DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
DÉFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
the worldwide movement for children's rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.

Garrison Keillor

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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 Organization
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 Organization
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 Organization
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 Organization
NGO	Group NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMCT	World Organization 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 Hommes International Federation
Torture UN	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Convention 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

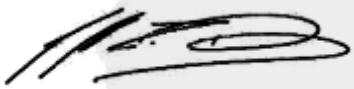
Foreword

In my capacity as a member of the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT), I have had the pleasure to work with Defence for Children International (DCI) over the past few years. During this time they provided valuable input in promoting and protecting children's rights on a local, regional and international level, particularly in the field of justice for children, within which they remain vital actors and experts.

At the end of 2012 I had the honour to participate in an important Congress organized in Paraguay which focused on the theme of prevention and response to violence in juvenile justice in Latin America. On this occasion I had the opportunity to witness and appreciate the excellent work carried out by DCI worldwide. Prevention of institutional violence and in general torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, are key priorities within the work of the SPT; having allies such as DCI proves crucial, particularly when cases involve child victims.

Since the aforementioned gathering in Paraguay, I have continued to collaborate with DCI, in particular with the International Secretariat which is based in Geneva, aiming to establish a more child-friendly approach within the SPT. Although the mandate of the SPT exceeds child rights alone, SPT remains eager to adapt its work to the specific needs of children, with the support of the civil society.

Presently working on the Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, DCI proves once again to be a catalyst in improving the rights of the child, particularly for those involved in the justice system, working to secure children their fundamental human rights.



Margarida Pressburger

Member of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)

Preface

So far the ongoing action of DCI, combined with that of so many other key actors, has not yet achieved a significant reduction in the number of children being deprived of liberty around the world. However, our work will continue to aim at ensuring children their rights, particularly when in detention, taking into account their reintegration into society.

In June 2013, DCI International Executive Council (IEC) decided to gather as many actors as possible (international NGOs, UN agencies and representatives of different states), to call upon the members of the United Nations General Assembly to request that the United Nations Secretary-General undertake a Global Study on children deprived of liberty and appoint an independent expert to carry it out. This initiative immediately attracted considerable interest. Civil society organizations and UN agencies responded with enthusiasm. The scope and modalities of the Study were largely discussed to ensure that the objectives were both accurate and comprehensive.

If we take into account that previous studies carried out by the United Nations, such as children in armed conflict and violence against children, both have become reliable references in their respective fields, we remain convinced that ultimately a further study will become as referenced as the former two, and guide us towards improving the current situation of children deprived of liberty. The Study will undoubtedly represent one of DCI's priorities at an international level in the years to come.

All national sections of the DCI Movement are aware of this Study's potential and are committed to supporting it on a national level, conscious that it will strengthen their advocacy and lobbying efforts, their work on the ground, as well as support their recommendations. It is the representatives of our national sections around the world that are in regular contact with detained children, trying to improve the situation of these young detainees, tirelessly battling for their human rights, reintegration, and access to education which would reduce marginalization and discrimination against them. All these devoted actors have an insight into the disastrous effects of repressive policies experienced daily by children deprived not only of their liberty, but also of their personal and professional future.

The effort to reduce the use of detention by making it a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time, as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is the responsibility of all actors in contact with children, as well as all Governments. Such violations of basic human rights should not be tolerated. DCI is more determined than ever to achieve this goal, especially through the implementation of this Global Study.

We hope to gain unanimous support for our hard work in making the world a more respectful place for children's rights so that together we can reach positive results.

Benoit Van Keirsbilck

President

Introduction

On the 20th of November 2013, which celebrates Universal Children's Day, five UN Child Rights experts urged states to make child protection from violence a priority in the post-2015 development agenda and back such commitments with adequate funding. Full protection from violence and proper allocation of resources for child protection are seen by the international child rights community as key priorities for the future UN agenda. We, civil society organizations, are there to remind states that financial resources are to be properly and equally distributed to support the development of crucial sectors for the world population. Without financial investment in child protection, proper advancements in the fulfilment of the rights codified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols will severely lack.

In 2013 DCI continued to actively lobby, just like in previous years, for the full prohibition of, and protection from, violence against children - especially in the area of justice for children. To guarantee freedom from violence in the justice system, children must not be deprived of their liberty, and should be granted appropriate care and assistance whenever in contact with the justice system. DCI has been working on national, regional and international levels in order to achieve proper results (as you will read throughout this report).

2013 has also seen the consolidation of regional activities in Latin America with the beginning of a new phase for the juvenile justice programme; in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, with new national sections joining our worldwide Movement and enhancing their collaboration for the implementation of a child-friendly justice in the Arab world; in Europe with concerted efforts towards the protection of migrant children and in juvenile justice; in Africa, the activities of national sections present in West Africa have been particularly intensified in the areas of child trafficking, juvenile justice and gender empowerment.

You will also read in detail about the realization of a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, for which DCI is actively lobbying. The Study reaffirms the principle of "detention as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time" (as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). The Study will certainly contribute towards achieving a world free from violence against children.

Ileana Bello

DCI-IS Executive Director

DCI at a Glance

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Actors for Justice, Advocates for Rights

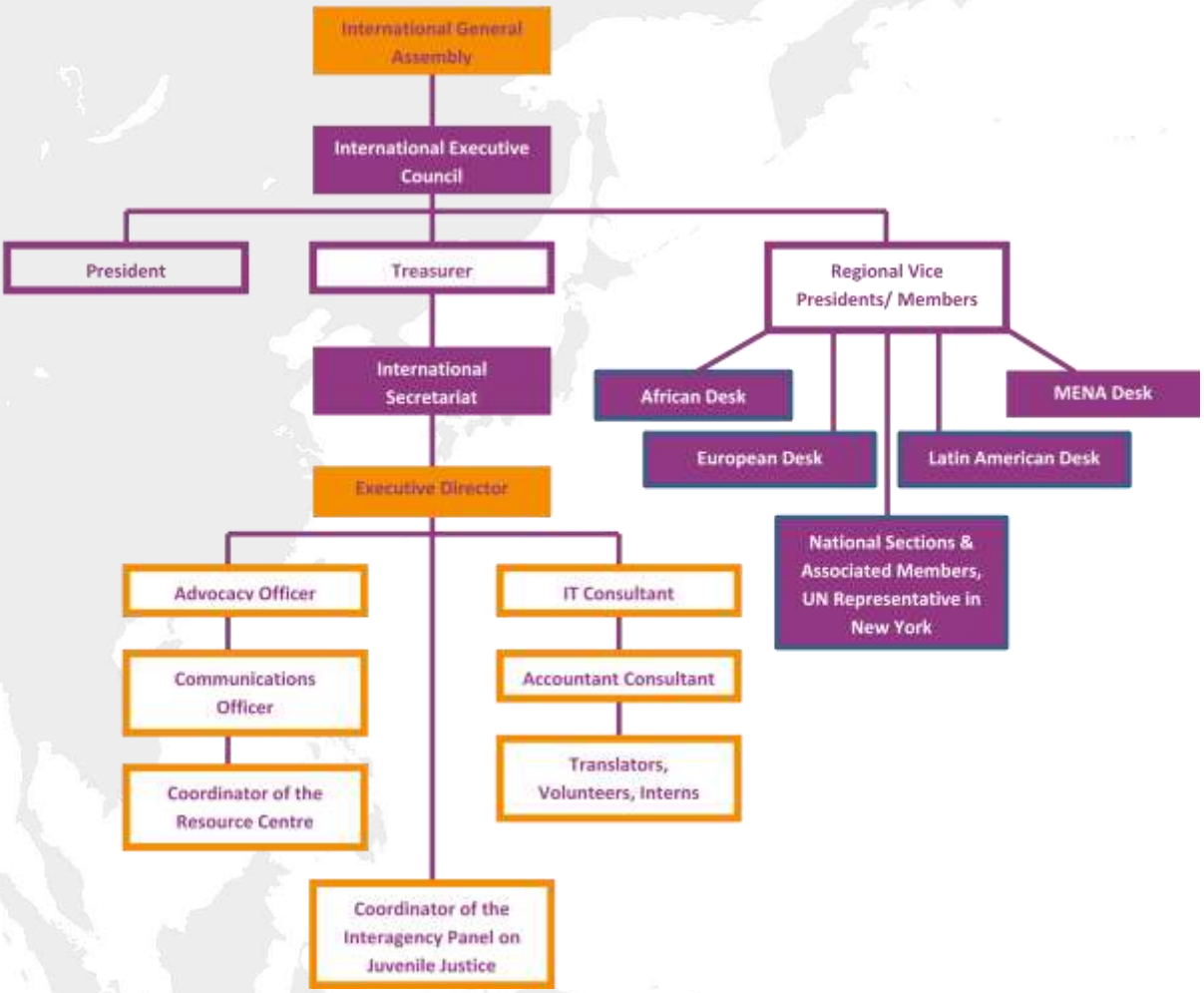
DCI is an independent grassroots and human rights-based international non-governmental organization (**INGO**) that has been promoting and protecting children's rights on a national, regional and international level since 1979. It is dedicated to ensuring on-going, practical, systematic and concerted international action as articulated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (**CRC**), its optional protocols and all other existing international human rights standards and instruments related to children and their human rights.

DCI is one of the leading NGOs on issues of justice for children, with a ground presence in five continents, through 46 national sections in the field, and an International Secretariat (**DCI-IS**) based in Geneva. The DCI-IS is the heart of the DCI Movement, representing national sections on an international level, developing projects and promoting children's rights across the globe, as well as providing institutional, technical, and advocacy support for the activities and development of national sections and associated members. The DCI Movement has two governing bodies: the International General Assembly (**IGA**) and the International Executive Council (**IEC**). The IGA is DCI's highest governing body and is composed of a representative from each national section of the Movement. The IGA steers the policies, priorities and positions of DCI and elects the President and other members of the IEC, all of whom are mandated to govern the Movement in the interim between General Assemblies. The last IGA was held in March 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland, and the following will take place in 2016.

DCI International Secretariat office in Geneva, Switzerland

DCI holds consultative status within 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**). The DCI-IS is an active member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (**IPJJ**) and also hosts the entity within its offices in Geneva. The DCI-IS is also involved in other networks, such as the Child Rights Connect (formerly the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child) being co-convener of its Working Group on Children and Violence (**WG/CAV**) and sitting on its Executive Committee. DCI is also part of the International NGO Council on Violence Against Children, which is a platform of INGOs and regional representations created to follow up on the UN Study on Violence Against Children (2006).

DCI at a Glance



Defence for Children International (DCI) Organizational Chart 2013

International Secretariat (DCI-IS)

The DCI-IS currently consists of three permanent staff members: an Executive Director, an Advocacy Officer and a Communications Officer; in addition to hosting the Secretariat Coordinator of the IPJJ, to which expertise network on juvenile justice DCI is an active member. In addition to regular staff, DCI-IS is supported by its regional desks in Latin America, MENA, Africa and Europe - the latter, based in Belgium, which is also the current seat of the DCI Presidency. Furthermore, DCI-IS is assisted by consultants, interns and volunteers in order to efficiently complete all tasks at hand.

The DCI-IS is located in Geneva, Switzerland and acts as the focal point for the Movement on an international level, providing an invaluable link between DCI national sections and the United Nations and other international organizations. The DCI-IS mandate is to bring pressing child rights concerns to the international agenda and to provide protection, support, technical assistance and capacity building support to human rights defenders from its national sections, thus promoting the concrete realization of the rights of the child. The international debate and the best practices shared by expert partners are circulated to and from national sections, creating a constant flow of information. The DCI-IS obtains constant updates and first-hand information from its national sections on the situation of juvenile justice in their respective countries, so as to improve focus and inform the international child rights advocacy.

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The work of the DCI-IS also includes monitoring and following the international child rights agenda: carrying out research; networking; lobbying; disseminating information; and developing communication tools - with children's rights in juvenile justice as its prime (though not exclusive) field of action.

The DCI-IS also acts as a protection mechanism for those advocates working in particularly delicate situations, such as the case of the DCI national sections in Colombia and Palestine. In fact, the DCI-IS plays a crucial role in ensuring that advocates themselves are aware of potential dangers and are informed of opportunities to ameliorate and more safely uphold their work in implementing the rights of the child. Since it was founded in 1979, DCI has accumulated wide-ranging experience and solid expertise around issues of juvenile justice on both a national and international level.

DCI-IS Staff:

Executive Director	Ileana Bello
Advocacy Officer	Anna D. Tomasi
Communications Officer	Bahia Egeh / Ivana Trpkovic Stankovic
Coordinator of the IPJJ	Séverine Joliat
Coordinator of the Resource Center	Camille Kryspin
Accountant (Consultant)	Maria Teresa Di Marco
IT Consultant	Alain Gross
Interns	Laura Canadé Fanny Badache Camille Bor Ester Gentile Florence Charrière Peter Fulton

From left: Yoo Sun Hong, Loraine Brambilla, Ileana Bello, Anna D. Tomasi, Ivana Trpkovic Stankovic, Nadia Franzoni

Global Impact

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

Global Impact

The DCI-IS, in its role as coordinator of national sections and representative before the United Nations office in Geneva, continued throughout 2013 to advocate for the promotion and protection of children's rights within the international arena. Activities included attending and facilitating the participation of national sections to the Human Rights Council (**HRC**) sessions (22nd, 23rd and 24th) and its Universal Periodic Review (**UPR**), as well as the numerous sessions of international human rights treaty bodies (Committee on the Rights of the Child; Committee against Torture (**CAT**); Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (**SPT**); inter alia). Activities also involved the participation to, and organization of independent side-events, conferences and trainings with colleagues from the field, on our primary issue of concern: justice for children. Throughout 2013, DCI-IS continued to convene the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect and assisted in the establishment of a Focus Group on Children affected by Armed Conflict. 2013 also marked the conception and inception of the campaign: **Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, and thus lobbying efforts with governments, experts and partner organizations intensified to the highest degree – hopefully to a satisfying outcome!

TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE: a grassroots movement promoting the rights of the child on all levels

In August 2013, Defence for Children International elaborated a project called **"Together for Justice: How Human Rights Defenders can uphold their action in defending child rights in the justice system"**. With the purpose of providing the necessary support in terms of advocacy and lobbying, improving the capacities and raising awareness of DCI national sections and associated members, while monitoring and researching human rights violations within the justice systems – systems which are to be tailored to respect the needs and rights of children. As a result, all these actions will secure a more coordinated and effective action of our advocates on the ground, thus promoting the concrete realization of children's rights, while also ensuring that these human rights defenders are more protected and free to report abuses and violations.

The project is premised on the belief that effective respect for children's rights in the justice system can only be ensured if all actors involved are provided with information that helps them to work effectively and efficiently, making the best interests of the child a priority. DCI national sections are there to assist children, to monitor those in charge of applying the law and to ensure the full respect and protection of the fundamental rights of children. The DCI-IS assists in the implementation of these rights on all levels and ensures the safety of the advocates themselves.

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Child rights advocates of the DCI Movement are always improving and strengthening their capacities, especially regarding access to the international

human rights mechanisms (among which the future communications procedure of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, under OP3). These key actors will be supported, through the DCI-IS, in the building of coalitions and networks, both regionally and trans-regionally, and the lobbying of domestic governments for the respect of international obligations taken on. The DCI Movement boosts the

MENA Training

establishment of such informed, capable and efficient united network which ultimately serves to amplify the impact of action and also assist should threats or human rights violations occur (either to the human rights defenders themselves or to the children who are beneficiaries of their work).

The target group of the project are the Human Rights Defenders who make up the worldwide Movement of DCI, advocating for, and in many cases assisting directly with, children who are in contact with the justice system. DCI advocates from 46 national sections and associated members. They will not just be recipients of training and capacity building, they will also be the ones who raise the most relevant issues to lobby and advocate for. They will raise cases of human rights violations and abuse in their respective countries/regions and they will contribute with their concrete experience and expertise to the reporting and monitoring of the compliance of their authorities with the most relevant international standards on human rights and justice for children.

DCI had a busy year in 2013, promoting the rights of the child at regional, national and international levels. In its function to improve the capacities of its national sections, the International Secretariat organized, among other activities, an intensive training for its sections of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region: **"Juvenile Justice in the Arab World: National, regional and international advocacy for children's rights within the justice system"**, which took place in Geneva from June 10th to 15th, 2013.

The proposed action was aimed to train DCI national sections and other NGO partners in the MENA region and raise awareness on the need to commit to an international advocacy based on the integration of child-friendly justice in the context of their respective countries and region.

Following two regional workshops on juvenile justice in the Arab world (held by DCI in Jordan in 2011 and 2012), DCI brought child rights activists from civil society organizations of the MENA region to Geneva in order to further build their capacity around international human rights mechanisms, while considering their respective domestic relativities. The training was supported by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs of Qatar, the City of Geneva, the Loterie Romande, ICCO & Kerk in Actie and CAGI (Canton of Geneva).

The International Secretariat of DCI attempted to gather a maximum number of DCI representatives from the MENA region in order to strengthen their knowledge of international human rights mechanisms and offer a chance to raise

Global Impact

their human rights concerns directly to UN experts during the 23rd session of the UNHRC, through written and oral statements.

Some of the participants to the training delivered oral statements to the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria (calling upon the critical situation of children affected by the conflict) and also to the *Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) since 1967*. They also actively participated in the following side-events to the HRC (which were organized by DCI): **"Children and Justice in times of armed conflict: the Middle East experience" and "Juvenile Justice in the Arab World"**; as well as in the public conference "Alone: the situation of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention centers" which was organized in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. The participants were also able to meet diplomatic representatives from their countries in private meetings, which had been arranged to discuss and raise awareness on issues of concern.

DCI national sections and partners participating in the training session included representatives from Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. The training was also attended by representatives of the State of Qatar (Supreme Council for Family Affairs) and the Qatar Foundation. As a means to exchange good practices and lessons learned, representatives from DCI national sections from other regions also attended the training and enriched the discussions; representatives from Sierra Leone, Uruguay, Belgium, Brazil and Cameroon also participated in the activities.

To share and discuss experiences from the field, as a means of comparison, information sharing and strengthening domestic and regional systems and networks, participants were provided the basic tools to effectively advocate for human rights in their countries, particularly in fragile contexts of transition to democracy. Results of the training were clear, as DCI advocates who attended were and continue to be actively engaging with UN bodies to raise issues occurring in their respective countries (e.g. Jordan, in relation to the situation of Syrian refugee children, submitted an alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (**CRC Committee**); Yemen participated in the pre-session of the CRC Committee and in the UPR process in Geneva in light of its review.

DCI considers the strengthening of the capacity of child rights advocates to be of utmost importance. To provide advocates with the opportunity to travel to Geneva and participate first-hand (and subsequently through the International Secretariat of DCI) in the most relevant international human rights mechanisms, not only enhances the effectiveness of their work on the ground, but makes them aware of the different levels of advocacy, which are to be taken into account when protecting the rights of the child. Furthermore, the IS (beyond facilitating information sharing) provides more visibility to the actions of human rights defenders and, when necessary, protects them from threats or retaliation in their respective countries. It is essential that DCI continues to support, through lobbying and international advocacy efforts, those who expose themselves in difficult and hostile environments in order to defend the rights of children concretely.

MENA training participants

Voicing local concerns within the International Arena:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC)

In 2013, the UNHRC held its three regular sessions: the 22nd held from 25th February – 22nd March, the 23rd held from 27th May – 14th June and the 24th held from 9th – 27th September. The DCI-IS ensured that the voice of the Movement was heard within this international arena, particularly with regard issues concerning justice for children.

During the 22nd session, DCI successfully lobbied for the health of juveniles in detention to be included within the provisions of the resolution on the **"Right of a child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health"**. During the Annual Full-Day Meeting on the Rights of the Child of the OHCHR, held on March 07, DCI was one of the few NGOs to deliver a statement. The year's theme **"The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health"** brought DCI to point out the issue of mental and physical health in detention, particularly the over medicalization of child detainees and the issues concerning girl detainees. The respective UN press release concerning the event highlighted DCI's intervention, stating: "DCI drew attention to vulnerability and special needs of children in detention and children in conflict with the law, particularly of girls, and underlined that detention of children must be a measure of last resort".

DCI-IS held a side-event on the 7th of March: **"Mental and Physical Health in Juvenile Detention"** in collaboration with the IPJJ and the World Organization against Torture (**OMCT**); sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Denmark and Norway. The event aimed to identify and share experiences on the situation of children in detention and violations of their right to health, and to ultimately promote ratification of the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (**OPCAT**) (currently ratified by 72 states), which provides for a system of independent preventive visits to places of detention: audits and reviews are essential to deliver improvement to the system. A brief report was published on the event and is available online.

A panel on **"Human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed"** took place during this session of the HRC, where States, NGOs and UN experts discussed the issue in great detail; an issue which has thankfully been gaining more attention in recent years. Mr. Jorge Cardona Llorens, member of the CRC Committee, said: "the sentencing of a parent to death was a question that concerned the child and the child had the right to have its best interest taken into account when the decision was made". This panel was organized by the **Working Group of Children of Incarcerated Parents, of Child Rights Connect, to which DCI-IS is active member**. The Working Group also presented written and oral statements to the HRC under this item.

Panelists at the side event: "Mental and Physical Health in Juvenile Detention"

The 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council held from 27th May to 14th June covered several issues relating to children's rights. During the interactive dialogue with the *Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967* (A/HRC/23/21), DCI-Palestine, with the assistance of the International Secretariat, delivered an oral statement maintaining that no child is to be prosecuted in military courts that lack comprehensive fair trial and juvenile justice standards; urging that simple and practical measures be implemented to assist in the protection of children held in the Israeli military detention system and to end practices that violate the absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment.

DCI also delivered an oral statement during the interactive dialogue with the *Independent International Commission of Inquiry (**COI**) on the Syrian Arab Republic* (A/HRC/23/58) highlighting the need for all Governments to: adopt measures to effectively implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol; to put in place safeguards in order to ensure that no child is recruited or involved in any way in hostilities; to provide support services for all children without adult care (whether in Syria or in refugee camps) in order to ensure that they are not subjected to any form of exploitation and provide assistance if foster families are not present; and, finally, to take all necessary measures to prevent all forms of violence against children whether at home, in schools or in detention.

Several side events were organized by DCI during the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council. The side event **"Juvenile Justice in the Arab World"** held on 12th June by DCI-IS and sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Qatar and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs of the State of Qatar highlighted the situation of children involved in the justice system in the Arab world. The principle of detention as a measure of last resort promoting the implementation of international juvenile justice standards was discussed. Panelists included Ms. Mona Rishmawi, Chief of the

Side event: "Child Domestic Work – A Reality of Violence and Slavery"

Rule of Law branch of the OHCHR; Mr. Hatem Kotrane, member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; Dr. Shaheen Sardari Ali, United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; amongst others.

DCI also held a side event on the 7th of June **"Children & Justice in Times of Armed Conflict: the Middle-East Experience"** sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg. The event aimed to raise awareness and share experiences on the situation of children involved and/or

victims of armed conflict in Syria, Iraq and Palestine; promoting child protection and respect of the basic human rights of the child. DCI gathered a panel of experts from the International Commission of

Side event: "Children & Justice in times of Armed Conflict: the Middle East experience"

Inquiry on Syria (**COI**), CRC Committee and NGOs working in the Middle East. Mr. Rifat Kassis, DCI General Commissioner for the Middle East and North Africa (**MENA**) region moderated the discussion.

DCI-Costa Rica with DCI International Secretariat in collaboration with Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco-growing (**ECLT**) Foundation, Global March against Child Labour and Stop Child Labour Campaign held a side event on the 4th of June **"Business Responsibility in Advancing Children's Rights for the Elimination of Child Labour"**. This side event, held in light of the International Day against Child Labour, focused on the advancement of child rights through social dialogue and dissemination of key declarations all containing recommendations for action directed to businesses, unions, governments and communities in support of Principle 5 of the UN Global Compact on Children's Rights and Business Principles, which advocates for the effective abolition of child labor. This event also took into account the III Global Conference on Child Labour taking place in Brazil, October 2013.

A further side event was held on the 11th of June, **"Child Domestic Work – A Reality of Violence and Slavery"**, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Italy and organized by members of the Working Group on Children and Violence (**WG/CAV**) of Child Rights Connect – which DCI convenes. The event aimed to highlight the harsh conditions of child domestic workers and present protective measures, providing a space for States to have a discussion regarding the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189). Panelists included former Human Rights Council president, the president of DCI–

Side event: "Child Domestic Work - A Reality of Violence and Slavery"

Costa Rica, and the Senior Legal Officer of the International Labour Organization (**ILO**)/ International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (**IPEC**), amongst others.

During the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council, several issues of interest were addressed. With regards to juvenile justice, the resolution on the **"Human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice"** (A/HRC/24/L28) noted the initiative to convene a World Congress on Juvenile Justice in Geneva from 26th - 30th

January 2015; and decided to convene a panel discussion on the protection of the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty at the 27th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014. DCI will be actively participating in both events.

A side event on **"The Restorative Approach: a way to implement the aims of the juvenile justice system"** was held by BICE, wherein DCI–IS Executive Director, Ms. Ileana Bello participated as a panelist. Among the pressing challenges remaining to prevent juvenile delinquency and ensure effective protection of children in conflict with the law, further issues highlighted by the DCI representative included the lack of a child-friendly juvenile justice system, the trend of lowering the age of criminal responsibility, poor detention conditions, and constant recourse to deprivation of liberty.

In light of next year's annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child on access to justice (25th session of the HRC), DCI made a submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (**OHCHR**) concerning Socio-Legal Defence Centres (**SLDC**). SLDCs, in DCI experience through its national sections present worldwide, prove to provide children the effective opportunity to gain access to justice and subsequently to obtain remedies. These Centres promote (through a proactive approach) and protect (through a reactive approach) the rights of the child as codified in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (**CRC**) of the United Nations and in particular its fundamental principles: non-discrimination; best interest of the child; right to life, survival and development; and child participation. DCI is currently drafting a position statement for the Movement on this matter which will be published on our website in the near future.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict: Leila Zerrougui

The *Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict* (**SRSG/CAAC**) presented a report (A/HRC/24/35) making specific mention of the need for countries in conflict and the international community to step up measures to protect children from violence in armed conflict, as well as violations of their human rights including education. DCI-IS, as a convener of the Working Group on Children and Violence (**WG/CAV**) of Child Rights Connect, organized a private meeting with the SRSG to discuss the plans of her mandate, the launch of her campaign (no children in armed forces by 2016) and expectations from the NGO community.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), "*promoting and protecting human rights in the darkest corners of the world*" – Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

The Universal Periodic Review (**UPR**) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN member states. The UPR is a state-driven process, under the auspices of the HRC, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their

countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. As one of the main features of the Council, the UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed.

Among the many UPR reports which were adopted in 2013, the International Secretariat of DCI assisted in raising awareness concerning the presence of the OHCHR office in Colombia and also followed up, with the Cameroon Child Rights Coalition (**COCADE**), on the recommendations put forward during the UPR pre-session of March 2013. DCI presented an oral statement concerning the human rights situation in Cameroon, asserting the need for accepting and concretely implementing recommendations concerning the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the adoption of other related international treaties; the statement also called on the need for the provision of legal measures to ensure the effective protection and implementation of children's rights as well as the implementation by the Government of targeted sustainable and effective measures to reduce the rate of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual violence, corporal punishment, children in conflict with the law, children in street situations and further measures to promote universal birth registration and education among the indigenous population, especially the Mbororos and Bakas.

DCI-IS also followed and lobbied for child related recommendations during the UPRs of France, Burkina Faso, Canada, Senegal, Nigeria, Mexico and Mauritius; and the UPR pre-sessions of Uruguay and Yemen. On April 22nd 2013, during its 16th Session, the UPR Working Group examined Burkina Faso's human rights record. The Coalition for Children's Rights of Burkina Faso

Source : www.upr-info.org

UPR session in Geneva

(COBUFADE), of which DCI is a member, submitted a joint written statement to the UPR Working Group expressing its concern at the absence of a national child protection code and widespread violence against children in Burkina Faso. In relation to juvenile justice issues, states recommended Burkina Faso to: undertake a reform of its juvenile justice system; take necessary steps to establish an effective national preventive mechanism to improve prisoners' conditions; investigate all allegations of torture and ill treatment committed by law enforcement; and to formally abolish death penalty. Regarding children's rights, states recommended Burkina Faso to: redouble its efforts in sensitizing the public about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); set up a national action plan to combat violence against women and children; and to enact legal penalties for violations of the law prohibiting the worst forms of child labor and bring the national penal code in line with the African Charter on the rights and well-being of the child.

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Committee), monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The Committee on the Rights of the Child meets in Geneva and holds three regular sessions per year. DCI-IS attends these sessions, assisting its national sections in submitting information concerning the reality on the ground, following reviews, circulating outcomes, and lobbying for global issues of concern to the Movement.

DCI followed the 62nd session of the CRC Committee, held from 14 January - 1 February 2013, wherein Burkina Faso, Slovakia, United States of America, inter alia, were reviewed, and subsequently concluding observations were adopted. DCI informed and worked with sections to ensure issues of concern were raised.

IEC and CRC Committee Members

During its session, the Committee also adopted four **General Comments**:

1) Right of the child to have his/her **best interests** assessed and taken as a primary consideration;
2) Right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of **health**;
3) Rights of the child on state obligations regarding the impact of **business enterprises** on children's rights;
4) Right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in **play** and recreational activities.

The 63rd session of the CRC Committee, which took place from 27th May – 14th June 2013, marked the arrival of new Committee members, many of whom DCI had already worked with in the past, particularly with regard juvenile justice. DCI also had the honor, during a private meeting in June, to discuss possible synergy sources with the Committee.

During the pre-session of the 65th session, which took place from 13th – 31st January 2014, DCI delegates from Yemen, inter alia, were in Geneva in order to present alternative reports to the CRC Committee.

The 64th session of the CRC Committee, which took place from 16th September – 04th October 2013, saw the review of Paraguay, which the International Secretariat of DCI followed closely in collaboration with its national section. During the session, DCI met privately with CRC Committee members concerning the launch of its **Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**. A special task

force was created within the Committee to guide the initiative, which derives from the need to comprehensively collect data and statistics from across regions on the number and situation of children in detention, share good practices and formulate recommendations for effective measures to prevent human rights violations against children in detention and ultimately reduce the number of children deprived of liberty

DCI also attended the official launch of **General Comment No. 17 concerning the Right to Play**, which was organized by the International Play Association. This NGO worked in lobbying and drafting the document which emphasizes how the right to play is in fact cross-cutting. The situation of children in detention is taken into account within the text of this General Comment.

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

Alongside DCI-IS advocacy and lobbying efforts to bring compelling child rights concerns to the international agenda, and to contribute to the global implementation of justice for children, the DCI Movement grants equal importance both to the dissemination of information and the development of communication tools. Adding to the transparency of the organization's activities and commitment, DCI-IS actively contributes to enhancing social and political awareness through a variety of events and publications disseminated through the DCI-IS website, newsletters and social media - reaching out to a wider audience against child rights violations.

Newsletters

Throughout 2013, DCI-IS produced six bi-monthly newsletters, that is: three **DCI Newsletters** and three **Juvenile Justice Newsletters** which were published respectively in the organization's three official languages: English, French and Spanish. Since June 2012 (when DCI-IS made the DCI Newsletter open to the wider public instead of circulating it exclusively within the Movement), the number of subscribers surpassed one thousand in less than a year. Representing key tools for communicating and keeping our members and friends up to date with the organization's activities, all editions of DCI-IS Newsletters are available on our website for all to read.

DCI Newsletter – June 2013 edition: DCI-Yemen empowers Children's Parliament in child protection

The **DCI Newsletter** compiles news on the activities of DCI national sections, and the involvement of the DCI-IS in the HRC, CRC and UPR sessions, as well as its participation in roundtables, conferences and other events relating to children's rights. The spotlight section of the same newsletter, entitled "Focus", has provided an alphabetical representation of DCI's national sections and the work conducted on the ground to implement and protect the rights of the child. Finally, in each of its issues, the DCI Newsletter has highlighted forthcoming events of interest for advancing the DCI Movement as a whole.

In the June 2013 edition of the DCI Newsletter, news from DCI-IS included the summary of the meeting of DCI IEC and the long-standing collaboration between DCI and the CRC Committee, in particular on issues related to justice for children and on DCI's engagement for the respect of the rights set out by the CRC Convention, through the work of DCI national sections and its associated members. The latest news from the Secretariat also included information on an international seminar regarding juvenile justice and the Arab world, held in light of the growth of DCI national sections in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region which was supported by the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations in Geneva, the Supreme Council for Family Affairs of the state of Qatar and the Ville de Genève. The situation of Palestinian Children in Israeli military detention centers and the issue of elimination of all forms of violence against girls, which had been discussed during the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (**CSW**), were also highlighted. In the same section of the newsletter, a biography of Monique Robert, our dear friend and colleague who had recently passed away, was featured together with her commitment to defend the rights of adolescents in conflict with the law and her work on developing various projects of Reintegra/DCI-Mexico. The focus of the June issue was on DCI-Benin, while news from the national sections included, among other things, the successful campaign at government level of DCI-Liberia and the favorable ruling of a collective complaint filed by DCI-Belgium against the government concerning the deficiencies of care services for homeless non-Belgian children.

In the October issue of the DCI Newsletter, DCI-IS provided an overview of the HRC's 24th session, especially in regard to justice for children, with particular emphasis on DCI's participation in a side-event on: **"The Restorative Approach: a way to implement the aims of the juvenile justice system"**. Among other news from the Secretariat, DCI-IS wrote about the publication of the *Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children* (**SRSG/VAC**), which aims to educate children on the third Optional Protocol to

the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP3 CRC). Equally featured in the newsletter, was information on an article that Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (**BHRRC**) published regarding a DCI side-event: **"Business responsibility in advancing children's rights for the elimination of child labor"**.

The December issue of the newsletter from the International Secretariat of DCI included news concerning: a written statement which DCI submitted to the CSW regarding indigenous Colombian Girls; the first thematic report on the protection of human rights of indigenous peoples, particularly children, presented to the UN General Assembly in New York by the United Nations Working Group on business and human rights; and the participation of DCI President, Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck, to a **High level Symposium in Monaco**. The spotlight section of the newsletter focused on DCI-Bolivia and news from national sections included: the launch of the project **"Acting Together for the Rights of the Child"** by DCI-France; a press release from DCI-Italy on the efforts of the Filipino community residing in Italy to bring support to children affected by Typhoon Haiyan; and the report on the **"Implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child"** published by Liberian Child Rights NGO Coalition (**LCRNC**), to which DCI-Liberia is member.

In the **Juvenile Justice Newsletter**, DCI-IS informed readers of the Movement's activities and respective developments around issues related to justice for children. Under the "Expert Corner" section of the newsletter, the Secretariat published articles and views of experts in the field of juvenile justice, whereas "Top News" and "News from DCI sections" highlighted the latest worldwide activities related to justice for children.

The first newsletter published in 2013 was the February special edition devoted to a three-day Congress in Paraguay on **"Adolescents and Violence in juvenile justice systems: current situation, prevention and response mechanisms: the Latin American experience"**, which was

organized in December 2012 by DCI-IS and DCI-Paraguay (report of the event is available on our website). Highlights from panel discussions, debates, roundtables and working groups were provided, as well as the following articles: "Using the Convention on the Rights of the Child to better understand Juvenile Justice in Latin America" by Mr. Norberto Liwski (President of DCI-Argentina and former member of the CRC Committee) and "Prerequisites for understanding Juvenile Justice and Violence in Latin America" by Mr. Jorge Cardona (current member of the CRC Committee).

In October's issue of Juvenile Justice Newsletter, the expert corner's discussion focused on the issue of determining the minimum age of criminal responsibility, defying both the punitive public approach to youth violence and the call for lowering the age of criminal responsibility. Ms. Katherine Covell, Child Rights Expert at *Residence, Society for Children and Youth*

of British Columbia and Mr. Norberto Liwsky of DCI–Argentina, affirmed in their respective articles a crucial need for prevention and rehabilitation practices, and both expressed strong opposition to

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the lowering of the age of criminal responsibility. The same newsletter issue also featured: the participation as panelist of DCI-IS to a side-event on restorative approach to juvenile justice organized by BICE in the course of the 24th Human Rights Council; information on the World Congress on Juvenile Justice set to take place in Geneva in January 2015, aiming to discuss further improvements and implementation of juvenile justice systems; and two reports: **"Creating a Non-Violence Juvenile Justice System"** by the International NGO Council on Violence against Children (**InCo**) and the other by the UN Secretary General on the Occupied Palestinian Territories concerning Palestinian children being arbitrarily detained and tortured in Israeli prisons. For news from its national section, DCI-IS wrote about the statement it delivered during the UPR which provided recommendations for Cameroon's government with regard to children's rights, in particular juvenile justice; the testimony of a twelve-year old Palestinian girl about a fatherless childhood as her parent had been captured by Israeli police after protesting against a new Israeli housing development in a Jerusalem neighborhood; and DCI-Brazil's statement condemning the State's draft law which would lower the age of criminal responsibility and introduce the concept of "progressive punishment".

The Top News section of Juvenile Justice Newsletter December issue focused on the 20th of November , Universal Children's Day; CRC's adoption of General Comment No. 17 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts (based on article 31 of the CRC), especially concerning children of incarcerated parents or in immigration detention; and on General Comment No. 35 of the Human Rights Committee drafted under its Article 9 on "Liberty and Security of person" with extensive reference to juvenile justice. For the same issue's Expert Corner, DCI-IS published an article on its submission to the UN for the 2014 Report on Access to Justice in which it detailed the work of Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDC) through its various national sections and an article on "Legal defence and the legitimacy problem of systems of administration of juvenile justice" in

Publications

In 2013, DCI collaborated on/produced the following publications:

- Report on the Training Session on Juvenile Justice for the Arab World, held in June 2013
- Report on the Side-Event: *Mental and Physical Health in Juvenile Detention: A Preventive and Human Rights Based Approach*
- InCo Report 2013: *Creating a Non-Violent Juvenile Justice System*

Argentina and Brazil, by Mr. Emilio García Méndez of the National Deputy of the *Solidarity and Equality* party and President of the *Sur Argentina* Foundation. In the same newsletter, the Secretariat featured news from DCI-Belgium, whose project, **"Children's Rights Behind Bars. Human rights of children deprived of liberty: improving monitoring mechanisms"**, received approval from the European Commission; and news from DCI-Paraguay on the report of the 2012 Congress **"Children and violence in juvenile justice- the current situation, prevention and response mechanisms: the Latin American experience"**.

Website and Social Media

Throughout 2013, DCI-IS pursued its online media outreach to a broad child rights and juvenile justice audience. Focused on using its Facebook and Twitter profiles to raise social and political awareness about the Movement's activities, DCI-IS network rapidly increased in number of viewers, friends and followers. Many of the Secretariat's regular posts on DCI worldwide actions and achievements, as well as on international human rights events, often saw the number of views rising to over seven hundred each. Equally enhanced was the DCI-IS website with timely and in-depth information on the organization's actions, HRC and CRC regular sessions, Children's and Human Rights Day, CAT, UPR, as well as on other pertinent activities concerning children's rights and juvenile justice. With active social media presence and regular online updates throughout 2013, the DCI-IS website attracted 38,000 to 42,000 visits per month. The Secretariat was particularly active with issuing online press releases (12 in total during 2013) on burning issues of human rights violations. In these statements - to name just a few - DCI-IS strongly condemned the execution of juvenile offenders in Saudi Arabia and Yemen in March 2013, and addressed the issue of detention of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention in June 2013. The Secretariat thereby takes each arising opportunity to communicate and raise awareness on the existence of children's rights and to appeal to governments and all actors at large to be involved and collaborate in the development and implementation of child protection strategies.

Furthermore, DCI-IS engaged with United Nations Volunteers (**UNV**) for translations and graphic design work on the logo for the upcoming campaign which calls for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (launching in March 2014). With a view of creating a multilingual website both for the upcoming campaign and for DCI, the Secretariat also started preparing detailed content for these respective websites.

With active social media presence and regular online updates throughout 2013, the DCI-IS website attracted 38,000 to 42,000 visits per month.

Conferences, symposium and statements on child rights and justice for children

Alongside the participation and hosting of side-events to regular sessions of the HRC, the DCI-IS and its national sections worked extensively in the international field on issues of child rights, juvenile justice and violence against children.

In June 2013, DCI organized a public conference entitled: **"Alone: the Situation of Palestinian Children in Israeli Military Detention Centres"**, in collaboration with the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (**CCDP**) and the City of Geneva. The conference aimed to raise awareness on the situation of Palestinian

Global Impact

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INVITATION
Public Conference

THE SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN THE ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION SYSTEM

Richard FALK

Laura DUPUY LASSERRE

Ibrahim SAID

Ivan KARAKASHIAN

Avihai STOLLAR

children deprived of their liberty and promote respect and fulfilment of the basic human rights of the child. A panel of UN experts and international and regional actors involved with the issue, as well as civil society organizations from Israel and Palestine, expressed the need to provide further knowledge on the detrimental situation of imprisoned children and to finally put an end to the abuse of children by the occupying power. Of particular concern was the matter of victimization of an entire population, particularly children born under the occupation, whose mental development is gravely affected. It was reiterated throughout the event that special inquiries be made into occupations that have continued for more than five years and that Israel be questioned on the allegations of the *UN Special Rapporteur against Torture* with regard the holding of juveniles in solitary confinement.

On Universal Children's Rights Day, which takes place on the 20th of November, Benoit Van Keirsbilck, DCI President, participated as a panelist to the High level symposium on children's rights, which took place in the Principality of Monaco under the auspices of the Princess and Prince of Monaco. A panel of experts, including the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and representatives from national child rights institutions, academia and non-governmental organizations, met on the theme of **"A Cross-Cutting Look at Two Decades of the Application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the**

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High-Level Colloquium on the Rights of the Child

Child in the North and South of the Mediterranean". Mr. Van Keirsbilck presented the role of NGOs during the creation, adoption and implementation of the CRC, and highlighted DCI's contribution to the drafting of the Convention. Moreover, DCI President made reference to DCI's dedication to child-friendly justice at an international level and called attention to the work of DCI national sections, particularly: Sierra Leone (with its Socio-Legal Defence Centres); Uganda (which monitors prisons); Palestine (assisting children in conflict with the law); Latin America (with its juvenile justice observatory work); Costa Rica (with its campaigning against the lowering of the minimum detention age); and Belgium (ensuring the positive outcome of a state`s court judgment concerning migration issues involving children).

Following a DCI-Colombia report entitled *"The Daughters of the Sun in the Land of the Jaguars"* the DCI International Secretariat submitted a written statement to the CSW, explaining the challenges of

indigenous Colombian girls within their own country. Difficulties that these girls face include dire health conditions, discrimination in schools, sexual violence and other forms of abuse. The statement described how indigenous Colombian girls are treated without respect due to their cultural differences in relation to the majority of the Colombian population. Various articles codified in the Convention on the Rights of the Child are evidently being violated. DCI, therefore, is calling upon the Colombian government, within its report, to reform these injustices in order to guarantee the full respect of the human rights within the country.

Moreover in New York, on 14th March 2013, on behalf of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, and together with the CoNGO Committee on the Rights of the Child, the International Humanist and Ethical Union and the Ribbon International, DCI delivered an oral statement to the Commission on Status of Women, stressing that prohibition of corporal punishment is both a basic requirement for the prevention and elimination of violence against girls and a key part of a broader strategy for eliminating violence against women.

Strategic partnerships for stronger promotion of child-friendly justice

Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice

DCI-IS continues to host the Secretariat of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (**IPJJ**) and cooperate as a member of its Steering Committee. The IPJJ is a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, composed of 13 United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations actively involved in issues related to justice for children. The Panel functions as a platform for the exchange of information and expertise at all levels. In 2013, DCI-IS continued to work closely with the Secretariat and different Panel members on many occasions: organizing events and participating in conferences and meetings. For example, the IPJJ Secretariat coordinated its members' contribution to the preparation of the World Congress on Juvenile Justice that the Swiss Confederation, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes foundation, is organizing in Geneva from 26th to 30th January 2015.

IPJJ INTERAGENCY PANEL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

The IPJJ Secretariat continued to coordinate regular information flow among Panel members, relaying information, events, tools and documents shared by each member. Following the support expressed by Steering Committee members towards DCI's **Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, the Panel Secretariat provided written comments to the successive drafts of the Call, regularly informed all members of every step taken by the initiators, and will attend the event organized to officially launch this Call in Geneva in March 2014.

Combating Violence against Children

Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV)

During the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council, DCI, as convener of the Working Group on Children and Violence (**WG/CAV**) of Child Rights Connect, organized a meeting with Ms. Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children (**SRSG/VAC**), looking at ways to collaborate and coordinate activities.

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children (SRSG/VAC)

As aforementioned, during the 23rd session of the HRC, the Working Group on Children and Violence (**WG/CAV**) organized **"Child Domestic Work – a reality of violence and slavery"** on 11th of June to discuss the harsh conditions of child domestic workers, present protective measures, and to provide a space for states to dialogue regarding the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189). Panelists included former Human Rights Council president, Ambassador Dupuy Lasarre; from the president of DCI-Costa Rica, Virginia Murillo and Senior Legal Officer of the ILO/IPEC, Ms. Noguchi, amongst others.

In 2013 the WG/CAV established its Focus Group on children and armed conflict (**FG/CAAC**) to advocate Geneva based stakeholders to take action, promote violence prevention strategies, help rebuild the lives of those already affected and protect vulnerable children. The FG/CAAC gained momentum swiftly creating a unique coordination hub within Geneva based organizations and also on the global level (in particular with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on children affected by armed conflict in New York). Defence for Children International and War Child Holland convened this FG/CAAC organization.

International NGO Council on Violence against Children (InCo)

The International NGO Council on Violence against Children arose out of advocacy efforts by a loose network of international NGOs around the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children in 2006. Later a more formal NGO network was created to provide input to the independent expert, Prof. Pinheiro, who undertook the Study and the supporting UN Agencies. Additionally, the NGO network helped to coordinate and mobilize the participation of NGOs during the execution of the Study. Later on, with the support of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a broad network of child rights organizations were invited to form a new NGO Advisory Panel for the UN Study on VAC. Twenty national, regional and international NGOs were selected including Save the Children, Human Rights Watch, OMCT, Defence for Children International and World Vision.

After the Study, the NGOs formed a new Advisory Council to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Study by first lobbying for the appointment of a Special Representative

of the Secretary General on VAC and currently to support the SRSG-VAC mandate. The International NGO Council on VAC is composed of 18 members, that is, 9 international members and 9 regional representatives. The international representatives are from international NGOs, many of whom actively supported the Study. Regional representatives represent the nine regions identified during the Study, and are nominated from within regional networks (in the cases where such networks exist).

For full implementation of the UNSG's Study on VAC recommendations, the International NGO Council encourages and facilitates NGO involvement at a national, regional, and international level in follow-up advocacy with governments, UN agencies and others; identifies key priorities and develops follow-up activities and strategies with UN SRSG on VAC; identifies and transmits important information regarding VAC from the field level to the SRSG and other appropriate

InCo Report 2013

UN bodies; uses and strengthens existing information channels and networks to inform the child rights NGO community; supports the SRSG in developing a mechanism for the participation of children and young people in follow-up activities; participates in monitoring implementation by member states; and develops advocacy tools for national NGOs.

In 2013 the InCo met twice: in March in Geneva, at the time of the Human Rights Council Annual Full Day Meeting on the Rights of the Child, and in October in New York, at the time of the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee Meeting. This year has been particularly important as it marked the publication of a report on how to establish a non-violent juvenile justice system *(Creating a non-violent juvenile justice system*, InCo, 2013).

Source: InCo Report

This report was written to address the growing epidemic and global magnitude of violence which is experienced by children in juvenile justice systems around the world. It is grounded in factual evidence from many case studies and describes acts of aggression and abuse committed against children in nearly all stages of the justice system. The report also provides recommendations to child's rights advocates, national governments and international bodies and it will serve as reference material for the ways to improve juvenile justice across the world.

Organizational matters in 2013

In between International General Assemblies (**IGAs**), the governing body of DCI, the International Executive Council (**IEC**) is, as the political organ of DCI, in charge of leading the Movement until the following IGA. The IEC is composed of seven members who were elected during the 2012 IGA, and whose term lasts four years. Present members of the IEC include: Benoit Van Keirsbilck (President), Désiré Aroga (Treasurer), Abdul Manaff Kemokai (Vice President of Africa), Aloys van Rest (Vice President of Europe), Rifat Odeh Kassis (Vice President of Asia and Oceania), Juan Pedro Fumeiro (Vice President of Americas), and Perla Ribeiro (Member at large). The main mandate of the IEC is to implement the decisions and priorities determined by the IGA.

In 2013, the IEC met four times: one physical meeting in Geneva in June, and three virtual meetings or teleconferences, in February, August and November. Among several things, the IEC decides on the inclusion, as provisional national sections, of applying organizations. In 2013 new sections joined the Movement, specifically: Egypt (the Egyptian Association for the Assistance of Juveniles and Human Rights, NGO); Iraq (South Youth Org, NGO); Guinea Conakry (Sabou Guinée, NGO) and Tunisia (Association Tunisienne des Droits des Enfants, NGO); more organizations applied and are due to be processed in 2014.

The IEC also decided on the suspension of national sections, namely of Russia and Slovakia, failing to fulfilled their obligations as associated members to the Movement.

IEC meeting in June 2013 (from left): Désiré Aroga, Perla Ribeiro, Aysel Sabahoglu, Rifat Odeh Kassis, Benoit Van Keirsbilck, Ileana Bello, Juan Pedro Fumeiro, Anna D. Tomasi, Bahia Egeh, Andrea Salcedo, Fanny Badache, Abdul Manaff Kemokai

The IEC is also mandated by the IGA to amend the current Statutes of DCI and to revise policy documents, such as the Gender and Code of Ethics, which are currently being finalized in the three official languages of the Movement and are to be endorsed by the national sections, before being uploaded on the website.

In June 2013, the IEC met with some members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for an informal discussion to reiterate their long-lasting collaboration, especially on matters related to justice for children. DCI confirmed its engagement for the respect of the norms as set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and reassured the Committee of its commitment, through the work of its

national sections and associated members, for the preparation of alternative reports and for the follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee. DCI will further strengthen this collaboration and support the custodians of the CRC in their effort to protect the human rights of children worldwide.

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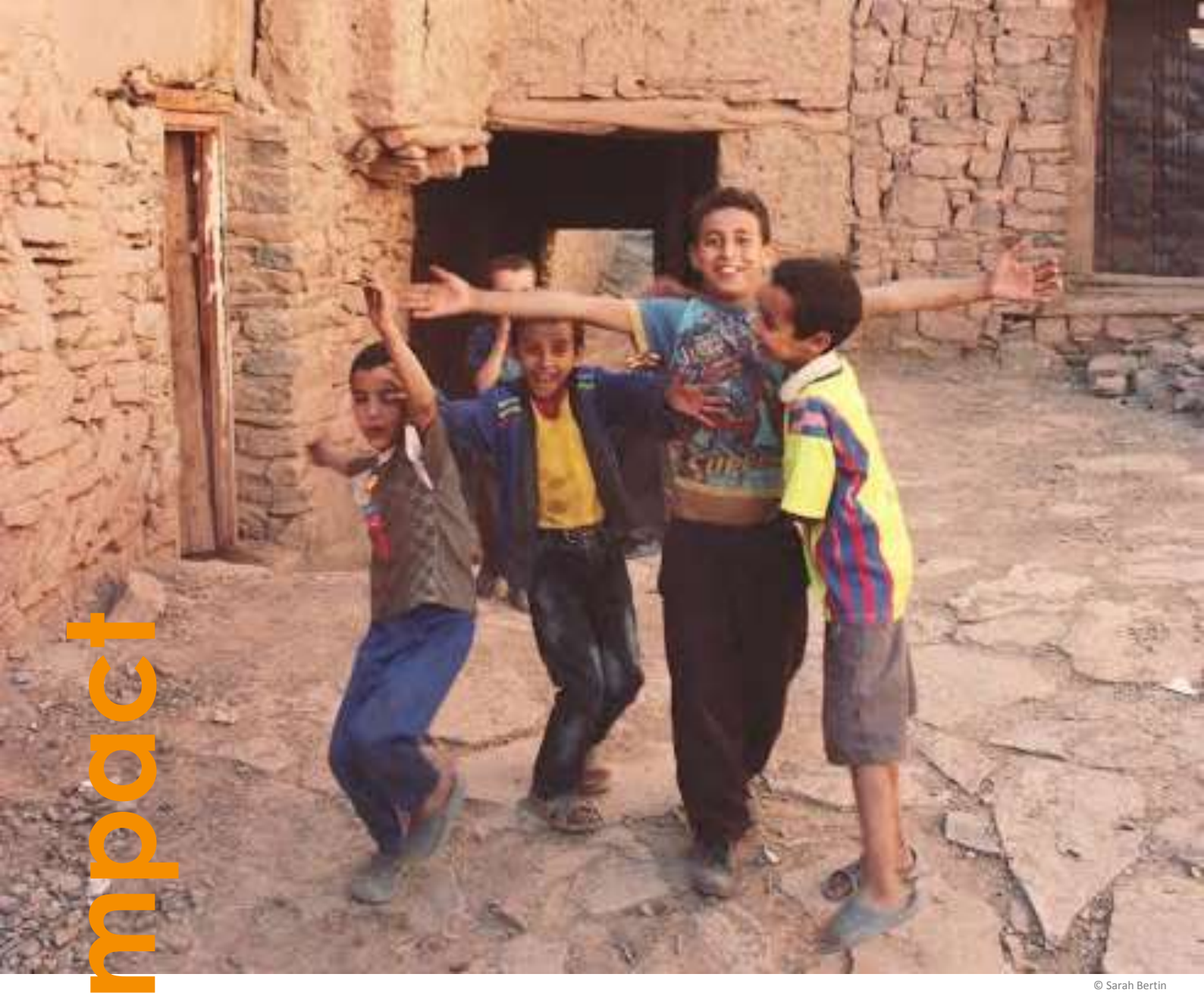
Regional Impact



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Consolidating experiences, strengthening actions

As an international child rights advocacy Movement, Defence for Children International is led and coordinated by its International Executive Council (**IEC**) and the International Secretariat (**IS**). Each region of the world is represented by a vice president on the International Executive Council. The role of a vice president thus includes promoting the image of the organization in the region, ensuring that the organization is connected to important regional bodies and mechanisms, and engaging them to advance the rights of children. The vice president is also encouraged to coordinate national sections through sound regional programs. In the course of 2013, the IEC and the IS have been looking at establishing 'regional desks', to help strengthen the work of the vice-presidencies and enhance collaboration at regional level.

AFRICA

Africa is a region where DCI operation remains very much needed as children and young people still face huge challenges in the enjoyment of their human rights. Many African Governments are experiencing economic growth though little is reflected in the daily lives of the majority of citizens. Thus the operation of civil society organizations, such as DCI, in carrying out persistent advocacy in the aim to influence and improve the life of the people is highly significant. The DCI Movement is present through its national sections across the African continent and has a huge potential to grow further. Despite the geographical distance between these sections, and cost implications for meetings to be arranged, there has been considerate regional integration and coordination among DCI sections in Africa; in particular:

- The Kampala Conference follow-up in collaboration with ACPF, with focus on strengthening the role of the Guidelines on child-friendly justice within the work of the ACERWC;

- The Mano River Union (**MRU**), a sub-regional association established in 1973 between Liberia and Sierra Leone. In 1980 and 2008, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire respectively joined the union. The primary goal of the Union is to foster economic cooperation among the countries but this has now been expanded to cover security and human rights including child protection. In 2013, DCI-Sierra Leone organized a **Mano River Union meeting** on child trafficking and reintegration of unaccompanied children. The goal of the meeting was to establish understanding and agreement of cooperation among DCI-Sierra Leone, DCI-Liberia and Sabou (now DCI-Guinea), the West African Network on Child Protection, the Mano River Union Secretariat, UNICEF and youth groups from the three countries. The meeting discussed the issue of reintegration of unaccompanied children who they find themselves without families and without legal citizenship.

- Sub-regional programme (West-Africa): The **Girl Power Project** - DCI-Sierra Leone, DCI-Ghana and DCI-Liberia are involved in a global Girl Power project that aims to provide equal opportunities for girls and young women. The project is implemented in ten countries and involves numerous NGOs. Within this project, thousands of girls and young women are provided support in gaining access to justice when they are abused and in participating in community programs that affect them, as well as influencing policy and strengthening community based child protection mechanisms.

"A lot more needs to be done and the vice president will continue to explore possibilities for regional project funding that can provide capacity building opportunities for the sections as well as build strong partnership and linkages among the sections for shared learning."

Abdul Manaff Kemokai, Vice President Africa, DCI

Regional Impact

AMERICAS

It should be noted that in recent times, the Latin American continent has experienced an increase in punitive and repressive tendencies, which has a strong impact on the human rights of adolescents in the juvenile criminal justice systems. Urgent action is needed to strengthen the regional network and counter these trends. It is for this reason that DCI continues to work, in collaboration with other partner NGOs at regional level, to promote and ensure the correct implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in particular of the rights of children in the justice system.

Collaboration between national sections of DCI in Latin American continued strongly throughout 2013. In December 2013, the seventh regional meeting of the Juvenile Justice programme took place in Costa Rica with the participation of representatives from the national sections and the International Secretariat.

The meeting marked the conclusion of the first phase of the regional programme for the establishment of a Juvenile Justice Observatory. The objective of such Regional Observatory (a programme which is funded by the European Union) is to provide reliable quantitative and qualitative information on the functioning of the juvenile justice systems in eight countries where DCI has national sections: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. The Programme is coordinated by IELSUR – Comité de Derechos del Niño, Uruguay and Anced – Associação Nacional dos Centros de Defesa da Criança e do Adolescente (DCI-Brasil).

Costa Rica: regional meeting in December

"Civil society must be taken into account and their contributions made possible. We have trained and skilled people and we have to be consulted by the governments when it comes to the respect of the rights of the child."

Juan Pedro Fumeiro, Vice President Americas, DCI

EUROPE

The work of DCI sections in Europe focuses on migrant children and juvenile justice - two issues of particular concern for DCI worldwide. Migration poses many challenges for children and their families: the factors, such as poverty and violence which cause migrants to leave their country of origin, and the isolation and fear faced upon arrival in the host country. Many children arrive in new countries alone, unaccompanied and undocumented, making them vulnerable to violence, exploitation and other human rights violations; some may also come into conflict with the law. Children in these precarious situations are often detained arbitrarily, denied their right to education or subjected to abuse. DCI national sections, particularly within the European region, work closely with migrants and asylum seeking children to ensure that their human rights are respected and protected.

DCI's regional activities in Europe continued to develop throughout 2013. DCI-The Netherlands, where the regional vice-presidency is located, became the coordinator of the SCEP (Separated Children in Europe Programme), which is a European NGO-Network made up of 33 organizations from 28 European countries (including two other DCI national sections). The SCEP Network seeks to improve the situation of separated children through research, a shared policy and advocacy activities at national and regional levels.

SCEP
Separated Children in Europe Programme

A joint European collaboration between DCI-The Netherlands, DCI-Italy and other European NGOs produced the report on **Core Standards for guardians of separated children in Europe.** This report was the outcome of a project funded by the European Union, which aimed to improve

Closing a Protection Gap
Core Standards for guardians of separated children in Europe

the situation of separated children by developing core standards with regard the qualifications of guardians, based on the views of separated children in relation to their rights according to the CRC Convention.

2013 was also critical in the area of juvenile justice as it marked the drafting of a project proposal (set to commence in 2014) concerning the publication of a practical manual for the adequate monitoring of juvenile detention facilities in Europe. DCI-Belgium, together with DCI-France, Italy and The Netherlands and other European organizations will work together to assess the monitoring and complaint systems of child detention systems within the region.

"Revealing child rights violations is the first step towards promoting action and influencing policies towards better protection of children, we need to look at children that are more vulnerable and need stronger protection, as is the case of unaccompanied minors and children deprived of liberty."

Aloys Van Rest, Vice President Europe, DCI

Regional Impact

MENA Region

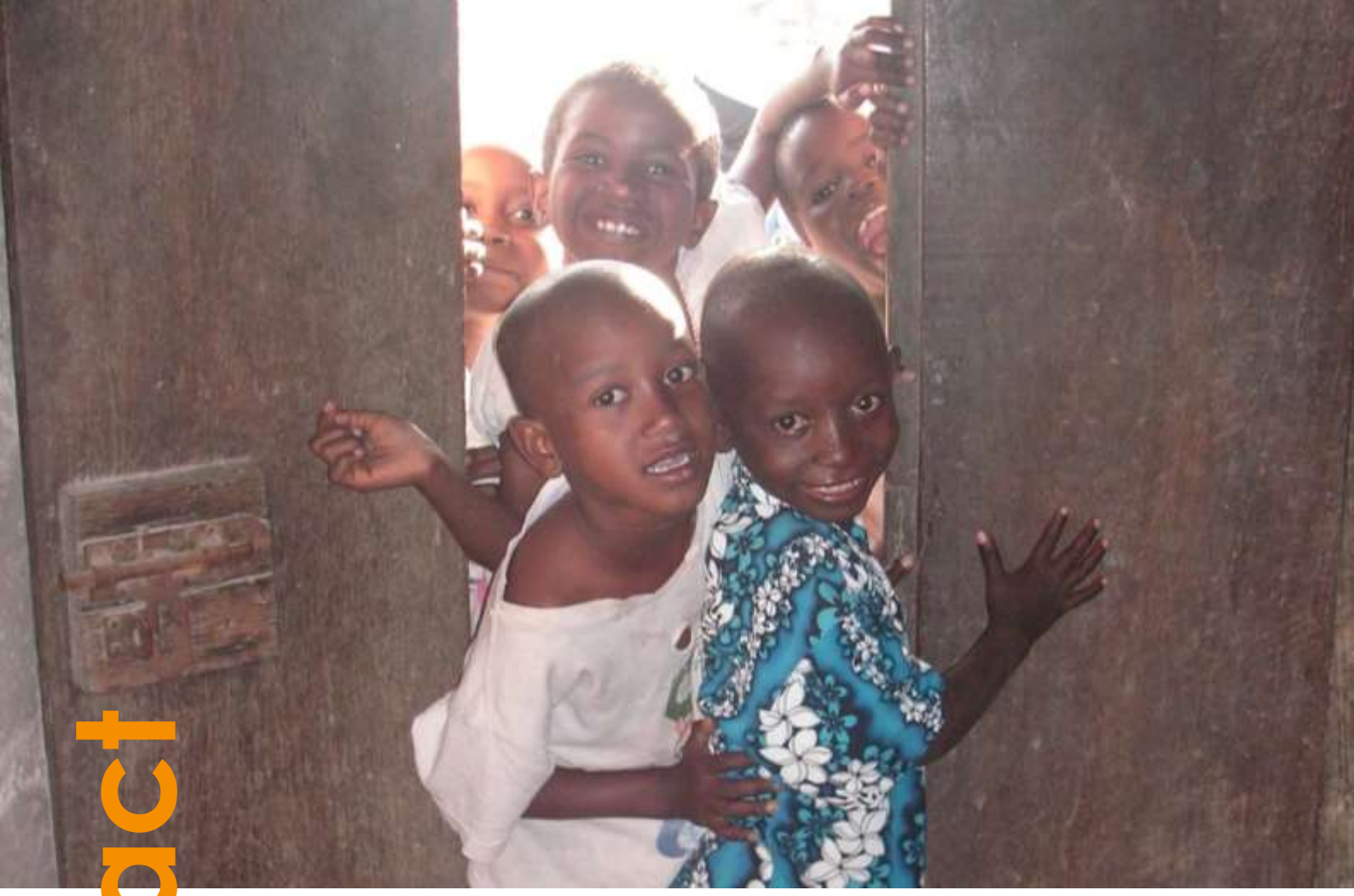
DCI is currently expanding its presence in the Arab World and, under the leadership of DCI-Palestine, has been supporting the establishment of a regional network for the MENA region (Middle-east and North Africa). This geographic area is of particular concern, as it clearly requires the provision of adequate protection for children and human rights defenders alike; both groups continue to pay a high price for the on-going civil unrest there. Many children see their rights continuously violated, often being used as puppets to break through riots, or in other reported cases, are plainly and heartlessly targeted and killed. The establishment of a regional network will not only enhance the voice of those advocating for children's rights, but will also serve to monitor and report abuses and threats toward human rights defenders themselves. This regional network will also, through the DCI-IS, expand services to professionals on both regional and international levels, participating in capacity building activities and relevant international events; and submit reports and complaints to international human rights treaty bodies, inter alia.

DCI-Palestine, in collaboration with the International Secretariat, continues to work for the sound establishment of a regional network within the MENA region and create child-friendly justice systems within the region. To this end, in 2013, a project was launched to support the effective development and implementation of regional and national policies, strategies and legislation in line with the CRC Convention and other international juvenile justice standards. The focus of this regional programme, which involves the collaboration of DCI-Palestine with newly established DCI sections in Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Jordan, is to enhance the interaction and engagement of Civil Society Organizations with the League of Arab States (**LAS**), building on experience gained and lessons learned from engagement with international mechanisms and the African Charter. Part of the project included participation of child rights advocates of the region to a training session held in June 2013 in Geneva. A regional meeting will take place in early 2014.

"It is our hope that this regional network will provide a firm foundation for creating and enhancing policies designed to improve the lives of children living in the Arab World, especially those who come in contact with the law."

Rifat Odeh Kassis, Vice President Asia and Oceania

National Impact



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Africa	Europe	Asia-Oceania	Americas
Angola	Belgium	Australia	Argentina
Benin	Czech Republic	Iraq	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	France	Israel	Brazil
Cameroon	Italy	Japan	Canada
Congo (DRC)	The Netherlands	Lebanon	Colombia
Cote d'Ivoire	Spain	Pakistan (associated member)	Costa Rica
Egypt	Switzerland	Palestine	Ecuador
Ghana		Yemen	Mexico (associated member)
Guinea Conakry			Paraguay
Liberia			Uruguay
Mauritius			USA
Niger			
Nigeria			
Senegal			
Sierra Leone			
Sudan			
Togo			
Tunisia			
Uganda			
Zimbabwe			

DCI national sections in 2013

National Impact

Argentina

During 2013, DCI-Argentina continued to prioritize its efforts towards the institutional and political transformations that concretely contribute to the improvement of the situation of children in Argentina. Notably, following the global orientation of the DCI Movement to consider the issue of juvenile justice as a top priority, DCI-Argentina was active contributor and participant to the Regional Juvenile Justice Programme and worked in the ten-year long implementation of this project in collaboration with the other sections of the region.

DCI-Argentina, which has been working since 2009 with the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Buenos Aires, continued its collaboration in the construction of several indicators to monitor the implementation, at the provincial level, of laws pertaining to children. Specifically, in 2013, the Argentine section worked on the construction of an index called "La Adolescencia MIDDE" (Spanish acronym for *Measurement, Indicators, Rights, Development, Education*), which seeks to build a comprehensive database by means of different factors, such as: demographics, health, violence and juvenile justice. Since the recognition of its work by UNICEF, DCI-Argentina has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNICEF in the country, in order to contribute to the collection of information on the population aged from 0 to 14. DCI-Argentina also collaborated with *International Social Service* to work on cross-border issues in cases where young individuals or families require social, psycho-social, administrative or legal, intervention prior to expulsion from Argentina.

Empowering children on matters concerning their human rights

In terms of awareness raising, a number of activities were organized during 2013, targeting public service agents, judges and lawyers in order to ultimately enhance specialized care for children and adolescents. DCI-Argentina also led a programme which involved the provision of legal and psychosocial assistance for children, calling on urgent professional and technical care in cases where their rights are not fully respected.

Belgium

In 2013, DCI-Belgium carried out numerous activities of information and awareness raising on children's rights among the population, as well as reporting and calling for justice in cases where children's rights had been infringed. Consolidating DCI-Belgium's status as a major actor in the field, the Constitutional Court formally recognized that associations defending children's rights, such as DCI-Belgium, are allowed to act on behalf of children's groups in cases of class action litigation. Furthermore, during a visit from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), DCI-Belgium discussed the main concerns regarding the situation of children in conflict with law and deprived of liberty in Belgium, as well as provided guided visits and support to the CPT during its monitoring activities.

DCI-Belgium also worked on a proposal, funded by the European Commission, entitled **"Children's Rights Behind Bars. Human rights of children deprived of liberty: improving monitoring mechanisms"**, with the aim to ameliorate international justice standards in the protection of incarcerated children. This project was built on the observation that, contrary to the situation for adults, there are no European guidelines to properly monitor living and detention conditions of children in such situations. Thus, in order to meet the particular needs and rights of the children, DCI-Belgium took a stand to improve that situation and aims to create a practical guide to be used by professionals when visiting centers where children are being deprived of their liberty, particularly juvenile detention facilities.

"Children's Rights Behind Bars" project

Furthermore, following legal actions taken by DCI-Belgium against the Belgian government, the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe condemned Belgium for violating the human rights of migrant children, who did not benefit from the full respect of their rights to healthcare, school and day-care. Since the judicial decision was passed, Belgium is obliged to provide suitable accommodation for every migrant child entering national territory. DCI-Belgium also led a campaign for the legal prohibition of corporal punishment against children and advocated for the national government to ratify the OP3 CRC on a communications procedure. At the time of drafting this report, we are pleased to inform that Belgium has ratified OP3 CRC, thus becoming the 11th country to ratify this Optional Protocol.

National Impact

Bolivia

In 2013, DCI-Bolivia continued to work on the projects established in its institutional strategic plan of 2011-2015 which is divided into three main areas. Firstly, through the promotion of youth participation and leadership, DCI-Bolivia seeks to encourage the education, training and public presence of children and adolescents within Bolivian society to raise awareness about child-related issues and empower children themselves. Through their outreach programs, over 2,100 children were empowered to claim their human rights and trained on issues linked to prevention of violence, social responsibility and peaceful conflict-resolution.

Secondly, DCI-Bolivia conducted actions to enhance the social impact of children. Such actions aimed at generating awareness, compliance and commitment to children's rights by public institutions, members of civil society and the population at large. Its national awareness-raising campaign on social participation of children managed to impact over 14,000 individuals, including teachers, directors of educative establishments and family members. DCI-Bolivia works to improve children's education, including the establishment of various "Student Centers" that serve as a space for dialogue and participation.

Thirdly and finally, political impact and advocacy was a determinant axis of action for DCI-Bolivia during 2013. Thematic trainings on the implementation of child rights laws by government within

Empowering children to claim their human rights

the juvenile justice system were conducted for judges, lawyers, and government representatives. DCI-Bolivia was also lead researcher in a study on the situation of children in conflict with law, which consisted of a national review on teenagers from 13 to 18 years of age who are deprived of liberty. This study provided concrete facts for policy-makers and contributed to better implementation of child rights by the Bolivian judiciary.

Burkina Faso

Throughout 2013, its first year as a DCI national section, DCI-Burkina Faso focused its work on juvenile justice, violence against children, child labor and the child trafficking.

Among these activities, DCI-Burkina Faso conducted surveys for the national Ministry of Justice to learn more about the situation of juvenile justice in the country and determine the causes of juvenile delinquency. It also opened, and made available to the vast public, a socio-legal defense center.

Awareness raising on children's human rights

To monitor and prevent different forms of domestic violence, exploitation and abuse of children, home visits were conducted by specialized family attendants of the DCI section. Following these visits, DCI-Burkina Faso was able to return several children engaged as domestic servants to their respective families. The national section also conducted awareness raising actions among the population. Furthermore, in its plight against violence in school settings, DCI-Burkina Faso, together with school principals, established 50 schools, colleges and primary schools, as well as a "Children's Rights Clubs". These clubs serve as an amplifier for awareness raising actions and the overall work of DCI. The national section also provided human rights training to teachers so as to incorporate children's rights into the primary school curricula. DCI-Burkina Faso makes periodic monthly visits to schools in order to answer questions from students, but also to talk with teachers and monitor occurring child right violations within the school environment.

National Impact

Canada

Throughout 2013, DCI-Canada continued working on the defense of the rights of children involved in the justice system, as concerns in this regard remained a high priority for the organization. This was notably exemplified by the "carding" practice carried out by the Toronto police force, whereby police officers routinely stop young people, often from poor or a visible minority background, and ask them intrusive and unjustified questions. DCI-Canada wrote to the Editor of the Toronto Newspaper identifying this practice as a clear violation of human rights, disclosing the issue to broader audiences and contributing to its subsequent halt.

DCI-Canada also contributed towards promoting the issue of juvenile justice through many partnerships, notably a group, co-chaired by the Ontario Provincial Advocate's Office and DCI-Canada, to work on key messages towards children, and also via a Committee called "Quakers Fostering Justice". This Committee hosted a two-day workshop involving a wide range of participants' from civil society and led to the decision to form a "knowledge broker service" in order to provide better information about juvenile justice to children.

In another step to renew its focus on direct engagement with children, DCI-Canada involved a panel of young people within its annual Grant Lowery Lecture: "Youth Advocacy in an Instant World", which acknowledged that traditional ways of speaking out are now outdated. They discussed the use of new technologies as a means to have the voices of youth heard. In honor of Les Horne, founder and former Executive Director of DCI-Canada, the first Les Horne "Rights In Action" award was awarded and will financially support a young person, or group of young people, with a project aimed at promoting the rights of the child.

The Les Horne 'Rights in Action' Award for Youth

DCI-Canada also continued its involvement in immigration cases where children face deportation after their parents have been refused refugee status, providing assistance prominently through letters of support. Several complaints have thus been received and accepted by a federal court judge, who has allowed children and families to remain in Canada. On the international front, DCI is coming to the end of its project with the Girl Child Network in Uganda, providing additional funding for a local coordinator to take the programme into its next phase.

Colombia

In 2013, DCI-Colombia realized many actions aiming to raise awareness of the vulnerable situation of children's rights in the country and lobbying for public policies to guarantee or restitute these rights. For the third consecutive year, DCI-Colombia organized a project seeking to promote the human rights of indigenous women and girls which included a considerable number of meetings, workshops and days of information sharing with groups of women and girls. This work was compiled in a report entitled **"The Daughters of the Sun in the Land of the Jaguars"**.

Activity with indigenous girls in Mitú

DCI-Colombia also participated in several events at the national level including the monthly follow-up round table on the situation of indigenous girls, the International Conference on Children in Armed Conflict and Environment Day, where a group of girls which has been trained by DCI-Colombia publicly sang "Gente Soy" (I am a person), a song collectively created by the group. DCI-Colombia also participated in two radio transmissions which were broadcast on the station of the National University of Colombia, wherein the results of DCI-Colombia's report were discussed.

The national section was also active participant in the regional juvenile justice programme of DCI and strongly advocated for the best interest of the child and children deprived of liberty during various meetings with the Mayor of Bogotá and the national office of human rights. DCI-Columbia also organized several workshops on youth political participation and citizenship with children from rural areas. Lastly, within the Coalition Opposed to Involving Children and Young People in the Armed Conflict (COALICO – Spanish acronym), a platform composed of eight NGOs, DCI-Colombia was part of the Executive Council and its Investigation Committee. Within this coalition, DCI-Colombia became a privileged interlocutor of civil society during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, participating among the panel of experts involved with the United Nations Security Council working-group on Children and Armed Conflict.

Costa Rica

DCI-Costa Rica divided its activities in five main strategic lines in 2013. In terms of institutional development, DCI-Costa Rica's position as national and regional actor has been strengthened by its cooperation with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as the organization of a tribute to human rights defenders. Secondly, DCI-Costa Rica worked on governance and public policy by organizing a significant number of political actions on many issues, including violence against children, juvenile justice and child labor. An important focus was placed on the ratification of the OP3 CRC on a communications procedure. Two panel discussions were also organized: one with Mr. Jaime Ordonez, expert in governance, human rights and political analysis, under the national reality of the rights of children and adolescents in Costa Rica; and another with the United Nations Special Rapporteur of the right to freedom of opinion, Mr. Frank La Rue and communications consultant for Mercosur, Mr. Guilherme Canela, on the means of communication available to children.

The third axis of action implemented by DCI-Costa Rica in 2013 was education as a human right. In this perspective, many activities aiming to promote education, and particularly quality education, were organized throughout the year. A notable example of this initiative is the project "Los Amigos de Zippy", aimed to educate children between 5 and 8 years old. In order to develop their social abilities, children followed several sessions based on different thematic modules such as communications, feelings, friendship and conflict-solving.

Interaction project recording studio

Lastly, DCI-Costa Rica advocated for the right to live without violence and launched several awareness raising campaigns on the promotion of social peace and participation as a human right and social process. It also conducted and coordinated many projects on various important issues related to children's rights, notably: human trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, as well as child labor. Finally, communications and social mobilization remained an important priority for DCI-Costa Rica. An article concerning "the need to strengthen civil society organizations and bolster their impact on the socio-political changes of a given country" appeared on a DCI-Costa Rica Newsletter (DNI 85-2013). The article refers to the fact that human rights organizations in Latin America suffer threats, reprisals, and insecurity from state actors who appear less and less accepting and respectful of freedom of expression, particularly regarding human rights violations.

Czech Republic

DCI-Czech Republic aims to reach the full implementation of the CRC within the country. DCI-Czech Republic increased its partnership with local NGOs in the firm belief that the realization of the CRC cannot be achieved without strong collaboration with other child rights NGO's. The national section welcomed the NGO coalition **"For a Better Care for Handicapped People"** (LPLP) and the NGO "Family 2013" as partners within the **"Alliance of NGOs for the Rights of the Child in Czechia"**, which is a national coalition, initiated by DCI-Czech Republic in 1997, to better coordinate advocacy activities among all actors involved.

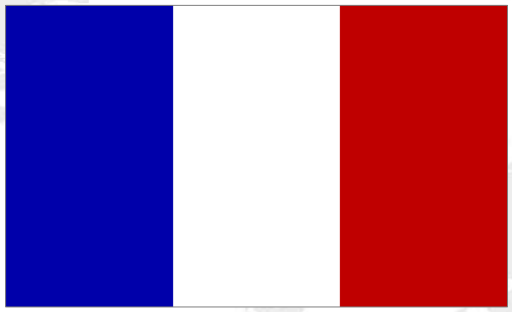
In 2013, DCI-Czech Republic organized the **"18th National Evaluation Seminar on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Czech Republic",** which took place on the premises of the Czech Senate. This event gathered politicians, experts, representatives of public management bodies and NGOs, as well as children and young people themselves. The event focused on the situation of children with disabilities and their families. Their situation had recently been substantially worsened by the inappropriate governmental response to the economic crisis and failures of the child rights protection system. The meeting provided a suitable space for raising awareness on child rights protection. The outcomes of the event were disseminated by the media and submitted as a formal plea to the petition committees of both chambers of the national Parliament of the Czech Republic. The Senate held public hearings based on this plea. Outcomes of the meeting were also provided to the Committee for the Rights of the Child of the Governmental Council for Human Rights.

To ensure the full realization of children's rights, DCI-Czech Republic also strengthened its collaboration with the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Human Rights to develop a national strategy to make children's rights a reality in the country and evaluate the progress made with regard CRC implementation. DCI-Czech Republic organized, among other activities, an advocacy campaign to

18th National Evaluation Seminar on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Czech Republic

revise the governmental methodology for evaluating the needs of children in care. The national section submitted a motion on the revision to the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Human Rights and managed to obtain its support. At the end of 2013, the government began to redress the worst damages caused to children, not only those with disabilities. All these actions led to higher awareness among the public about children with disabilities and to the inclusion of some of their demands to election programs of certain political parties. DCI-Czech Republic will continue to monitor the child rights protection system in the Czech Republic to ensure that remaining gaps will be soon filled.

National Impact



France

In 2013, DCI-France's major achievement was the initiation of a coalition of 43 NGOs working in the field of children's rights with the aim to write, for the first time in France, a common alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for its next review (due to take place in 2015). This project, in which children are also involved, is an opportunity to renew dialogue between the state and civil society on French policies regarding children.

In addition, DCI-France engaged in many other activities: in July 2013 it committed to becoming a partner of a project of the European Commission. This project, coordinated by DCI-Belgium, involves 14 countries in Europe and aims to improve standards for monitoring places of detention for children by producing a practical guide for professionals when conducting inspections where children are deprived of liberty, particularly juvenile detention centers.

Throughout 2013 DCI-France continued its advocacy work to promote the participation of children and their families, including the development of a guide on the implementation of territorial projects on education (PEDT). The national section pursued its work of reconciliation and cooperation with different institutions in order to establish and maintain the visibility of the organization and to try to influence policy directions. It met with the offices of seven national ministers, as well as with presidents of parliamentary assemblies and with the working groups of DIHAL (Inter-ministerial Delegation for emergency Accommodation and Access to Housing), and had regular exchanges with the national commissioner and his deputy Ombudsman for Children.

Furthermore, DCI-France strongly solicited local activists to improve the difficult situation faced by children of particularly vulnerable groups, such as street children, unaccompanied foreign minors, hosted families thrown roughly to the street, etc.

A meeting with presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly

Finally, DCI-France was active partner for School Failure Eradication Day (Journée de refus de l'échec scolaire, JRES), as well as for Poverty Eradication Day. DCI-France equally supported the "No 0 for behavior" ("Pas de 0 de conduite") initiative which establishes an entity made up of the National Council and the inter-ministerial authority for children.

Ghana

In 2013, DCI-Ghana continued to implement the Girl Power Project (GPP), which aims at providing girls with the same opportunities as their counterparts and eliminate violence against girls and young women. Under the GPP, with financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and technical support from the DCI-IS, the national section implemented many activities in the Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi Municipality.

Training Seminar for Girls in Adum Presby Basic School

DCI-Ghana visited 20 communities in these two municipalities and held discussions on gender equality, gender-based violence and child prostitution. Members of the community were informed about the systems and structures available for child protection at community and institutional levels. This activity contributed to raise the awareness of 40,000 households, including approximately 3,500 girls and young women, on the promotion and protection of children's rights in their communities. The activity also resulted in enquiries concerning access to social and legal services offered by the DCI-Ghana's socio-legal defense centers in Kumasi and Obuasi metropolis. In 2013, these centers provided their services to 897 boys and girls who were victims of all sorts of violence. DCI-Ghana also developed sensitization programs using media tools. The national section published four press articles on the GPP and participated in ten radio broadcasts and interviews to advocate for gender equality. To involve local decision makers in the process of promoting and safeguarding children's rights, DCI-Ghana provided additional training on gender equality, child protection and safety measures to 57 community leaders in the Obuasi Municipality. This activity raised the awareness of community leaders as well as their capacity to protect children and young women within their communities.

Following last year success, DCI-Ghana created 46 additional Child Rights Clubs. The members' capacity and awareness was strengthened through educational talks, group discussions, meetings and other media messages using information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Through these platforms, DCI-Ghana succeeded in empowering more than 2,886 children and young women on matters of protection against violence and abuses. With respect to capacity-building, about 313 boys and 1,684 girls and young women received training and life planning skills on topics such as: rights and responsibilities, unsafe abortion, teenage pregnancy, prevention and protection against violence, Sexual Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS, stigmatization, personal and environmental hygiene, self-esteem and decision making.

National Impact

Guinea Conakry

In 2013, the action plan of DCI-Guinea Conakry to prevent and respond to exploitation, violence and abuse against children in Lower Guinea and Middle Guinea, including in emergency situations and caused by political crises, reached 56,674 individuals (7,785 directly and 48,889 indirectly). These figures include children on the move (domestic and transnational) who are victims of abuse, exploitation and violence; those in conflict with the law; and children in street situations. Furthermore, these efforts led to actions by the two aforementioned states in favor of a bilateral agreement on the protection of children.

In the context of transnational mobility, DCI-Guinea Conakry was able to provide support to approximately 120 children. As part of the care of child victims of ethnic conflicts in Forest Guinea, DCI-Guinea Conakry was able to support the reintegration of 90 children and youth in different life projects. All of these children have received at least one of the following services: psychosocial support, shelter, access to basic needs (health, food, clothes etc.), research and family assessment, support for reintegration, family unification and education.

In addition, through some extra funds this year, DCI-Guinea Conakry was able to conduct an emergency project for victims of ethnic clashes from Forest Guinea and was also able to renovate the Transit Centre of DCI-Guinea in Conakry.

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During 2013, DCI-Guinea Conakry participated in several regional and sub-regional meetings including an international meeting in Conakry on the support of children and young people returned from Europe. This meeting aimed to harmonize strategic support for children and young Africans in Europe.

Iraq

The work of DCI-Iraq (South Youth Organization), during 2013, focused on three main points: promoting political and social participation of adolescents; conducting advocacy work; and organizing various community based activities with the aim to create better conditions for the realization of human rights.

DCI-Iraq, in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), initiated the youth advocacy campaign program in Dhi Qar Governorate. Three Working Groups, each made up of 20 girls and boys were active in several youth fora, schools and governmental institutions advocating for the rights of young people. A process of data collection was also carried out through surveys and questionnaires. DCI-Iraq also organized, in cooperation with UNESCO, a three-day training program for young people, including teachers, on civic principles and citizenship. Various training sessions were held, by means and support of media, to promote civic principles and the active participation of young people in political life. These highly enriching sessions also addressed the issues of employment opportunities young Iraqis.

In 2013, DCI-Iraq also continued its projects, in collaboration with UNFPA, to improve the protection of children and adolescents from sexual transmitted diseases by initiating three educational workshops to raise awareness on HIV.

In February 2013, DCI-Iraq became a member of the High Committee on Literacy in Iraq and NGO representative therein. In the same context, DCI-Iraq established, with UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, three literacy centers with a special focus on young people. The number of enrolments in these centers is approximately 121 young men and 137 young women. Furthermore, DCI-Iraq was selected to participate in the

"MOCHARAKA" program, which is sponsored by the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID).

In the context of its initiative to establish alternative policies that meet the needs of young people, DCI-Iraq along with the Iraqi Association for Development and Time Center for Youth's Awareness and Rehabilitation, held its second seminar on promoting peace and conflict resolution with a considerable participation of youths, cultural and media personalities and Civil Society Organizations. The primary goal of the seminar was to reject all kinds of violence, discrimination and sectarianism. Within its programme to promote young leadership and social participation, DCI-Iraq organized workshops with the aim to enhance the involvement of Iraqi youth within the political sphere. This initiative engaged young people, from both sexes, in monitoring the Iraqi Governorate elections. Additionally, DCI-Iraq was designated by the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) to implement a Cooperation Program between public authorities and NGOs with the aim to foster development.

National Impact

Italy

In 2013, DCI-Italy continued to work in favor of children's rights by participating and implementing numerous projects. The project **"Closing a Protection Gap 2.0"**, in collaboration with DCI-The Netherlands, aimed to concretely implement the Core Standards for guardians of separated children in Europe and to feed into policy and legislative mechanisms pertaining to guardianship. The project worked and advocated for a European instrument, inspired by the Core Standards, based on consultation with separated children and empowered guardians.

The **"RESILAND"** initiative started in November 2013, launching a two-year process to promote the participation and strengthening of personal resources and resilience of migrant children, as key mechanisms for their efficient self-protection from trafficking and exploitation. On December 2nd, 2013, the kick-off meeting was held in Athens with partners and experts discussing the methodology and strategy of the project.

The **"TOM-TOM"** project (which concluded in July 2013) targeted children involved in judicial proceedings, and created an independent and voluntary service aimed at more efficiently orienting the connection between children and the resources available on the ground, for a better integration of children after the judicial experience. The project was implemented by a group of volunteers specifically trained by DCI-Italy.

The **"IMPACT"** project was aimed at improving and enhancing the effect of child welfare policies in better preventing and protecting vulnerable categories of children from trafficking and exploitation. National seminars were held in May, June and November 2013 in Rome, the latter included the organization of a transnational seminar with relevant actors coming from different partner countries.

To create an international dialogue network among public authorities of the Province of Caltanissetta (Sicily), DCI-Italy organized a project called **"COMUNI-CHIAMO"**. During 2013, the field research of this project was carried out, including interviews and consultations with key actors. The research report "Reception facilities for migrants and good practices in the province of Caltanissetta" was published and presented in a closing conference in June 2013.

Lastly, DCI-Italy assisted in fundraising efforts to support the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in collaboration with the Filipino Women's Council. Members of the Filipino community in Italy, comprising over 160,000 people, all worked with DCI to help the displaced and impoverished victims of Haiyan.

Nouvelle vie

Quand on se voit enfant
mais on se sent adulte.
Quand il faut s'arracher des dents de son histoire.
Quand le besoin de fuir devient un instinct vital.
Quand la tristesse est la seule et l'unique compagnie,
par ce que l'ennui la seule et l'unique foi.
Quand il manque le sourire, le jeu, la curiosité
Et personne pour partager nos joies.
Quand on perd la confiance, l'amour, le respect
et pour nos droits, passer d'acteur à objet.
Quand la terre est celle qui brûle,
le soleil celui qui tremble.
Quand on a rien, même pour exister.
A l'ouragan et à la foudre, résister
A la peur et à l'ignorance, subsister
Pour le pain et le lait, combattre
Quand nos larmes inondent nos rêves
et nos rêves sèchent nos larmes.
Quand le cœur blessé perd son ombre
et l'âme égarée perd ses racines.
Quand l'espoir est petit comme un îlot,
le désespoir grand comme un océan.
Quand le monde se présente âpre et vil.
La patrie c'est-à-dire nostalgie ou fosses communes.
Le voyage c'est-à-dire courage et péril.
Le futur c'est-à-dire mystère et fantasme.
Alors on cherche un phare dans l'obscurité,
une main dans la tourmente,
pour remettre notre train
sur les rails d'une nouvelle vie.

Lancinè Camara

(a young refugee from Côte d'Ivoire, living in Italy since 2011 when he arrived as unaccompanied minor. From 2012, Lancinè has been collaborating with DCI-Italy on projects addressed directly to children.)

Lebanon

In 2013, DCI-Lebanon continued its actions in favor of the protection of children's rights, notably contributing to the development of an adequate legal framework for juvenile justice, through the participation of its President to the work of the Beirut Bar Association's Committee on legislation. This legal framework will be proposed to the government for adoption and submission to Parliament. DCI-Lebanon also supports the call of the International Secretariat for a Global Study on children deprived of liberty, by collecting data and statistics on children in detention and rehabilitation homes.

In 2013, members of DCI-Lebanon continued to work on a project focusing on strategic litigation in favor of Palestinian refugees in the country. The national section also worked on the creation of a database of jurisprudence related to children's rights. This database aims to become a reference tool for juvenile judges in Lebanon, and to eventually be published and disseminated in other countries of the region pertaining to the same civil law tradition. With this study, DCI-Lebanon ultimately aims for a legislative reform that would be eventually crowned by the adoption of a national Code on Childhood, covering all fields related to the protection of children's rights.

As part of its efforts to raise awareness on child rights violations, DCI-Lebanon developed the content of its multilingual website and continued the publication of its electronic newsletter. Deciding to open its content to contributions from other NGOs and experts in the field, DCI-Lebanon hopes to enrich the quality and diversity of its publications while contributing to strengthen its ties with other actors of civil society.

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Awareness raising on children's rights

Liberia

In year 2013, DCI-Liberia carried out projects related to children's rights and juvenile justice involving the community, government and civil society. The national section has been implementing a Juvenile Justice Program, **"Promoting Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice in Liberia",** for children in contact, and/or in conflict, with the law in the counties of Bomi and Montserrado. In terms of capacity building, DCI-Liberia trained 65 Police Officers, 15 magistrates, 85 Child Welfare Committees (CWC) members, along with 79 members of the Child Right Clubs and 125 community leaders. These trainings informed of child protection by means of national, regional and international instruments such as the Children Law, the African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

DCI-Liberia also established 12 Policing Fora, 17 Child Welfare Committees and 9 Child Right Clubs in the counties of Bomi and Montserrado. Meanwhile, DCI-Liberia instituted linkage, in terms of collaboration, between the Community Policing Forum and the CWC on human rights interventions. At the institutional level, DCI-Liberia is strengthening collaboration with government through national and county coordination meetings, where issues of children are discussed and action points are derived.

On the 30th of September 2013, DCI-Liberia led the coalition of CSOs and INGOs in the drafting and submission of the periodic alternative report to the African Union (AU)

Consultant facilitating the validation Workshop on the CSOs draft Alternative report to the AU on children's situation in Liberia, Plan-Liberia head office

on the situation of children in Liberia. From the 31st of October to the 10th of November 2013 a two-person delegation represented the voice of the coalition during the pre-session hearing convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Following a campaign carried out by DCI-Liberia and other NGOs within the Liberia Child Rights NGO Coalition (**LCRNC**), Liberian President Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf submitted key international child rights instruments for ratification and requested the creation of a juvenile justice division within the Ministry of Justice. In early 2013, DCI-Liberia organized a two-day capacity building workshop for 40 children on child protection and advocacy, in order to deal with children as victims of all forms of violence and to encourage youth to persist in holding duty bearers accountable for child rights violations. The training was part of a pilot project implemented by the organization with the support of Plan-Liberia under its Violence against Children programme. DCI-Liberia further contributed to the drafting of an LCRNC Alternative Report on the Implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, released in September 2013, urging the national government to provide adequate framework for the building of an efficient child protection system.

National Impact

Mauritius

Achievements and work of DCI-Mauritius in 2013 included: 1) children's rights education in Citizen's Advice Bureaux, 2) legal assistance to juveniles, 3) Universal Periodic Review Report to the UN Human Rights Council, 4) operation of an online counselling service, 5) meetings with the Minister of Youth of Mauritius, 6) interactive sessions in Colleges and 7) continuous monitoring of youth related statistics, legislation and youth related problems.

Every Tuesday, one to two hour sessions are allocated to DCI-Mauritius in Citizen's Advice Bureaux, in 32 centers across Mauritius, to talk about children's rights, their protection and children in contact with the criminal justice system. Participants to these sessions are usually children, students, parents, police officers and members of the general public. DCI-Mauritius, alarmed by the increase in number of child-related offences, sought police assistance in a number of cases where minors were involved in abuse matters concerning Facebook or texting. DCI-Mauritius also intervened to protect the rights of children who were accused of sexual offences and subject to trial by the judiciary. DCI-Mauritius continues to work with the national prosecutor's office, the family and other stakeholders in order to follow up cases and intervene to protect the rights of children involved in judicial proceedings.

Continuing in its juvenile justice efforts, DCI-Mauritius held working sessions with the Minister of Youth and Sports to discuss possible collaboration in advocating for juvenile justice in youth centers around the country. Youth centers are focal points for young persons to meet, especially during school holidays and/or after school hours. The idea would be to advocate and encourage young persons to join the DCI Movement. DCI-Mauritius attended colleges and other forums to talk about juvenile justice where young people are more exposed to online tools. The national section has recently witnessed young people being arrested for posting inflammatory or defamatory content on Facebook and other social networking sites. DCI, in this account, ensures that children and young people are aware of their human rights including constitutional rights and extent of their freedom of expression.

DCI Mauritius in colleges

DCI-Mauritius continues to request statistics from authorities to examine the number of youth-related offences and to follow up on their situations. In addition, DCI-Mauritius reviews national draft laws concerning children, such as the child safety online Bill. The section also follows-up with relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education when there are cases that relate to education. DCI-Mauritius has intervened on various occasions to ask the Ministry about cases, especially one of a child who was affected by a health problem and could not travel to school. Despite DCI's numerous attempts to ensure that the child's right to education be respected, the Ministry did not change its position. Therefore, DCI has lobbied at the level of the Ombudsperson and other Ministries.

The Netherlands

2013 brought many positive results to DCI–The Netherlands, on both a national and an international level. On a national level, DCI-The Netherlands addressed many important issues, like the frequent moving from one center to another of undocumented children and the position of children with disabilities and their situation on a community level. DCI–The Netherlands managed to influence the development of the new structure of the national youth care system, stressing the fact that children's rights have to be implemented at the local level as well. Following the report presented in 2011 by DCI-The Netherlands about children held in custody in a police office, important changes have started to be implemented by the police, adjusting their policy on minors in police cells.

This year, the Children's Rights Helpdesk offered by DCI-The Netherlands received a considerably higher number of calls and requests from children, parents, lawyers, and other professionals than the previous year. The Helpdesk contributed to help children with parents from other countries obtain a permanent permit to stay in The Netherlands, although discriminatory regulations did not permit all of them to succeed in the procedure. A successful partnership with Kinderpostzegels allowed DCI-The Netherlands to achieve significant improvements for the situation of refugee children in the country. Carla van Os, a lawyer specialized in child migration (staff at DCI-The Netherlands) contributed to raise awareness and disseminate this information through the Media.

On an international level, DCI-The Netherlands coordinated the Separated Children in Europe (SCEP) - network of over 30 organizations dedicated to ensuring children's rights for migrant children without parents - and worked on several projects. Among these, the programme "Defence for Girls Power", which is part of the broader programme **"Girl Power"**, showed good results thanks to the commitment of partners in Zambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Liberia. The fight against sexual exploitation of children gained force by the strengthening of several projects and campaigns, culminating in the approval of a large scale international project by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This project aims to enhance awareness and knowledge on violence against children, strengthen evidence-based policy and advocacy, provide services to child victims of sexual violence and enhance knowledge on sexual exploitation of children on a global scale.

***Make IT Safe* project: peer expert training**

National Impact

Niger

The national section of DCI in Niger dedicated part of its activities in 2013 to the development of its local activities in the cities of: Agadez, Tillaberi, Zinder, Dosso, Niamey and Maradi. Under the **"Support Program for the Structuring of the Civil Society (PASOC)"** - a partnership agreement provided by the European Development Fund - DCI-Niger organized trainings on children's rights within the national school system.

In Zinder, primary schools principals and members of parents associations were trained in children's rights and vulnerabilities in school settings. In Niamey, Dosso and Tillaberi, DCI-Niger implemented, in collaboration with the international organization Afltaoun, a programme to provide training on social and financial education to students of the teacher training academy. The focus of this programme was to build the capacity of future teachers on child-friendly teaching methods in order to familiarize children and adolescents with the concepts of finance and management as well as raising their awareness on their existing rights and social obligations. At the end of December 2013, DCI-Niger launched the same programme in the regions of Tahoua and Maradi. Prior to implement this program, DCI-Niger organized in May and December 2013, a ten-day training programme to provide instructors with background knowledge, skills and practical experience on training students of the teacher training academy.

In August 2013, DCI-Niger ended its training programme in sewing and carpentry, which had been financed by the Belgian Technical Cooperation. Following the success of this programme, which trained 30 children detained in the prison of Niamey, the national section engaged in networking and partnership activities with the aim to maintain this programme for subsequent years.

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Throughout 2013, DCI-Niger implemented its advocacy program and awareness raising campaigns by using media such as radio stations and television channels. 2013 focused on raising public attention to pressing issues impacting children's lives in Niger, such as: child begging, the situation of children in conflict with the law, child labor, trafficking and juvenile delinquency.

Nigeria

In 2013, DCI-Nigeria deepened its partnership with Save the Children International Nigeria, carrying out field research on Child Protection and the Situation Analysis within the two communities of Abuja and Lagos. Various aspects of the research provided an enriching pool of insights on issues such as corporal punishment and access to education, amongst others. Likewise, DCI-Nigeria conducted field research on Water, Sanitation Health and Hygiene for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This research was based on a survey involving interviews with about 350 households from seven identified slums in Lagos and discussions with several key stakeholders of the various government agencies in charge of environment, water and sanitation.

As another key element in its partnership with Save the Children International Nigeria, DCI-Nigeria also produced a position paper as part of the discussions shaping the Post-2015 Millennium Development Agenda. In this paper, the prominent role of education for the advancement and overall international human development in the country was highlighted; while DCI-Nigeria appreciated the relative increase in the part of the national budget dedicated to education, it warned the government about the necessity to monitor it properly, as increased funding to education does not automatically produce more access, inclusion and equality. However, with as little as 8.64% of the national budget dedicated to education, the country remains far from the optimum of 26% - standard set by the United Nations. DCI-Nigeria seeks to vehemently defend the need for Nigeria to give priority to improving education both quantitatively and qualitatively.

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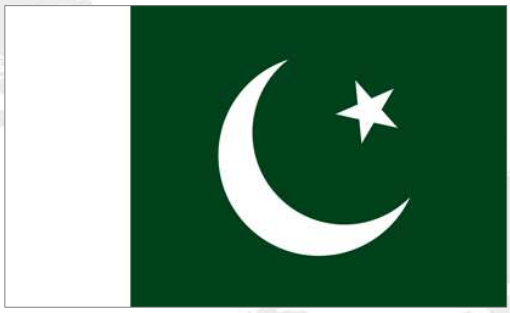
DCI-Nigeria also participated in several events, such as the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Validation Exercise organized by the Department for International Development and various capacity building workshops.

National Impact



Pakistan

In 2013, by holding events such as 'Happy Diwali', 'Fun Fair', 'Uniform Distribution', 'World Literacy Day', 'Free Medical Camp', 'Rally Against Child Abuses', 'Skill Training Sessions', and 'Universal Children Day', SPARC/DCI-Pakistan continued its promotion and protection of child rights.

Child labor is on the rise in Islamabad. Children are unaware of their basic rights as citizens of Pakistan and their access to quality education is very limited. NGOs estimate that around 11 to 12 million children are employed as child laborers across the country. However, all provincial labor departments have agreed on an action plan to revise labor legislation regarding child and bonded labor.

On Universal Children's Day 2013, SPARC launched a week long campaign to Stop Violence against Children in Pakistan. Meetings were held with civil society at the provincial level aiming to raise awareness and lobby the government to make 2013 a year for children. SPARC continues to urge the government to take practical steps to save future generations by providing them with a safe and protective environment, which can be ensured through introducing required laws and policies.

On the 19th of November, SPARC Peshawar launched a week long postcard campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in efforts to lobby the provincial government for legislation on child right's promotion and protection under the 18th Amendment of the National Constitution. The postcards carried two demands: free and compulsory education under Article 25A of the Constitution; and legislation to decrease child labor or amendments to existing child labor laws. The campaign launching ceremony was attended by SPARC's Regional Manager, Program Manager, members of the civil society and large numbers of children.

Children taking action for their rights

At a seminar was organized in Karachi to mark Universal Children's Day on the 20th of November, where speakers and stakeholders urged the government to effectively implement the Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 1992. Sindh Law Minister stated that these issues must be resolved step by step. The Member of the Sindh Assembly said the feudal system must come to an end in order for the situation to change.

Palestine

In 2013, DCI-Palestine, which was named one of the top 30 organizations in the Middle East with respect to transparency and professionalism by Forbes magazine, achieved many successes which are reflected again and again across Palestinian society. One of DCI-Palestine's most successful means of effecting changes is through its coordination of the Palestinian Network for Children's Rights (PNCR), which encompasses over 85 organizations. Its chief achievement in 2013 was the 11th national children's conference on the economic exploitation of children: many partners attended from both governmental and non-governmental organizations operating on national and international scales. Among them were the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, World Vision, Save the Children, UNICEF, UNRWA and Birzeit University.

In 2013, the Advocacy Unit laid the groundwork for growing DCI-Palestine's community, significantly increasing our outreach both on and offline. It connected with supporters through speaking tours in the US and the UK, reaching a total of over 1,200 people. DCI-Palestine also focused on creating strong content, which distils complex issues into accessible, moving stories that engage people emotionally and compel them to take action. Accordingly, DCI-Palestine's Facebook page audience increased tremendously, its Twitter followers nearly doubled and its YouTube subscribers more than tripled.

Two workshops have been organized, one in Nablus and the other in Hebron. Ten NGOs participated in the Nablus workshop and 14 in the Hebron workshop. The purpose of these workshops was to introduce UN mechanisms to these organizations – almost all of the participating organizations lacked prior knowledge of this important subject. The workshops also encouraged them to participate in the reporting process and use the recommendations of the UN Human Right Council and the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) within their work. During the workshops, DCI-Palestine emphasized the importance of having precise and credible information on state parties' violations of obligations stipulated under international law.

***Know Your Rights* campaign**

On the 23rd of December 2013, DCI-Palestine launched a **"Know Your Rights"** campaign for Palestinian children with Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR). The campaign focused on empowering and educating Palestinian children to secure their basic human rights while detained in the Israeli military detention system. DCI also distributed information cards to Palestinian children between the ages of 12 and 17 living in West Bank communities where children are targeted by Israeli forces for arrest. DCI conducted training sessions for children in schools to raise awareness on what to expect during the arrest and detention process. Moreover, trainers discussed human rights which are codified within Israeli military law and how these rights are systematically denied to Palestinian child detainees.

National Impact

Sierra Leone

In 2013, DCI-Sierra Leone set the following objectives for its interventions: increasing children's access to justice through socio-legal support; ensuring sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of child offenders and victims of violence; strengthening community mechanisms to be able to adequately respond to child labor; and empowering children to prevent violence.

In order to meet these objectives, DCI-Sierra Leone lobbied and participated in the development of policies that would support the strengthening of the child protection system and the reintegration of street children who are usually at high risk of coming into contact with the law, either as offenders or victims. Furthermore, DCI – Sierra Leone established three centers within the office premises to make the environment more child-friendly and suitable to deal with child justice matters. These centers do not carry out arbitration but provide legal advice and psychological services to child victims of violence and children in conflict with the law and their respective families. DCI-Sierra Leone also included reintegration interventions into its child justice program. Out of the 1,933 child offenders and victims who were provided socio-legal assistance, 300 of them - found to be the most vulnerable - were given additional support aimed at their rehabilitation and reintegration. One of many examples is a powerful testimony by Theresa Koroma, an advocate for children's rights working with DCI-Sierra Leone who, after assisting a young girl who was the victim of an attempted rape, inspired the girl to pursue a future career as a women's rights lawyer.

Capacity building on children's rights

In terms of capacity building, since the formal justice structures remain inadequate and inaccessible to the majority of the population residing in rural areas, DCI-Sierra Leone supported the establishment and strengthening of community-based child protection mechanisms like Child Welfare Committees, Council of chiefs/elders, Village Child Protection Focal Persons, Child Rights Clubs and School Management Committees. These groups were trained on key policies and judicial acts. DCI-Sierra Leone also enhanced the linkage between community-based mechanisms and formal structures in order to ensure proper referrals and proper management of children's cases.

Lastly, through campaigns with Child Welfare Committees, Children's Clubs and Ward Development Committees against Child Labour and for Birth Registration of Children, centers have recorded more than a 100% increase in the birth registration rate, in both 2012 and 2013. Similarly, the Child Welfare Committees were able to rescue and document over 2,000 children from the worst forms of child labor including mining, fishing, quarrying, prostitution, farming and street trading.

Sudan

In 2013, DCI-Sudan conducted many important programs. First, the National Child Protection System was implemented throughout 2013 in Khartoum, El Gezira and Red Sea States. The project addressed mainly the issue of child protection. In the implementation of this project, DCI-Sudan worked in partnership with the Khartoum State and Red Sea State Ministries of Education, the Khartoum State Council for Child Welfare (KCCW), military forces and the media. During this period, an orientation session on the Child Act 2010 was organized in the Khartoum locality and workshops on positive discipline and alternatives to corporal punishment in Red Sea State and Gezira State were conducted.

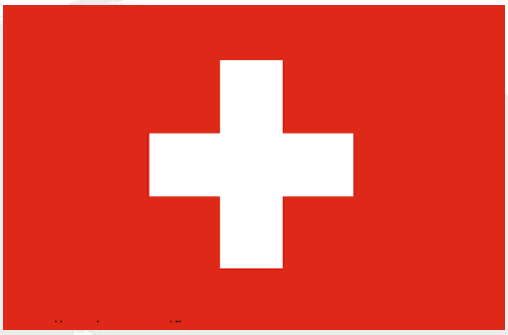
DCI-Sudan also led several projects related to Child Rights Governance; the most prominent of which addressed mainly the issues of children's rights to participation and the reporting and monitoring of children's rights. DCI-Sudan established an information center and conducted advocacy activities such as forums, seminars and also carried out a voluntary audit. The child parliament presented the outcomes of conducted research, had a session with the media and planned for their future activities.

From January to July 2013, DCI-Sudan focused on mainstreaming children's rights in child friendly centers and on facilitating the access to key children's rights related documents. Targeted geographical areas included Khartoum State, Karrary Locality, and Umbadda Locality. Six workshops had been implemented as follows: two consultation workshops on the rights and protection of children in each center; one joint training workshop on the rights and protection of children for members of the two localities; one workshop in lobbying, advocacy and monitoring violations for members of the two localities; and two orientation workshops on child rights for children of the two centers. The number of beneficiaries was 227(163 adults and 64 children).

In conclusion, DCI-Sudan's work succeeded in reaching its target groups. Community members are acquainted with appropriate knowledge and understanding of international, regional and national child rights instruments and standards and child protection as well as elements of lobbying, advocacy and monitoring of children's rights. The children who were targeted are aware of their rights and know where to go if they are at risk and how to report violations. The process of developing a reporting form drew the attention of the participants to the importance of coordination between different governmental departments working with children and the importance of regular joint meetings in order to follow up and monitor the situation of children in Khartoum State.

Eritrean School Children – Eddeim

National Impact



Switzerland

DCI-Switzerland continued its collaboration with DCI-IS on a juvenile justice program that ended in August 2013. Within the framework of its program on juvenile justice, in 2013 DCI-Switzerland initiated in-depth research on the current situation of juvenile justice in the country. Despite the fact that juvenile delinquency appears to be a recurrent social problem in Switzerland, the current state of knowledge on youth and child involvement in criminality is quite poor. Moreover, the statistics on criminal judgments against minors, or other sources, remain incomplete and have not yet been edited, reviewed or interpreted.

Against this background and taking into consideration the lack of studies on the matter, DCI-Switzerland focused its efforts on gathering data; identifying existing laws and collecting testimonies on juvenile justice practices. The objective of the section was to compile information on the implementation of the CRC in Switzerland by discussing gaps and good practices in the area of juvenile justice. So far, preliminary statistical analysis shows that Switzerland still treats children under or over 15 years of age differently before the law; while General Comment No.10 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends that standards and rules relating to juvenile justice are to apply to all children under 18 years of age. DCI-Switzerland is planning to release its findings in 2014 in an alternative report on **"The Rights of Children in the Juvenile Justice System in Switzerland"** and as part of its Swiss Newsletter on Children's rights, which is the only Swiss publication exclusively on children's rights and targets all actors in the field of children's rights.

During 2013, DCI-Switzerland also got involved in various informal campaigns to raise awareness on how the lack of financial and human resources allocated to the juvenile justice system influenced the conditions of children in detention. More precisely, the section highlighted how ill-equipped detention centers for adults are for children and how these centers are violating children's rights and ignoring their specific protection needs.

Uganda

DCI-Uganda continued its commitment to make access to justice for children a reality irrespective of social, economic, and political backgrounds of children. DCI - Uganda used an "integrated approach" in programming all its intervention, including: capacity building of key actors; advocacy at community level; legal representation and psychosocial support to affected children; support to formal education and skills development. Such approach has greatly improved the status of children and their communities' well-being.

Strong community networks have been harnessed due to the good working relationship between DCI staff and the different key actors at local and national level. For example, the sound partnership created between DCI, the community FIT persons, local councils and police has greatly enhanced the implementation of a community diversion strategy, community awareness campaigns on child rights referral and counter referral of child related cases, ultimately reducing backlogs on child petty cases entering the formal justice system – which would actually violate the rights of children.

DCI-Uganda has been able to build and strengthen partnerships with other organizations and these have been instrumental in streamlining program implementation in all areas of operation and also facilitated referrals for other services that DCI-Uganda cannot deliver to the communities.

Members of the School Management Committee during their training at the Red Cross Hall in Oyam town Council

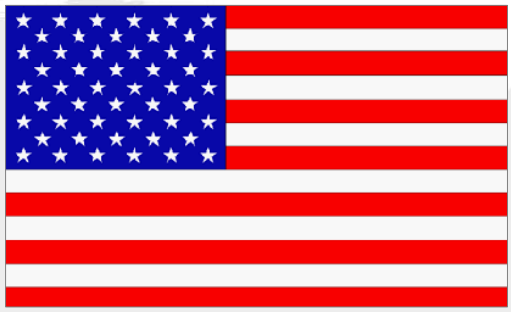
Uruguay

In 2013, DCI-Uruguay pursued its communication and advocacy work, and its monitoring of detention centers. Of particular importance was a pre-session for Uruguay's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which took place in Geneva in November 2013. During the pre-session, many civil society organizations drew attention to several child rights issues, in particular: sexual abuse and exploitation; child poverty; access to education; and child participation. The situation of children in detention was of particular concern, notwithstanding Uruguay has adhered to relevant international and regional instruments concerning juvenile justice, deprivation of liberty remains a primary solution and not a last resort, with children often remaining victims of ill-treatment. Public policies and structures are lacking and a national referendum planned for October 2014 aims to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Based on these facts, the following recommendations concerning children and justice were put forward during the UPR:

- Increase investigations relating to ill-treatment of children in detention;
- Consider imprisonment as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time;
- Aim to reintegrate children into society;
- Guarantee that all allegations of torture are investigated transparently
- Guarantee effective participation of children and a judicial decision that takes into account the best interests of the child.

DCI will be targeting the human rights mechanisms present in Geneva to ensure state representatives within the Human Rights Council push for these important recommendations concerning children and justice, and ensure that they are accepted by the Uruguayan government during the UPR of Uruguay in the new year.



USA

2013 marked DCI-US section's first full year in operation and second year since its approval as a DCI national section. Under the leadership of Dr. Michele Bratcher, the President of DCI-US, the section continued to establish its presence and reputation. To this end, DIC-US purchased its domain name, began the process of designing its website and launched its presence in other media. The result culminated in the launch of the DCI-US website: www.dci-us.com and Twitter account. To further develop the section's work plan and advocacy strategy, the section built its team and welcomed Ms. Shiveta Vaid as a human rights fellow. In order to strengthen its capacity on advocacy, DCI-US also established partnership with the Institute for Global Child Advocacy, a non-profit organization that has research and advocacy on behalf of children at its core.

Together with the Institute for Global Child Advocacy, DCI-US carried out several activities to raise awareness on children's rights. The President of DCI-US engaged in a public communication campaign to emphasize that although law is a source for collective action, it is not enough by itself to guarantee the protection of children's rights. The President also advocated for the enforcement of existing laws on children, the empowerment of the youth, as well as investing in the capacity building of children's rights advocates. The section lobbied for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the US, as it is one of the very few nations that has not yet ratified the Convention. Among its activities of the year, DCI-US committed to fight gun violence among children by working with legislators and advocacy organizations to amend the law on gun control, and find ways and means to protect children from tragic mass shootings. DCI-US also sponsored several talks on health care access and equality for children. In March DCI-US hosted a conference on human trafficking placing child trafficking at the forefront.

Deeply concerned about the mass incarceration of youth in the US, DCI-US decided in 2013 to build awareness on the "school to prison pipeline" trend. The section advocated for better means to address discipline in schools, arguing that suspending children in kindergarten and first grade creates awful precedents that are virtually impossible to reverse. Regarding the juvenile justice system, President of DCI-US wrote an article on the Wisconsin Law Review concerning the punishment of children for statutory rape which frequently imposes legal and extra-legal burdens on minors that may even exceed those of adults. From these findings, DCI-US campaigned throughout 2013 for a fair and appropriate treatment of all children in the juvenile justice system in the US. To carry on its work, in 2015 DCI-US is planning to organize its first international conference on children and juvenile justice.

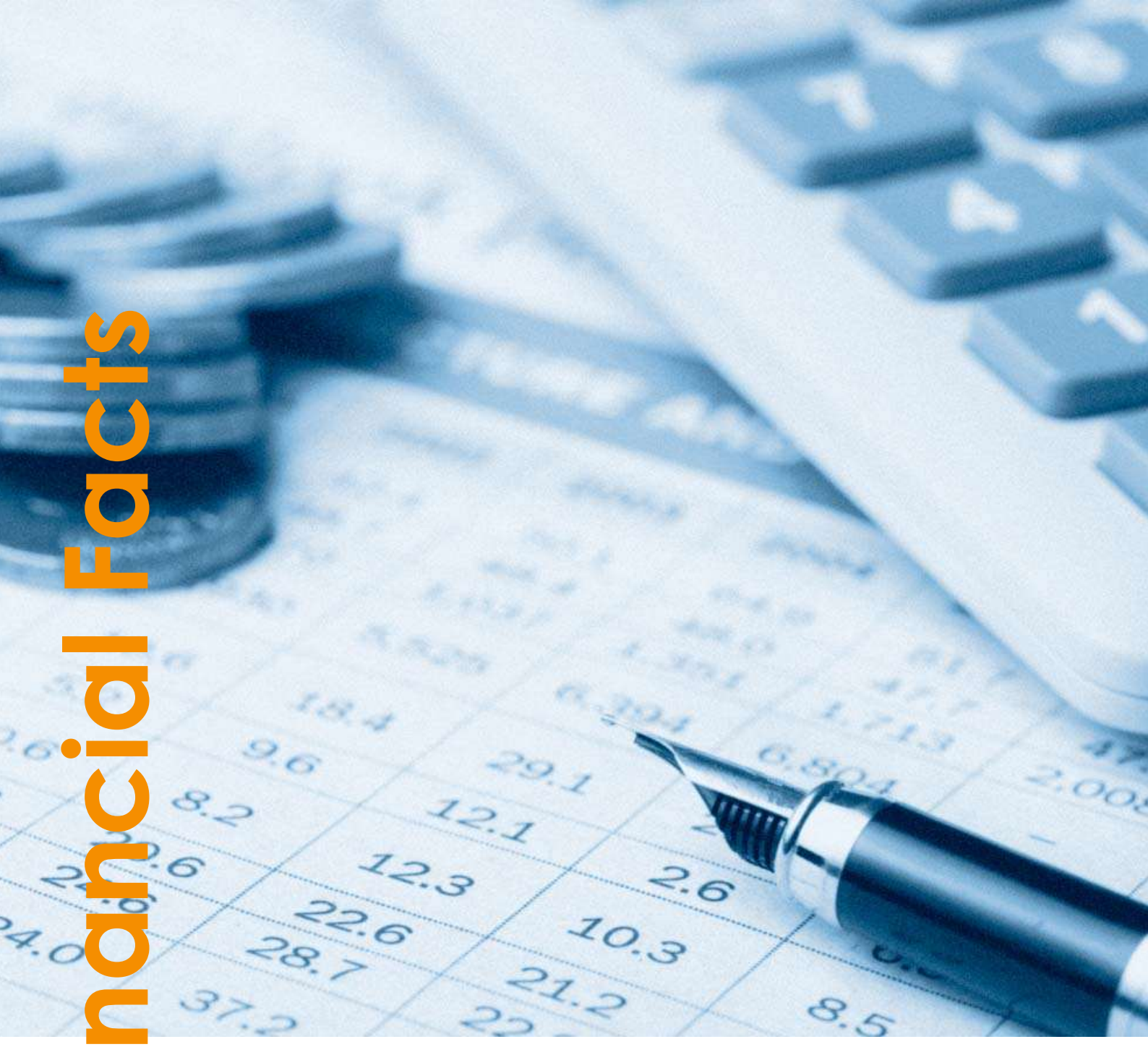
Yemen

In February 2013, the DCI national section in Yemen, in collaboration with UNICEF, organized a four-day workshop to raise awareness amongst members of the Children's Parliament (CP) on the risks of early marriage, recruitment of children and prevention of crime. Founded in 2000, the CP is an initiative supported by DCI-Yemen that encourages participation from children in the expression of their views on issues relating to the violation of their rights, and in lobbying for governmental measures to implement children's rights. In addition to 35 children from Hadramout, Al-Mahara and Soqatra Island trained during the event, DCI-Yemen planned to carry out the same initiative in all governorates, and to target another 400 members and future leaders from the CP.

The Fourth Session of the Youth Parliament, which is an initiative of Democracy School/DCI-Yemen, was held from the 2nd to the 6th of February 2013 and worked under the slogan "to protect children from early marriage, the recruitment of children, and crime". An invitation was sent to the members of the national Parliament to attend the meeting, as a means to reinforce lobbying efforts. The Democratic School (DCI-Yemen) held training sessions two days before the meeting. The hearings happened in the presence of those actors who are responsible for the protection of children, including: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Awqaf, Ministry of Defence, the Capital to the Islamic Sharia Codification Committee House of Representatives and UNICEF.

The NGO's coalition for Children's rights in Yemen, to which DCI is member, submitted the final report for the period 2006-2012 to be examined during the 18th session of the UPR. The main issues of concern raised regarding children were: trafficking of children, children working in the streets, children in conflict with the law, and the situation of Somali children refugees in Yemen.

The recommendations presented included: the elaboration of national plans of action for the protection of children and the formulation and enforcement of laws in this regard; laws to criminalize abuses against children; the improvement of the living conditions to fight against poverty; the reinforcement of child protection networks; the promotion of child rights through awareness-raising campaigns; the establishment of an independent child information center and an independent agency to receive complaints from children and provide guidance to them.



DCI-IS Financial Facts

Donors and Partnerships

DCI-IS Financial Facts

The information below refers to the financial situation of the International Secretariat in Geneva, including the hosting of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (**IPJJ**). DCI national sections and associated members are not included as they are financially and administratively independent from the International Secretariat of DCI.

Some details

Our accounting is established in accordance with Swiss GAAP RPC, the Swiss code of obligations, and the statutes of the organization.

The annual financial statements provide a picture corresponding to the true assets, finances and results situation.

The accounting year covers the period from January 1st to December 31st 2013. Accounting is established in Swiss Francs. During the year the operations in foreign currencies are converted to Swiss Francs at the rate valid during the time of transaction.

At the end of the year, assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are converted to Swiss Francs.

Donations

DCI is grateful to the donors and partners that contributed financially to the advocacy and lobbying efforts of the DCI International Secretariat and in particular to:

ICCO & Kerk in Actie foundation

DCI-Belgium /Jeunesse & Droit

Loterie Romande

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg

Ville de Genève

State of Qatar (Supreme Council for Family Affairs)

For certain activities, Defense for Children International receives donations in kind, in goods or in services.

Estimation 93'000 CHF.:

Microsoft Incorporation: software donation 20'000 CHF

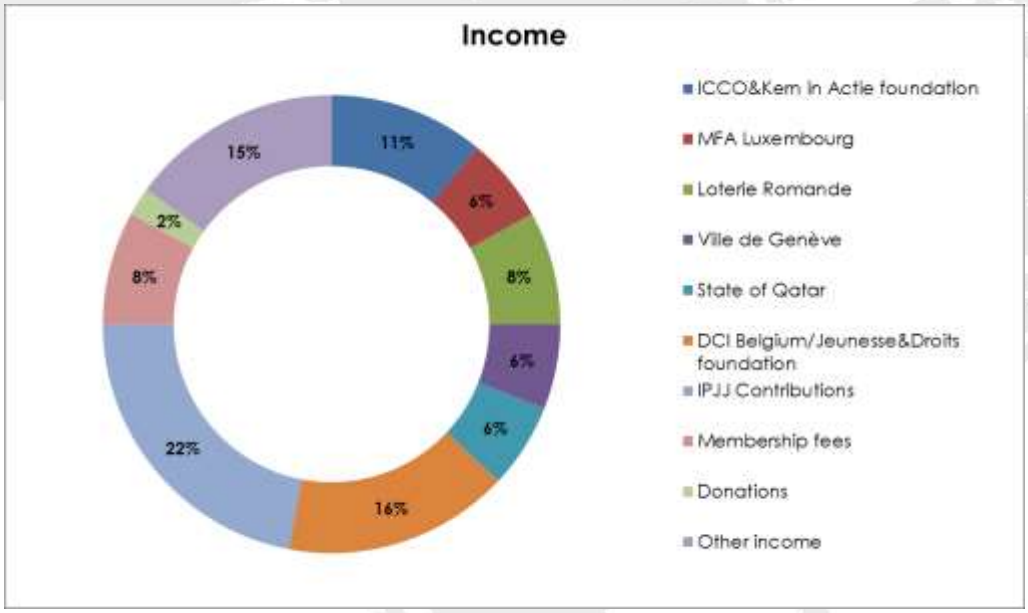
Programme Syni- Ville de Lausanne: staff 40'000 CHF

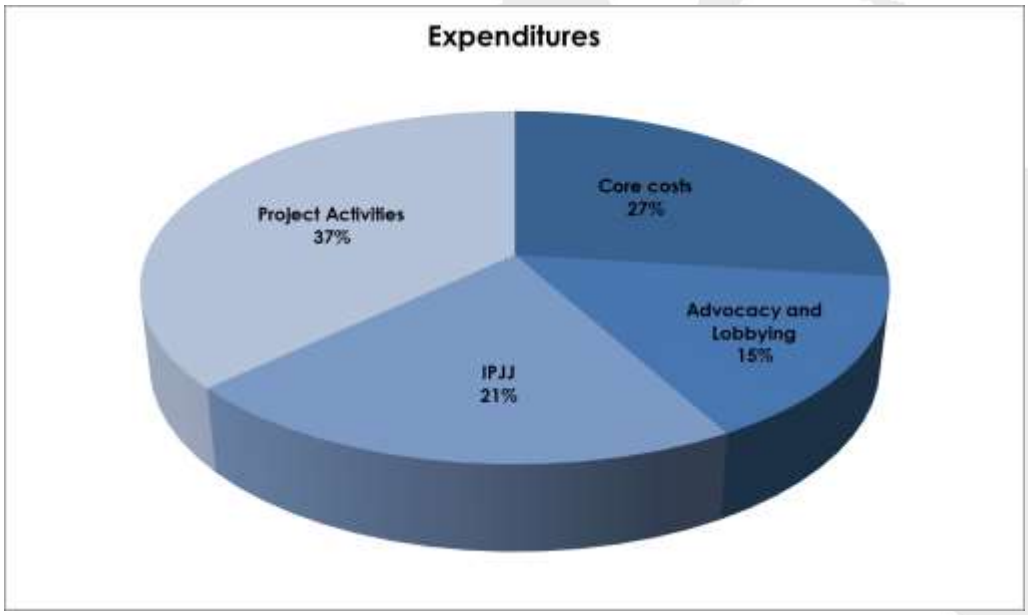
Interns & volunteers: staff assistance 20'000 CHF

CAGI: accommodation DCI delegates 10'000 CHF

UNOG: computers 3'000

DCI-IS in graphics





DCI-IS Financial Facts

EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT ACTIVITIES (CHF)		INCOME BY DONORS (CHF)	
Achieving child-friendly justice	107'885	ICCO&Kerk in Actie foundation	46'139
Capacity building for national sections	50'000	MFA Luxembourg	26'716
Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice	91'762	Loterie Romande	35'000
Advocacy & Loggying	66'526	Ville de Genève	25'000
Support/core costs	114'823	State of Qatar	25'000
		DCI Belgium/Jeunesse et Droit	69'500
		IPJJ Contributions	91'760
		Membership fees	32'980
		Donations	9'350
		Other income	65'560
TOTAL	430'996	TOTAL	427'005

Auditor's statement

Our accounts have been controlled and audited by the Trust Company Wuarin & Chatton Fiduciaire.

A copy of the complete financial report, showing financial statements, variation in capital statements and appendixes is available at our offices.

An independent consultant is entering the accounts every year and then these are approved by the International Executive Council of DCI in between International General Assemblies (taking place every four years).

FIDUCIAIRE
WUARIN
& CHATTON

Rapport d'audit sur les comptes annuels de l'Association DEFENSE DES ENFANTS - INTERNATIONAL (DEI) à l'attention du Trésorier

Madame, Monsieur,

Conformément au mandat qui nous a été confié, nous avons vérifié les comptes annuels (bilan et compte de profits et pertes) de **DEFENSE DES ENFANTS - INTERNATIONAL (DEI)** pour l'exercice arrêté au 31 décembre 2013.

La responsabilité de l'établissement des comptes annuels incombe au Trésorier alors que notre mission consiste à contrôler ces comptes et émettre une appréciation les concernant. Nous attestons que nous remplissons les exigences légales d'agrément et d'indépendance.

Notre révision a été effectuée selon les Normes d'audit suisses. Ces normes requièrent de planifier et de réaliser la vérification de manière telle que des anomalies significatives dans les comptes annuels puissent être constatées avec une assurance raisonnable. Nous avons révisé les postes des comptes annuels et les indications fournies dans ceux-ci en procédant à des analyses et à des examens par sondages. En outre, nous avons apprécié la manière dont ont été appliquées les règles relatives à la présentation des comptes, les décisions significatives en matière d'évaluation, ainsi que la présentation des comptes annuels dans leur ensemble. Nous estimons que notre révision constitue une base suffisante pour former notre opinion.

Selon notre appréciation, la comptabilité et les comptes annuels sont conformes à la loi suisse et aux statuts.

Genève, le 1er mai 2014

FIDUCIAIRE WUARIN & CHATTON S.A.

Patrick Ciocco
Expert-réviseur agréé
Réviseur responsable

Jean-Philippe Ladisa
Expert-réviseur agréé

Annexes :
Comptes annuels comprenant :
- Bilan
- Comptes de profits et pertes
- Annexe

Beyond 2013

© Sarah Bertin

Beyond 2013

In the coming years, the International Secretariat of Defence for Children International will continue to implement its quadrennial strategic plan of action on children's rights and juvenile justice, as established by the International General Assembly (IGA), in March 2012. With ongoing and renewed support from donors, and DCI national sections' work on the implementation of regional programs about the rights of the child, DCI is committed to pursue and advance its guiding objectives: monitoring and reporting on justice for children international standards; advocating and lobbying for the inclusion of children's rights; promoting child-friendly justice; and improving the capacities of DCI national sections.

DCI's International Secretariat as the focal point for the Movement provides an invaluable link between DCI national sections and the United Nations, and equips the Movement to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Alongside numerous DCI activities on the local and global level to be organized throughout next year, the International Secretariat will undertake an initiative to launch a 2014 campaign: **Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, on the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child, March 13th.

DCI and other partner organizations will organize a formal event at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, which will be sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Austria, Ethiopia, Qatar and Uruguay. During this official event, the different state representatives will speak on the importance and necessity to launch the Call for a Global Study that focuses on data acquisition and sharing good practices. Speakers at the event will include: the President of DCI, Mr Benoit Van Keirsbilck; H.E. Laura Dupuy Lasserre, Permanent Representative of Uruguay; H.E. Faisal Abdulla Al-Henzab, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Qatar; H.E. Minelik Alemu Getahun, Permanent Representiative of Ethiopia; Justice Renate Winter, member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child; and Mr Gerold Vollmer, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Austria.

As there is a clear lack of research, verified data and concrete evaluation of the situation of children deprived of their liberty, the Study will map out, through monitoring and evaluation analysis, how existing international laws and standards are being implemented on the ground. Through the collection of sound evidence and reliable data, this in-depth Study will further assess the concrete possibilities for States to improve their policies so that children deprived of liberty have their human rights respected. The aim of the initiative, recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and supported by civil society organizations, will be to call upon the members of the United Nations General Assembly to request that the United Nations Secretary-General conduct this Study, through the appointment of an Independent Expert. DCI believes that the Study will become a strong platform for advocacy and action leading to considerable advancements for children in detention, ultimately creating a reference document as a means to improve the respect and protection of children's rights, as well as reduce the number of children deprived of liberty.

We are confident that our future efforts directed towards promoting and protecting the rights of children as fully fledged human beings will largely add to DCI's credibility as one of the leading non-governmental organizations in the field of children's rights and justice for children.

Last but not least, DCI-IS is pleased to thank all those who provided invaluable support to the Secretariat throughout 2013, and looks forward to continued collaboration in its work to lobby for the implementation of child-friendly justice worldwide, in line with international standards.

DCI Annual Report 2013

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Cover photo: Sarah Bertin

Please note, the content of this report does not necessarily reflect the individual positions of organizations represented.

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