking year for the Movement, like past years when members of the Movement are able to meet during the International General Assembly (IGA) to exchange views; the contact we maintain with each other makes us stronger. These meetings allow us to affirm that we all share the same values and the same wish for a world that would better respect children's rights and dignity. These encounters also enable us to update our priorities and to make the Movement "operational" again.

Our fight is undoubtedly crucial. Now more than ever, Civil Society has to go into action to make the vulnerable voices heard and, even more, to have the weakest expressing themselves. The current events reveal, in a daily basis and sometimes in a tragic way, the major role of the counter-power facing some governments that do not care about the fundamental Human Rights, as we recently noticed in Yemen and Saudi Arabia where the death penalty is imposed on young people for crimes they committed when they were juveniles. Such examples are, unfortunately, very common.

Therefore, we are forced to exert more our action and to join forces in order to build a fairer world. We have to reinforce our structures, to improve our capacity to communicate and our advocacy, to imagine new ways of action, to find alliances that help us to strengthen, to work on the ground with children and also at the policy drafting and implementation levels; for the impact of our action to be even stronger.

We demand from the governments quality and respect, but we must do so with ourselves too. The good will is not enough, even if it is essential. The indignation is certainly required but it has to materialise by a greater rallying and professionalization of our action.We know how children expect adults to make room for them in a fair and democratic society that would recognise their need of specific protection and, at the same time, that would also allow them to actively take part in the social life, with respect for their fundamental rights.

The priority we give to juvenile justice is crucial. A fair, equitable, reachable and child-friendly justice system is at the heart of each democratic society. The greatest laws are just a dead letter if their effective application is not ensured by the justice system.

Throughout 2012, we obtained significant results as, for instance, the ratification of the guidelines for a child-friendly justice by the ACERWC. We also left our mark on the ground, by regional encounters, international conferences, etc. and contributed to make the Movement visible. Moreover, we regularly prove the skills of DCI's members, by taking part in many encounters, meetings or seminars where our experience and knowledge are appreciated and awaited.

Our action is fair, necessary and vital; let's work twice as hard and take drastic steps to get more and more results. I wish all of you a strong, inspiring and united year; a humane year all in all.

Benoit Van Keirsbilck
President of DCI

Introduction

According to the Chinese calendar 2012 was the year of the Dragon, supposed to be particularly fortunate for children. This belief is linked to the fact that the Dragon has always been a symbol of strength and power, wealth and wisdom and considered one of the luckiest animals in the Chinese Zodiac. Despite this belief, throughout 2012 children remained particularly exposed to abuse, neglect, violence, suffering from all sorts of human rights violations. DCI still, after 33 years, engaged worldwide through its national sections and with the International Secretariat (DCI-IS), to contribute to the defence of children's rights.

This year has been of particular importance to the Movement: the 11th IGA took place in March in Geneva; a Congress on violence in juvenile justice in Paraguay focused on concrete ways to prevent and respond to violence against children in the justice systems in Latin America; the second regional Workshop for the Arab world, in Amman, was concluded by the inclusion of new national sections from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to the Movement, that now has reached the threshold of 47 members, including the entrance of DCI-United States of America (DCI-USA) within the newly established provisional sections.

The IGA also nominated a new Board, representing the whole world were DCI has a presence. The nomination of Benoit Van Keirsbilck, from DCI-Belgium, to the Presidency constitutes a reward for the commitment and devotion that Benoit has always shown to DCI as member of the International Executive Council (IEC) since 2005 and moreover as a human rights activist in Belgium and elsewhere. DCI defined its strategy for the 4 years to come and more in particular reiterated that justice for children will be its main priority at international level, including the prevention and reintegration aspect of those children who end up being in conflict with the law.

The constant increase in the number of national sections, particularly in the Arab world clearly proves the vitality of the Movement and the need to adapt to a world in continuous change, where not only human rights are in danger, but also human rights defenders are paying a high price in some parts of the world where epochal revolutions are occurring. Children have been used as puppets in some of these revolutions to break through the riots and in some other cases have been targeted and killed without compassion. DCI has kept being in the forefront and in many cases it has contributed to the change or to simply disclose a situation where the human rights of children were constantly violated by those adults that should have protected them.

This report will tell you some of the most crucial key stories of the Movement in the recent past and will drive you into some concrete cases of success in our defence of children's rights in the world.

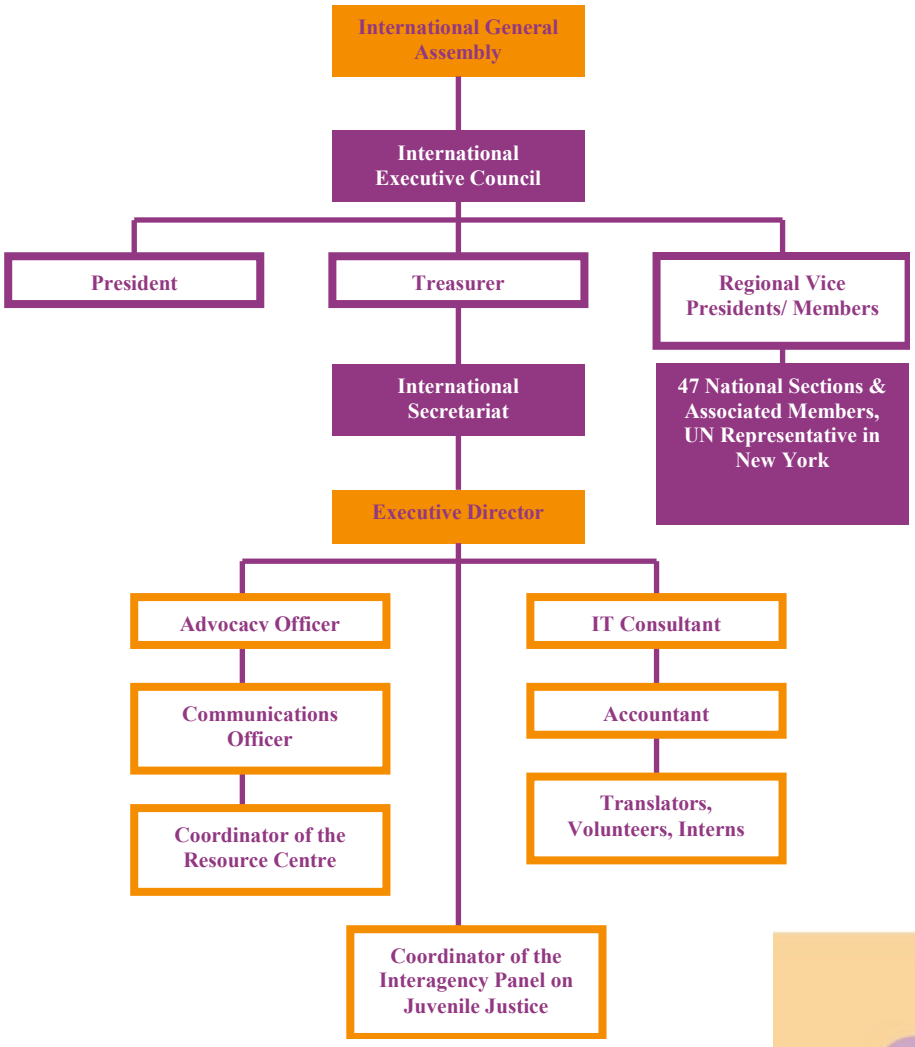
Ileana Bello
Executive Director, DCI-IS

DCI at a glance

Actors for Justice, Advocates for Rights

DCI is one of the leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with regard to issues of juvenile justice with on the ground presence in five continents: 47 national sections and an International Secretariat. The heart of the Movement, DCI-IS represents the national sections at the international level, develops projects promoting children's rights across the globe, and provides institutional, technical, and advocacy support for the activities and development of DCI's national sections and associated members. The Movement has two governing bodies: the IGA and the IEC. The IGA is DCI's highest governing body and is composed of each representative national section in the Movement. The IGA steers the policies, priorities and positions of DCI and elects the President and other members of the IEC, who are mandated to govern the Movement in the interim between General Assemblies. The last IGA was held in March 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. The following members were elected to the Board: Mr Benoit Van Keirsbilck (DCI-Belgium), President; Mr Désiré Aroga (DCI-Cameroon), Treasurer; Mr Abdul Kemokai (DCI-Sierra Leone), Vice President Africa; Mr Juan Fumeiro (DCI-Uruguay), Vice President Americas; Ms Perla Ribeiro (DCI-Brazil), Member at large; Mr Rifat Kassis (DCI-Palestine), Vice President Asia and Oceania; Mr Aloys van Rest (DCI-the Netherlands), Vice President Europe.

Defence for Children International (DCI) Organizational Chart 2012



Currently, the organization holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Council of Europe (CoE); and DCI-IS is hosting the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) in its offices, in which DCI is also an active member. DCI-IS is also involved in other networks, such as the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO Group), being also co-convenor of the Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV) and the International NGO Council on Violence Against Children (InCo), which is a platform of INGOs and regional representations created to follow-up to the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

International Secretariat (DCI-IS)

DCI-IS is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and acts as the focal point for the movement at the international level, providing an invaluable link between DCI's national sections and between the Movement and the UN. The DCI-IS mandate is to bring pressing child rights concerns to the international agenda and to provide technical assistance and capacity building support to its forty national sections. Work includes monitoring child rights, research, networking for lobbying and advocacy, information dissemination and development of communication tools, with children's rights in juvenile justice as its prime, though not exclusive, field of action. DCI-IS is therefore in active communication with its members and partners regarding child rights issues. It seeks constant updates from its national sections on the juvenile justice situation in their countries to better focus and inform the DCI-IS international child rights advocacy. The international debate and the best practices shared by partners are additionally circulated back to the sections.

DCI-IS office in Geneva, Switzerland, the heart of Europe.

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The work of the DCI-IS has also been generously supported by a network of volunteer translators and volunteers from the United Nations Volunteers' (UNV) Online Volunteering Programme.

From right: Anna D. Tomasi, Ileana Bello, Bahia Egeh

Global Impact

An Eye, an Ear, and a Voice for Children in the International Arena

United front for the defence of children's rights globally

In March 2012, DCI-IS was booming with activities, with the presence and active participation of DCI national representatives in an intensive training session parallel to the HRC's 19th session, a strategic meeting, the IGA, and the IEC elections.

Strategic discussion

In March, DCI held a strategic meeting which consisted of two parts: one, dedicated to general open dialogue; and the other, dedicated to considering concrete plans of action, providing suggestions and proposals for the development of a more comprehensive Movement for the protection and promotion of children's rights. At the meeting, members acknowledged the vital role DCI-IS plays in maintaining the visibility and strength of DCI within the international arena, working with international bodies and key actors.

International General Assembly

On 10 and 11 March, DCI held its 11th IGA in Geneva, Switzerland. Thirty national sections were present at the IGA. Regional progress since the last IGA (Bethlehem, 2008) was at the top of discussions. At the Middle-east regional-level, DCI created new networks with other organizations, conducted workshops, and started projects. Meanwhile on the African continent, DCI completed its activities outlined for 2009 -2012, which included an important outcome of a meeting held in Freetown (Sierra Leone) and then in Kampala during which clear targets were set in order to improve juvenile justice in Africa, and a search for alternative ways for the African national sections to intervene and to participate in the international arena were formulated. In the Americas, DCI continued a regional project involving seven countries (which began in 2005), and organized meetings to improve the visibility of the Movement. In addition, DCI participated in numerous meetings organized with key UN and regional human rights players, and emerged with various alliances, most notably, the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (MMI-CLAC), which is key in the coordination of different organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Children, Save the Children, inter alia. As for the European region, DCI published a guide on juvenile justice and recommended further research to improve coordination between existing national sections in the region. DCI members mentioned the Conference on Juvenile Justice held in Brussels (2008), to which the majority of sections in Europe and the Middle East participated, as a positive activity. Members of the Movement found the Conference raised salient regional issues such as the improvement of juvenile justice and the need to secure free legal assistance. In addition to regional progress reviews, elections for new members of the IEC took place during the IGA.

33 national sections attended the IGA in Geneva.

Improving the capacities of grassroots organisations

During their time in Geneva, DCI representatives took part in an intensive training course from 5-11 March entitled, 'Children's rights advocacy at the international level: strategies to attaining concrete action from the HRC and its mechanisms, and the UNCRC', organized in collaboration with the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bosch (IUKB) and the Institut International des Droits de l'Enfants (IDE, Sion, Switzerland). DCI-IS planned the training course as part of its Juvenile Justice Project supported by Loterie Romande, the Chancellery of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva, and ICCO/Kerk In Actie, in order to raise awareness on children's rights in juvenile justice systems for the children's rights advocates coming from DCI sections worldwide. DCI-IS ensured the training course was specific to the 2012 theme of the HRC's Annual Full Day Meeting on the Rights of the Child: 'rights of children and the administration of justice', to maximise the participants' learning experience. DCI-IS organized the training into two parts: a theory section with the participation of expert professionals, and a practical section which included national section representatives' attendance to the HRC's 19th session.

Sharing experiences, defining solutions

In the theory section of the training, DCI-IS engaged key child rights experts to share their knowledge and experiences with DCI national section representatives. The child rights experts present were: Ms Bernadette Arditi, Assistant Human Rights Officer to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of child prostitution and pornography; Ms Roisin Fegan, Child Rights Officer of the NGO Group for the CRC; Ms Anita Goh, Advocacy Officer of the NGO Group for the CRC; Mr Michele Poretti, senior researcher on children's rights at the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB); Mr Philip Jaffé, Director of the child's right unit in the IUKB and expert at the CoE; Benoit Van Keirsbilck, DCI President and Director of DCI-Belgium; John Ssenyanga, Executive Director of DCI-Uganda; Justice Renate Winter, member of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court of Sierra Leone; and Ms Severine Joliat, Secretariat Coordinator of the IPJJ.

National section representatives at the training.

During the theory section, child rights experts and DCI national sections representatives discussed the necessity to establish collective standards and underlined the importance of providing alternative procedures to juvenile detention. They agreed that children's rights should not only be promoted by various specialists but also by the children themselves, and that parents hold a key role in supporting a child's access to justice. In support of their vision for a child's access to justice, the training course participants established four guidelines, which encourage more fair and equitable trials for both witnesses and victims: 1. a child-friendly justice system, 2. the right to a protected private life, by protective media, 3. security - inmates can be threatening, and 4. training of professionals involved.

Participants identified the upmost importance of training professionals in order to enable the concrete realization of children's rights, as children are often abused during judicial proceedings due to lack of information of the judges. Experts and DCI national section representatives agreed such lack of knowledge can be curbed by training judges, but also other actors involved in the judicial process such as police, lawyers etc. Moreover, they stressed the specific need to train police, as they are the initial actors a child encounters when in conflict with the law.

DCI-IS specially designed the training session's theory to focus on a child-friendly approach to the treatment of children involved with the justice system, independent of their role – whether witnesses, victims or perpetrators. Training course participants discussed children's need for advice from independent lawyers and/or advisers speaking in a language that they can understand, and the necessity to adapt the environment to the child's needs. In addition, the experts and national section representatives presented and shared specialized techniques on how to collect evidence in cases of children in conflict with the law.

Centre stage at the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child

In the practical section of the training, DCI-IS coordinated its national section representatives participation in the HRC's Annual Full-Day Meeting on the Rights of the Child, the presentation of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children (SRSG/VAC), the presentation of the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, various side-events, as well as written and oral statement submissions to the HRC.

The theme for the 2012 Annual Day on the Rights of the Child was 'children and the administration of justice'. DCI-IS arranged for its representative from DCI-Sierra Leone, Abdul Manaff Kemokai to appear on the expert panel discussing the protection and realization of the rights of children deprived of liberty and children of incarcerated parents. Mr Kemokai was among an expert panel, which included the SRSG/VAC, and heads of leading academic and children's rights institutions and networks. The full-day meeting discussion sought the experience of key actors from international organizations and civil society

Ms. Santos Pais, SRSG/VAC at the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child

to deliberate the situation faced by children in conflict and in contact with the law, highlight good practices and lessons learnt from their work, identify key challenges, and recommend ways to move forward in accordance with international standards. DCI's representative, Mr Kemokai spoke about child detainees' rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

To enrich the debate leading up to, and on, the day of the HRC's full-day meeting on the Rights of the Child and its national representatives training course, DCI-IS organized the following four side-events: 'Age limits in the juvenile justice system: age and determination of criminal responsibility', 'Children and the administration of justice in in Latin America: a regional perspective', 'Child-friendly justice in Africa: guidelines on action for children in the justice system', and 'Detention as an alternative measure: restorative justice and diversion as primary resort in juvenile justice', all of which included an insightful discussion and wide public participation.

With the support of the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), the Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN, and the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN, DCI-IS assembled for the side-event on 'Age limits in the juvenile justice system: age and determination of criminal responsibility' a vibrant panel that included the Chairperson of the UNCRC, Director of Solidarity for Children in Africa and the World (ESAM), and DCI representatives from Colombia and Palestine.

Panellists discussed the principal concern of how to deal with a child coming in to conflict with the specific domestic legal systems, and how his or her age proves to be fundamental when it comes to deciding his or her fate. The UNCRC Chairperson, Mr Jean Zermatten highlighted the trend in countries' moving to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) as "a step back" for children's rights. "We are dealing with people who are vulnerable on account of their age and level of maturity. Lowering the MACR does not take into account the three stages of criminal responsibility defined as 1) total irresponsibility, 2) partial responsibility and 3) full responsibility – all of which determine specific responses for offenders within certain age brackets," explained Mr Zermatten.

Panellists also raised the paramount concern of birth registration, particularly for African countries. ESAM Director, Mr Fanou-Ako stressed that in some situations the lack of a birth certificate, or a similar identification document, leaves an alleged juvenile offender unable to prove his or her age, and can result in detention or imprisonment among adults and convicted criminals. Panellists agreed on the discriminatory nature of States defining a child's age, and declared it in conflict with the CRC's requirement that the child's best interests must be a primary consideration (art. 3, CRC), as well as their right to the maximum possible development (art. 6, CRC).
The DCI national representatives on the panel noted from their own experience how justice systems target children based on their ethnic or socio-economic background and criminalise children influenced by misconceptions such as the belief that children have too many rights, adults are too lenient on badly-behaved children, etc., and the media which rarely reports on children's educational attainments but instead broadcasts the offences of children and adolescents.

We are dealing with people who are vulnerable on account of their age and level of maturity.

As a member of MMI-CLAC, DCI-IS participated in the organisation of a side-event on 'Children and the administration of justice in Latin America: a regional perspective'. At the side-event, panellists shared with a variety of key state and civil society actors at the global level, the context of Latin America with regard to the pressing issue of juvenile justice, positive measures that have been taken to address this issue, along with targeted recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2011), and preventive measures that can be used as an effective approach to ensure the protection of children in the administration of justice.

Participants listen eagerly to the DCI-IS side-event on 'Detention as an alternative measure...'

With the support of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN and in collaboration with ACPF, DCI-IS held a specific side event which focused on the outcome of the 2011 Kampala Conference – a global conference on child justice in Africa organised by DCI and ACPF. The side event, 'Child-friendly justice in Africa- Guidelines on action for children in the justice system in Africa', included the following keynote speakers: First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN, SRSG/VAC, a member of ACERWC, and former DCI President and DCI representative from Palestine. During the event, panellists discussed the process for the adoption of the Kampala Conference, considering the background and future goals and challenges, and considered on all levels -local, national, regional and international- the concept of 'child-friendly

justice systems', drawing from international children's rights obligations and standards. The expert panel highlighted and stressed the role of States in implementing child – friendly justice systems and the corresponding resource allocation for policies and programs which implement such systems. DCI-IS determined the importance of the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the Kampala Conference to be consistent, enhanced by the Movement, and acknowledged much more work is yet to be done.

On the Annual Day of the Rights of the Child, DCI-IS held a side-event on 'Detention as an alternative measure: restorative justice and diversion as primary resort in juvenile justice'. DCI-IS organized the event in collaboration with Terre des Homme International Federation (TDHIF) and with the support of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN, and the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the UN. The event sought to expose the children's rights violations when minors are incarcerated as a primary resort , stress the lack of alternative measures and promote restorative justice and diversion of juvenile offenders, highlight that children are more than often deprived of their liberty independently from the varying degrees of crime committed, demonstrate that de facto detention is not applied for the shortest period of time - as proposed de jure, and illustrate the (dreadful) living conditions of incarcerated children in penitential institutions. DCI-IS had DCI national representatives feature in the panel, as part of the practical section of the training. DCI panellists included representatives from Paraguay, Argentina and Latin America.

DCI-IS also ensured DCI representation in a side-event relevant to the Movement's priority of juvenile justice and the organization's work on violence against children. The side-event on 'Preventing violence against children deprived of liberty: the case of Benin and Uruguay', organized by OMCT and the SOS-Torture Network, featured Mr Juan Pedro Fumeiro, speaking on behalf of the Latin American Regional Coordinator of the Juvenile Justice Project.

In addition to the events, DCI-IS organized a private informal meeting with the Chairperson of the UNCRC, Mr Jean Zermatten, as part of the practical section of the training.

Panellists at the DCI.IS side-event on' Age limits in the juvenile justice system: age and determination of criminal responsibility'

Advocating and Lobbying justice for children as a priority with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms

DCI-IS ensured the issue of justice for children was present at all three of the HRC's regular sessions in 2012: 19th session in March, 20th session in June and 21st session in September.

In March, DCI-IS contributed on juvenile justice and children and the administration of justice, in the omnibus resolution on the protection of the rights of the child, adopted by the HRC in the conclusion of the 19th session. The omnibus resolution pays particular attention to children and the administration of justice with no less than 19 paragraphs detailing measures to be taken to ensure the full realisation of the rights of children in conflict with the law.

DCI-IS staff attend the OP3 signing ceremony.

In the resolution, the HRC encourages States to develop and strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the area of juvenile justice and children deprived of liberty, as well as children of incarcerated parents, in order to develop and assess social policies and programmes so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively for the full realization of children's rights. In addition, the HRC calls upon states to take, as a matter of urgency, all appropriate measures to prevent violence against children perpetrated by the police, other law enforcement authorities and employees, and officials in detention centres.

Also during the 19th session of the HRC, DCI-IS participated in the official UN signing of the new third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP3 CRC). The OP3 CRC is an international human rights treaty that allows children to approach the UN-CRC if their rights were violated in their country, and also permits interested parties the opportunity to provide information on child rights violations. Twenty States from across the world signed the protocol at the opening signing ceremony (28 February 2012): Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and

Uruguay. In order for the States to be bound by the protocol's provisions, signatories need to ratify OP3 CRC. The new protocol will enter into force after the tenth ratification. In addition to participating in the OP3 CRC signing ceremony, DCI-IS became an official member of the International Coalition for OP3 CRC.

Presenting local voices at an international level

In addition as part of the March training for its national sections, DCI submitted two written statements, presented respectively by DCI-Palestine and DCI-Benin, and four oral statements, presented by DCI-Costa Rica, DCI-Canada, DCI-Australia, and DCI-Sierra Leone. The oral statements addressed the issues of public security and deprivation of liberty, pre-trail detention, conditions of detention and the detention of migrant children.

In their written statement to the HRC, drafted with the support of DCI-IS, DCI-Benin emphasized the importance of sensitizing the population, children themselves, and actors in the juvenile justice system in non-violence towards children. DCI-Benin encouraged education as an approach and highlighted the importance of providing children in conflict with the law with adequate legal assistance.

DCI-Australia also delivered an oral statement to the HRC as a result of DCI-IS coordination efforts.

With the support of DCI-IS, DCI-Palestine submitted a written statement to the HRC in which it brought attention to the situation of mistreatment and torture Palestinian children face when prosecuted in the military court system. DCI-Palestine recommended to the HRC that children should not be prosecuted in military courts which lack comprehensive fair trial and juvenile justice standards, and the need for minimum safeguards to be established, such as legal representation for a child.

In their oral statement delivered at the HRC with the assistance of DCI-IS, DCI-Costa Rica spoke about the serious problem of overcrowding in juvenile detention centres in Central America, particularly Costa Rica; the increased use of prison sentencing for children; and the subsequent increase of violence within establishments. DCI-Costa Rica deplored the severe negative effects that violence and overcrowding has on social work, education, health and recreational programs within detention centres.

Through DCI-IS, DCI-Canada delivered its oral statement to the HRC citing the numerous failures of the Canadian government in implementing the CRC to which it is a signatory. DCI-Canada highlighted the issue of child poverty, the abysmal living conditions of the nation's aboriginal children, and its treatment of children in conflict with the law. DCI-Canada offered the example of the Canadian government's "tough on youth crime" agenda that escalates an atmosphere of fear, and demonizes Canada's most vulnerable young people: the poor, visible minorities and the nation's aboriginal youth.

DCI-Australia also delivered an oral statement to the HRC as a result of DCI-IS coordination efforts. In their statement, DCI-Australia reiterated the far from ideal childhood the Australian government provides for many disadvantaged groups including Aboriginal children, children from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and children requiring out-of-home care, and recommended that the State integrate the CRC into its legislative framework, pay more attention to the clear links between childhood abuse and neglect and involvement in juvenile offending, and provide timely and appropriate responses to the needs of children and young people.

With the support of DCI-IS, DCI-Sierra Leone delivered an oral statement to the HRC drawing attention to the common practice of arbitrary detention of children with adults and in appalling conditions with poor sanitation, frequent shortage of food, and lack of education and health facilities where children become potential victims of poor physical and psychological childhood development, and see their fundamental human rights violated. DCI-Sierra Leone noted the provision of social services for children in detention is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, which is one of the least funded ministries in the country, and advised the HRC to pay particular attention to juvenile justice issues when reviewing the next Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report from Sierra Leone.

At the HRC's 20th session in June, DCI-IS presented a statement on behalf of DCI-Palestine, during

the interactive dialogue following the report from the UN SR on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories. In the statement presented by DCI-IS, DCI-Palestine deplore the prosecution and ill-treatment of children in Israel's military court system. DCI-IS equally participated and advocated justice for children as a priority in the HRC's final session of the year in September. At the 21st session, DCI-IS presented a statement on behalf of DCI-Palestine to the Secretary-General's report on the follow up to the Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. In the statement delivered by DCI-IS, DCI-Palestine raise their concerns over the detention of children who are fishing off the coast of Gaza by Israeli authorities.

Interacting with the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee against Torture on juvenile justice

From 21 May to 1 June and 22 October to 5 November, the HRC convened its 13th and 14th sessions of the UPR in Geneva. DCI-IS took the opportunity of UPR's unique State-driven process, which reviews the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States, to address the situation of juvenile justice.

During the UPR 13th session, DCI-IS attended and informed its national sections which were under review – Ecuador, Brazil and the Netherlands – and lobbied, in coordination with Plan international for certain recommendations to be put forward by the UN Permanent Missions present in Geneva. DCI-IS supported Plan International in the preparation of documents highlighting child rights recommendations for the UPR of Ecuador on topics such as the minimum age for criminal responsibility and violence against children.

We are dealing with people who are vulnerable on account of their age and level of maturity.

Similarly, at the 14th session, DCI-IS followed the proceedings and informed its national sections which were under review: Czech Republic, Argentina, Ghana, Switzerland, Pakistan and Benin. DCI-IS noted the following recommendations made by intervening countries the aforementioned countries: Ghana and Czech Republic were asked to ratify the optional protocols to the UNCRC; Benin and Ghana were urged to improve their detention conditions; the issue of corporal punishments was raised for Argentina, Ghana and Czech Republic; and Benin and Ghana were advised to focus more attention on child trafficking.

In a joint written submission with Franciscans International (FI) and OMCT on the UPR of Benin, DCI-IS stated that a strict policy of systematically locking up children who have committed unlawful acts had been applied in the country between 2008–2012. With regard to conditions in closed educational facilities and in juvenile detention centres, DCI-IS recommended that the government of Benin increase its compliance with article 37 of the CRC, which states that deprivation of liberty should be used only as a measure of last resort. In order for it to do so, it would have to modify a number of recently introduced provisions, such as those establishing minimum sentences for juvenile repeat offenders. In this respect, DCI-IS welcomed the adoption of the report of the UPR and the commitments made by the government of Benin, and encouraged the government to take concrete action on the issues raised concerning juvenile justice. DCI-IS also supported DCI-Benin in a written submission to the UPR.

Within the two sessions the Committee against Torture (CAT) holds annually, States party to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Torture Convention) are due to submit regular reports to CAT on how human rights are being implemented in their country. Committed to assessing UN human rights mechanisms relevant to our national sections, DCI-IS followed the 48th and 49th session (7 May to 1 June 29 and October to 23 November) convened by CAT. DCI-IS reported to its nationals sections from the Czech Republic and Canada, under review at the 48th session, and Mexico, Senegal and Togo, under review at the 49th session. At both sessions, DCI-IS observed the following child rights

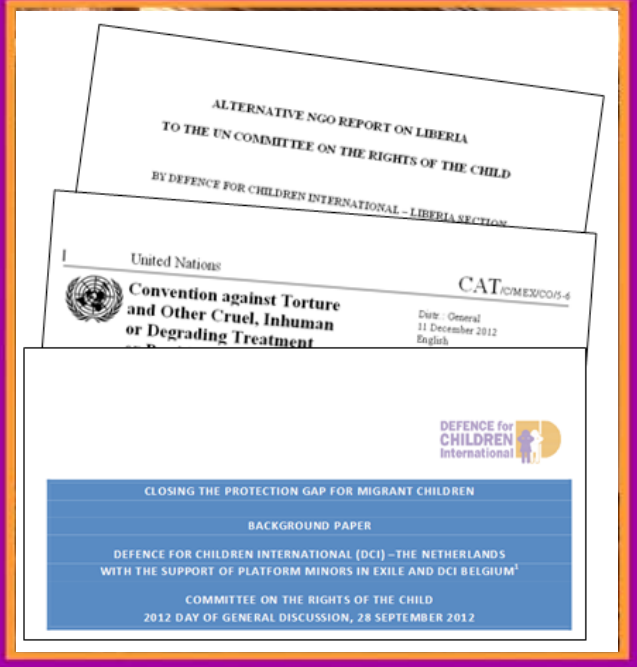
themes: the explicit legal prohibition of corporal punishments against children, child trafficking and the protection of juveniles in conflict with the law.

At the CAT's 49th session, DCI-IS noted recommendations from the Committee to Senegal included following very closely the situation of Koranic school children ("Talibé children") in order to protect them against corporal punishments; and the establishment of a national juvenile justice system according to the CRC and other international provisions. Regarding Mexico, CAT urged the government to progress in the establishment of a comprehensive juvenile justice system at all the levels. As for Togo, the Committee advised the country to revise its national Family Code in order to prohibit and penalize all forms of corporal punishments.

Engagement with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning juvenile justice

In its continuous efforts to monitor the CRC, DCI-IS followed the 59th, 60th and 61st sessions of the UNCRC in Geneva in January, June and September. In its three sessions, a body of independent experts monitored the implementation of the CRC and its two optional protocols to the CRC, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by its State parties.

At the 59th session, DCI-IS attended the review of Togo. DCI-IS noted the UNCRC's findings and recommendations to the government of Togo with regards to juvenile justice in the country. The UNCRC expressed its deep concern that children in conflict with the law in Togo are often placed in detention with adults and regularly subjected to beatings and ill-treatment by prison officials, and urged the State to take immediate action to remove children from adult detention facilities. The Committee also urged Togo to establish a child-sensitive mechanism to receive complaints against law enforcement officers; to ensure that criminal legal proceedings are systematically engaged against perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment of children and that they are provided with penalties commensurate to their crimes; to systematically train police officers, prison staff and other authorities on human rights of children; and ensure



A selection of reports analyzed and submitted by DCI-IS to human rights mechanism bodies.

physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims of such ill-treatment.

At the CRC's 60th session, DCI-IS followed the review of Australia on the CRC and its Optional Protocols. DCI-IS noted and shared the UNCRC's concern that the principle of the best interests of the child is not widely known in Australia or appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and in policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children, particularly for children in asylum-seeking, refugee and/or immigration detention situations. DCI-IS also noted the Committee's encouragement to the Australian government to seek alternatives to detention for children, and to take all appropriate measures to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in homes, in public and private schools, detention centres and alternative care settings, including expeditiously establishing an accessible and effective mechanism for investigating and addressing cases of abuse within its youth detention centres.

During the 61st session of the UNCRC, DCI-IS attended the review of its national sections of Liberia and Canada. With the support of the NGO Group for the CRC, DCI-Liberia submitted an alternative NGO report to the UNCRC and was also present at the session representing the Liberia Child Rights NGO Coalition (LCRNC).

In its report, DCI-Liberia focused on the protection measures of the CRC, with a special focus on children's rights in juvenile justice, and the involvement of children in armed conflict; and basic health and welfare, with a special focus on harmful traditional practices. DCI-IS also assisted DCI-Liberia to hold a private meeting with the Rapporteur of the UNCRC, Ms Agnes Aidoo.

Moreover, DCI-IS actively participated in the 2012 Day of General Discussion (DGD) of the UNCRC, held during the 61st session. The topic for the 2012 DGD was "the rights of all children in the context of international migration." In lieu of the DGD, DCI-IS submitted to the discussions material from DCI-Belgium, DCI-Netherlands and DCI Costa-Rica – through a Central American platform, on the situation of migrant children with recommendations on how to close the protection gap for these children.

Campaigning for the Committee on the Rights of the Child membership elections

During and in between the UNCRC sessions, DCI-IS campaigned strongly for candidates who have worked with DCI and share the Movement's priority to put justice for children high on the international agenda. Sixteen candidates of high moral standing and competence in the field of the UNCRC were nominated for the elections this year. At the 14th meeting of States parties to the CRC in New York on 18 December 2012, States appointed Ms Renate Winter from Austria, Mr Benyam Dawit Mezmur from Ethiopia, Ms Sara De Jesus Oviedo Fierro from Ecuador, Mr Peter Guran from Slovakia, Ms Amal Aldoseri from Bahrain, Mr Wanderlino Nogueira Neto from Brazil, Ms Maria Rita Parsi from Italy, Ms Yasmeen Muhamad Shariff from Malaysia, and Ms Olga A. Khazova from Russia to the UNCRC. The newly elected nine Members of the UNCRC will fill vacancies that will expire on 28 February 2013. DCI-IS looks forward to working together with these experts to ensure on-going, practical, systematic and concerted global action towards promoting and protecting children's rights as articulated by the CRC.

Enhancing social and political awareness for action on child rights violations, current issues in justice for children, and children's rights work

In addition to position statements made at the HRC and organizing events on crucial issues in children's rights and juvenile justice lacking visibility, DCI-IS raised awareness through advocacy initiatives such as newsletters, publications, website and social media, and other round tables, conferences, and events. DCI-IS found the inititiative particularly important considering the next DGD of the UNCRC (2014) will be on the issue of "Media, Social Networks and the Rights of the Child"

Newsletters

In its continued efforts for greater social and political awareness and lobbying for action on child rights violations and current issues in justice for children, DCI-IS produced and disseminated its bi-monthly organizational newsletters -the DCI Newsletter and the Juvenile Justice Newsletter- in the Movement's 3 official languages: French, Spanish and English. The DCI Newsletter was published in May, August, October, and December of 2012. The Juvenile Justice Newsletter was published in March, July, September, and November of 2012. DCI-IS took the decision in June to make the DCI Newsletter open to the broader public, which before August 2012 had been circulated within the Movement. Also at the beginning of the year, DCI-IS decided to devote a section of the DCI Newsletter to focusing on one national section's past and present work in children's rights. The section is called 'Focus' and DCI-IS will be going through each national section alphabetically. DCI-IS has included four sections in the DCI Newsletter: Focus, Latest from the Secretariat, National Sections News and Upcoming Events.

DCI-IS took the decision in June to make the DCI Newsletter open to the broader public, which before August 2012 had been circulated within the Movement.

In the first DCI Newsletter issue of 2012 (March-April), news from DCI-IS included the IGA held in Geneva, the newly elected IEC members, the Annual meeting of MMI- CLAC, a Representative of DCI-Palestine at a UN International Meeting, DCI-IS and WG/CAV, and a side-event on the Kampala Conference. The focus of the first issue was on DCI-Angola, and news from the national sections included: DCI-Belgium publishing a guide on 'Defending Children's Rights in Europe: A Practical Guide' in collaboration with Dynamo International and the European Commission PROGRESS Programme, the launch of DCI-Cote d'Ivoire's "AFLATOUN" program -supported by Citibank- which introduces civic and moral education within the pre- and primary schools of the Cote d'Ivoire, a new DCI- Palestine report on the recruitment of children in armed conflict and the section's Annual General Assembly (AGA), the launch of DCI-Zimbabwe's new website and Facebook page, and information about DCI-Uruguay's new website.

In the August issue of the DCI Newsletter, DCI-IS wrote in its latest news from the Secretariat the main highlights of the HRC 20th session, DCI-IS joining the coalition for OP3 CRC, Ms Zerrougui's appointment as the new United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG/CAC), the state of children in war-torn Syria,

and the HRC urging States to protect child migrants. Following alphabetically, the August DCI Newsletter Focus was on DCI-Argentina. For its national section news, DCI-IS featured the DCI Latin America Regional Meeting, DCI-Sierra Leone's pilot new cost effective initiative for reintegration of child offenders, DCI-Costa Rica engaging adolescents in community art workshops, DCI-Australia joining the Steering Committee of Australian Child Rights Taskforce, DCI-Mauritius' busy past couple of months, and Forbes ranking DCI-Palestine among most transparent charities. Also in the issue, DCI-IS highlighted a number of upcoming events in children's rights and juvenile justice, some of which DCI-IS was organizing such as the photographic exhibition at the HRC 21st session on children in detention with the IPJJ and support of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN and OHCHR, and the side-event on "The Protection of the Human Rights of Children Deprived of their Liberty: A Worldwide Perspective", organized with the IPJJ.

Samples of DCI-IS newsletters.

In the October issue's latest news from the Secretariat, DCI-IS featured a biography of Father Jorge Vila Despujol – one of the founders of the Movement – who had recently passed away, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between ACPF and DCI, highlights of the HRC 21st Session, a review of Liberia and Canada during the 61st session of the UNCRC, and the first UN International Day of the Girl Child. In the October issue's national sections news, DCI-IS wrote about DCI-France's concern with the situation of Roma families, DCI-Costa Rica mapping violence against children, DCI-Canada raising the plight of migrant children in the media, and a welcome to new national section representatives in Latin America. The October issue's Focus section was on DCI-Australia. Also in the issue, DCI-IS highlighted a number of upcoming events in children's rights and juvenile justice including events DCI-IS helped organize with IJJO and UNODC such as the Congress on 'Children and violence in juvenile justice– the current situation, prevention and response mechanisms: the Latin American experience' in Paraguay, and the DCI MENA Regional Workshop on Juvenile Justice.

In the DCI Newsletter December issue's latest news from the Secretariat, DCI-IS featured an introduction to new sections in the Movement, DCI's second MENA Regional Workshop on Juvenile Justice, the UNCRC newly elected members that DCI had lobbied for, children's rights at CAT and the UPR and at the Universal Periodic Review, and the newly elected ACPF Chairperson's call for a Child-Friendly Africa. In the December issue's national sections news, DCI-IS wrote about DCI-Netherlands campaign success that led to Dutch government issuing a Children's Pardon, DCI-Zimbabwe's assessment of Zimbabwe's child labour situation, DCI-Ghana's implementation of a child right's education project, and DCI-Japan's post earthquake and Fukushima activities. The December issue's Focus was on DCI-Belgium. Upcoming events in the December issue included the HRC 22nd session and the UPR 15th session.

In the Juvenile Justice Newsletter, DCI-IS has an Expert Corner containing articles and opinions pieces from experts in the field of juvenile justice, and a section in which it shares news from its national sections working on juvenile justice, as well as a selection of top news in juvenile justice and a section in which it shares news from its national sections working on juvenile justice, as well as a selection of top news in juvenile justice globally. In the March issue of the Juvenile Justice Newsletter, DCI-IS featured the week at the HRC 19th session of children's rights in juvenile justice, the statements made by national

section members participating in the March training, and two new reports, 'Bound, Blindfolded and Convicted: Children held in military detention' by DCI-Palestine – the culmination of four years of hard work by DCI supported by the European Union (EU), and 'Spending a "couple of nights" in a police cell: the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and custody in police cells' by DCI-the Netherlands – based on extensive research conducted by the section.

In the July issue of the Newsletter, DCI-IS published articles on juvenile justice at the UPR 13th session, DCI-Bolivia's work towards a specialized juvenile justice system, a selection of the top global headlines in juvenile justice: Turkmenistan adopting a national juvenile justice programme, the falling youth court cases in Canada, juvenile reformatories in Japan being ordered to prevent escapes, as well as two articles from experts in the juvenile justice field: Ms Mary Beloff, 'What about juvenile criminal justice responsibility in Latin America', and Mr Bruce Abramson, 'the misuse of minimum age of criminal responsibility'.

In the September issue, DCI-IS wrote for its national section news about DCI-Niger's project educating minors deprived of liberty, the latest effort of DCI-Liberia in juvenile justice, a TV interview with a member of DCI-Palestine on its recent report about children detained in military prisons, an open letter DCI-Costa Rica and other NGOs sent to the President of Costa Rica on serious overcrowding at a juvenile detention centre. In its top news section, DCI-IS wrote about the side-event held by the IPJJ during the HRC's 21st session, the Exhibition "MINEURS EN PEINES" (Minors Behind Bars) co-organised by the DCI-IS with the IPJJ and OHCHR, a 'Ten-Point Plan for Fair and Effective Criminal Justice for Children' elaborated by the IPJJ and Penal Reform International (PRI), and a commitment letter from the Chair of ACERWC welcoming and confirming the endorsement of the 'Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice System in Africa' by the AU. For its September issue's Expert Corner, DCI-IS had an article from Mr Benoit Van Keirsbilck, 'Let's stop trivialising imprisonment', and Mr Bernard Boëton, 'the common pursuit of organized crimes against children'.

In the November issue, DCI-IS published articles on DCI-Italy's "TOM TOM" juvenile justice project, DCI's participation in the 5th Biennial International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) Conference where it discussed juvenile justice in Africa, DCI-Mauritius Child Helpline initiative, and the following selection of top global headlines: ACPF Director Wins Juvenile Justice Award, Budget cuts threaten US juvenile justice system , Strict policies and serious injuries in Australian child detention centres, and a High-level Discussion on Ensuring Dignity during Detention held in Geneva. For the November issue's expert corner, DCI-IS presented articles from Ms Rosa Maria Achá, 'Juvenile justice systems in Latin America: citizen security versus a rights approach', and Mr Juan Fumeiro, 'A comprehensive approach to a multifaceted problem'.

Publications

DCI publications in 2012 included the following:

- *'Achieving Child Justice in Africa'*
- *'Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice System in Africa'*
- *'The Kampala Conference Report'*
- *'The Munyonyo Declaration on Child Justice in Africa'*
- *An InCo report on 'Violating children's rights: harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition'*
- *'Training Session on Juvenile Justice', a report of its training session held in March – available in French*
- *'Children, the indirect victims of violence against women' , on the parallel event to the HRC session in June*

In addition to the above reports and papers, DCI-IS produced the following:

- *a brochure introducing the public to the Movement's work*
- *an 8-page reader-friendly set of Fact Sheets of DCI-IS Strategic Plan of Action for further public awareness-raising on the current achievements of the organisation and the goals it would like to achieve in the future*
- *a press release and fact sheet for the Kampala Conference*
- *a brochure summarising the report by the InCo, 'Violating children's rights: harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition'*

Website and social media

DCI-IS has used online media industriously in 2012 as a forum to raise social and political awareness about the Movement's individual and collective activities, particularly important considering the next DGD of the UNCRC (2014) will be on the issue of "Media, Social Networks and the Rights of the Child". DCI-IS enhanced its website layout and content with interactive items such as videos, to increase our supporters user experience. DCI-IS updated its website regularly with latest news and events such as Human Rights Day, CRC elections, etc. DCI-IS focused on using Facebook and Twitter to keep our audience up-to-date with the latest human rights events and other activities such as CAT, UPR and CRC sessions taking place in Geneva. In addition, DCI-IS researched, selected and shared on its social media networking sites the latest pertinent information in juvenile justice and children's rights concerning the Movement. Moreover, DCI-IS engaged with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Online Volunteers for translations and graphic design work on the DCI logo – producing vectors, and high quality versions that all national sections can use in their communications work.

DCI-IS enhanced its website layout and content with interactive items such as videos, to increase our supporters user experience.

Round tables, conferences, and events on current issues in justice for children

In April, DCI's vice-president for Latin America Mr Juan Fumeiro attended the meeting MMI-CLAC in Panama. MMI-CLAC is a coalition of key organisations and civil society networks such as UNICEF and the Latin-American Children's Institute, inter alia. DCI is one of the independent regional platforms of the MMI-CLAC. At the meeting DCI had the opportunity to exchange with representatives of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the UNCRC, and the SRSG/VAC, among other distinguished participants. The main purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the results of the previously approved Strategic Plan; make the necessary adjustments for the time frame 2012-2015; and elect a new Secretary. The MMI-CLAC evaluated the importance of continuing to participate in impact areas such as the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR), which work for the economic and social integration of the Latin American region. Adjustments noted by DCI that were approved by MMI-CLAC in the meeting for the time frame 2012-2015, was the debated issue of juvenile justice, taking into consideration the hard line proposals of States, such as the lowering of current standards within the region (i.e. reducing the minimum age of criminal responsibility – which has occurred in Ecuador, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay, inter alia). MMI-CLAC agreed to improve the monitoring of the national and regional issues in order to enable actions to be organised, economise efforts and take effective action.

In May, DCI-IS hosted a masters course from the University of Leiden, giving a presentation on the work of the movement, particularly the role of DCI-IS and how it works within the UN human rights mechanisms, also highlighting the children's rights work of the different national sections. In June, DCI-IS participated in the International Seminar dedicated to Janusz Korczak in Geneva to which the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) chair and Polish Ombudsman for Children, Mr. Marek Michalak took part. DCI-IS was also involved in the final Conference in Belgium of the European Project "Minor Rights" organised by Save the Children Italy on 'Access to Justice for Children at Risk of Social Exclusion'. Then in November, DCI-IS took part in a Career Day event at the University of Geneva. At the Career Day event, DCI-IS introduced participants to the world of children's rights and juvenile justice and promoted the work of the Movement.

Also in November, DCI-IS took part, with other national section members of DCI, as panellists in the 5th Biennial IJJO Conference on 'Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World' held in the United Kingdom. DCI-IS was a panellist of a workshop session

focused on youth justice and juvenile crime prevention in Africa, and specifically on how to develop and support integrative action lines. Other DCI representatives on the panel included the DCI President, the DCI Vice President Africa, and the Executive Director of ACPF – DCI's partner organization. In their explanation of the 'child-friendly justice' concept, DCI representatives acknowledged the vast majority of governments reluctance to adapt their justice systems to the younger citizens of their society, and the challenges in convincing decision-makers of the necessary social need to do so. DCI representatives demonstrated how guidelines for child-friendly justice are extremely useful in diverting children away from judicial process, concretely respecting the rights of the child, and allowing children themselves a degree of responsibility. DCI representatives highlighted the case of Africa and the continent's dual justice systems: both formal and traditional, which contain legislative gaps when dealing with children in conflict with the law, and the urgency for the continent to implement child-friendly guidelines, as concluded at the 2011 Kampala Conference.

Later in November, DCI held its second MENA Regional Workshop on Juvenile Justice in Jordan. DCI-IS co-organised the Workshop with DCI-Palestine and the Jordanian Women's Union Association in order to enhance the protection mechanisms for children in conflict with the law and create a network of organisations working in the field of child justice within the Arab World and support community service organizations (CSOs) and children in MENA region in their role as advocates and active development partners for the rights of the child. Representatives of different organisations who attended the workshop came from across the MENA region: Association Bayti from Morocco, Democracy School/DCI-Yemen from Yemen, Child Rights Institute/DCI-Sudan from Sudan, Association Tunisienne des Droits de l'Enfant from Tunisia, DCI-Lebanon from Lebanon, Egyptian Association for the Assistance of Juveniles and Human Rights from Egypt/DCI-Egypt from Egypt, Organisation of Volunteer Lawyers from Libya, the Jordanian Women's Union Association from Jordan, a representative from the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) Middle East (as observer) and a representative of the civil society of Dubai.

At the Workshop, participants discussed priorities on juvenile justice in the MENA region and sought possibilities for future joint activities at the regional level. The exchange was enriched by the presence of DCI regional representatives from Latin America, and Africa enriched discussions at the Workshop by sharing their experiences in running similar joint activities at regional level. The workshop marked the beginning of concrete engagement from the different actors, to join forces at improving juvenile justice systems in their respective countries and particularly to have justice for children respectful of the CRC and other international relevant standards.

DCI-IS and DCI-Palestine with participants at the MENA Regional Workshop on Juvenile Justice in Jordan.

In December, DCI-IS and DCI-Paraguay organised an international congress in Paraguay on "Adolescents and violence in juvenile justice systems: current situation, prevention and response mechanisms: the Latin American experience". The event was organised in collaboration with Fundación Diagrama, IJJO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the support of the Council of Andalucía. Key participants included prominent international, regional and local actors dealing with the juvenile justice system such as the SRSG/VAC, independent experts from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and UN Special Procedures' mandate holders such as the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), UNCRC members, among others. The Congress aimed to advance a common strategy to ensure concrete and effective implementation of monitoring and response mechanisms, and international standards to ensure the full protection of children and adolescents who are victims of institutional violence in Latin America's juvenile justice systems.

With DCI-Paraguay, DCI-IS organized panels, debates

A lively panel at the international congress in Paraguay on "Adolescents and violence in juvenile justice systems: current situation, prevention and response mechanisms: the Latin American experience", co-organized by DCI-IS, DCI-Paraguay and partners.

and roundtables discussing strategies and recommendations for the prevention of criminalization and penalization of children; the protection of children from all forms of violence within the juvenile justice system; social exclusion and drug consumption as factors for children to get involved in the justice system; and diversion and alternatives to detention. Additionally, DCI-IS and DCI-Paraguay organised Working Groups in the Congress, which discussed the following four key topics: Law, politics and reality - how to proceed and advance the best interests of the child; What actions should be taken to protect and promote adolescent victims of institutional violence in Juvenile Justice?; Implementation phase - the exception is the rule: What to do with the custody and non-custodial sentences; and the prevention of violence, how to practice, effectively, the recommendations of the expert consultation? During the Congress in order to demonstrate good practice and successful experiences, DCI-Paraguay organised the dissemination of the results of its project on "Comprehensive care for female adolescents in conflict with the law, and children and adolescents as deprived of their family environment in Paraguay".

In the conclusions drawn from the Congress, DCI-IS noted the lack of visibility and acknowledgement given to the serious issue of violence against children in institutional settings, and the pressing need to ratify, and concretely and coordinately implement international human rights instruments preventing such acts of violence, namely, the Torture Convention and its Optional Protocol. For 2013, DCI-IS published a Special Newsletter and a comprehensive report on the salient points, conclusions and recommendations of the Congress.

Strategic partnerships for stronger public promotion of child-friendly justice

African Child Policy Forum

In October, DCI-IS announced the signing of a MOU between ACPF and DCI. Signed in the presence of the DCI-IS Executive Director, the DCI President, DCI Treasurer, DCI Vice President Africa and the ACPF Executive Director, the MOU concretizes the long standing relationship between the two organizations into a strategic partnership aimed at advancing both organisations' work, in advocating for children's rights and in causing positive change in the lives of children. A meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on October 1st and 2nd to discuss the partnership modalities. ACPF and DCI agreed to continue to work together building on each other's comparative advantage and ensuring effective coordination and sustainability of efforts to protect and promote child justice in Africa. In addition to the follow-up activities to the 2011 Kampala Conference on Child Justice, ACPF and DCI have planned to work together on joint research projects, international and regional advocacy strategies as well as exchange of information. DCI and ACPF agreed that DCI will represent ACPF at key official meetings at Child Rights Connect (formerly the NGO Group to the CRC), as well as other intergovernmental meetings, such as human rights bodies and permanent missions in Geneva. DCI and ACPF also agreed that ACPF will advocate at a pan-African level on key thematic issues that are of interest to both organisations.

Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice

As it is from its inception, DCI-IS continued to host the Secretariat of the IPJJ and cooperate as a member of its Steering Committee. In 2012, DCI-IS continued to work closely with the Secretariat and different Panel members in many occasions: organising events, and participating in conferences and meetings. In April, DCI-IS attended the IPJJ 2012 Annual Meeting in Vienna, Austria, which brought together IPJJ members to define the Panel's strategic priorities for the upcoming year, share information, pool members' capacities and resources and discuss a wide range of issues, including the provision of technical assistance and common actions. DCI-IS and other Panel members reaffirmed the importance of the IPJJ as both an international coordination organ on technical advice and a think tank on juvenile justice.

Furthermore during the HRC's September session,

IPJJ Coordinator discusses the photo exhibition on juvenile justice with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other human rights experts.

DCI-IS supported the IPJJ along with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN, in the preparation and presentation of a photographic exhibition on juvenile justice: "Mineurs en Peines "(Minors Behind Bars). The exhibition, which successfully took place in the Palais de Nations, Geneva, for the duration of the session, consisted of 40 images that were taken by photojournalist, Ms Lizzie Sadin, who specializes in human rights issues, specifically humanitarian and social issues. The photos were taken over an eight-year period on her field visits to several detention centres and remand homes in various countries throughout the world. The objective of this exhibit was to raise awareness about incarcerated children who are being violated of their basic human rights and to promote the implementation of children's rights in practice.

Besides events and meetings organised at the HRC and with members of OHCHR working in juvenile justice in 2012, the IPJJ pursued its technical assistance mandate and developed a range of tools and working papers on justice for children, which include: the "Ten-Point Plan for Fair and Effective Criminal Justice for Children", which was issued jointly with PRI; new translations available of the IPJJ 2011 publication "Criteria for the Design and Evaluation of Juvenile Justice Reform Programmes"; a "Fact sheet on Justice for Children" aimed at explaining the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Justice for Children, outlining strategies for a common UN approach to justice for children, which was endorsed by the IPJJ. The IPJJ has also strengthened its membership and welcomed a new member: CRIN.

Combatting Violence against Children

DCI-IS has been working extensively in the international field on the issue of violence against children through its role as international representative of DCI national sections, member of the International NGO Council on Violence against Children (InCo), and co-convenor of the Working Group on Children and Violence of the NGO Group (WG/CAV). DCI-IS is an active member of the InCo, which was created to support strong and effective follow-up to the 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children, and works closely with the SRSG/VAC to ensure civil society participation in the follow-up activities.

As a member of the InCo, DCI-IS Executive Director was invited by the SRSG/VAC to an Expert Consultation in January 2012 held in Vienna, Austria. The SRSG/VAC held the Expert Consultation as an outcome of HRC Resolution 18/12, adopted in September 2011, which also requested the elaboration of three reports: one by SRSG/VAC and two by the OHCHR based on prevention and violence in the justice system. DCI-IS found the Expert Consultation held in Vienna was extremely fruitful, and the draft documentation prepared by an expert consultant (Prof. Ann Skelton) prior to the Consultation, gave a solid ground to work from and a different dynamic to the discussion process, which was most appreciated and effective.

As a member of the InCo, DCI-IS Executive Director was invited by the SRSG/VAC to an Expert Consultation in January 2012 held in Vienna, Austria.

The Expert Consultation resulted in launching the construction of a toolkit for all stakeholders in juvenile justice systems, including States, which will advance the implementation of internationals standards and the eradication of violence against children. In addition, the SRSG/VAC presented the outcomes of the Expert Consultation to the HRC in March, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPJ) in Vienna – organized by UNODC in April, and to the General Assembly in New York in October. Apart from the DCI-IS Executive Director, DCI's presence at the Consultation included three experts coming from different regions (Europe, Latin America and Asia).

In addition to its role in the InCo, DCI-IS acts as co-convenor of the WG/CAV, a sub-group of the NGO Group. The Working Group performs as a platform for information-sharing and strategy work with respect to follow-up of the UN Study on Violence against Children (2006), working on the implementation of the recommendations in the UN Study through advocacy towards key players in Geneva, notably the UN, diplomatic missions and regional institutions, in collaboration with civil society organizations and networks. Specifically, the Working Group works closely with the SRSG/VAC and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRGSG/CAC), by putting forward suggestions, following the mandates agenda and coordinating actions.

As co-convenor of WG/CAV, DCI-IS organized many activities pertinent to its mandate to eradicate violence against children, such as the delivery of statements – SRSG/VAC report at the HRC 19th session, the execution of side events - 'Children, indirect victims of violence against women' at the HRC 20th session, informal meetings and documents shared with Special Procedure mandate holders – the UN SR on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and SRSG/CAAC, and UNCRC candidates. Furthermore, DCI-IS coordinated meetings with UN agencies such as ILO, OHCHR, inter alia, in order to consider strategic partnerships and collaborations.

DCI-IS presented both an oral and written statement on behalf of WG/CAV to the SRSG/VAC during the HRC's March session. In the statement, DCI-IS addressed issues pertinent to the 2012 Annual Day on the Rights of the Child theme 'children and administration of justice'. Specific topics that DCI-IS mentioned were:

Panellists at the side-event on 'Children, the Indirect Victims of Violence against Women', organized by DCI-IS as co-convenor of WG/CAV.

pre-trial detention, conditions within detention centres, inadmissible sentencing measures and immigration detention. On behalf of the WG/CAV, DCI-IS strongly encouraged the promotion and implementation of child-friendly justice systems.

During the HRC's June session and in light of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women report presentation, DCI-IS as convenor of WG/CAV organized a side-event on 'Children, the Indirect Victims of Violence against Women'. The Nordic Missions of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden officially sponsored the side event, held on 21 June. The event highlighted the lack of evidence on the impact on children who witness a parent or caregiver being subjected to violence, and emphasized the importance of focusing on these children – the 'forgotten' victims of violence.

DCI-IS found the topic of the side-event struck a chord with the audience and panellists, who were greatly interested. DCI-IS learnt the high interest of the participants was due to a lack of data and material around the subject. As a follow-up to event and on behalf of WG/CAV, DCI-IS submitted a statement for the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, addressing the issues raised at the event. Additionally, DCI-IS produced a 36-page report highlighting key issues discussed during the event, to respond to the high interest demonstrated by participants and speakers involved in the subject matter which lacks research and visibility.

During the HRC's September session, DCI-IS presented a statement to the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. As a follow-up to the statement and as co-convenor of the WG/CAV, DCI-IS held a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to discover and plan future collaboration.

DCI-IS also prepared a brochure summarising the report by the InCo, 'Violating children's rights: harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition', published in October 2012.

Organizational changes in 2012

New sections bring new momentum to the movement

In the face of an economic crisis and continued human rights violations, defenders of the rights of children are on the rise. DCI-IS this year has had the pleasure to welcome five new national sections to the movement. The IEC provisionally accepted the candidatures from Burkina Faso, Spain, Sudan, USA and Yemen during its meeting held in Jordan in November. The decision to accept the five sections is provisional and must be formally approved at the next meeting of DCI's IGA, due to take place in 2016. DCI-Japan was also reinstated as a member at this meeting. Furthermore, during its IGA in March, the Movement accepted two national sections as definitive members: DCI-Liberia and DCI-Zimbabwe (formerly known as 'New Hope Foundation').

Farewell to a founding father

Father Jorge Vila Despujol sadly passed away in October. Since the beginning of his vocational mission as a Jesuit priest, Father Vila worked for human rights and particularly children's rights, and those of the more disadvantaged. Between 1973 and 1988, he was a member of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. In 1985, he founded in Cochabamba, with a small group of volunteers, the national section of DCI-Bolivia: an institution which is currently active in four departments of the country, and which promotes the vision established by its founder: "that children should enjoy and exercise their rights in a fair and responsible society." After 27 years of institutional work, concrete progress in the realization of children's rights in Bolivia is clearly visible. Notwithstanding, his efforts for the children of today and tomorrow will continue to be a commitment for his colleagues and friends of the international movement of DCI.

The late Father Jorge Vila Despujol advocating children's rights.

Regional Impact

Consolidating experiences, strengthening actions

"Two key developments I would like to highlight that DCI has made in Africa in 2012 is the formal adoption in July by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the Guidelines on child-friendly justice – an output of the 2011 Kampala Conference organized by DCI, and the signing in October of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCI and the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), concretizing our long standing relationship into a strategic partnership for all of DCI's African sections, and advancing our organizations' work as well as the work of others in advocating for children's rights and in causing positive change in the lives of children in Africa. The adoption of the Guidelines is a historic moment in African human rights and for the whole continent, as now African States have the tools to adapt their justice systems to the situation of children and hopefully decrease detention of children and their vulnerability to abuse, violence, and exploitation in these systems. As for the signing of the MOU – which I, the ACPF Executive Director, the President, and the International Secretariat Executive Director bore witness to – it is an exciting endeavour that guarantees a fruitful collaboration on follow-up activities to the Kampala Conference, joint research projects, international and regional advocacy strategies as well as exchange of information. DCI will also represent ACPF at key official meetings at the NGO Group in Geneva, as well as other intergovernmental meetings, such as the Human Rights bodies and mechanisms and permanent missions, while ACPF will advocate at a pan-African level on key thematic issues of interest to both organizations. "

Abdul Manaff Kemokai, Vice President Africa, DCI

"The adoption of the Guidelines is a historic moment in African human rights and for the whole continent, as now African States have the tools to adapt their justice systems to the situation of children and hopefully decrease detention of children and their vulnerability to abuse, violence, and exploitation in these systems."

"2012 has been a busy year for DCI in the Americas. Upon invitation in January, the DCI Americas Regional Programme on Juvenile Justice, together with a representation from the DCI-IS, DCI-Belgium and SPARC/DCI-Pakistan, participated in the Consultation of Experts convened by the SRSG/VAC in collaboration with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNODC in Vienna - Austria. During this consultation, the Regional Programme contributed with their experiences and proposals towards the preparation of a document entitled "Joint report of the OHCHR, UNODC and the SRSG/VAC on prevention of and responses to violence against child juvenile justice system", which was presented at 21st session of the HRC in September. The Regional Program runs in seven Latin American countries, and aims to promote and defend the rights of juveniles in conflict with the law. In July we had a meeting of the Regional Programme in Montevideo, Uruguay. The meeting was very positive and so was the seminar held in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child of Uruguay and OMCT on the situation of institutional violence in Uruguay. Assessment of the progress made at both the international and regional level, noting the need to strengthen this line of action in order to improve the situation of adolescents in juvenile penal systems in the region - which had a lot of echo in the national press. DCI's Americas Regional activities have been provided with efficient support from the President and the International Secretariat. In December, DCI-Paraguay and the International Secretariat, in collaboration with the IOJJ and UNODC held and International Congress on 'Children and Violence in Juvenile Justice – the current situation, prevention and response mechanisms: the Latin American experience', in Asuncion, Paraguay). The Congress has proved how effective collaboration between sections and the International Secretariat can make the difference in giving visibility and raising awareness on DCI's activities in juvenile justice."

Juan Pedro Fumeiro, Vice President Americas, DCI

"DCI's European Regional Programme is in much development. DCI is working on creating a more united region to better defend the rights of children living in Europe, and there have been several key points of the programme in 2012 that I would like to share. One highlight of the programme is DCI's support of the implementation of the Guidelines of the Council of Europe (CoE) on child friendly justice in Europe, which was adopted in 2010 by the CoE and includes contributions from DCI experts. DCI provided support through the training of national judges by the movement's president and DCI-Belgium president, Benoit van Keirsbilck. The training was executed on behalf of the Council of Europe, and presented an excellent way to come up with child friendly justice principles and tackle the issue properly. DCI has also created an important channel for European Regional Programme and its European national sections in the establishment of a promising link with the new European Commissioner for Children's Rights who welcomes external support."

Aloys Van Rest, Vice President Europe, DCI

"The Congress has proved how effective collaboration between sections and the International Secretariat can make the difference in giving visibility and raising awareness on DCI's activities in juvenile justice."

"DCI extended its work in the region in 2012. From the 24th to the 27th of November 2012, DCI Palestine co-organised with the International Secretariat and the Jordanian Women's Union Association a Regional Workshop on Juvenile Justice in Jordan – the second workshop of its kind. Representatives attended this workshop from different organisations across the MENA region, namely Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Emirates, Yemen, and Palestine. The workshop had the aim of discussing priorities on juvenile justice in the MENA region and to seek possibilities for future joint activities at regional level, with the idea to create a regional juvenile justice programme. The exchange was enriched by the presence of different regional representatives from the DCI's IEC, particularly the vice-presidents from the regions, who shared their experience in running similar joint activities at regional level, particularly Latin America and Africa. With sound foundations, the IEC and DCI-Palestine appointed its Vice President Asia and Oceania (me) as the 'General Commissioner for the MENA Region', to start raising funds for the regional programme on juvenile justice in the region. DCI has also been keeping a keen eye on child rights violations in the region, and on Universal Children's Day in November, the IEC released a press statement in light of the recent military aggression on Gaza urging the global community to object and call for the immediate cease of the current illicit aggressions taking place against civilians, especially children."

Rifat Odeh Kassis, Vice President Asia and Oceania

National Impact

Children should enjoy and exercise their rights in a just and responsible society, whatever their nationality

National sections contribute to supporting the Movement by promoting the image of DCI in their respective countries and regions, and sharing useful information with the Secretariat in Geneva. Each of DCI's national sections and associated members work on child rights issues most directly relevant to their respective national contexts, ranging from the eradication of child labour, child trafficking and violence against children to advocacy for the rights of children in conflict areas and the promotion of child participation. Although, juvenile justice remains the overarching priority of the global DCI movement, with most of the national sections conducting activities in this field.

Angola

DCI-Angola is engaged in a constant battle to reaffirm children's dignity as a principle of democracy, in Angola. With most of its members working as volunteers and in order to have an effective impact, DCI-Angola has found solutions at the local level and cooperated with local institutions for an effective and concerted action. The section's projects in 2012 included the creation of a primary school in the outskirts of the capital, Sambizanga, which counts more than 600 students, and a theatre group which presents plays about children's rights. To increase the section's participation in the area of juvenile justice – a priority of the DCI, DCI-Angola launched in April the programme called "no kids behind bars" - a global DCI campaign that was initiated by DCI-the Netherlands in 2008. The overall goal of this programme is sharing and exchanging personal experience in the context of juvenile justice and juvenile delinquency. The expected result is the creation of four committees for juvenile delinquency in every municipality, town and district. As part of the programme, DCI-Angola cooperated with 10 churches, 5 schools and 3 associations. DCI-Angola organized a total of 8 meetings during 8 months from April to November and recorded a high level of participation of around 1500 people, 900 of which were men, and 600 women. In December, DCI-Angola evaluated its project and concluded plans for the committees for juvenile delinquency to be created. Partner institutions in its program included the Catholic church, Evangelical church of Angola, reformed church of Angola, Congregational church of Angola, Global Mission Church, Adventist church, Baptist convention, Bethel Church, the Salvation Army, Assemblies of God, primary school 317 Cacuaco, junior high schools, the National Institute for Child Support, local administration, and the police.

The story of an unaccompanied child in Pakistan

SPARC/DCI-Pakistan Drop in Centres (DICs) reunifies runaway children with their families, finding unaccompanied children at bus stops, rail way stations and shrines. In one case, SPARC/DCI-Pakistan was informed about a helpless 13-year-old girl by employees of a local hotel near the General Bus Stand. Staff brought the girl to a DIC, where she received initial counselling, before being handed over to the Child Protection Commission. The girl described to officials how she was forced to leave her house due to domestic abuse, and experienced sexually abused at the bus stand.

An illustration from DCI-Argentina's project on the right to education.

Argentina

In 2012, DCI-Argentina worked on juvenile justice, institutional violence, and cross-border issues, children who are victims of crime, participation and promotion of rights. In each of these fields, the section promoted projects and advocacy activities through workshops and seminars where it collected data and built indicators, provided comprehensive assistance, made public complaints, conducted legal/social counselling, training activities and exchanges on children's rights. DCI-Argentina developed the above activities by cooperating and co-financing with institutions such as ICCO/Kerk in Actie, European embassies, provincial and municipal governments, and UNICEF. One highlight of DCI-Argentina's activities in 2012 is a project for adolescents co-financed by the European Commission on the right to education and the building of citizenship. In collaboration with other national institutions, DCI-Argentina supported the project which ran from 2011-2012. At the end of the project, the first Open Doors for neighbourhood meetings of young people was organized in La Matanza province of Buenos Aires, the most populated district of the country with about 2 million residents. At the Open Doors meeting, participants discussed the following topics: the right to health care and identity, the right to live in non-violent societies, the right to learn and to work, the right to creativity, the right to sport and leisure, and the right to participate and to be heard. DCI-Argentina created working groups where adults cooperated together with young people. In every group, people engaged in artistic activities such as polymer painting, singing, and photography. DCI-Argentina also organized a space during the meeting where participants could exchange experiences with other groups, showing their artistic productions made in the workshops. Also as part of the workshop, participants painted a community mural and walked around the neighbour streets.

Australia

This year has been one of redevelopment and affirmation for DCI-Australia, where the section has made major achievements. Firstly, DCI-Australia re-established regular committee contact by teleconference to assess their progress and modify their plans as the year progressed. Secondly, the section developed a more practical and manageable banking system, with emphasis on internet banking and better interest returns. Thirdly, DCI-Australia contributed a donation to DCI-IS to reaffirm their commitment to the worldwide Movement. In addition, DCI-Australia supported their committee member Josh Fergeus to attend the IGA as its representative. In the process, the section strengthened its connection with DCI-IS and national section delegates, and derived more energy to encourage them to continue their work in Australia. Moreover, Committee members, Judy Cashmore and Fionn Skiotis visited Geneva on other occasions during the year, and met with DCI-IS. A final achievement of 2012 was DCI-Australia's revival of its newsletter 'Australian Children's Rights News' (ACRN), released after a gap of some years. The newsletter was very warmly received. DCI-Australia acknowledged that there is still much for the section to do. One of the priorities the section has set is to totally redevelop their website to make it both more informative and more useable, as it will be the primary interface to promote DCI-Australia's existence and gain more members and supporters and, in turn, more influence in Australia. The next priority, outlined by DCI-Australia, is to widen the membership and recruit new members with the aim to return to the earlier situation in which the section had representatives from every state and territory on its committee, together with "special skills" people.

Voices of Youth in Canada

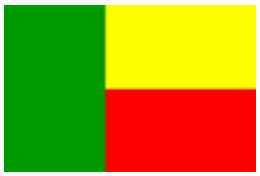
In November DCI-Canada held its annual lecture on the rights of children including a panel of youths who had experienced violence. The lecture was broadcast this year across Canada on national radio. The young panellists shared their compelling stories and dreams for the future. One young woman talked about her goal of becoming a judge and following the lecture a youth judge in the audience offered to mentor her. Another young panellist talked about following in his grandfather's footsteps to become a carpenter. A representative of the carpenters union heard the broadcast and offered to assist him with an apprenticeship.

With the support of DCI-Belgium a child meets with government officials to discuss children's rights.

Belgium

Following hard work, DCI-Belgium was officially recognised in May 2012 as an organisation in charge for education for adults in the field of children's rights by the French Community in Belgium. Under the recognition, DCI-Belgium has elaborated its main activities to include ten pedagogical tools aimed at raising awareness and providing educational tools on children's rights. Moreover, DCI-Belgium organised training and workshops on children's rights, including training sessions on child-friendly justice within EU institutions and CoE, such as the "Lisbon Network" which gathers all judicial training bodies in Europe. DCI-Belgium also co-organised with other renowned universities, NGOs and public institutions, a 'Caravan of children's rights' study trip across Europe to better understand the functioning of international and European institutions ensuring the monitoring of children's rights. Also as co-founder of the Interdisciplinary Centre on Children's Rights in Belgium, DCI-Belgium brought together several Belgian universities to organize its annual university certificate: "Interdisciplinary Approach on Children's Rights". Together with Dynamo International, DCI-Belgium edited and published a practical guide for street social workers to help them identify and respond when children's rights are being violated. Furthermore, DCI-Belgium undertook legal actions against the Belgian state regarding its partial implementation of children's rights according to the CRC. DCI-Belgium also supported several projects at the international level. In one of projects carried out in partnership with "International Day of African Child" (IDAY) –an NGO, DCI-Belgium addressed the right to education for minors deprived of liberty in Africa. Lastly, DCI-Belgium actively participated at several events and conferences on children's rights, both in Belgium and other countries. Regarding organisational changes, Benoit Van Keirsbilck officially became Director of DCI-Belgium from December 2012, and has been replaced by Madeleine Genot, now President of the section.

Benin



In 2012, DCI-Benin received computer equipment for implementing its activities from the Human Rights Office of the Ministry of Justice. In addition to receiving equipment from the Ministry, DCI-Benin participated in many activities and events at the ministerial level. The activities and events included sessions of the National Advisory Council for Human Rights, the national committee for monitoring international human rights reports – where DCI-Benin participated in the UPR report study, the session of the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, the National Steering Committee against Child Labour, activities for the International Day against Child Labour organized by the Director-General of Labour, activities of the Civil Society House for the Day of the African Child, and activities of the Office for Family, Children and Adolescents. DCI-Benin also contributed in a civil society capacity-building workshop drafting the Children's Code. In the context of its partnership and its membership with the Network of women's organizations in French-speaking Africa (RORAF), DCI-Benin obtained financial support for the realization of two projects: training women and girls in financial management; and fighting violence against woman through the promotion of peace. With RORAF, DCI-Benin organized the first project on International Women's Day. DCI-Benin learnt that the advices shared at the training allowed women to regain self-confidence for their self-development in order to care about their children and families. DCI-Benin also learnt of the Ministry of the Family's interest in replicating the project in other places. DCI-Benin organized their second project as a campaign theme: "from the peace in our homes to the peace in the world: stand up to militarism and stop violence against women". In the campaign, men and women were nominated as ambassadors for peace. About 172 people expressed their support to the campaign.

Intervening in an online bullying case in Mauritius

DCI Mauritius has in many cases provided legal assistance to children and adolescents who were victims of abuse by parents or at school. One particular challenging case that occurred in 2012 involved a complaint from a girl regarding abuse through Facebook by her boyfriend who was using a fake account to post intimate pictures and misleading and inappropriate messages. The abuse was causing substantial psychological damage to the girl in terms of her reputation, relation with friends and parents. Having a special arrangement with Facebook, DCI-Mauritius immediately requested the account to be closed and was glad to see that this was done within 15 minutes.

Bolivia

The work of DCI Bolivia in 2012 focused on two main points: promoting leadership and social participation of children and adolescents, and advocacy work establishing conditions to ensure the realization of human rights. DCI-Bolivia organized educational actions to promote the leading role and the participation of children in the departments of La Paz, Oruro and Cochabamba, in schools and neighbourhoods, by prioritizing three themes: prevention of violence, generational and gender equity, and organized participation and public presence of children. An important initiative, the section created Student Centres as a forum for dialogue and participation in schools. Concerning the promotion of leadership, Student Centres and Brigades of children made proposals and obtained small funding in order to implement initiatives in schools and communities promoting the realization of human rights. DCI-Bolivia focused its advocacy work on promoting the approval of two drafts: the law of the juvenile justice system (LJJS) and the Code on Childhood and Adolescence (CCA) The proposal of LJJS was submitted to the Multinational Legislative Assembly (MLA) and is still waiting to be discussed. About CCA, after having sought proposals from civil society, the Ministry of Justice engaged a firm, whose work turned out to be unsatisfactory. Until now there are two proposals: one made by the Ministry of Justice, the other supported by DCI-Bolivia and other institutions. Both are pending to be discussed in the MLA. DCI-Bolivia's main achievements in the everyday life of children in 2012 included promoting more democratic relationships between students and teachers, less violent parents, children who are participative and committed to their reality, authority with knowledge about childhood and adolescence, and a civil society more sensitive and committed to the leading role of children, better allied for an interrelationship with the government.

Using group activities to boost children's self-confidence, the story of Betty*

Betty is a 13-year old girl who had always been afraid to speak in public. During activities at school organized by the Organisation Assembly of Children in Cochabamba – who DCI-Bolivia works closely with, Betty would listen to the story of "the chained elephant" that with courage found its freedom, and hoped one day to improve herself. The opportunity came during a clean-up activity. Betty's teachers showed her a video where she could see herself at the activity talking with self-confidence. Applauded by others, Betty felt like the elephant that was released and tears of joy slid down her face. Like Betty, a lot of children are discovering the potential within them through group activities.

**Fictitious name given to keep her identity anonymous*

Adolescents at a workshop of National Networks for the Defense of Rights of the Child on Mega Events: World Cup.

Brazil

DCI-Brazil/ANCED's main activities in 2012 included leading Project RENADE – a national network seeking to protect and defend the human rights of adolescents, continuing the efforts of its Working Group of Outstanding Interventions, campaigning for the election of Mr Wanderlino Nogueira Neto as expert of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and participating actively in both national and international politics. In 2012, DCI-Brazil/ANCED, along with CEDECA Glória de Ivone from Tocantins (CEDECA/TO) state, took over the project the National Network in Defence of Adolescents in Conflict with the Law (RENADE) and held a workshop in Brasilia. Network members comprise of human rights' defenders, adolescents, activists and family movements involved with juvenile justice. Responsible for monitoring and reporting serious violations of children and adolescents' rights within the Brazilian juvenile justice system, DCI-Brazil/ANCED's Working Group of Outstanding Interventions participated in the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on Children and Adolescents' Extermination, monitored socio-educational units, and took forward strategic actions to prevent the reduction of the age of criminal responsibility from 18 to 16 in the Brazilian Penal Code. DCI-Brazil/ANCED was also active on the national political stage, and was involved with some of the major National Networks in Defence of Children and Adolescents' Human Rights in Brazil. The section worked on the proposal, coordination and monitoring of public policies and social mobilization, through the National Committee to Confront Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents, National Forum of Children and Adolescents Rights (Forum DCA), Brazil ECPAT Network and the National Forum for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour. On the international stage, DCI-Brazil/ANCED participated in Redlamyc - an international network where the section politically advocated for children and adolescents' human rights worldwide. Also in 2012, DCI-Brazil/ANCED became a member of the IEC.

Cameroon

Throughout 2012, DCI-Cameroon carried out activities improving the recognition of children's rights in Cameroon. In the area of child rights dissemination, DCI-Cameroon carried out two training sessions: one with 50 high school students from Yaoundé who were sensitized on how to engage as actors in their own protection and implementation of their rights; and the other for 45 local councillors. In its work in the administration of juvenile justice, DCI-Cameroon developed an intervention program with the 194 juvenile detainees in the central prison in Kondengui. The program involved organizing educational talks with detained juveniles and monitoring individual cases. In conjunction with the prison social service, eight cases were monitored and two talks were completed .The themes DCI-Cameroon discussed were "drug use among juvenile detainees at the prison Kondengui" and "what type of child for what future". DCI-Cameroon also supported children in primary and high schools. Through its activities, 1345 school children were familiarized with concepts in children's rights and experimented with participation. DCI-Cameroon also drafted the alternative report to the UPR, the part concerning child rights violations, with the support of Plan Cameroon and with the contributions of 32 organizations. In its partnership with SSI, DCI-Cameroon carries out social investigations at the request of branches and services in SSI. In 2012, DCI-Cameroon handled 6 cases and referred them to the relevant institutions. In 2012, DCI-Cameroon became a member of Child Helpline International (CHI). In its new role and in partnership with CHI and Plan Cameroon, DCI-Cameroon organized in September in Yaoundé an information-sharing workshop on child helplines with important stakeholders from government ministries, telecommunication companies, and CSOs. As a result, a task force representing each sector and coordinated by DCI-Cameroon was set-up to follow-up recommendations from the workshop.

Strengthening communities in Ghana to prevent violence

DCI-Ghana trained 10 Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in the Kumasi Metro and strengthened 4 LACs in the Obuasi Municipality to serve as Community child protection watch dogs to identify, intervene and refer cases of child rights violations and violence against girls and young women to the socio-legal centres and other appropriate agencies. DCI-Ghana's training resulted in the LACs managing cases of child abuse that came to their attention and referring 5 of the cases to the socio-legal centres.

A panel of youths share their experiences with violence at DCI-Canada's annual Grant Lowery lecture.

Canada

2012 represented a year of major changes for DCI-Canada. Les Horne, volunteer Executive Director of DCI-Canada and one of its founders, sadly passed away. DCI-Canada welcomed new Executive Director, Radha Soni, at the section's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Also at the AGM, DCI-Canada welcomed a group of young Muslim men who spoke about their efforts to mentor other Muslim youth, and work to foster better relations with the local police by initiating sports events between teams of police officers and local youths. In its continued efforts to advocate for young people involved in the juvenile justice system, DCI-Canada in February made a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, where it reminded the Committee of the promises made when Canada ratified the CRC, and documented its opposition to changes in the Youth Criminal Justice Act that would result in the imprisonment of a greater number of youth for longer sentences. DCI-Canada has also collaborated with other agencies and groups who deal with youth involved in the justice system with the goal of changing the public discourse on juvenile justice. DCI-Canada focused its annual Grant Lowery Lecture this year on youth justice. In its on-going deep concern about the number of Canadian-born children sent off to other countries when their parents fail in their refugee applications, DCI-Canada this year put forward a strong case based on the best interests of children and was successful in delaying a deportation order with a judicial direction to the immigration authorities to review their decision. Also in 2012, the section visited one of its partner projects with Girl Child Network in Uganda where it provide small loans and grants to assist girls and young women to learn skills that will enable them to support themselves and their children.

Indigenous children participate in DCI-Colombia's research on the situation of women, family and childhood in Mitú-Vaupés.

Colombia

In 2012 DCI-Colombia organised activities and conducted advocacy work focused on juvenile justice and indigenous children. In its activities on juvenile justice, DCI-Colombia promoted the use of non-custodial sanctions and alternatives to trial. The section followed-up the implementation of the System of Criminal Responsibility for Adolescents (SRPA), raising awareness about adolescence and insecurity, and together with OHCHR and other civil society organizations, DCI-Colombia denounced bills which could damage the rights of children in conflict with the penal law. The section also participated in several juvenile justice related events such as the regional event on adolescents and violence in juvenile justice systems held in Paraguay, and the international forum "towards the development of SRPA" with the Mayor of Bogota. In its activities on indigenous children, DCI-Colombia conducted research and published a report titled, "Daughters of the Sun in the Land of the Jaguars", on the situation of women, family and childhood in the municipality of Mitú-Vaupés. DCI-Colombia elaborated and published other communicative pieces related to the research with messages created together with children and women who participated in the project. Regarding its advocacy work within indigenous children, DCI-Colombia actively participated and contributed to a national forum on the integral protection of rural children and adolescents in Bogota, and a local forum on the protection of women, family and childhood. DCI-Colombia also took part in the Monitoring Table of the situation of indigenous children and adolescents in Colombia, and has continued its permanent participation and research and advocacy work in the Coalition against the involvement of children in armed conflict in Colombia (COALICO).

Child domestic workers prepare a workshop for adolescents of La Carpio Community in Costa Rica.

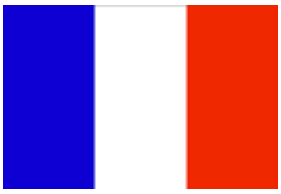
Costa Rica

In 2012, DCI-Costa Rica carried out thematic activities in its 2010-2016 Strategic Plan. Within its governance theme, DCI-Costa Rica advocated, monitored compliances and built strategic partnerships at the regional and international level with groups such as the sub regional platform on child and adolescent labour, and the Monitoring Forum for the Adolescents and Children's Code, among many others. Within the theme of education and social citizenship, DCI-Costa Rica developed an educational program for primary school teachers and children to improve their social skills and promote new strategies for approaching change and loss; and an informal process of learning with young women living in socially and economically marginalized contexts, where it promoted empowerment and teenage pregnancy prevention. Within its right to a life free of violence theme, DCI-Costa Rica have worked to prevent the tightening of juvenile justice systems through denouncing the overcrowding of the "Centro Juvenil" (Juvenile Centre), and making several proposals on issues affecting children and young people deprived of their liberty. DCI-Costa Rica also worked on a regional project on trafficking and sexual violence, where it coordinated training of local staff and direct care work with victims in Honduras and in Guatemala. Additionally using a community initiative and the "Mano Amiga" helpline, DCI-Costa completed prevention and training activities to reduce risk factors for children and their families involved in commercial sexual exploitation. DCI-Costa Rica continued its project for the protection of children against exploitation and child domestic labour. In 2012, the section promoted child participation and peer work, and lobbied for the ratification of 189 and for the compliance of rules and policies in the field of child labour. Finally, DCI-Costa Rica published numerous publications, monitored the media, drafted and disseminated open letters to denounce particular situations, and provided a group of young people journalism training.

Ecuador

During 2012, DCI-Ecuador focused its work on the issues affecting children in conflict with the law. Within the Regional Program on Juvenile Justice, DCI-Ecuador started operating the "Citizens Observatory on the Functioning of the Justice System Specialized for Children in Conflict with the Law in Ecuador". DCI-Ecuador drew up the first report of the Observatory on the legal situation of children in conflict with the law in the Metropolitan District of Quito. Furthermore, DCI-Ecuador carried out important advocacy work in relation to the proposal to reform the Fourth Book of Adolescence and Children's Code, currently under discussion in the National Assembly. The section cooperated with the Working Group on Juvenile Justice of the Metropolitan Council for Comprehensive Protection of Children in Quito. DCI-Ecuador's advocacy efforts resulted in the issue of children in conflict with the law remaining in the Adolescents and Children's Code and not passing to the Criminal Code. Through meetings and communications, DCI-Ecuador emphasized the need to avoid regressive measures in juvenile justice. Together with a group of CSOs, the section submitted an alternative proposal to the draft law to the National Assembly. Additionally, DCI-Ecuador continued implementing a project on HIV/AIDS prevention for children deprived of their liberty in the centres for young offenders in Ecuador. For many children in detention, the project was their first contact with appropriate information on HIV/AIDS. In 2012, DCI-Ecuador provided HIV/AIDS information to 1611 children in 11 detention centres, and coordinated HIV testing with results for 723 children and the dissemination of condoms for 1016 children discharged from the centres. Moreover, DCI-Ecuador contributed to the alternative report for the UPR, and under an agreement with the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence and Plan International, the section conducted an investigation at the national level on violence against children in families and schools.

France



For DCI-France, 2012 was a year marked by changes. The section renewed its office, and Sophie Graillat took over the role of DCI-France President from Jean-Pierre Rosenczveigt. DCI-France worked intensely on its national advocacy. The section revised a review of the "Policy act for the well-being of children", where it added new recommendations, and participated in major national consultations such as the consultation to "Rebuild the School of the Republic" – where DCI-France promoted an alternative approach to education. DCI-France has devoted a considerable amount of its time to the worrying situation of certain vulnerable groups of children – Roma children and children living in informal settlements, Unaccompanied Foreign Minors. DCI-France made several referrals for aid and assistance to support these children and their families in accessing their basic rights. Additionally, DCI-France worked on activities with children and their families for the equal promotion of "democratic" relationships in the private sphere of the family through CAP-Participation – the section's department on Guidance, Support & Promotion participatory projects. In November, DCI-France

Roma children engage in art and recreational activities, co-organized and supported by DCI-France and its partners.

DCI-Ghana train professionals in Kumasi Metropolis Municipality on child protection and other child rights issues.

conducted a study day on the theme, "children, their rights and territories", based on research on the coherence between policies carried out by different powerful public actors on different territories. At the international level, DCI-France participated on an assessment on the issues of children's health in France, in the context of the OHCHR Study on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, and worked on a submission for the second UPR of France.

Ghana

DCI-Ghana engaged in many diverse activities in 2012. The section provided capacity building and awareness-raising for children and young women through training and strengthening of 31 child rights clubs of 2110 memberships, which included media messages, and training and life planning skills sessions. DCI-Ghana sensitized the community through radio programmes and other media messages, and conducted capacity building through training and strengthening of 14 child protection committees of 140 memberships, training of 29 community leaders and sensitization meetings. DCI-Ghana also conducted capacity building and advocacy work with government institutions through a seminar for professionals, press articles and interviews, and lobby meetings of partners and CSOs. DCI-Ghana strengthened the capacity of CSOs through training of 25 CSOs and CBOs, and shared data among CSOs to promote child rights and gender equality in the Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi Municipality. Furthermore, the section provided social-legal assistance to 1027 youths, out of which 550 were girls and young women and 477 boys in the Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi Municipality through two socio-legal defence centres for children. In its work in 2012, DCI-Ghana covered issues of violence around child maintenance, defilement, rape, indecent assault, child neglect, child labour, child education, child maltreatment, delinquency, fighting, truancy, stealing, and school dropout.

Israel*

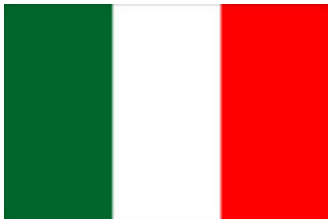
In 2012, DCI-Israel carried out much of it activities through its cooperation with Psycho-Active – a voluntary group of mental health professionals, providing guidance in activities involving children in detention or incarceration. Activities included the promotion of the rights of detained and incarcerated children in the Knesset, particularly in its Children's Rights Committee; following up Parliamentary activities through contacts with government offices and human rights organizations; and engaging in trial monitoring at trials of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) arrested for throwing stones or firebombs. DCI-Israel and Psycho-Active also brought to public attention two reports concerning the arrest, detention and incarceration of children: the first detailing evidence of violation of the rights of Palestinian minors in the process of arrest, interrogation, trial and conviction; and the second, published by the Ministry of Justice, containing evidence of inadequate placement facilities for children with special needs, inadequate living space, lack of social workers who speak the language those incarcerated, and lack of adequate alternatives to detention for Arab minors.

Putting the conditions of the rights of detained and incarcerated Israeli and Palestinian children on the agenda of the Knesset

DCI- Israel and Psycho-Active initiated a discussion in a meeting of the Children's Rights Committee of the Knesset in July on two reports concerning the arrest, detention and incarceration of Palestinian children. The meeting was given publicity on Israeli radio, and was attended by three Knesset members, and representatives of government ministries and human rights organizations. The discussion resulted in the Committee making several recommendations to the government ministries and announcing a follow-up session on conditions of Palestinian minors.

**DCI-Israel was suspended at the IGA 2012, but later re-admitted by the IEC.*

Italy



2012 has been a fruitful and crucial year DCI-Italy. The section consolidated a stable central team and established a valuable team of experts collaborating with DCI-Italy to help it carry out significant actions in the field of protection of children on the move and in juvenile justice. In its child protection campaign, DCI-Italy coordinated the project GATE, Guardians Against child Trafficking and Exploitation with three other EU countries, including DCI-the Netherlands. DCI-Italy produced an analysis report following a consistent process of research with guardians, public and private key experts and separated children hosted in various shelters in Italy. The section made plans to publish and present the report during a training event in 2013 in Sicily, and launch the project outcomes during a public event in 2013 in Brussels. DCI-Italy also officially started in September 2012 its activities in the project IMPACT, Improving and Monitoring Protection system Against Child Trafficking and exploitation, approved by the EU Commission, and connected and implemented in parallel with the GATE initiative. At the local level, DCI-Italy is part of the EIF funded project COMUNICHIAMO that promotes dialogue and networks among public and private agencies, city councils and organizations aimed at a better understanding of the needs of migrant people in Sicily and the enhancement of their integration and sense of belonging in different social contexts. Moreover, DCI-Italy started the TOM TOM initiative, in connection with the Ministry of Justice - Juvenile Justice Centre of Lazio, aimed at reaching children after criminal proceedings in order to increase their chances of successful reintegration. In 2012, DCI-Italy invested its energies and resources in European project design development, in order to carry out its 2012-2015 strategy.

Image used in DCI-Italy's juvenile justice initiative.

Separated children in Italy learn their rights with a famous cartoonist

During the GATE - a project about the trafficking and exploitation phenomena, DCI-Italy met and consulted with many separated children from across the country to understand the level of protection and risks they are exposed to when arriving in Italy. A creative device was designed by DCI-Italy and the famous Italian cartoonist Max Frezzato to facilitate the narration of the children during the consultations. The game is composed of 16 cards and each card reflects an important dimension of the child's story and individual experience.

Lebanon

DCI-Lebanon held its General Assembly in December 2012, where it acknowledged the retirement of 3 of the section's founding members and officially welcomed 6 new members, some of which were already collaborating with DCI-Lebanon. At the Assembly, the section confirmed its strategic plan of advocacy aimed at child protection, training for professionals and institutionalization of the informal network of lawyers who work pro bono with DCI-Lebanon. In 2012, DCI-Lebanon launched a multi-lingual website which it will further develop in 2013, and an electronic newsletter to highlight the section's activities and disseminate regular information on the rights of the child and situation of children, particularly those from vulnerable groups, in Lebanon. DCI-Lebanon also carried out a strategic litigation project in the field of family and labour rights for Palestinian refugees registered in Lebanon. DCI-Lebanon began a database project where it constitutes case studies from 2000-2012 concerning all fields related to the protection of children's rights, applying terms in international mechanisms and in French law. Through the project, DCI-Lebanon aims to create a reference tool for juvenile judges in Lebanon. DCI-Lebanon held a meeting in November in Paris with DCI-France to discuss cooperation on the project. In 2012, DCI-Lebanon contributed to a part of an overall reform project of forensics launched by the Ministry of Justice in Lebanon. DCI-Lebanon contributed particularly to the Ministerial Committee established for developing the reformed legislation for forensics, where it is a member. Additionally, DCI-Lebanon created a list of accredited forensic experts in juvenile justice and education.

DCI-Lebanon staff discuss the the project "Click Right for the Children's Rights" project with partners.

Liberia

DCI-Liberia has worked on multiple projects in 2012. DCI-Liberia implemented its DCI-the Netherlands/ECPAT sponsored Girl Power Project at an individual, community and institutional level. At the individual level, DCI-Liberia reached 600 girls and young women through counselling, and 300 through awareness and skill building. At the community level, DCI-Liberia formed a men's action group, and trained local traditional elders, community leaders, customary officials, judges, magistrate, health practitioners, etc. At the institutional level, DCI-Liberia actively participated at the county coordination meeting and regular consultative meeting on the Gender Based Violence (GBV) task force; trained government security forces, police, etc., on GBV case management and child rights; mobilized CSOs to engage government officials on the protection of the rights of girls and young women; and promoted Liberia child rights in alternative reporting under the CRC, with particular attention for girls rights. In its ICCO &Kerk In Actie sponsored project 'Promoting Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice in Liberia', DCI-Liberia built the capacity of lawyers, judges, police, probation officers, and community structures such as Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Child Rights Clubs, CSOs and Customary Officials, to meet the needs and rights of children in the administration of juvenile justice. In its Universal Birth Registration project – funded by Plan Liberia and Plan Ireland, DCI-Liberia increased knowledge of and access to birth registration in targeted communities, and garnered commitment for birth registration from the government and key stakeholders. DCI-Liberia also took part in a regional project on Violence against Children (VAC), where it strengthened the capacity of 70 children, youth and civil society to advocate against VAC/GBV and to efficiently respond to the UN VAC Study. DCI-Liberia has also worked on an Institutional Support on Juvenile Program supported by the Fund for Global Human Rights.

Roma children in France, a symbol of violation of children's basic rights

DCI-France witnesses the constant violation of Roma children's basic rights, with some of the violations being perpetrated by public authorities. Committed for many years to children of populations like the Roma who flee from misery and discrimination in their countries and come to France seeking a better future, local members and delegates of DCI-France support professionally –through a collective for the Roma children's right to education", and sometimes personally, the families living in camps in the Parisian region.

DCI-Mauritius sensitizes school children to their rights and child protection in a workshop.

Mauritius

DCI-Mauritius engaged in many activities in 2012. DCI-Mauritius partnered in the Prime Minister's Office initiative to teach Human Rights to the general population in 35 Citizen Advice Bureaux located throughout Mauritius. Other partners included the Ombudsperson for children, and the National Human Rights Commission. Within the education initiative, DCI-Mauritius gave an overview of human rights including children's rights, child trafficking, principle legislations, the current situation in Mauritius, and DCI's work. In 2012, DCI-Mauritius began operating a helpline for children and young people up to the age of 29, as part of an initiative with Halley Movement. Following the launch of Child Helpline Mauritius, DCI-Mauritius has provided legal assistance to victims of abuse or in conflict with the law, and intervened on various occasions on cases such as custody, attempt at suicide, juvenile delinquency, drugs problems and social needs. Also in 2012, DCI-Mauritius launched its website, where it updates recent activities and news from the section. Volunteers, who kindly offered their skill to the cause of children in Mauritius, completed the design, conception and service of the website. DCI-Mauritius also regularly received requests throughout 2012 from formal and non-formal education institutions to conduct workshops on juvenile justice. Institutions based the themes of the workshops on a series of topics covered by DCI-Mauritius' work. DCI Mauritius conducted more than 8 such workshops in 2012. DCI-Mauritius coordinated workshops with participants varying from 15 to 40 young persons and distributed materials such as important provisions of the legislation together with leaflets of DCI-Mauritius.

Mexico (associated member)

In 2012, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico implemented numerous projects in juvenile justice. In its "services during trials" program, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico provided 140 adolescents with an integrated service of defence, advice and psychosocial support. In its program "treatment in assisted liberty", Reintegra/DCI-Mexico promoted the prevention of recidivism with 156 adolescents and 348 relatives through reintegration back to work and school, and human development group sessions with adolescents and fathers. Regarding Community Prevention Centres, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico helped 2972 people through psycho-affective attention, orientation sessions, individual psychotherapy, family consultation sessions, and school workshops. Together with the Public Education Secretary, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico implemented an educational program where life projects were created with secondary pupils to promote prevention of risky situations. Moreover in collaboration with the National Crime Prevention and Civil Participation Centre, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico organized a seminar for CSOs on "Building synergies for the social crime prevention with young people". Reintegra/DCI-Mexico also conducted a study in Estado Puebla looking at experiences in socio-communitarian reinsertion of adolescents in conflict with the law. In 2012, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico produced two books: "Therapeutic re-educational community for adolescents deprived of their liberties – a proposal to pass from prison culture to community culture", and "Model for social crime prevention with adolescents and young people in communities". In its project with UNICEF on "Non-Custodial Measures in Juvenile Justice in the Federal District", Reintegra/DCI-Mexico organized two meetings with CSOs and justice system authorities of Yucatan, published leaflets, participated in a forum, and contributed to other training and media related activities on the issue.

Throughout 2012, Reintegra/DCI-Mexico maintained visibility of juvenile justice in the mass media, through public and private television and articles about adolescents in conflict with the law.

Opening Brazilian children's eyes to their rights, the story of 16-year old Geovanna

"I participated in the Human Rights' Workshop of CEDECA/DF [...the Centre for the Defence of Children and Adolescents' Rights from the Federal District – an affiliate of DCI-Brazil/ANCED] and found it very interesting because we discussed very important matters. One of the workshops I most enjoyed was about The Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA), because I didn't know a lot about it and on that day I discovered the importance of it to all the young people in our country", said 16-year-old participant Geovanna after a workshop on human rights and children's rights organized by DCI-Brazil/ANCED.

Children sensitize the public on migrant children's rights as part of a DCI-the Netherlands national campaign.

The Netherlands

In 2012, DCI-the Netherlands worked on several themes related to the general elections that took place in September and to the preparations of the transition of the whole system of youth welfare and protection from the central and provincial authorities to the municipalities. As chairman of the Dutch NGO Coalition on Children's Rights, DCI-the Netherlands presented a report to the Dutch government in preparation of the government's final report submission to the UNCRC. Together with ECPAT, DCI-the Netherlands launched a national campaign to encourage more tourists to use available reporting mechanisms when they encounter child sex tourism. Additionally, DCI-the Netherlands worked on improving different aspects of migrant children's lives. The section also addressed the rights of children and adolescents in custody with the police in a follow-up to its 2011 report on children in police custody. On the European and international level, DCI-the Netherlands realized an EU Daphne-project that resulted in the establishment of core standards for guardians of separated children. DCI-the Netherlands also made good progress in the Defence for Girls program, where it works with DCI-Liberia, DCI-Ghana, DCI-Sierra Leone, and two partners from the ECPAT-network, to strengthen the rights of girls and young women. In 2012, DCI-the Netherlands's Children's Rights Helpdesk received more requests for advice than before and has more people working at the Helpdesk. In November, the section presented the second edition of the Handbook on International Children's and Youth Law. The Handbook and the Helpdesk are the keystones of the section's work. Throughout 2012, DCI-the Netherlands generated media attention on several topics, the section realized changes in policies improving the implementation of children's rights, and it has enhanced the knowledge of children's rights especially among professionals.

Nigeria

Throughout 2012, DCI-Nigeria continued to implement its strategic plan of action on promoting access to education and reducing child abuse. During the year, DCI-Nigeria had the chance to be one among only three CSOs present at the adoption of the Lagos State Learning Outcome Benchmark for Public Primary Schools in Lagos, convened by the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN). At the adoption event with key government stakeholders in attendance, DCI-Nigeria spoke about the need to provide support beyond political statements to education in schools in Lagos. DCI-Nigeria organized several trainings at community level for community facilitators, emphasizing the issue of children's participation in education and promotion of inclusion in education against the present tokenism. The section also provided human capacity support to the Women Protection Organisation (WOPO) through the Hearing Aid project sponsored by Starkey Foundation. As technical partners, DCI Nigeria was on ground to support the smooth running of the programme which lasted four days and provided over 2000 deaf children with hearing aids. In partnership with DfID, DCI-Nigeria provided technical assistance to the School Based Management Committees (SBMC). As part of an overall effort to enhance children's visibility and increase their participation at the school level, DCI-Nigeria worked on new approach of restructuring the children's committees in schools to ensure that they are more active and functional and that they are raising issues to be addressed by the larger School Based Management Committee (SBMC). In another partnership with the Save the Children UK Nigeria, DCI-Nigeria conducted research geared towards contributing to the service quality delivery of private schools in urban slums.

Niger

In 2012, DCI-Niger focused on educating minors deprived of their liberty in Niger. Funded by the Embassy of Belgium under its 2012 Micro Intervention Programme (MIP), DCI-Niger implemented a project entitled "Education of minors deprived of liberty in Niamey", in which an educational system for the minors deprived of liberty is established; alternative measures are taken for the loss of freedom such as working for the general interest; the released children benefit from a multiform support for their socioeconomic rehabilitation after leaving prison; conditions of imprisonment of minors are improved; and children deprived of liberty benefit from legal and social help. In the project, the section has combined the themes of education as a fundamental right for all, including the children who are deprived of liberty and the socioeconomic rehabilitation of the children after leaving prison which includes notably their family life as well as their social and professional life. DCI-Niger implemented the project to improve the juvenile justice situation in Niger following intense research. In its analysis of the national juvenile justice situation, DCI-Niger discovered no national budget is provided for the rehabilitation of the imprisoned

Juvenile detainees* learn new skills at a training workshop organized by DCI-Niger.

The juveniles faces have been blurred to keep their indentity anonymous.

Children at a DCI-Pakistan drop in centre.

children and for their education in a sincere environment, and a general lack of human, logistic and financial resources in the juvenile justice system. The section learnt that the absence of a policy for socio-economic rehabilitation caused frequent repeat offences despite its efforts to increase the awareness of the detained children's parents, relatives, and administrative and customary authorities.

Pakistan (associated member)

SPARC/DCI-Pakistan continued its promotion and protection of child rights in 2012. Through its Early Recovery Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, SPARC/DCI-Pakistan carried out renovation of 30 flood affected schools and 10 Basic Health Units along with distribution of means of earning a living among needy families. In collaboration with various government bodies, SPARC/DCI-Pakistan continued its child rights law reform work and lobbied for the approval of bills both at federal and provincial level. SPARC/DCI-Pakistan also lobbied and advocated for the ratification of the OP/CAC at the national level through networking and coalition building. As a result of SPARC/DCI-Pakistan's lobbying efforts with government departments, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Borstal Institution Bill was enacted, and the Home Department Sindh issued a notification for establishing child rights desks in all districts of Sindh. SPARC/DCI-Pakistan also started a livelihood training course in General Electrician in a juvenile jail in Peshawar, facilitated by ABACUS Polytechnic College. SPARC/DCI-Pakistan provided legal aid to 274 juvenile inmates in the following provinces: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan. Additionally, SPARC/DCI-Pakistan created 13 Child Rights Desks which provided support to children coming in contact and/or in conflict with the law. SPARC/DCI-Pakistan also managed its Drop in Centres (DIC) for street children in Hyderabad, Rawalpindi, Multan and Peshawar, where it provided services including non-formal education, skills, and health and hygiene lessons along with a hot meal every day to over 4,031 street children and child labourers registered at the DICs. In addition, 331 runaway children were reunited with their families. SPARC/DCI-Pakistan also carried out nationwide campaigns on Child Labour Free Week, Alternatives to Corporal Punishment, World Day against Child Abuse and Universal Children's Day.

Experts at a Masajed Traning Course for Imams on Child Protecion, co-organsed by DCI-Palestine.

Palestine

In 2012, DCI-Palestine implemented numerous actions. In its Accountability and Legal Work Programme, DCI-Palestine documented 82 child fatalities, 210 injuries (including 41 by settlers), 32 torture incidents, 7 house demolitions, 8 incidents of violations to the right to education, and 2 incidents of children being used as human shields. In addition to documenting child rights violations, DCI-Palestine's legal unit lawyers represented children in military courts and collected statements about arrest, trial, ill treatment/torture, and detention of children. DCI-Palestine recorded 121 affidavits and collected 119 ill-treatment questionnaires from child prisoners, 144 closed files from military courts, and 25 closed files from civil courts in Jerusalem. DCI-Palestine's advocacy unit analysed the documented child rights violations and produced evidence based materials including: two submissions to UN Special Procedures on child detainees; a submission to the UN Committee Against Torture; a submission to the Human Rights Committee; a joint submission to the UPR; an alternative report to the UNCRC; a joint submission to the HRC Fact Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements; 113 case studies; 12 Detention Bulletins; 12 Violation Bulletins; 21 public statements and other advocacy materials. In its Protection and Community Mobilization Programme, DCI-Palestine has provided legal consultation to 216 families of children in conflict with the law and children who are victims of violence. DCI-Palestine represented 185 cases of children in conflict with the law: 35 cases of children in conflict with law on bail were released, and 44 cases were closed. Furthermore, DCI-Palestine provided 57 legal consultations for the Child Protection Network, in addition to 57 monitoring visits.

Women listen attently at a child nutrition training workshop, organized by DCI-Paraguay.

Paraguay

DCI-Paraguay carried out two main projects in 2012. In its main programs, DCI-Paraguay developed several activities addressing directly children deprived of their family environment belonging to two public foster homes, children in detention centres under the age of 3 who are accompanying their mothers deprived of liberty in prison, and children in conflict with the law who entered the legal system through the specialized court of Lambaré. Within its ICCO/ Kerk in Actie sponsored Regional Program on Juvenile Justice, DCI-Paraguay organized a Latin American congress on "Adolescence and violence in juvenile justice systems: Situations, Prevention and Response Mechanisms, the Latin American experience" which took place in December. DCI-Paraguay collaborated with DCI-IS, UNODC, and the Catholic University in the execution of the event, which was attended by experts from throughout Latin America, and 192 people interested in the juvenile justice system. Within its Diagrama Foundation and Andalusia sponsored project "Comprehensive Attention to Female Adolescents in Conflict with the Law and to Children and Adolescents Deprived of their Family Environment in Paraguay", DCI-Paraguay filed a complaint with the Home Quinta Mitaí -under the Ministry of Justice and Labour- due to documented abuse and degrading treatment seriously damaging children who join this home. Members of the technical team of DCI-Paraguay had witnessed the irregularities and mistreatment. As a result of DCI-Paraguay's intense advocacy and lobbying efforts, the Ministry of Justice, Labour and Children decided that all the Homes under its jurisdiction would pass under the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescence, due to the current outdated penitentiary model used by the Ministry. Also in its 2012 activities, DCI-Paraguay developed reparation activities for children victims of abuse and several capacity-building workshops and courses for officials.

Participants at a DCI-Russia co-organized event devoted to awarding the mass media.in the office of the Permanent Branch of the Russian Union of Journalists.

Russia (provisional section)

In 2012, together with two other partner NGOs - 'Sisters' Sexual Assault Recovery Centre and Far Eastern Centre for Civic Partnership and Social Initiatives – DCI-Russia completed a project called 'Technical Assistance Program to Strengthen Social Service Provision to Child Victims of Human Trafficking in Russia'. DCI-Russia implemented the project in 2009-2012. In the project, DCI-Russia carried out a series of training seminars, roundtables, workshops, study visits, and other events. With its partners, DCI-Russia also organised a competition of mass media publications related to issues of the rights of the child, in collaboration with the Russian Union of Journalists. DCI-Russia and its partners organized the competition in Perm and Primorsky (Vladivostok) Regions of Russia. DCI-Russia was responsible for managing the competition in Perm. DCI-Russia involved 12 mass media participants representing TV, radio broadcasting stations, and newspapers. The section gave prizes to all participants, and awarded three of them as winners. Additionally in 2012, DCI-Russia organized training seminars for police officers, neighbourhood watch, and tutors of the Perm Police College. DCI-Russia trained about 200 participants in total.

Young people at a DCI-Sierra Leone training disucss the UN VAC study recommendations and plan advocacy and campaign strategies on how to address VAC in their schools and communities.

Sierra Leone

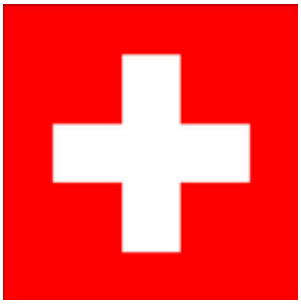
DCI-Sierra Leone implemented several activities in 2012. DCI-Sierra Leone was part of the technical/ scientific committees set up by the government of Sierra Leone that drafted the Sexual offences Bill, the National Referral Protocol on Gender Based Violence, and the National Guidelines for the Reintegration of children. Following DCI-Sierra Leone's lobby actions and campaigns, the Sexual Offences bill was passed into law in August 2012. Additionally, DCI-Sierra Leone was part of the technical committee that drafted the National Child Justice Strategy 2013, which is now going through the process of adoption. DCI-Sierra Leone provided social and legal assistance to 1,300 children in six districts, through legal advice and psychosocial services it provides at its socio-legal defence centres and police stations as well as providing legal representation for children facing trials in courts. DCI-Sierra Leone also successfully removed 300 children from prisons, remand homes and police cells and reintegrated them into communities. DCI-Sierra Leone provided the parents of the released children with micro-finance support and training to start their own business for the benefit of the child, resulting in most of the youths returning to school and being supported by their parents' new businesses. Additionally, the section trained 620 members of child welfare committees and child protection focal persons at community level in child abuse, case management and pathway for referral of cases from communities to legal institutions and service providers, which has contributed to the growing number of cases being reported to the Family Support Unit of the Police and at DCI-Sierra Leone's socio-legal defence centres. DCI-Sierra Leone also provided life skills training and socio-economic support to 200 girls and young women in Western area and Moyamba district, who now feel empowered to resist exploitation and abuse, and stay in school.

Participants in a trust activity for children and their families, organized by DCI-Slovakia.

Slovakia

For DCI-Slovakia, also known as the Children's Fund of the Slovak Republic, 2012 was a successful year. To increase access, DCI-Slovakia re-located its centre to an area where children, young people and their families live in very difficult conditions, and are threatened by social segregation. At its centre, DCI-Slovakia has provided a safe and inspirational place, development of communication, motor, social skills and creativity, tutorage, pre-school preparation, education and counselling in various life situations for children up to 18 years old. In 2012, DCI-Slovakia also worked to support children with disabilities through Konto Bariéry –a fund it has been helping since 1993, where it has contributed wheelchairs, special accessories, walkers, lifting platforms and other mobility equipment. DCI-Slovakia has also assisted children and their families. DCI-Slovakia has provided complex support to the whole family of children, covering issues of respect, authorities, and violated self-image, among others. In 2012, the section worked with 48 families, and made 683 contacts. DCI-Slovakia implemented its activities in 2012 with the financial and moral support of companies and organizations such as the Charity Program of Nový Čas, Pontis Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline, Corinex, Allen & Overy, Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Council for Crime Prevention, Ministry of Labour, and Community Foundation Bratislava, among many others.

Switzerland



In 2012, DCI-Switzerland held its 28th General Assembly where it elected members of the Committee, and decided to open a Facebook page about the section. DCI-Switzerland also continued its cooperation with DCI-IS on a juvenile justice program from July 2008 to August 2013. Following encouraging results in the program, DCI-Switzerland created a part-time job (50%), shared by two colleagues, and worked on updating and finalizing a report for the UNCRC. Also despite financial difficulties, DCI-Switzerland published four editions of its exclusive 'le Bulletin Suisse des droits de l'enfant' (the Swiss Newsletter on children's rights), mainly through the voluntary work of members of Swiss section Committee and the Editorial Committee who made all the necessary efforts to find topics and write articles. The Newsletter produced by DCI-Switzerland is the only Swiss publication exclusively about children's rights and serves as a quality source of information for all actors in the field of children's rights. DCI-Switzerland used a powerful search engine to make available and downloadable all the articles that have appeared in the Newsletter for the past 18 years. Moreover thanks to the work of an intern from the Institute Kurt Bösch, DCI-Switzerland organized a promotional campaign in the summer of 2012, which enabled the section to find new subscribers, new members and to increase awareness of its activities.

Improving the situation of displaced families in Palestine

DCI-Palestine contributed significantly to the case of Arab Ar-Rashaida, who were forced to leave their homes and live in open areas by contacting the Minister of Social Affairs and Governors of Nablus, Tubas, Bethlehem and Jericho, demanding an immediate intervention to alleviate the suffering of the displaced families. Following DCI-Palestine's interventions, the Ministry of Social Affairs created a special committee that provided the displaced families with food, vegetables, meat, water tanks and tents, secured children in schools nearby, secured transportations to and from schools.

Uganda

In 2012, DCI –Uganda implemented juvenile justice programs and other social economic empowerment programs for children and their families in order to improve their livelihood. In partnership with Independent Development Fund (IDF), DCI-Uganda implemented the 'Social Legal Defence Centre Project' (SLDC) in central Uganda, with the aim of increasing access to justice for children in conflict with the law. Through SLDC, DCI-Uganda provided legal and social support to juveniles through the formal courts and informal systems, public awareness on acceptable juvenile justice standards and children's rights and responsibilities, and capacity building for key actors like police officers, magistrates, lawyers and community volunteers (Fit Persons) to be able to promote acceptable juvenile justice standards in their respective communities. Additionally, DCI-Uganda supported over 300 juveniles to access timely justice in the formal and informal courts through legal advice and representation by lawyers. DCI-Uganda has assisted acquitted juveniles in their resettlement and reintegration back in to their communities with support from trained Fit Persons, local leaders and probation officers in their respective districts. Through capacity building, DCI-Uganda trained over 300 key actors including the police, local leaders, and Fit Persons to be able to use their discretionary powers as provided by the a Children's Act to handle child petty cases through caution, reconciliation and compensation, reducing the number of children entering the legal system. DCI-Uganda also implemented a family and community based intervention program for the care, support and protection of orphans and other vulnerable children in Northern Uganda. Under this program, DCI-Uganda trained 43 youths in vocation, entrepreneurship and life skills in order to improve their livelihood.

Uruguay

In 2012, DCI-Uruguay carried out two projects: Juvenile Justice Regional Program and Tools Project. As part of the Regional Programme, DCI-Uruguay carried out communication and advocacy work, monitored detention centres, and built an online management system for the enforcement of non-custodial measures. DCI-Uruguay created a new website which integrates the section's activities, international and national news about children and adolescence, information about its monitoring of detention centres for adolescents, and access to training courses, publications, and national events. During the annual meeting of the Regional Programme, DCI-Uruguay organized a seminar on Juvenile Criminal Law where the minimum age of criminal responsibility, non-custodial measures, and institutional violence were discussed. Moreover, DCI-Uruguay participated in the Consultative Honorary Council of the Children and Adolescence Code as part of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Uruguay, where it organized activities denouncing rights violations in the detention centres. DCI-Uruguay also took part in the Service Peace and Justice (SERPAJ) report, published every year and focusing on the rights of the child. DCI-Uruguay together with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Uruguay and the OMCT, have also been permanently monitoring the detention centres for adolescents in Uruguay. In 2012, the section organised flying visits in order to deal with specific situations. Regarding its Tools Project, DCI-Uruguay created an online management system of non-custodial measures. The developed software allows educators to access the program database, information about cases and their corresponding records. DCI-Uruguay designed the software to serve as a further step towards formalizing the implementation of non-custodial measures. Also in its Tools Program, DCI-Uruguay managed the care of 40 adolescents a month introduced to the Program. DCI-Uruguay has ensured through its selection, privacy and anonymity of all data collected.

Zimbabwe

Although difficult for DCI-Zimbabwe, 2012 turned out to be a promising year for the section. The year started with two visits by the section: one to Washington DC, where DCI-Zimbabwe was invited to represent the organisation at a Global conference on women's shelter; and the other to Geneva, where DCI-Zimbabwe attended the IGA and HRC 19th session. In July, DCI-Zimbabwe received in-kind assistance from China in the form of sporting kits, school stationery and computers worth approximately $5000. Along with Chinese Embassy staff, DCI-Zimbabwe distributed the kits to two schools, one in an urban setting and the other in a peri-urban community. In the distribution of kits, DCI-Zimbabwe assessed the needs of children in the two diverse communities, and identified the need to promote child rights awareness and community livelihoods. Also in 2012, DCI-Zimbabwe helped to formulate child rights defenders clubs to carry out advocacy and education activities through a grass-roots planning process that reflected the needs, concerns and values of the child, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups. In September, DCI-Zimbabwe carried out research on the level of child rights knowledge in some communities in Zimbabwe. Formed and supported by DCI-Zimbabwe, the child rights clubs developed action plans with indicators and targets that also incorporated codes of conduct to ensure regular community monitoring and assessment in the section's research. The clubs established a culture of involvement to sustain broad community participation in the research.

DCI-Zimbabwe trains participants in child rights advocacy and education.

DCI-Belgium gets the Belgian State convicted

Belgium has to welcome, decently, foreign children and must not leave them on the street! This is the decision of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) of the Council of Europe (CoE) which stated that the Belgian State violates the European Social Charter, following a case brought against the Belgian State by DCI-Belgium. DCI-Belgium submitted collective demands to the ECSR about Belgium's unwelcoming policy towards unaccompanied foreign juveniles who are undocumented residents of accompanied asylum-seekers and foreign juveniles who are undocumented residents.

United Nations Office in New York, Volunteer Representative

Some of the members of the NGO Committee on Child Rights after a meeting co-chaired by Ms. Sri-Jayantha.

In 2012, DCI's New York Representative -Ms Avis Sri-Jayantha- co-chaired the NGO Committee on Children's Rights, a substantive committee in New York under the Conference of NGOs with Consultative relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), where she organized and led meetings, coordinated logistics and speakers for events, and advocated and lobbied OP3 CRC with government representatives. As Committee Co-Chair, the DCI Representative visited the Austrian and Brazilian Mission to discuss OP3 CRC, since Austria was one of the prime movers of OP3 CRC, and Brazil was already a signatory. Also as Committee Co-Chair, the DCI Representative participated in a public event on 15 November organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information and NGO Relations (DPI/NGO) commemorating the Rights of the Child with a special focus on indigenous children. With 200-300 people in attendance, the event highlighted the situation of indigenous children, what steps have been taken to address their needs, the challenges that remain, and the bold actions that still must be taken to ensure their fundamental human rights and freedoms. As a member of the Working Group on Girls of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, the DCI Representative organized and attended monthly meetings, and coordinated speakers. The DCI Representative also actively participated in 5 UN events in New York related to international mechanisms concerning children's rights such as the Forum on Indigenous Rights, the Forum on Population, and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); organized two side-events; and delivered a joint Oral Statement on corporal punishment of children at the general discussion during the 57th session of the CSW.

Helping disabled children become more mobile, the story of Claudia

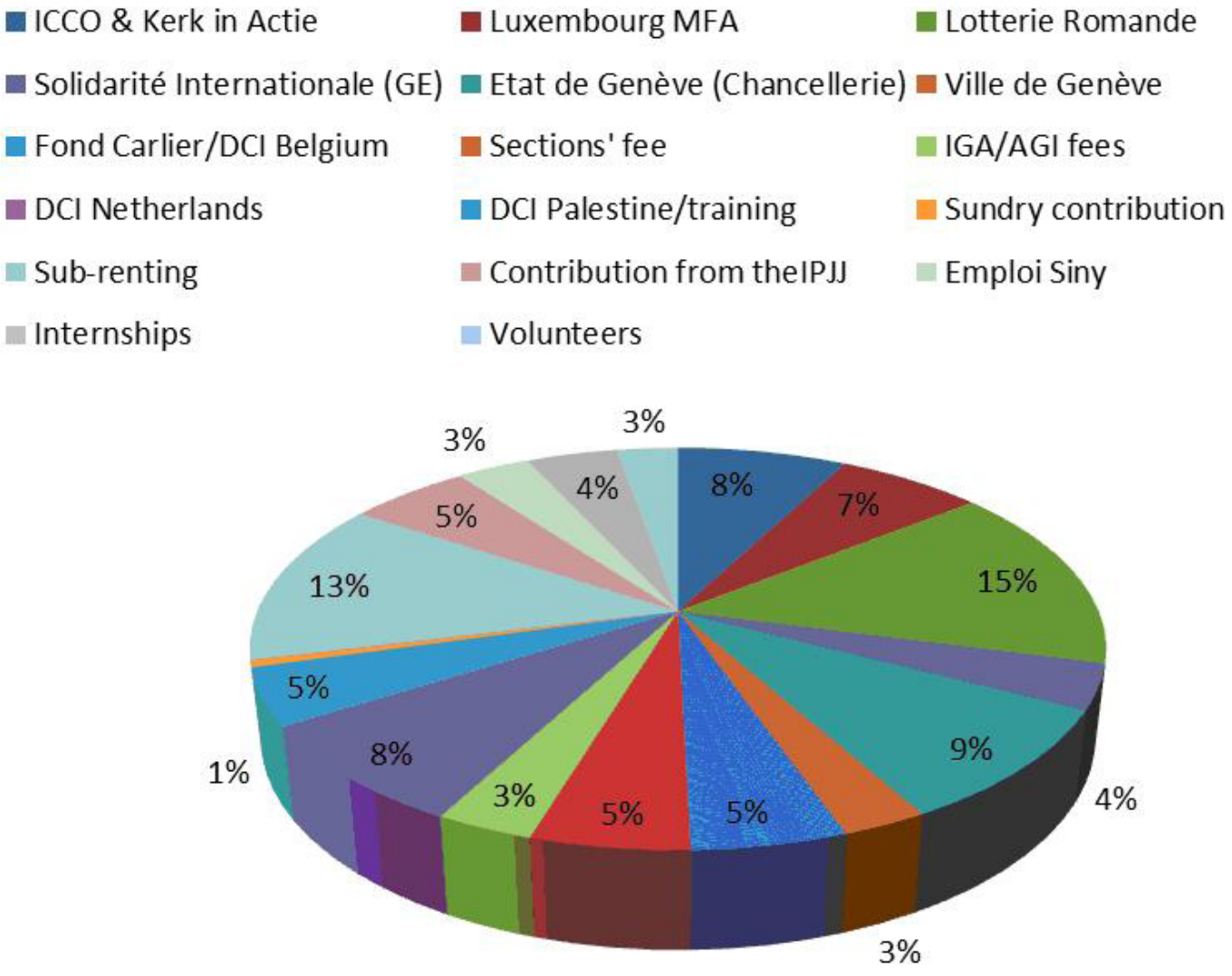
In 2012, DCI-Slovakia received a letter from the mother of Claudia, a girl living with a disability, thanking the section for helping to lengthen her daughter's arm. Claudia is one of many children living with a disability that DCI-Slovakia helps through its contribution of wheelchairs, lifting platforms and other mobility equipment to Konto Bariéry – a project helping handicapped people become more mobile in Slovakia.

Funding for DCI-IS

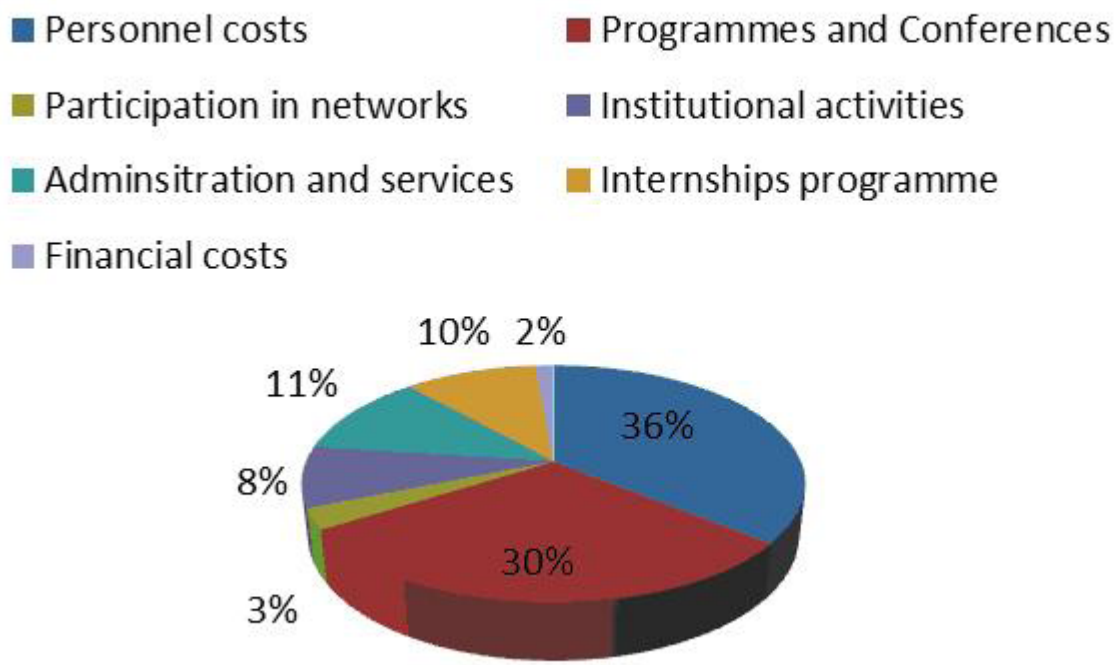
in 2012

In 2012, the activities of DCI have been kindly funded by the following donors: Loterie Romande, Etat de Genève (Chancellerie d'Etat), Icco & Kerk in Actie, DCI-the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Fond Carlier/DCI-Belgium, DCI-Palestine, Solidarité International (Canton de Genève), Ville de Genève, etc.

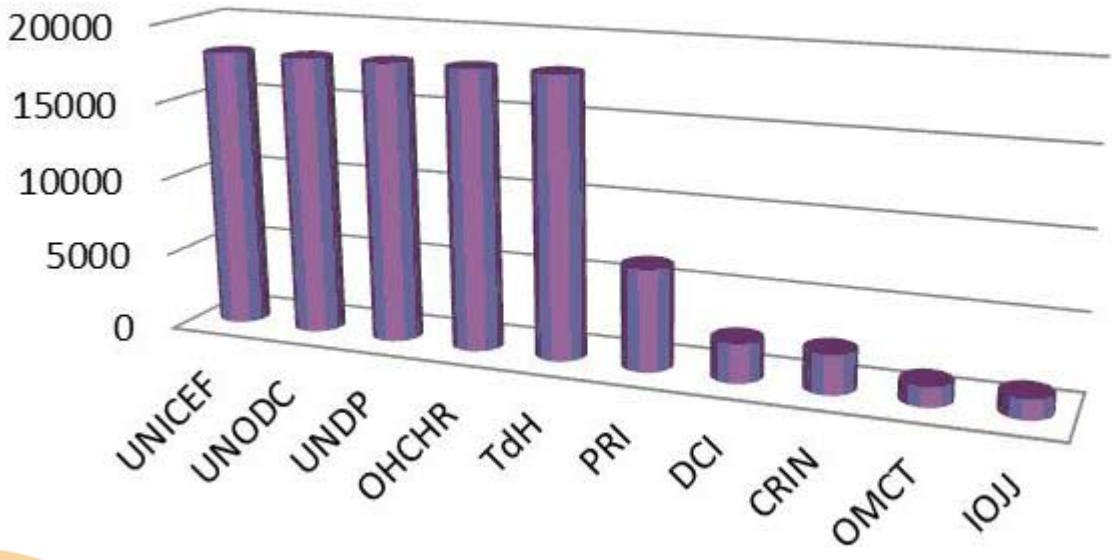
Contributions



Expenditures



IPJJ Contributions



UN Photo/Eşkinder Debebe

Beyond 2012

DCI's credibility and experience across many fields of work is indisputable, and it is clear that the programs we implement - as well as our clear statements about children's rights and our commitment to ensure the inclusion of their voices - are benefitting the vast numbers of children, organizations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) we work with and serve. While we need to acknowledge and celebrate our successes as an organization it is also important to review our priorities and how we might improve our work.

Taking into account the political and economic changes in 2012, DCI as a movement is convinced to keep working to preserve human dignity, peace with justice, and the human rights of children worldwide. As the heart and leader of the international movement, DCI-IS would like to continue to achieve its four strategic objectives. The first object DCI-IS would like to achieve is to raise awareness, monitor and report on the implementation of the CRC and other human rights instruments, keeping abreast of achievements and challenges on the most relevant and neglected child rights violations, particularly in the field of justice for children, and proposing recommendations, to achieve a justice for children adapted to children's rights in accordance with the CRC and with other relevant international and regional instruments. The second objective DCI-IS looks forward to achieving is to advocate and lobby for the inclusion of justice for children as a priority item on political agendas and for justice for children policies which are in line with international standards and particularly with child-friendly justice, focusing on the implementation of preventive measures, to avoid children from coming into conflict with the law, and mainstreaming justice for children in all relevant forums.

The third objective DCI-IS will continue to undertake is to promote child-friendly justice through developing global, regional programmes aimed at preventing children to come in conflict with the law, promoting reintegration, reducing the use of detention and promote diversion, restorative justice and measures where deprivation of liberty is not foreseen. Finally, DCI-IS endeavours to achieve its fourth objective which is to build and improve the capacities of DCI national sections and regions - through the creation of regional desks, for instance - to promote and defend the rights of all children, but especially of children in the justice system, with the exchange of good practices; and to lend technical and moral support to the advocacy and lobby efforts of the sections at the international level, creating and consolidating strategic partnerships and alliances to respond adequately to the challenges of the rapidly changing global context.

DCI-IS thanks all those who collaborated with the Secretariat during 2012 and looks forward to continued and new support for its efforts in 2013 to maintain justice for children high on international, regional, and national agendas.

DCI as a movement is convinced to keep working to preserve human dignity, peace with justice, and the human rights of children worldwide.

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