IN MEMORY OF

Our dear fellow Hashem Abu Maria Khader
Killed in Beit Ummar (Occupied Palestinian Territories - OPT) on 25 July 2014
### 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

### ADRC
Annual Day on the Rights of the Child

### AGA
Annual General Assembly

### AU
African Union

### CARICOM
The Caribbean Community

### CAT
Committee against Torture

### CBO
Community Based Organization

### CDIA
Coordinadora por los Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia

### CEDECA/DF
Centre for the Defence of Children and Adolescents’ Rights from the Federal District

### CHI
Child Helpline International

### CN4YJ
Canadian Network for Youth Justice

### CoE
Council of Europe

### COI
Commission of Inquiry

### CPN
Child Protection Network

### CRC
Convention on the Rights of the Child

### CRI
Child Rights Institute

### 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

### ECPAT
End Child Prostitution and Trafficking Network

### ECSR
European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe

### ENOC
European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

### ESAM
International NGO Council on Violence against Children

### EU
European Union

### FG/CAAC
Focus Group on Children affected by Armed Conflict

### FGM
Female Genital Mutilation

### FI
Franciscans International

### GSCDL
Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

### HRC
Human Rights Council

### HRW
Human Rights Watch

### ICT
Information and Communications Technology

### IDE
Institut International des Droits de l’Enfants

### IEC
International Executive Council

### IELSUR
Instituto de Legal and Social Studies of Uruguay

### 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

### KCCW
Khartoum Council for Child Welfare

### LAC
Local Advisory Committee

### LAS
League of Arab States

### LCRC
Liberia Child Rights NGO Coalition

### MACR
Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

### MENA
Middle East and North Africa

### MERCOSUR
South American Common Market

### MNI-CLAC
Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children

### MOU
Memorandum of Understanding

### MRU
Mano River Union

### MSWGCA
Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs, Sierra Leone

### NGO
Non-Governmental Organization

### OCHA
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

### OHCHR
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### OMCT
World Organization against Torture

### OP3 CRC

### OPT
Occupied Palestinian Territories

### 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

### SRT
Special Rapporteur on Torture

### TDH
Terres des Hommes

### TDHIF
Terre des Hommes International Federation

### UNCRC
United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

### UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

### UNGA
United Nations General Assembly

### UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

### UNICEF
United Nations Children’s Fund

### UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

### UNSG
United Nations Secretary-General

### UNV
United Nations Volunteers

### UN
United Nations

### UPR
Universal Periodic Review

### WG/CAV
Working Group on Children and Violence
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FOREWORD
BY NIGEL CANTWELL - FOUNDER OF DCI

For those concerned with the protection and promotion of children’s human rights, 2014 was of course most notable as marking the quarter-century of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). But we should recall that 2014 was also the 35th anniversary of the International Year of the Child (1979) that both moved Poland to propose drawing up that Convention and that inspired the founding of Defence for Children International.

During these 35 years, DCI has naturally evolved considerably. Initially, as the only international NGO at that time specifically dedicated to children’s rights, it saw its remit as covering a very broad range of issues. This was reflected, moreover, in the role it was given to coordinate the inputs of the NGO Group during the drafting of the CRC throughout the 1980s.

Once the CRC was in place, the children’s rights landscape began to change rapidly – which of course was precisely the intention behind having such a treaty. In the 1990s, an increasing number of organisations at all levels began taking up what had previously often been neglected issues, particularly in the field of child protection. As a result, DCI had to review its all-encompassing approach and seek to sharpen the focus its efforts.

The organisation as a whole has remained engaged in a wide range of spheres; in particular, its sections take initiatives that are necessary and appropriate in their specific contexts. The International Secretariat, on the other hand, has come to concentrate its attention more especially on issues in the sphere of juvenile justice.

The decision to do so did not come out of the blue. Juvenile justice has figured large on DCI’s agenda from the very start. One of the first individual cases it took up concerned children imprisoned with their mother, a political detainee. In 1985, in cooperation with the International Commission of Jurists, DCI successfully lobbied the Fifth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for work to be launched on what were to become, in 1990, the so-called “Havana Rules” on the Treatment of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty. In 1986, the DCI study on “Children in Adult Prisons” was published, a major work by the late Katarina Tomasevski that represented the first attempt to investigate the situation of these children from a worldwide perspective. It was followed by an in-depth enquiry into children in prison in Turkey.
By the end of the 1980s, DCI had already firmly established itself as one of the main NGO actors in the juvenile justice field.

It was therefore quite natural to build further on this expertise by making juvenile justice DCI’s key international concern. An additional motivation was - and remains - the fact that this sphere is widely seen as constituting the most challenging child protection issue in terms of securing respect for international standards. Intriguingly, despite the considerable energy devoted to developing a veritable arsenal of UN standards on the question - and indeed the longest article in the CRC itself deals with juvenile justice - the level of political will necessary to move significantly towards ensuring compliance with them is still very rare.

Devising strategies and actions to foster such compliance is therefore as challenging as it is necessary. And there is an additional challenge to be faced: the children who are generally perceived as being caught up in the juvenile justice system do not elicit the same degree of empathy, interest and concern as those victims of exploitation and violence who have not come “into conflict with the law”. Consequently, resources made available for work on juvenile justice are usually hard to come by.

Nonetheless, there is a very real desire within various sectors of civil society to push forward, as demonstrated by the numerous NGOs that joined with DCI in 2014 to express their active support for securing a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, agreed by the UN General Assembly just before year-end.

Hopefully, this key initiative will re-ignite governments’ will to achieve progress in applying agreed standards when they review their juvenile justice systems. Hopefully too, DCI and its partners will be enabled to build on this special achievement of 2014 to ensure that such progress indeed happens in the coming years.
In 2013, DCI launched into an adventure that proves exciting but is also a major challenge: putting the issue of juvenile justice, in particular children deprived of liberty, at the center of the global political agenda. Nothing less!

The findings we know all too well: countless children are detained, generally without sufficient reasons for extraordinarily long periods and under appalling conditions.

Juvenile justice is a place where the prevalence of violence is very important; the death penalty is still imposed and sometimes applied in several countries against people for offenses they had committed when they were minors. Life imprisonment is also regularly imposed on children and many experience corporal punishment as a sentence. Children are often tried as adults and do not benefit from the protection or legal assistance they should be guaranteed.

All DCI sections that are active in children’s detention centres face these issues every day. Children deprived of liberty are forgotten by the authorities that invest far too little in prevention, educational treatment of children in conflict with the law, non-custodial measures, rehabilitation, contact with family and, generally the respect of fundamental rights.

In order to oblige states to rethink the approach to justice they apply to children, it was essential to bring this issue in the United Nations General Assembly. This is what we managed to do, with the full support of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the help and support of more than 80 other NGOs among which the most influential ones, as well as the UN agencies and many key actors. On 18 December 2014, this mobilization led to the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution calling on the United Nations Secretary-General to conduct a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (A/RES/69/157, paragraph 51.d).

We can rightly be proud of this ambitious result. This study will finally give us the knowledge we lack today on the extent of the problem, the number of detained children (by age, gender, type of offenses, etc.), conditions of detention, the respect of rights during the deprivation of liberty and the solutions that are implemented by some states to stick to the principles of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time. It will also give us concrete courses of action to really improve the situation.
This achievement is due mainly to the hard work of the small team of DCI-International Secretariat which carries out extraordinary work. Its assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

But these victories, as important as they are, cannot make us forget that the cost is sometimes prohibitive. Indeed, 2014 is also the year the Israeli military forces killed our colleague and friend, Hashem Abu Maria Khader, who paid with his life his commitment for children, respect of their rights and his determination to bring more justice in the world. The memory of Hashem should lead us to multiply our mobilization to continue his fight, our fight, and ensure that justice is done. There can be no peace and justice if such crimes go unpunished.

We note very important developments within the Movement: the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) is expanding; it has already organized a large number of meetings, seminars, training sessions and has the objective of drawing up guidelines on child-friendly justice for the region. Latin America continues to work within the Observatory of Juvenile Justice, while in Africa, sections are mobilizing around the Girl Power Programme that will strengthen the ability of girls to protect their rights. In Europe, several projects funded by the European Commission are studying the monitoring mechanisms of places of detention for children or intend to train actors of justice to the principles of child-friendly justice.

In 2015, we will continue to advocate for the appointment of an independent expert to conduct the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which is the sine qua non condition for the achievement of a quality study likely to cause real change. But this will only be possible if there is a real mobilization of civil society, particularly the DCI sections, along with other key actors, such as researchers and academics, lawyers and all stakeholders willing to contribute to this ambitious plan.

The vitality of the sections and the enthusiasm of their supporters are factors of success for projects. We have to build on this momentum and further professionalize our action, because in the end, we will be judged on our results.
INTRODUCTION
BY ILEANA BELLO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DCI-IS

Dear friends and colleagues,

Many things have marked this year: some very good and others really sad.

I would like to start with the positive: the 35th Anniversary of Defence for Children International; the entry into force of the 3rd Optional Protocol to the UNCRC (OP3 CRC) and finally the request to the Secretary General, within the UNGA Child Rights Resolution (December 2014), for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) to be conducted. On a more negative note: 2014 was the year of the loss of our dear Camille Kryspin, the person in charge of the documentation centre at the International Secretariat in Geneva, and of the enormous tragedy of the killing of our dearest Hashem Abu Maria Khader, who was shot in the chest, while peacefully demonstrating against the war on Gaza, in Beit Unmar (West Bank).

Going through the report you will read more about these events and also learn about the positive achievements and results obtained, at different levels, by DCI worldwide. Some key points include:

• The success of our campaign to call for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which went faster than we anticipated, but which remains still a huge challenge if we really want this study to be carried out to the best extent possible, enabling change and leading to a drastic reduction in the number of children deprived of liberty worldwide.
• The growth of the DCI movement, especially in the Arab world, which under the strong leadership of DCI Palestine was able to build a very promising regional network aimed at achieving child-friendly justice systems in Middle-east and North Africa.
• The continuous efforts of the DCI International Executive Council (IEC), which has been able to react promptly in challenging times affecting - directly or indirectly - our national sections and our beneficiaries, and in particular: the War on Gaza and the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, but also other critical issues such as the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Latin America and the situation of many migrant and refugee children in Europe.

All of the above and more was possible thanks to the incredible work of our national sections, actively engaged at promoting and protecting children’s rights and also of the staff and volunteers at the International Secretariat, which I have the honor to run, who put all their
energy trying to enhance, once more, children’s rights and to combat against children’s rights violations, in whatever form they manifest and affect the lives of children all around the world.

Finally, the support of donors and partners has been crucial in making all that you will read in this report possible.

Sincerely,
Ileana Bello
Executive Director, DCI-IS
TRIBUTE TO HASHEM ABU MARIA KHADER, DCI PALESTINE

DCI will forever be marked by the loss of its staff member Mr. Hashem Abu Maria Khader (DCI-Palestine), who was killed by Israeli forces while peacefully participating in a solidarity march on 25 July 2014. After Friday prayers in the West Bank town of Beit Ummar, Israeli forces shot Hashem in the chest with live ammunition as he stood still at the demonstration in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. We hereby pay tribute to him for his invaluable work, dedication and passion to promote and protect children’s rights.

Hashem was the coordinator of DCI-Palestine’s “Community Mobilization Unit”, which promotes constructive child participation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). His most recent professional activities focused on monitoring and documenting children’s rights violations in Hebron.

“The DCI-Palestine family is shocked and devastated by the loss of our friend and colleague, Hashem,” said Rifat Kassis, Executive Director of DCI-Palestine. “Hashem considered defending children’s rights as his purpose in life, not simply as a job. That he has become the latest innocent civilian to lose his life at the hands of Israeli forces is a tragedy. We offer our utmost condolences to his family.”

DCI (at both national and international levels) immediately reported the killing of Hashem in the West Bank and the excessive use of force against protesters by Israeli security forces. On 21 August 2014, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, jointly sent a formal letter to the Israeli government expressing grave concern and requesting full details of any investigations which had been undertaken concerning the killings of Hashem, alongside two other peaceful demonstrators. The United Nations experts also requested clarifications on the sanctions imposed on the alleged perpetrators and on the measures taken to ensure that the basic human right to meet and assemble peacefully is guaranteed by the Israeli legislation. On 12 November 2014, the Government of Israel finally responded to the joint letter. DCI International Secretariat and DCI Palestine will continue to work with the UN experts to follow up on this case and ensure accountability.

With the aim of commemorating Hashem and his work for the human rights of children, on 22 September 2014, during a training session organized for its national sections from the MENA (Middle East and North African) region, DCI held a side-event on “Child Rights Defenders - the fatal consequences” at the United Nations in Geneva. The event focused on the risks and challenges of child rights defenders, particularly in conflict stricken areas.
ACTORS FOR JUSTICE, ADVOCATES FOR RIGHTS

DCI AT A GLANCE
BACKGROUND
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 (UNCRC), 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 INGOs on issues of justice for children, with a ground presence in five continents, through 47 national sections in the field, and an International Secretariat (DCI-IS) based in Geneva. While justice for children remains a priority within the Movement, the International Secretariat and national sections are active in the areas of child labor, children on the move, violence against children, children in armed conflicts and child trafficking.

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 IGAs. The last IGA was held in March 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland, and the following will take place in 2016.

DCI has played a historic role in the development of children’s rights, particularly via its ideological and programmatic focus on the UNCRC and other human rights instruments. DCI has also demonstrated ongoing expertise in the children’s rights movement and it is seen as one of the leading INGOs on issues related to justice for children. DCI continues to hold a leading role in influencing the agenda on children’s rights, at national, regional and international levels, placing pressing issues high on political and social agendas.

DCI’s national sections have worked hard to develop valuable reputations in their respective countries and to take positive action on children’s rights, while the IS and the IEC have granted DCI an international voice and presence, providing the Movement with concrete opportunities to influence the decisions and attitudes of international entities, particularly the United Nations human rights mechanisms. Crucially, DCI is also one of few international organizations to truly put Southern and Northern institutions on equal footing - and in equal partnership - in a way that benefits all equally. While we need to acknowledge and celebrate our successes as an organization - and to recognize and address our weaknesses - it is also important to review our priorities on a regular basis and to consider how to improve our work. The IGA, which took place on 10 and 11 March 2012 in Geneva, constituted an important step forward in the redefinition of DCI’s strategy and future plans. Taking into account political and economic changes, DCI reconsidered its strategic choices in recognizing and re-affirming the relevancy of...
its work. DCI’s credibility and experience in the field of child rights is indisputable, and it is clear that the programs implemented are benefitting vast numbers of children, organizations, and community-based organizations (CBOs). DCI is committed to continue concentrated efforts to preserve human dignity, and promote the human rights of children - all while respecting and cooperating with the work of other organizations, and while using our resources all the more creatively and effectively.

DCI holds special 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 UNCRC) and its Working Groups (Violence against Children; Children affected by armed conflicts; Children of Incarcerated Parents; Human Rights Council coordination). DCI is also involved in the International NGO Council on Violence Against Children (InCo), which is a platform for INGOs and regional representations created to follow up on the UN Study on Violence Against Children (2006).

**OVERALL GOAL OF DCI**

The overall goal of DCI as a child rights advocacy and lobbying movement - is to make the situation of children involved with the law internationally known, placing justice for children as a priority on international, regional and national political agendas; strengthening national legal systems by urging the establishment of child-friendly justice systems, guided by the principles enshrined in the UNCRC and all other relevant international, regional and national norms and standards.

**OBJECTIVES**

Under this goal, the specific objectives of the International Secretariat (IS), as heart and leader of the international Movement, are as follows:

1. To raise awareness, monitor, report and provide recommendations on the implementation of the UNCRC and other human rights instruments in order to keep abreast of achievements and challenges, and propose recommendations aimed at achieving effective justice for children.
2. Advocating and lobbying for the inclusion of justice for children as a priority item on political agendas, and for policies to harmonize with international standards, focusing also on the implementation of preventive measures in order to avoid a priori children from coming into conflict with the law.
3. Promote child-friendly justice through the development of programmes aimed at: preventing children from coming into conflict with the law; promoting reintegration; reducing the use of detention; promoting diversion, restorative justice and non-custodial measures.
4. Strengthen the Movement by improving the capacities of DCI national sections and regions in the protection and promotion of the human rights of all children, especially of children.
involved in the justice system; lend technical and moral support to the advocacy and lobbying efforts of national sections, in particular at international level but also at national and regional levels. Build and consolidate strategic partnerships and alliances to respond adequately to the challenges of the rapidly changing global context, either among members of the DCI Movement or with other partners involved in the same issues.
THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (IEC), 2012-2016:
In 2014, the International Executive Council met twice (March and September) in Geneva and once through teleconference (May).

- **President**: Mr. Benoit Van Kiersbilck (DCI-Belgium)
- **Treasurer/Vice President Europe**: Mr. Aloys van Rest (DCI-Netherlands)
- **Vice President Africa**: Mr. Abdul Manaff Kemokai (DCI-Sierra Leone)
- **Vice President Asia and Oceania**: Mr. Rifat Odeh Kassis (DCI-Palestine)
- **Vice President Americas**: Mr. Juan Pedro Fumeiro (DCI-Uruguay)
- **Member at large**: Ms. Perla Ribeiro (ANCED/DCI-Brazil)
- **Member at large**: Mr. Désiré Aroga (DCI-Cameroon)
Collaborated to the drafting of the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (‘Beijing Rules’)

Collaborated to the drafting of the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (‘Riyadh Guidelines’)

Together with the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, established the International Working Group on Child Labor (which ran until 1997)

Played a key role, as Secretariat of the NGO Group for the Rights of the Child, in the first World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm

Convened the first Latin American meeting on child labor. Following this meeting, DCI resolved to work with other organizations such as the Save the Children Alliance, World Vision and Plan International in order to develop strategies to eliminate labor exploitation of children and young people

Participated in the UN Study on Violence Against Children and became member of the NGO Advisory Committee (AdCo, now known as InCo) for the follow-up to the Study

Organized, together with the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), the Kampala Conference on Juvenile Justice in Africa and contributed to the drafting of the Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice System in Africa, which was adopted by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) the following year

Contributed to the drafting of General Comment No. 10 on children’s rights in Juvenile Justice and launched a follow-up project, with the goal of making it widely known, understood and used by States Parties and other actors; Contributed to the creation and became host of the Secretariat of Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ)

Launched the campaign “Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty”, which was officially requested by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 18 December 2014 (Resolution 69/157, paragraph 51.d)
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (DCI-IS)
The DCI-IS in 2014 consists of three permanent staff members: Executive Director, Advocacy Officer and Communications Officer. In addition to regular staff, DCI-IS is supported by its regional desks in Latin America, MENA, Africa and Europe. Furthermore, DCI-IS is assisted by consultants, interns and volunteers in order to efficiently complete all tasks at hand. Furthermore, DCI also hosts the Secretariat Coordinator of the IPJJ, the expert network on juvenile justice of which DCI is an active member.

The DCI-IS is located in Geneva, Switzerland and acts as the focal point for the Movement at the international level, providing an invaluable link between DCI national sections, the UN and other international organizations. The DCI-IS mandate is to bring pressing child rights issues to the international arena and to provide protection, support, technical assistance and capacity building to human rights defenders from DCI national sections acting at the local levels, thus promoting the concrete realization of the human rights of the child. Since it was founded in 1979 (International Year of the Child), DCI has accumulated wide-ranging experience and solid expertise on juvenile justice and related matters. The international debate and the best practices shared by expert partners are circulated to and from national sections, creating a constant flow of information. DCI-IS obtains constant updates and first-hand information from its national sections on the situation of children involved in justice systems, to improve focus and inform the international child rights advocacy. The work of the DCI-IS also includes monitoring and following the international child rights agenda by carrying out research, networking, lobbying, disseminating information, and developing communication tools - with justice for children as its prime (though not exclusive) field of action.

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH
Spreading information, reaching out to the wider audiences and strengthening its position as one of the leading organizations on child rights and juvenile justice related issues, all remained key priorities for DCI-IS in 2014. To this end, DCI produced an array of press releases, statements, reports and other publications to affirm and support DCI position-taking at the international level, as well as organizing numerous events at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. In addition, the increased visibility on the web and social media networks throughout 2014 constituted a crucial component of DCI’s outreach communication strategy. In this regard, DCI contributed to public debates and at strengthened its role and position next to UN experts and human rights advocates.

CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC DEBATES & TAKING A STANCE
In 2014, DCI organized four different side-events during the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC), thus engaging into high-level and high-quality debates with civil society, academic and UN actors on juvenile justice and other child rights related issues.

• 25th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC-25), 11 March 2014: Children affected by
armed conflict: the extent of the child protection emergency in Syria, co-organized with War Child Holland (WCH) and sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Luxembourg, Finland, Canada, Turkey and The Netherlands.

- 26th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC-26), 13 June 2014: Strategies for Reforms in Juvenile Justice, co-organized with Terre des Hommes (TdH) and the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ), sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Austria.

In addition, DCI organized two events, one in Geneva and one in New York, promoting the campaign for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL):

- 14 October 2014, New York: in light of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and in particular the Third Committee (which considers Children’s Rights specifically), on behalf of the NGO Panel for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, DCI organised a high-level event together with Human Rights Watch. This event saw the participation of expert speakers, including: Marta Santos Pais (Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children), Kirsten Sandberg (Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child), Susan Bissell (Chief, Child Protection, UNICEF), as well as the introductory remarks of the following permanent representatives: Ms. Sheikha Alya Bint Ahmed Bin Saif Al Than (Qatar); Ms. May-Elin Stener (Norway) and Ms. Cristina Carrion (Uruguay). Numerous Permanent Missions attended as well as civil society representatives attended this event.

DCI also aimed to contribute to the public debate and take a clear position on child rights issues through the publication of articles, press releases and other written materials. As a commemoration of its 35 years since its foundation, and to pay tribute to the work carried out by child rights advocates of the Movement, the International Secretariat published a magazine. The IS also released press statements on the Israeli attacks on Gaza in July and August 2014 (Operation Protective Edge), the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, and the Child-friendly Juvenile Justice Resolution adopted by The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), among others.

In 2014, however, as the major communication and advocacy activities of the IS were tied to the ambitious GSCDL campaign, the most successful results relate to that. In addition to the organization of the aforementioned events, the IS produced two press releases, one for the launch of the GSCDL and one following the adoption of the resolution by the UNGA (A/RES/69/157, paragraph 51.d) and a special edition of the DCI newsletter. Thus, the campaign received strong media coverage and attention. While references to the GSCDL were made in various UN documents, DCI also contributed to the reflexion on juvenile justice and promoted the need for a Global Study with four articles published in academic journals (see hereunder),

- Calling for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, in Institutionalized Children Explorations and Beyond, Indianjournals.com, April 2015.

COMMUNICATION EFFORTS AROUND THE GSCDL CAMPAIGN ALSO INCLUDED:

- The creation of the official logo for the campaign
- The launch of the campaign website, as well as Facebook and Twitter accounts
• The production of a brochure for the Call for the GSCDL
• The production of an Advocacy Brochure

While publications and the organization of events remain a great way to provide accessible and useful information about DCI’s work and the causes it defends, DCI aimed at extending and improving its online communication. Hence, DCI became more involved with Social Networks: while the Twitter and Facebook accounts of DCI’s campaign for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) displayed a slow but steady increase in terms of followers, DCI was able to double their number of followers on both “general” Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL)**

On 18 December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially requested for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) to be carried out. In its Child Rights Resolution (A/RES/69/157, paragraph 51.d), the UNGA explicitly invited for the commission of “an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty”. This marks the success of the campaign of DCI calling for such a Study and the commencement of its concrete implementation.
ONLINE PRESENCE
DCI’s online activities also increased through an efficient promotion and use of the website that showed immediate results. The GSCDL campaign website also saw a steady traffic increase since its launch in March 2014.

VISITS (MONTHLY AVERAGE)
In 2014, DCI’s website saw an average increase in monthly visits of 11,000 visitors more as compared to the previous year.
THE WAY FORWARD

In 2015, DCI will look to build on the positive changes observed in 2014 and reach out to an even wider audience. The launch of a new website, scheduled for April 2015, and an increased involvement on Social Networks are seen as both a necessity and an opportunity to respond and adapt to the new ways that the world communicates today. Nevertheless, DCI will also look to strengthen the more “traditional” communication tools. In addition to launching a brand-new newsletter, reinforcing relations with press and media partners will be a necessity and a priority as expanded and better media coverage will only facilitate awareness-building and support DCI’s actions, at local, regional and international levels.

MONTHLY VISITS TO GSCDL CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

The GSCDL campaign website, launched in March, saw a steady increase in terms of visits per month.
THE INTERAGENCY PANEL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE (IPJJ)

The IPJJ is a coordination panel on technical assistance in juvenile justice created by the United Nations through ECOSOC Resolution 1997/30. The Panel is composed of 13 members, made up of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations actively involved in the area of juvenile justice.

The year 2014 has been of great significance for the IPJJ, since it has marked the passage from a functioning Secretariat, coordinating the work of technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, to a new form of coordination without a Secretariat, but through a rotating chair / convener.

The reason for this drastic change has to be found in the lack of political will of some of the UN agencies involved, which decided to withdraw their financial support to fund the Secretariat Coordinator position.

DCI, which has been hosting the Secretariat since its creation in 2007, deeply regrets this decision, which will have an impact on the capacity of IPJJ members to follow-up on the CRC Concluding Observations related to juvenile justice, as they used to when the Secretariat was in place.

The Secretariat had been issuing a monthly thematic Juvenile Justice Newsletter in three different languages; the last edition was issued in June 2014 (http://www.ipjj.org/mailing/ipjj-newsletter-nr-75-june-2014/).

For more information on the IPJJ, please visit the official website: www.ipjj.org.
On 5 July 2014, DCI celebrated its 35th anniversary. Founded in 1979, the International Year of the Child, DCI was one of the first international organizations dedicated to a child centered approach and it held a historical role as drafter and advocate for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). 2014 also marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UNCRC. With such a comprehensive legal tool in hand, which codifies in detail the human rights of the child, DCI has much to celebrate but significant work remains in making these rights a reality.

To celebrate its 35th anniversary, DCI-IS released a magazine. As a way of paying tribute to the work carried out by child rights advocates of the DCI Movement, a variety of images from the mass of newsletters published by the organization over the past 35 years was put together, in a sort of visual organizational biography.

DCI’s history is made up of many great achievements and also considerable challenges. We have passed through some difficult moments, but always managed to resurge thanks to the joint efforts of national sections on the ground and the International Secretariat in Geneva, which all share and work towards the fulfilment of the principles enshrined in the UNCRC, its Optional protocols and other relevant international human rights norms and standards. DCI has grown in its years and presently has 47 national sections worldwide (in Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Oceania, America and Europe), and continues to grow.

In 2003 DCI launched a global campaign “No Kids Behind Bars!”, with the objective of reducing the number of children in detention by promoting the development and implementation by governments of “National Action Plans”. In 2014, this campaign was to some extent “revisited” and became “The Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL)”. This call received incredible support from many civil society organizations (located at national, regional and international levels) and that of numerous renowned human rights experts from different sectors (United Nations, academia, etc.), as well as that of States members to the United Nations.

The campaign for the Global Study can be considered one of DCI’s most notable achievements of the last decade. It is a reminder of DCI’s boldness and leadership in creating real changes, “making the invisible, visible” and ensuring the best interests of the child are indeed a primary consideration.
GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY
THE STUDY
On 18 December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially requested for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) to be carried out. In its Child Rights Resolution (A/RES/69/157, paragraph 51.d), the UNGA explicitly invited for the commission of “an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty”. This marks the success of the campaign of DCI calling for such a Study and the commencement of its concrete implementation.

STEPS
1. BIRTH OF THE IDEA (AUTUMN 2013)
It is recognised that children are too often deprived of liberty for different reasons, and that this deprivation of liberty has negative consequences on a child’s harmonious development. As such, deprivation of liberty is to be a “measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time”. Furthermore, children deprived of liberty are exposed to increased risks of abuse, violence, acute social discrimination and denial of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Certain disadvantaged groups are more affected than others and society is affected at large as deprivation of liberty increases social exclusion, recidivism rates, and public expenditure. Several studies and reports show that there is a great lack of quantitative and qualitative data (particularly disaggregated data), research, and verified information on the situation of children deprived of their liberty.

In 2003, DCI launched a global campaign “No Kids Behind Bars!” with the objective of reducing the number of children in detention. It is in this light that DCI, in autumn 2013, started to conceive the idea of launching a campaign for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) to be undertaken by the United Nations, while simultaneously commencing meetings with experts, state representatives, and partner NGOs to discuss and contribute to the building of the idea.

2. CREATION OF A NGO PANEL TO COORDINATE LOBBYING ACTIVITIES
DCI, together with partner non-governmental organizations, established a NGO Panel in order to mobilize lobbying and advocacy efforts aimed at obtaining a formal request for a GSCDL through a UN resolution. In the implementation phase of the GSCDL, this NGO Panel will provide direct input from civil society, acting as a permanent interlocutor throughout the Study’s realization.

3. OFFICIAL LAUNCH (13 MARCH 2014)
On the Annual Day of the Rights of the Child (ADRC) of the Human Rights Council (HRC), DCI undertook the initiative to launch the campaign: the Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. At this time, DCI had already gained the support of over sixty non-governmental organisations (NGOs), numerous States, and United Nations human rights agencies and experts (in particular the UNCRC). DCI and other partner organizations organized a formal event at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, with the sponsorship of the Permanent Missions of Austria, Ethiopia, Qatar, and Uruguay. During
the event, the different state representatives took the floor underlining the importance and necessity to carry out a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

On the occasion of the official launch, DCI aimed to call on States to support this initiative within the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and subsequently at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where the resolution was to be adopted. Furthermore, the event provided a space for dialogue between all actors (UN experts and agencies, States, civil society, and children), which underlines the collaborative approach proposed for the Study’s realization. The event also marked the inauguration of the official website for the campaign: http://www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info/

4. RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (MAY 2014)
In May 2014, the UNCRC recommended to the UNGA, pursuant to Article 45(c) of the UNCRC, that a Study be undertaken on the issue of children deprived of liberty, noting that there is a great lack of quantitative and qualitative data, research, and verified information on the subject. The UNCRC Committee further recommended that an Independent Expert be appointed to carry out the Study, to work in a participatory process including a wide range of stakeholders. The Chairperson of the UNCRC Committee, Ms. Kirsten Sandberg, addressed a letter to the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG), Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, to formally request such Study and the apposite appointment of an Independent Expert. Read the letter here.

5. EXPERT CONSULTATION IN GENEVA (JUNE 2014)
During this preliminary/campaign phase, an Expert Consultation was held on 13 June 2014 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The one-day meeting with experts allowed for input from various representatives from States, academia and civil society. Numerous experiences were shared and recommendations were made as to how to approach the execution of the Study. Read the full report of the consultation here.

6. HIGH-LEVEL EVENT IN NEW YORK (OCTOBER 2014)
In light of the 69th session of the UNGA and in particular the Third Committee (which considers Children’s Rights specifically), on behalf of the NGO Panel for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, DCI together with Human Rights Watch (HRW) organised a high-level event on 14 October in New York. The panel discussed the situation of children deprived of liberty around the world and noted the lack of data on the subject. The panelists, which included the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC), Chairperson of the UNCRC Committee, and UNICEF representative, all agreed upon the necessity of appointing an Independent Expert for the Study.

7. THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - UNGA (69TH SESSION)
The support for the Study was evident during the final push and obtaining a formal request in the Child Rights Resolution of the UNGA.
Nevertheless, DCI together with members of the NGO Panel, continued to lobby States bilaterally in order to secure the Study be formally requested through a UNGA resolution at the times of its 69th session. Simultaneously, an official statement was made on behalf of the NGO Panel for the GSCDL, as part of the final lobbying efforts to obtain the formal request, and reiterate the particular need for the appointment of an Independent Expert to guide the Study.

8. NGO PANEL LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL (NOVEMBER 2014)
Throughout the year, DCI participated and presented the Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty within different international, regional and national fora. DCI took part in many bi- & multi- lateral meetings with UN Member States, and bilateral meetings with UN experts, treaty bodies and academics. In November 2014, prior to the 69th session of the UNGA, DCI (joined by 45 NGOs) submitted a letter to the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG), Mr. Ban Ki-moon, urging him to appoint an Independent Expert to conduct the Study. An Independent Expert will be best able to ensure a comprehensive approach, and broker cooperation and contributions to the Study by all relevant stakeholders.

9. UNGA RESOLUTION 69/157 (DECEMBER 2014)
On 18 December 2014, the UNGA officially requested the GSCDL to be carried out (A/RES/69/157, paragraph 51.d). In its Child Rights Resolution, the UNGA explicitly invited for the commission of “an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty”. The formal request for the Study through a UNGA resolution marks the success of the campaign calling for such a Study and the commencement of its concrete implementation. The UNSG will (hopefully) carry out this Study through the appointment of an Independent Expert.

10. THE WAY FORWARD: BUILDING ON SUCCESS
The campaign for the Study is to be considered one of DCI’s most notable achievements. DCI’s Call for a GSCDL received (and continues to receive) support from over eighty civil society organizations (located at national, regional and international level), and that of numerous renowned human rights experts from different sectors (United Nations, academia, etc.), as well as that of Member States to the United Nations. Since the launch of this campaign for a GSCDL, many activities have been carried out in order to gain support and raise awareness on this important issue. The World Congress on Juvenile Justice, to be held in January 2015 and will be co-hosted by Switzerland and Terre des Hommes Foundation, will be a critical event, as it will be the first World Congress on Juvenile Justice and will be attended by over 900 delegates from 80 different countries. Discussion throughout the conference will allow DCI to bolster further support for the Global Study, and in particular the appointment of an Independent Expert to follow it through. The 28th session of the UNHRC (March 2015, Geneva) and the Thirteenth UN Crime Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal justice (April 2015, Qatar) will also provide a valuable platform to increase the momentum around the GSCDL.
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Organisation Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Defence for Children International (DCI)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Abraham’s Children Foundation (ACF)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)</td>
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<td>Alliance for Children, Mauritius</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Amnesty International</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), USA</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Arc en ciel, Gabon</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Asociacion Argentina de Magistrados Funcionarios y Profesionales de la Justicia de Ninez, Adolescencia y Familia (AJUNAF)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Association Antigone, Italy</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI), USA</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Association international des magistrats de la jeunesse et de la famille (AIMJF) Switzerland</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Bulgaria</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Le Bureau international des droits des enfants (IBCR)</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Burundi Child Rights Coalition</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Casa Alianza</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Child Helpline International (CHI)</td>
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<td>Child Rights Connect</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Child Rights International Network (CRIN)</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Child Rights Network of Southern Africa (CRNSA)</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania (CRCA), Albania</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Children’s Rights Alliance for England (CRAE= United Kingdom</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Child Rights movement, Pakistan</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Colectivo de Derechos de Infancia y Adolescencia de Argentina</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Congregation of Our Lady of charity of the Good Shepherd, Italy</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Consortium for Street Children Trust, Tanzania</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Coram Children’s Legal Centre, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Dignité en Détention (DiDé), Switzerland</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Dogodogo Centre Street Children Trust</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>Dynamo International- Street workers Network</td>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights)</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes)</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>Edmund Rice International (ERI)</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>End Child Immigration Detention</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Eurochild</td>
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<td>Franciscans International</td>
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<td>Freedom Gate Greece</td>
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<td>38.</td>
<td>Freedom for Marginalized Community</td>
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<td>40.</td>
<td>The Global Detention Project, Switzerland</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>Global Campaign to End Child Detention</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td>Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>The Howard League for Penal Reform, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>44.</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch (HRW)</td>
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<td>45.</td>
<td>IDAY-International Day of African Childhood and his Youth</td>
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<td>46.</td>
<td>INCIDIN Bangladesh</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>Institut international des Droits de l’Enfant (IDE), Switzerland</td>
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</table>
48. Institute for Social Justice, Pakistan
49. International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB/BICE)
50. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
51. International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)
52. International Detention Coalition (IDC)
53. International Federation of University Women (IFUW)
54. International Institute for Child Protection (IICP)
55. International Justice Consulting (ICJ)
56. International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)
57. International Social Service (ISS)
58. ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)
59. International Women’s Human Rights Clinic (IWHRC), USA
60. Inquest, United Kingdom
61. Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA; Human Rights Office)
62. Kigoma Women’s Development Group (KIWODE), Tanzania
63. Lumos
64. Mental Disability Advocacy Center
65. Minori Stranieri non Accompagnati
66. Nisida European Study Centre, Italy
67. National Confederation of Human Rights Platform in Madagascar
68. Organisation Mondiale Pour L’Éducation Préscolaire (O.M.E.P.)
69. Our Children Foundation, Bulgaria
70. Penal Reform International (PRI)
71. Plan International
72. Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
73. Prisoner’s Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA)
74. PakTurk International Schools and Colleges (PakTurk ICEF), Pakistan
75. Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)
76. Red Latinoamericana y caribena por la defensa de los derechos de los ninos, ninas, y adolescents (REDLAMYC)
77. Rights International, United Kingdom
78. Right to Education Project (RTE), United Kingdom
79. Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), Italy
80. Save the Children
81. School of Law and Social Justice, Department of Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology, The University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
82. SOS Children’s Villages International
83. Sustainable Development Organization (SDO) Pakistan
84. Terre des Hommes International Federation
85. The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (UN NHRI), Hungary
86. L’Unione Nazionale Camere Minorili, Italy
87. Vides Internazionale, Italy
88. War Child Holland (WCH), The Netherlands
89. World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)
90. Youth Association for Development (YAD), Pakistan
03

ACHIEVING SOCIAL CHANGE

ADVOCACY & LOBBYING
GLOBAL IMPACT

The DCI-IS, in its role as coordinator of national sections and representative before the United Nations office in Geneva, continued throughout 2014 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 (25th, 26th and 27th) 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 (CRC); Committee against Torture (CAT); Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT); inter alia.

For the three HRC sessions held in 2014, DCI delivered oral statements to raise concern and encourage progress on burning issues such as: the prevention and eradication of Ebola virus; child rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; children deprived of liberty; the implementation of the CRC Convention; etc. DCI also released a position paper on the protection of the family and co-sponsored a joint statement with 16 other NGOs, which was led by Save the Children.

Activities pertaining to our primary issue of concern (justice for children), always involves the organization and participation in independent side-events to the HRC, as well as conferences and training sessions with experts and colleagues from the field. For the HRC sessions, alongside private meetings of coordination with experts such as the Special Rapporteur of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), DCI also organized side events on “Strategies of Reforms in Juvenile Justice”, “Children Affected by Armed Conflicts”, “Children Rights Besieged in the Middle East”, and “Child Rights Defenders: The Fatal Consequences”.

For the UNCRC sessions, three alternative reports were submitted by DCI-Yemen, DCI-Switzerland and DCI-Jordan. A particular emphasis was made on the activities celebrating the 25th anniversary of the UNCRC.

Over the past year, much of the International Secretariat’s lobbying efforts, already mentioned above, have focused on garnering support for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. This major enterprise will more than likely take three years to implement, and will only be accomplished through active contribution by each and every DCI national section, together with partner organizations, UN experts & agencies, States, academia and children themselves.

LOBBYING AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

In 2014, the HRC held its three regular sessions: the 25th session (03 – 28 March), the 26th session (10 – 27 June), and the 27th session (08 – 26 September). The DCI-IS ensured that the voice of the Movement was heard within the international arena, particularly with regard to issues concerning justice for children.
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

During the 25th session of the UNHRC, DCI successfully lobbied for children’s access to justice. The Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (ADRC) took place on 13 March and was dedicated to the theme “access to justice”. Mr. Tom Julius Beah of DCI - Sierra Leone participated in the panel discussion alongside representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF, UNCRC, and Penal Reform International (PRI) amongst others.

The 25th session was also marked by the presentation of the annual report (A/HRC/25/47) of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Violence against Children (SRSVAC), in which the benefits of restorative justice programs were highlighted.

DCI, as part of the Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV) & the International NGO Council on Violence against Children (InCo) had a chance to meet privately with the SRSV/VC to discuss activities, in particular her report on “Creating a non-violent juvenile justice system”. The SRSVAC discussed the urgent need to influence the post-2015 agenda of the UNGA and encourage the inclusion of violence against children among its priority issues.

At the 26th session (10-27 June), the Council adopted a Resolution on the ‘protection of the family’ (26 June), undermining children’s rights and ignoring the reality that various forms of families exist. NGOs, including DCI, released a position paper highlighting that all children, whether they live in a family environment or not, remain human rights-holders, rights which cannot be overlooked, limited or negated.

Moreover, the Special Rapporteur (SR) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions presented his report (A/HRC/26/36, Add.1-2), making the case for the need of ongoing legal

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<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Position Papers</th>
<th>Side Events/ Private Meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCR-25</td>
<td>Under Item 03, HRC Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (ADRC), delivered by Mr. Tom Julius Beah (DCI - Sierra Leone)</td>
<td>DCI released a joint position paper on “Protection of the Family”</td>
<td>Private meeting with the SRSG/VAC; DCI and War Child Holland (WCH) organized a side-event on “Children affected by armed conflicts” (March 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCR-26</td>
<td>Under Item 07 of the HRC, addressing the excessive use of force by Israeli authorities, delivered by Brad Parker (DCI-Palestine)</td>
<td>DCI co-organized a side-event on “Strategies for reforms in Juvenile Justice” (13 June 2015)</td>
<td>Mr. Manaff Kemokai (DCI-Sierra Leone) together with the DCI-IS, met with WHO and the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation (17 September 2014);</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCR-27</td>
<td>Under Item 03: Panel on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, delivered by DCI-IS; joint statement with World Organization Against Torture (OMCT); joint statement with 16 NGOs, delivered by Save the Children; addressing the human rights violations linked to the Ebola crisis, delivered by DCI-IS on behalf of DCI-Sierra Leone; Under Item 07: delivered by DCI-Palestine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Side events organized by DCI: “Children’s RightsBesieged in the Middle East” (22 September 2014) &amp; “Child Rights Defenders – the fatal consequence” (24 September 2014).</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6 Oral Statements</td>
<td>2 Position Papers</td>
<td>6 private meetings (3) &amp; side events (3)</td>
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**Position Papers**
- Under Item 03, HRC Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (ADRC), delivered by Mr. Tom Julius Beah (DCI - Sierra Leone)
- Under Item 07 of the HRC, addressing the excessive use of force by Israeli authorities, delivered by Brad Parker (DCI-Palestine)
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- Under Item 07: delivered by DCI-Palestine

**Statements**
- Under Item 03, HRC Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (ADRC), delivered by Mr. Tom Julius Beah (DCI - Sierra Leone)
- Under Item 07 of the HRC, addressing the excessive use of force by Israeli authorities, delivered by Brad Parker (DCI-Palestine)
- Under Item 03: Panel on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, delivered by DCI-IS; joint statement with World Organization Against Torture (OMCT); joint statement with 16 NGOs, delivered by Save the Children; addressing the human rights violations linked to the Ebola crisis, delivered by DCI-IS on behalf of DCI-Sierra Leone;
- Under Item 07: delivered by DCI-Palestine

**Private Events/Meetings**
- Private meeting with the SRSG/VAC; DCI and War Child Holland (WCH) organized a side-event on “Children affected by armed conflicts” (March 2014)
- DCI co-organized a side-event on “Strategies for reforms in Juvenile Justice” (13 June 2015)
- Mr. Manaff Kemokai (DCI-Sierra Leone) together with the DCI-IS, met with WHO and the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation (17 September 2014); Side events organized by DCI: “Children’s Rights Besieged in the Middle East” (22 September 2014) & “Child Rights Defenders – the fatal consequence” (24 September 2014).
reform in States across the world, in order to bring domestic laws on the use of force into conformity with international law. DCI-IS presented an oral statement on behalf of DCI-Palestine, to denounce Israeli authorities’ for the use of excessive force against Palestinians in peaceful demonstrations, including children, as well as Israel’s consistent failure to conduct impartial and independent investigations. The statement called on the SR to conduct an impartial investigation on the case of the extrajudicial killing of two Palestinian children and bring the perpetrators of such violence to justice.

DCI also co-organized a side event in collaboration with the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) and Terres des Hommes (TdH) on the “Strategies for reforms in Juvenile Justice”. Held on 13 June 2014 at the Palais des Nations, the event was sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Austria and Switzerland. This event aimed to strengthen the coordination of various activities related to justice for children in connection to: the Call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, the United Nations Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the World Congress on Juvenile Justice, and the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

During the 27th regular session of the UNHRC (08-26 September), a panel discussion on the Protection of the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of their Liberty took place on 10 September, where the systematic overuse of pre-trial detention and the heightened risk of violations against women and children in this context were emphasized. The panel underlined that overcrowding of prisons increases the negative effects of detention on children, and that separate facilities for juvenile detainees need to exist. The suggestion to create an oversight mechanism, which will receive complaints, was made. Uruguay, UNICEF, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) expressed the urgent need for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and their support to this initiative. DCI-IS presented an oral statement, insisting that the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) undertake the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, and calling on member states of the HRC to support the launch and execution of this Study.

Furthermore, a panel on accelerating global efforts to end violence against children was held on 23 September. In a joint statement, together with the World Organization against Torture (OMCT), DCI expressed concern about the heightened risk of violence against children deprived of liberty. The statement demanded that an independent complaint mechanism be created for children in such situations, that children in detention made aware of their human rights, and that children deprived of their liberty are included in the UN post-2015 development goals.

DCI also co-sponsored a joint statement, delivered by Save the Children, together with another 16 NGOs, to call on the United Nations Secretary-General to include an unequivocal stand for the elimination of all forms of violence against children in his synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700), as a target that is possible, achievable and a cornerstone of any sustainable development for the generations to come.

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

During the 25th session of the Council, the Special Representative to the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG/CAAC) presented her report (A/HRC/25/46) making specific mention of the need for armed forces and armed groups to stop military use of schools as “access to education is not only a fundamental right, it is also the key for development and peace”.

DCI-IS, as part of the Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV), facilitated a private meeting of the Focus Group on Children affected by Armed Conflict (FG/CAAC) with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG/CAAC), Ms. Leila Zerrougui, 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.

A side-event was organized by DCI and War Child Holland (WCH) concerning “Children affected by armed conflict: The Extent of the Child Protection
Since the first registered case of the Ebola virus in March 2014, West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria) was confronted with the largest and most severe outbreak of the disease since the virus was first isolated in 1976. As the outbreak was moving more rapidly than efforts to control and prevent it, there was risk that the infection may spread to other regions, too. Through its national sections present in the affected countries, DCI showed active participation in undertaking standard measures of restraining the proliferation of victims. The Special Rapporteur (SR) on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (Portugal), presented her report (A/HRC/27/55) focusing on common violations of the human rights to water and sanitation - essential for the realization of simple hygiene practices to prevent the outbreak of disease. In fact, DCI-IS presented an oral statement on behalf of DCI-Sierra Leone, to highlight the urgent need to coordinate and appropriately react to the recent Ebola outbreak, demanding the protection and respect of human rights in this context. The statement called on the international community to mobilize resources, enhance coordination and communication, ensure access to humanitarian assistance, and demand that all stakeholders urgently and intelligently react to this grave and spreading issue. Mr. Manaff Kemokai, representative of DCI-Sierra Leone and vice-president for the African region had the opportunity, while in Geneva for the International Executive Council (IEC) of DCI, to meet with the World Health Organization and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation, to inform them of the grave human rights violations occurring due to the outbreak of the epidemic. The DCI-IS went on to contact the Special Rapporteur on Health and discuss the issue with the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC), to verify what immediate actions could be taken at the international level.
During Israel’s assault on Gaza last summer, children paid a high price. Operation “Protective Edge”, which lasted fifty days (between 08 July and 26 August), claimed the lives of 2,220 Palestinians, including at least 1,492 civilians - according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). DCI-Palestine independently verified the deaths of 547 Palestinian children among the fatalities in Gaza, 535 of them as a direct result of Israeli attacks. DCI-Palestine and other Palestinian human rights organizations previously called on UN Secretary-General to „list“ Israel’s armed forces as part of the UN Security Council’s children and armed conflict agenda.

The preliminary report presented by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Flavia Pansieri, concluded that 3/4 of fatalities of the latest Israeli offensive were civilians, out of which 506 were children. DCI-IS presented an oral statement on behalf of DCI-Palestine, calling on all members of the HRC to take individual measures to ensure that the Israeli government cooperates with the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Gaza and provides all necessary support to the Commission in order to ensure a serious, impartial and transparent investigation into alleged violations, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.

21st Special Session of the Human Rights Council
On 23 July 2014, an extraordinary debate was concluded at the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopting a resolution condemning the widespread, systematic and gross violations of international human rights and fundamental freedoms arising from the Israeli military operations carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) since 13 June 2014; resulting in the killing of more than 650 Palestinians, most of them civilians and more than 170 of whom were children. The adopted resolution establishes an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. DCI submitted a written and oral statement during the debate.
Emergency in Syria”. The main objective of the event was to provide a full picture of the needs and protection risks for children affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria; identify short and mid-term challenges, opportunities and strategies for the improvement of humanitarian situation in Syria in light of the adoption of Security Council (SC) resolution No.2139 (2014); highlight specific recommendations for the application of international humanitarian and human rights law relevant to children, in particular the UNCRC to the specific Syrian context; and discuss how to meet the gaps in response to these serious child rights issues. The panel was composed of experts from War Child Holland (WCH), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, Jordanian Women’s Union, as well as the SRSG/CAAC and H.E Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg. Furthermore, on 22 September, DCI organized a side-event on “Child Rights Besieged in the Middle East”. Key panel speakers participating in the event, included: Ms. Susan Bissell, Associate Director of Child Protection with UNICEF; Ms. Sukaina Khalawi, Defence for Children International Palestine (DCI-Palestine); Ms. Ruba Taybeh, Jordanian Women Union Association and Defence for Children Jordan (DCI-Jordan); Mr. Hatem Kotrane, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The event was moderated by Ms. Jyoti Sanghera, Chief of the Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, Research and the Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). With the objective to discuss the situation of children in conflict zones, particularly the Middle East, the event also focused on the solutions to prevent further child rights violations.

THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
DCI is becoming more and more active at advocating for children’s rights, in particular child-friendly justice, during the UPRs of the Human Rights Council. The UPR is a unique process, which involves a review of the human rights records of all Member States to the United Nations. 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 fullfil 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. In more than 80% of the UPR reviews of countries where DCI has local presence, DCI national sections have provided inputs to the stakeholders’ reports and actively lobbied directly, or indirectly (through the IS), for the inclusion of specific recommendations on child rights issues.
LOBBYING AT THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILD (UNCRC COMMITTEE)

The UNCRC Committee held its 65th session from 14 January to 01 February 2014. The newly established national section of DCI in Yemen ("Democracy School") submitted a stakeholders report to the Committee and attended the public session, during which the government of Yemen had to present and defend its state report. Several recommendations provided by DCI Yemen were included in the concluding observations of the UNCRC Committee, particularly those pertaining to juvenile justice.

At the 66th session (26 May - 13 June, 2014), Jordan was among the countries where DCI has national sections being reviewed by the UNCRC. The Jordanian Women Union Association (DCI associated member in Jordan) provided its contribution to the stakeholders’ report presented by the NGO coalition.

In May 2014, the UNCRC Committee also held its 68th pre-sessional working group. DCI Switzerland submitted a stakeholders report, focusing only on the Swiss juvenile justice system.

During the 67th session (01-19 September 2014) DCI delegates from the MENA region, present in Geneva to attend a specialized training, had the opportunity to meet and discuss pressing issues with the UNCRC Committee members. Issues such as Ebola (Africa), the situation in Gaza (MENA) and the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Latin America) were addressed, as well as an update on the situation of the campaign calling for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) - the latter being strongly supported by individual members and the UNCRC Committee as a whole.

Furthermore, the UNCRC Committee held its biannual Day of General Discussion (DGD) on 12 September, theme being: Digital Media and Children’s Rights. The aim of the event was to better understand the effects of online media on children & their human rights. Key issues addressed included children’s equal and safe access to digital media and Information and Communications Technology (ICT), wherein accessibility, digital literacy, safety, data collection, data evaluation, collaboration and joint responsibility were all indicated as the key elements to be taken into account. Children’s empowerment and engagement through digital media and ICT was another key point of discussion. DCI-Costa Rica’s Executive President, Ms. Virginia Murillo, participated as panelist to the relevant side-event held on that day: “Good practices and lessons learned on digital media

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### THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

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and children’s rights”, she discussed the good practices and lessons learned with regard to digital media and children in Latin America. Later in September, during the pre-session of the UNCRC Committee’s 69th session (22-26 September 2014), DCI-Netherlands presented a stakeholder’s report in light of the consideration of the State Report, to be held in May 2015.

Finally, since 2014 also marked the 25th anniversary since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), DCI organized an event in collaboration with other NGOs in order to celebrate the advancements of the child rights movements since the first Geneva Declaration of 1924, up until the adoption of the UNCRC in 1989. As central contributor to the drafting of the UNCRC, DCI founder Mr. Nigel Cantwell took the floor during the celebratory event held at the Palais Wilson in Geneva (20 November 2014), underlining the important role of civil society organizations in the elaboration, ratification and now follow-up to the UNCRC.

### THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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<td>CRC 69th (pre session)</td>
<td>Ghana (State Report) Mexico (State Report) Netherlands (State Report and OPAC)</td>
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<td>DCI Netherlands</td>
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<td>CRC at 25</td>
<td>DCI highlighted the important role of civil society organizations in implementing the UNCRC</td>
<td>1 Oral Statement</td>
<td>4 Alternative Reports</td>
<td>DCI co-organized the event with Child Rights Connect, celebrating the 25th anniversary (November 2014). Founder of DCI, Nigel Cantwell, was keynote speaker.</td>
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**Total** 1 Oral Statement, 4 Alternative Reports, 4 Oral Intervention and co-organization of an event
REGIONAL IMPACT
MENA REGION
From 20 to 22 October 2014, during a three day workshop held in Cairo, Egypt, representatives from the DCI regional desk for the MENA region (DCI Palestine) met with the League of Arab States (LAS). The meeting took place in the premises of the LAS and was officially opened by H.E. Ms. Inas Mekkawy, Minister plenipotentiary, Head of the Department for Family, Childhood and Women of the League. Looking to build on this positive and fruitful first meeting, representatives of DCI regional desk for the MENA region and the LAS agreed to meet for a second meeting in March 2015. Thus, DCI, through its MENA regional desk, continues to lobby the LAS to become an officially recognized member of the Arab Childhood Committee of the LAS.

NATIONAL IMPACT
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
BURKINA FASO
Thanks to many years of lobbying and advocacy efforts led by DCI-Burkina Faso and other NGOs on the implementation and protection of children’s rights, a new legal bill was recently adopted by the national governments. The bill will update the national legislative framework, and resolve many institutional and procedural issues. The new bill will provide child rights advocates with a unique and comprehensive text, replacing the outdated legislation (Law No. 19-61, on juvenile justice). This new legislative framework will improve the protection of children as a whole.

On 13 May 2014, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso adopted a draft law on the protection of children in conflict with the law and on endangered children. The Burkinabe government is committed to the implementation of regional and international instruments, including the UNCRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The State’s legislative framework however, remains inadequate as it fails to take into account all issues related to juvenile delinquency or endangered children. Furthermore, it is characterized by a lack of efficient procedural arrangements.

This deficiency of existing legislative provisions causes a number of problems. According to 2006 statistics from the General Census of Population and Housing, half of the Burkinabe population is under the age of 18. This situation calls for the government to carefully consider the legal and judicial treatment of its children and future generation.

FRANCE
DCI-France continuously demanded that the French government ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OP3 CRC). This demand was reiterated during DCI-France’s contribution to the UPR report of January 2013, several meetings with members of national ministries, in the context of the project AEDE, and in its contribution to the reform of the family law. In January 2013, during its UPR review, France declared its intention to assess the ratification of the OP3. On 20 November 2014, France eventually signed the Optional Protocol, marking the end of a three-year battle of DCI-France to achieve this goal.

CANADA
This year DCI-Canada worked to expand its partnerships in order to meet its goals of increasing awareness and education on the UNCRC, and improving the juvenile justice system. DCI-Canada’s President, Ms. Agnes Samler, is currently Vice-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC), a sister national organization. CCRC is monitoring Canada’s response to the UNCRC Committee review and providing reports that reflect Canada’s child rights activities. DCI-Canada co-chairs the sub-committee on youth justice issues and also has a lead role in CCRC’s award process.

The Ontario Child Advocate and DCI also co-chairs a group called the Canadian Network for Youth Justice (CN4YJ). This is a group dedicated to changing the negative discourse with regard to youth involved in the justice system in Canada. One of the tasks taken on by the CN4YJ is monitoring the 104 recommendations made in the inquest regarding Ashley Smith. Ashley was a young woman who had been held in secure isolation almost constantly during her year in federal prison. She had been transferred 17
times across Canada in that year, effectively cutting her off from contact with her family. At age 19 she died in the custody of Corrections Canada while guards looked on. The guards had been directed not to take any action until she had stopped breathing as a result of strings she had tied around her neck. The verdict of the inquest was homicide although Correctional Services Canada referred to it as a suicide. The Network has recently written to the Minister and the Commissioner of Correctional Service of Canada to obtain information about the implementation of the inquest’s recommendations.

This year DCI-Canada strengthened its connections with Ryerson University. The office worked with a group of youth to provide a report on the use of tasers on young people by police forces across Canada. This report will shape DCI responses on this critical issue.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

SUDAN

DCI Sudan (Child Rights Institute - CRI) conducted the project on “Mainstreaming children’s rights in child friendly centres and facilitating the access to key children’s rights related documents” in Khartoum State, Karrary Locality and Umbadda Locality. Issues like child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) were addressed in different meetings and workshops.

Six workshops were implemented as follows: two consultation workshops on the rights and protection of children in each centre; a joint training workshop on the rights and protection of children for members of the two localities; one workshop on lobbying, advocacy and monitoring human rights violations for members of the two localities; and two orientation sessions for children of the two centres on child rights, using creative methods. A series of meetings and consultations took place with the Khartoum Council for Child Welfare (KCCW) and child friendly centres to develop a monitoring report form. The total number of beneficiaries of the project was 227 people (163 adults and 64 children). Of the 163 adults, 98 were females and 65 males. The children were 41 girls and 23 boys. The project succeeded in reaching its target groups as indicated by the above numbers.

The project aimed to ensure that communities members are acquainted with appropriate knowledge and understanding of: a) international and regional conventions and national legislations related to children rights; b) child protection and elements of the protective environment; c) lobbying and advocacy and d) monitoring of child rights. The community was strengthened with knowledge on the existing child protection mechanisms and its link to the Family and Child Protection Unit was reaffirmed. The targeted children are now more aware of their human rights and know where to go if they are at risk and how to go about reporting eventual or potential violations.

Several meetings and consultations resulted in a unified form that was developed with the participation of KCCW members and representatives from government institutions.
to ensure monitoring of children rights and the presence of information on the situation of children. The process of developing the reporting form drew the attention of the participants to the importance of coordination between the different government departments working with children, and the importance of joint regular meetings to follow up and monitor the situation of children in Khartoum State.

CHILD TRAFFICKING
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Children in the United States of America are affected by sexual abuse, sex trafficking, unfair labor practices, high rates of incarceration, poverty, high rates of HIV/AIDS in communities of color and sometimes limited educational opportunities.

“We cannot rest our vigilance and commitment to eradicating trafficking - let’s say - on the basis that it is illegal to traffic. Law without more is a daunting and ineffective proposition”, Michele Goodwin, DCI-US.

DCI-United States works to protect and promote the best interest of children. DCI-US collaborates with the Institute for Global Child Advocacy, a non-profit organization conducting urgent research on the status of children related to trafficking, sexual violence, incarceration, education, and forced underage marriage. The US affiliate is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota with a presence in Chicago and California. In 2014, DCI-US continued to establish its organization and focused on establishing public presence and visibility in the media.

Concerned about substantive issues, DCI-US took up gun control as a signal issue for its chapter, working with legislators and advocacy organizations. Interested in criminal justice, Prof. Michele Goodwin, President of DCI-US published an article on the punishment of children for statutory rape, critiquing such action as cruel and unusual punishment. This work on inhumane and degrading treatments is part of efforts launched last year by Prof. Goodwin, who had hosted a conference on human trafficking in March in Baltimore and a second conference on human and civil rights, in October in Minneapolis.

In order to diversify its work on different aspects of child rights, DCI-US sponsored several talks on health care equality and access. Moreover, DCI-US is in the process of launching its first international conference in 2015 which will focus on children and juvenile justice.
UNDERSTANDING NEEDS, PROMOTING RIGHTS

AWARENESS RAISING
OVERVIEW
At the international level, DCI-IS continues to raise awareness through the organization of events, its advocacy and lobbying efforts and by being part of numerous child rights networks. But awareness raising activities are also conducted by DCI national sections reaching the target audience directly: children and local communities.

GLOBAL IMPACT
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
DCI, as part of the Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV) organized an event on 11 December 2014 together with the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations, launching the video ‘End Violence Against Children’. These efforts were part of an awareness raising campaign in light the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be adopted in September 2015, and which UN Member States are presently negotiating. Twitter was an important means of communication and awareness raising to this end, via the hashtags #endViolenceAgainstChildren, #endVACpost2015, #endviolence and #post2015, to highlight the gravity of the situation.

The global impacts and costs resulting from the consequences of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children can be as high as $7 trillion. Every year, between 500 million and 1.5 billion children worldwide endure some form of violence. Only 9% of children worldwide live in countries that fully prohibit corporal punishment; 230 million children under the age of 5 do not have birth certificates; 7 in 10 children experience psychological aggression; 1 billion children live in conflict-affected areas; 13.5 million girls under 18 are forced into marriage every year; 168 million boys and girls are involved in exploitative work; and 18 million children suffer from sexual abuse.

In the Working Group, DCI engaged in advocacy to ban violence; enact and enforce laws; invest in prevention; include child protection; promote children’s participation; develop partnership and regional collaboration; and collect data and build institutions, particularly in light of the upcoming Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be officially adopted by UN Member States in September 2015.

REGIONAL IMPACT
CHILD LABOR
LATIN AMERICA
DCI-Costa Rica continued its campaign to end the use of child labor and called on the government of Costa Rica to allow fellow human rights defenders advocating for the prevention of child labor to protest peacefully. They encouraged the State of Honduras to enforce treaties, agreements, and recommendations for the protection of children’s rights. DCI- Costa Rica continues to partake in the Sub-regional Platform on child and adolescent labor and has expressed its determination to continue working toward the goal of ending child labor.
NATIONAL IMPACT
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
COSTA RICA
DCI-Costa Rica was actively involved in a campaign to raise awareness on violence against children, particularly police inflicted violence. On 12 August they participated in the 152nd session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Mexico, in order to expose the plight of children. DCI-Costa Rica drew attention to the overcrowded condition of prisons, situations of police abuse, beatings, and use of irritant gases.

BELGIUM
DCI-Belgium launched a campaign to raise awareness about the persistence of corporal punishment of children. In Belgium, corporal punishment by parents is still socially acceptable and parents have the “right” to use physical punishment as long as it does not leave visible wounds. DCI-Belgium has been working to promote support for changing the law concerning corporal punishment. They released an open letter calling for the government to change the national Civil Code.

LIBERIA
Alongside awareness-raising intervention in the counties of Bomi and Montserrado, DCI-Liberia took part in a vigorous “Community Awareness and Sensitization” campaign on Ebola control and prevention. The DCI national section also provided hand sanitizers, chlorine, powder detergents and other precaution material, and distributed over 2,000 flyers to boost its awareness campaign throughout the country. In continuation of joint efforts aimed at working collectively on eradicating the Ebola virus disease in Liberia, the civil society organizations of the Bomi County convened a series of consultative meetings whereby the Bomi Civil Society Organizations Ebola Working Committee was established. The Committee includes the membership of DCI-Liberia, Liberia National Red Cross Bomi chapter, Liberia Children Foundation, Women and Children Advocacy, and the Bomi Rural Women.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
COSTA RICA
On 21-24 July, DCI-Costa Rica held a week of “Dialogues and Reflections” on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), with the support of UNICEF Costa Rica, the National Child Welfare Agency, the Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED), Universidad Latina of Costa Rica ULatina), and the Office of the Ombudsman. These activities will mark the 20th anniversary of DCI-Costa...
Rica, the 35th anniversary of Defence for Children International, and the 25th anniversary of the UNCRC. DCI-Costa Rica also took part of the annual series of events in September (22-26), November (3-7), and December (2-10). November’s gathering featured the Vice President of the UNCRC Committee, Ms. Sara Oviedo. The “Dialogues and Reflections” initiative contributed to providing a better understanding of the UNCRC. After the final event, DCI-Costa Rica worked towards issuing a comprehensive publication comprising 17 General Comments, entitled: “Practical Guide for a proper implementation”, and a special training session on the Guide is scheduled for 2015.

**BOLIVIA**

In 2014, as part of the strategy to promote the Leadership of Children and Adolescents, DCI-Bolivia conducted training sessions aimed at promoting the acquisition of personal and practical skills, encouraging the organization, social participation and public presence of children, girls and adolescents. The main result in this regard was:

The education and training of 13,416 children and adolescents (7,121 males and 6,295 females), members of educational units and brigades with which the institution works in the provinces of Oruro, Cochabamba and La Paz. The themes developed included awareness raising on the following themes: education on the Code of the Girl; Child and Adolescent; education for citizenship and the peaceful resolution of conflicts; prevention of violence, organization and leadership; social participation; gender and generational equity.

Implementation actions were taken through the “Strategy for Social Impact”, which was directed at the persons with whom children and adolescents evolve: relatives, teachers and school staff, with the aim of raising awareness and guaranteeing the commitment of educational institutions and families in enabling the exercise of individual and collective rights of children and adolescents. A total of 1,485 adults (directors of educational units, teachers, and children’s relatives) participated in spaces of awareness, joint action with children and adolescents and activities to promote the right to life and right to a life free of violence. Activities developed around the “Advocacy Strategy” mainly aimed at establishing dialogue with municipal and regional authorities, responsible for advances in social public policies for human development that target children and adolescents. However this task did present some difficulties due to the pre-electoral process. In any case a total of 1,178 people (administrators, judicial authorities and leaders of Basic Territorial Organizations) were reached.

**YEMEN**

The Children Parliament in the Republic of Yemen is one of the projects of the national sections which allows more active participation for children in expressing their views and extensively questions governmental and non-governmental organizations about children’s rights. The Children’s Parliament of DCI-Yemen held its second session on 19-21 August 2014, under the slogan “The situation of Yemeni Children in the transitional period”. Six thematic Committees of the Children’s Parliament were elected, namely: Culture and Media; Education; Human’s Rights; Health; Environment; and Recommendation follow-ups. Members of Parliament questioned government
representatives and civil society organisations about the Geneva recommendations. At the end of the session, members of the Children’s Parliament visited the Constitution Drafting Committee of the National Dialogue Conference. Mr. Moain Said, Rapporteur of the Constitution Drafting Committee, welcomed them and clarified the articles of the new Constitution that promote the rights of the child.

This year, DCI-Yemen also led an awareness campaign on juvenile justice for high school students in public schools, highlighting the risks of committing crimes and the impact it has on children’s future. A five hour training session was held for 200 high school students, aged 14-17 years old.

During the Awareness Day, a summary of the children’s rights and juvenile justice law was presented. The floor was then open to discussion with young people about the condition of children in Yemen. Stories were presented about child detainees and the reasons of detention. Mr. Jamal Alshami of the Children’s Parliament spoke about the importance of continuing education, taking care of the future and not involving children in political conflicts. His colleague, Mr. Mohammed Alwadai, talked about techniques for dealing with children and youth detained in police stations, as well as their human rights and respective responsibilities. The Awareness Day concluded with students questioning how to protect children in police stations and prisons.

**CANADA**

DCI-Canada co-chaired a group called the Canadian Network for Youth Justice (CN4YJ) dedicated to changing the negative discourse regarding youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Network aims to change the public perception of children deprived of liberty and increase support for diversion from detention.

**SIERRA LEONE**

DCI-Sierra Leone continued to work on a comprehensive juvenile justice program. One of their goals was to inform the public of the human rights of children in conflict with the law. Due to its increasing role in vocalizing the rights of children, families have been forwarding to DCI-Sierra Leone information complaints about unjust penalization of children. DCI-Sierra Leone worked to ensure that all children in conflict with the law had proper legal representation and help by establishing specialized Socio-Legal Defense Centers (SLDCs) for children.

**UGANDA**

In 2014, DCI-Uganda organized 11 community awareness sessions in the northern part of the country, reaching over 1’000 people on the issue of juvenile justice. More precisely, these public workshops aimed at raising awareness and deepening the understanding of the principles of child-friendly justice. DCI-Uganda participated in two events: 1) the “legal awareness clinic”, organized by Justice Centers, which gave specific information on how to deal with children in conflict with the law, and 2) the civil society fair, organized by the Uganda NGO Forum, where DCI exhibited learning materials on child-friendly justice and restorative justice.

**CHILD LABOR**

**PALESTINE**

DCI - Palestine worked closely with the National Steering Committee for Minors (PNCR), the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Interior in Palestine to develop the new Youth Act.

Moreover, DCI-Palestine launched a campaign on the protection of children against economic exploitation, together with the PNCR, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of the Interior, represented by the police and family protection units, in addition to the General Federation of Labour Unions of Palestine, the Union of Chambers of Commerce and the Business Forum.

As part of the efforts to raise awareness, a National Conference for the protection of
children against economic exploitation was organized with the participation of 700 children and adults of both sexes. 27 papers and 7 children initiatives have been submitted by institutions and academics. The conference was organized in collaboration with Birzeit University, the Ministry of Education, UNRWA, World Vision, Save the Children and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

MOROCCO
DCI-Morocco has continuously organized awareness raising campaigns for communities, institutions, and private partners. DCI-Morocco has conducted lobbying activities towards national institutions for improvements of the formal school system, better access to health care for children, and a job market that is more open to young people. Partners in these efforts are the Ministry for Solidarity, the Ministry of the Family, the Ministry for Children, and the Ministry of Social Development. DCI-Morocco contributed to protests against child labour of girls through awareness-raising campaigns on the deaths of girls.

BRASIL
Over the past year DCI-Brazil-ANCED campaigned against the use of child labor. ANCED worked to inform the public about the Program for the Eradication of Child Labor (PETI), which provides a monthly stipend to families of children and adolescents who are working, and encourages social and educational activities, as well as promoting the usage of the extended school day that includes leisure, sporting, cultural, and academic support activities.

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE
AUSTRALIA
DCI-Australia recently merged with International Social Services (ISS) to increase their capacity to raise awareness on the rights of the child. As part of their campaign to protect the rights of migrant children, they hosted an event with Children’s Rights International and UNICEF Australia on 28 August at the University of Melbourne. The event featured a seminar on the detention and abuse of child asylum seeker in Australia.

CHILD TRAFFICKING
NETHERLANDS
DCI-Netherlands continues to raise awareness about child trafficking and exploitation. The Netherlands is a prime destination for child trafficking and has been identified as a transit point for children trafficked to other locations. They are particularly active through the ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) Network. One of their primary activities is to inform the public about this issue and to encourage the governments of Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, and Cyprus to establish a better guardianship program to protect children from trafficking.

GHANA
DCI-Ghana took part in a joint awareness raising project with UNICEF on child exploitation and trafficking. By raising public awareness DCI-Ghana aimed to support positive and responsible parenting in order to discourage children from leaving their home, either voluntarily or forcibly, and consequently lessen their risk of being trafficked.

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT
PALESTINE
In 2014 DCI-Palestine launched the “No More Forgotten Lives” campaign sparked by the murder of two minors in West Bank by Israeli Forces. The campaign called for people to demand accountability specifically by acquiring the release of security camera footage capturing the death of the two teenagers and a forensic video analysis to pinpoint the boys’ killer. This campaign was one of many DCI- Palestine launched with the aim of ending violence against children in the Gaza strip armed conflict.

COLOMBIA
DCI-Colombia has been an active participant in an awareness campaign concerning the use of child soldiers. The “Red Hand” campaign is a coalition of organizations which work to garner support for abolition of the use of child soldiers. DCI-Colombia actively contributed to the creation of the video “Let’s rebuild love, Voices of Colombia Children for Peace”, which features statements by children impacted by the war.
A key element to strengthen the movement

Capacity Building
GLOBAL IMPACT
Next to its advocacy and lobbying activities on the international stage, DCI-IS considers internal capacity building as a key element for both the strengthening and the efficiency of the worldwide Movement. In this regard, DCI-IS provides assistance and supports DCI national sections in various ways and organizes training activities for their staff members from around the world.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
From 18 to 24 September 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, DCI-IS, in collaboration with DCI-Palestine section, organized the seminar “Together for Justice” on advocacy and lobbying for child rights advocates from the MENA region. The objective of the training session was to strengthen the capacity of DCI representatives from the region on existing international human rights mechanisms, focusing particularly on communications and advocacy, and to demonstrate the various ways to effectively lobby for the human rights of children and work towards concrete implementation on the ground. DCI delegates from the MENA region were also given the opportunity to meet and discuss pressing issues with the UNCRC Committee members.

This training session is the second of its kind in Geneva, and forms part of the regional programme on child-friendly justice that DCI is implementing in the Middle-East and North Africa. Recognizing that civil society organizations (CSOs) can and should play an active role for and with children, this project, which is implemented in close collaboration with DCI-Palestine, specifically aims to support CSOs and children in the MENA region in their role as advocates and active development partners for the rights of the child. During the first two years, the project targeted 9 regional CSOs (that already became DCI national sections in the region: Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania), but the goal is to go further and reach other countries from the Arab world.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND CHILD TRAFFICKING
On 01 May 2014, DCI/ECPAT Netherlands launched the project “Reducing violence against children, with special focus on sexual exploitation of children and child sex tourism”. This multinational project aims to ensure greater and more effective responses to violence against children in 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, and provide evidence-based global guidance to combat sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism industries.
The project is coordinated by DCI/ECPAT Netherlands and involves DCI-IS, the regional desk for the MENA region (DCI-Palestine) and various DCI national sections. Alongside partner civil society organizations, DCI seeks to protect children from sexual violence and exploitation both by raising awareness on these issues and providing care and socio-legal support for child victims.

“A Global Study on Child Sex Tourism” will be developed to analyze the emerging trends of the phenomenon and provide concrete recommendations and guidance to tackle the issue of child sex tourism.

REGIONAL IMPACT
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
AFRICA
The Girl Power Project, which started in 2011, is currently being implemented in West Africa through DCI national sections in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and aims at providing equal opportunities for girls and young women. Regional actions in West Africa tie into the global multi-partner project designed and supported by the Dutch Government and implemented in 10 different countries across the globe.

With this Project, DCI national sections in West Africa aim at strengthening the capacities of justice professionals such as police, magistrates, court clerks, and local community based structures in order to promote and protect the rights of girls, renounce gender-based violence, increase access to quality education, vocational and technical training, and socio-economic and political empowerment.
CHILDREN ON THE MOVE AND CHILD TRAFFICKING
At the regional level, African sections of DCI also continue to address the issues of child trafficking and the reintegration of unaccompanied children, mainly through the Mano River Union (MRU). The MRU, which had the primary goal of fostering economic cooperation between Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d’Ivoire, has since expanded the scope of its activities to cover security and human rights issues, including child protection.

In 2014, DCI-Sierra Leone organised a MRU meeting on child trafficking and the reintegration of unaccompanied children with the aim of signing an agreement of cooperation between DCI-Sierra Leone, DCI-Liberia, DCI-Guinea, the West African Network on Child Protection, Mano River Union Secretariat, UNICEF and youth groups from the three countries.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
MENA REGION
“Maa’n for Adala-Together for Justice” created a network in Yemen and Sudan for the promotion of child-friendly justice. At the regional level, two types of activities were implemented: capacity building and coordination activities, and lobbying and advocacy to the League of Arab States (LAS). In regard to capacity building and coordination, all DCI national sections involved in the project met in Madaba, Jordan in February 2014. The training focused on monitoring and documenting child rights violations. DCI participating sections included Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Sudan, Mauritania, Jordan, Yemen, Libya and Palestine. A representative of the LAS participated in the meeting, specifically illustrating the different channels of interacting with the LAS on all child rights related matters.

Furthermore, the three-day workshop held in Cairo (20-22 October) tied perfectly into the capacity building activities of the Movement, as DCI-Palestine and DCI national sections for the MENA region, along with DCI/ECPAT Netherlands and the DCI-IS were all part of the discussions on the partnership with the LAS.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
PALESTINE
One objective of the DCI Movement is to implement, through its national sections, a fair and integrated system for children involved in the justice system. The Protection and Community Mobilization Project plays a key role in implementing DCI-Palestine’s strategy by transforming monitoring, capacity-building and advocacy initiatives into reality at the national level. The project, conducted through the Child Justice Unit, monitors the policies, laws, strategies and directives of child rights enforcers, and is a partner in many of the national technical committees responsible for drafting modern laws, such as the Juvenile Justice Draft Law.

The project builds the capacity of relevant partners such as police officers, probation officers, prosecutors, lawyers, and members of the Child Protection Network (CPN) to form a
vision in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

UGANDA
In the northern part of Uganda, where the Ugandan section of DCI conducts its main activities, children involved with the law do not have access to child-specific care and protection. For example, police stations do not have separated cells for juveniles and have poor and inadequate hygiene and food distribution systems. In this regard, DCI-Uganda conducted a specific training session on the principles and implementation of child friendly justice and restorative justice, psychosocial care and case management. Police officers, lawyers, state officials, court clerks and local council leaders were among the 161 participants trained in the Amuru, Nwoya and Gulu districts. After conducting follow-up visits to participants’ workplaces, project staff members noted that over 70% of the trained officials showed positive steps in the gradual application of the acquired knowledge and skills in their daily work, thus improving children’s access to a more child-friendly justice system.

Moreover, DCI-Uganda participated in a round-table discussion on juvenile justice, which aimed at strengthening the collaboration among NGOs specialized in children’s rights and creating synergies on how to effectively support vulnerable and child victims. DCI was also involved in cluster meetings on juvenile justice administration and participated in a capacity-building training workshop, organized by LASPNET, on how NGOs can improve their service delivery to children involved with the justice system.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
MAURITANIA
In 2014, DCI-Mauritania worked in the field of reproductive health and established a set of programs on Sexual Violence, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health and Sport. These programs aim to strengthen the efforts of the State, partners and stakeholders in contributing to the well-being of the population and a better health for all.

In 2014, the Sexual Violence programme implemented three types of activities: prevention in the communities of Nouakchott and the interior of the country; support provided at the “El Wafa” centre for victims of sexual violence; and advocacy efforts reaching all stakeholders in Nouakchott and the rest of the country.

Through the project „Protection of Children against Sexual Violence in Nouakchott“, DCI-Mauritania conducted workshops and brainstorming activities with police officers, doctors, magistrates and lawyers, who are
directly in contact with child victims. The workshops are also means to raise awareness in order to limit the withdrawal of complaints and provisional release of alleged perpetrators of sexual violence. More than 100 professionals were trained and consulted. The workshops received an excellent feedback and many participants asked to increase the number of these workshops and extend them to all health centres and hospitals in the country.

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE
BELGIUM
Migration presents numerous difficulties for children and their families. Many children arrive in new countries alone, unaccompanied and undocumented, making them vulnerable to violence, exploitation and other violations of their human rights. Children in these precarious situations can be arbitrarily detained, abused, and denied their right to education.

The national sections of DCI particularly - but not exclusively - in Europe, work closely with child migrants and asylum seekers to ensure that their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

DCI-Belgium organized a „Tribunal of opinion“ with the aim to publicly denounce the arbitrary detention of child migrants and asylum seekers in Belgium. A mock trial was organized with child rights experts to review certain judgements made by the Belgian Court.

ITALY
DCI-Italy implemented the project „Filling a Vacuum in Protection 2.0“ in partnership with DCI-Netherlands, dedicated to concretely establish basic standards for guardians of children separated in Europe, and improve political and legislative mechanisms related to guardianship. DCI-Italy is also working on the project „RESILAND“, an initiative launched in November 2013, which entails a two-year process of promoting participation and strengthening personal resources and stamina of migrant children, with the greater aim of reducing their vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation.

SIERRA LEONE
Due to the appalling situation of Ebola virus in Sierra Leone, the number of children orphaned
grew continuously, and school programmes were suspended until further notice. While the state of emergency instituted by the government and the ban on social activities became effective, poverty and hardship continued to increase among the population. In response to the magnitude of the outbreak, DCI-Sierra Leone (DCI-SL) undertook numerous actions. Following a training workshop organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA), and Save the Children, which some DCI-SL staff benefited from, DCI-SL organized in-house training sessions. The training sessions focused on facts about Ebola, protection measures for field staff, messages to pass on to the public, and ways to register children orphaned by Ebola. In seven administrative districts where DCI-SL operates, our national representatives positioned the organization within the government’s prevention and response plan while focusing on the plight of children owing to the outbreak of the disease.

CHILD LABOR
BOLIVIA
In the field of child and adolescent labour, DCI - Bolivia focused its action on the province of Oruro, where 120 adolescents received technical training in four thematic areas: automotive engineering, gastronomy, repair of mobile phones and repair/computers assembly. The project was entitled: “Decent work: a right of children and adolescents workers of Oruro”. Young people were also trained in administrative management and the elaboration of projects for micro-enterprises. At the end of the training cycle, participants made a presentation on the knowledge and skills acquired before the local authorities, students, representatives of public and private institutions.

It is also worth noting that the project was established following the baseline study “Socio-economical Study of children and adolescents workers of the municipalities of Caracollo, Huanuni and Cercado”, conducted by DCI-Bolivia.

EDUCATION
UGANDA
With its project “Roadmap to formal and non-formal education”, the Ugandan section of DCI aimed to contribute to the attainment of quality
With its project “Roadmap to formal and non-formal education”, DCI-Uganda aimed to contribute to the attainment of quality education by all children in Uganda.

In the initial phase of the project, a baseline survey conducted by DCI in Oyam district, northern Uganda, showed that the poor performance and high drop-out rates of children enrolled in primary schools were partly caused by inadequate learning materials and environment, teacher absenteeism and a lack of parental support. The baseline study was followed by two stakeholders meeting, organized by DCI-Uganda, where teachers, community leaders and state officials demonstrated their support for the project and contributed to the respective plan of action. After these meetings, DCI-Uganda decided to focus on improving the capacities of schools, teachers and local communities. Therefore, DCI-Uganda trained more than 50 school teachers and directors on how to conceive and implement child-friendly methodologies and learning materials. During the five-day workshop, participants received theoretical and practical training on how to better plan lessons and conduct assessments, and to encourage group teaching, pairing, discussions and brainstorming rather than rote learning and memorization. In this regard, participants were trained on how to utilize class discussions as a way of sharing diverse views and thus being able to create a child-friendly learning environment. Since the workshop, the project team conducted several follow-up visits and gradual improvement was noted. In addition, DCI-Uganda trained senior women teachers on how to conduct child-friendly counselling and guidance. With the District Education Department acting as the de facto supervisor of the project, DCI-Uganda played a crucial role in the facilitation of monthly school visits by inspectors.

In parallel to the training of school personnel, DCI-Uganda helped improve the learning environment for children by supporting the acquisition of school supplies. In Agurulude primary school, over 500 pupils were used to attending classes while seated on the floor. Thanks to the intervention of DCI, the school was able to purchase desks and chairs so that pupils were able to study in a clean and enabling environment. Moreover, with the distribution of over 1’500 text books, DCI encouraged and supported the reading culture within targeted schools.

Last but not least, DCI-Uganda supported the creation of 25 children’s clubs in order to give the opportunity to children and members of local communities to engage and debate on various child rights related issues.
BUILDING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION
GLOBAL IMPACT
With limited staff and time allocated to the launch of the call for a Global Study for Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL), DCI-IS was not able to conduct extensive research and monitoring activities at the international level in 2014. Yet, through implementation of the Global Study, DCI-IS will contribute to the acquisition of reliable data, both quantitative and qualitative, on the situation of children deprived of their liberty worldwide.

In parallel to the IS campaign for the GSCDL, alternative reports produced or co-produced by DCI national sections were presented before the United Nations Committee of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC Committee) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council (HRC). While conducting thorough research and monitoring activities at the national level, DCI national sections were later able to present their findings and recommendations on the international stage in Geneva. The IS continued to play a crucial role by liaising national sections with UN treaty bodies and mechanism, and assisting in the drafting and editing processes of stakeholder reports.

Before the United Nations Committee of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC Committee), four alternative reports were submitted:
• DCI-Switzerland’s report on “The Rights of the Child in the Swiss Juvenile Justice System”, submitted at the occasion of the 68th Pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee (June 2014).
• DCI-Jordan’s joint report with other NGOs on selected issues affecting children, and in particular girls, submitted in 2013 and considered at the 66th session of the Committee (May/June 2014).
• DCI-Yemen’s joint report with the Coalition of NGOs for Children’s Rights, considered at the 65th session of the Committee (January 2014).
• DCI-Netherlands’ report on the implementation of the OPAC, on behalf of the Dutch NGO Coalition for Children’s Rights and War Child, submitted before the 69th Pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee (September 2014).

Two other stakeholder reports were submitted at the occasion of the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) sessions in October/November 2014:
• DCI-Italy’s report submitted in January 2014, and considered on 27 October 2014.
• DCI-Egypt’s joint report with the Coalition of NGOs for the UPR-Egypt, considered on 5 November 2014.

REGIONAL IMPACT
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
EUROPE
Defence for Children International-Belgium (DCI-Belgium) received European Commission approval for the project: “Children’s Rights Behind Bars. Human rights of children deprived of liberty: improving monitoring mechanisms”. The project aims at improving international juvenile justice standards to protect the needs of incarcerated children, and will culminate in the publication of a practical guide to be used by professionals when visiting centres where children are being deprived of their liberty,
particularly juvenile detention facilities. A product of extensive research and input from lawyers, academics and juvenile justice experts, the guide will serve as a valuable resource for those seeking to curb the harmful practices levied upon juvenile detainees. The guide will be disseminated throughout European Union (EU) Members States in brochure form, as well as in web format. It will enhance the coordination of member states in their juvenile justice policies and harmonize practices between existing monitoring bodies.

DCI in Europe (Italy, Spain and Belgium), in collaboration with other NGOs, is also working on the project “Twelve - promoting the implementation of Article 12 of the UNCRC in the juvenile justice system”. The project’s main goal is to contribute to the implementation of article 12 of the UNCRC at the European level by developing a multidisciplinary training process aimed at strengthening and harmonizing the skills and capacities of professionals in addressing children’s rights and specific needs as a key element of an appropriate, efficient and inclusive action.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
LATIN AMERICA

As the Latin American continent has experienced an increase in punitive and repressive tendencies in juvenile justice systems in recent times, DCI established a Regional Juvenile Justice Observatory - RJJO (Observatorio Regional de Justicia Penal Juvenil, in Spanish) to counter these trends.
The Observatory is a program of DCI Americas, funded by the European Union (EU) and composed of the DCI national sections of Argentina, Bolívia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. The objective of such regional entity is to provide reliable quantitative and qualitative information on the functioning of the juvenile justice systems in the eight countries where DCI has presence.

Through research and monitoring carried in the eight focus countries in 2014, the RJJO released its first monitoring report. The report investigates the patterns of state violence against adolescents in conflict with the law and highlights the three main following issues: Use and abuse of prison: with more than 30'000 adolescents in detention, detention continues to be the predominant practice, and rarely follows the principle of ultima ratio (as established in the UNCRC). The allocation of resources to implement socio-educational, non-custodial measures or interventions without resorting to judicial proceedings is generally lacking.

High rates of detention pending or during trial: of the eight countries surveyed, almost all counted nearly 50% or more of adolescents in pre-trial and pre-sentence detention.

Severe sentencing: the maximum limit of prison time to which adolescents can be sentenced lead to a gradually increasing number of adolescents put in prison by juvenile justice systems that are now young adults (over eighteen of age). This trend undermines the special presuppositions on which juvenile justice is based, under articles 37 and 40 of the UNCRC.

As a consequence, prison overcrowding has become highly prevalent in all of the countries surveyed. The report also sheds light on recorded cases of death of adolescents in detention centers in Brazil and Paraguay and of torture and other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatments in various countries. As a matter of fact, children interviewed reported having been punched and kicked, in addition to being beaten with objects and thrown against walls. Moreover, the report shows that the increase in punitive and repressive tendencies in the region can be attributed to both a lack of specialization in judges and personnel involved in juvenile justice systems, and stricter drug and public safety policies. Police raids often target young people and other enforcement actions under public safety and drug policies have a strong impact on adolescents. For example, in Paraguay and Costa Rica, over 80% of adolescents deprived of their liberty were charged for drug trafficking, manufacture or possession.

Finally, the report notes the tendency of media agencies to sensationalize cases of adolescents in conflict with the law, most notably through the diffusion of pictures and information of adolescents involved. Such practices not only distort the image of young people within society, but also compromise and harm the dignity of adolescents in conflict with the law.

AFRICA

DCI national sections in Africa also continued to follow-up on the Kampala Conference on Juvenile Justice (2011), in collaboration with African Child Policy Forum (ACPF). The main objective is to strengthen and monitor the implementation of the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice (adopted during the Kampala Conference) within the work of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

NATIONAL IMPACT

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

CZECH REPUBLIK

In March 2014, DCI-Czech Republic (DCI-CZ) organized its 19th seminar on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This event, which took place in the Parliament, is one of a series of seminars held since 1990 on the challenges of effectively implementing the UNCRC. Participants included parliamentarians, experts, the ombudsman, civil society activists and children who discussed the issues related to the realization of the Convention, and agreed on the measures to be carried out by the authorities and stakeholders towards children’s full enjoyment of their respective rights.

The measures agreed on, included: family policy, which would consist of state support to the family in fulfilling its social roles; the appointment of a permanent independent body to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the UNCRC; the establishment of a ministry of children and
family based on positive experiences in other countries; the creation of a parliamentary Council or Commission for the Rights of the Child; the enactment of the public authorities’ obligation to give priority to the best interest of the child in all decisions; carry out a statistical analysis of the social situation of children to be used for preventive measures.

Conclusions and recommendations of the section of children and youth (up to 26 years) on bullying and cyber bullying involve the following: creating a comprehensive educational programme for elementary schools which would include education on the safe use of internet; integrating new technologies and new terms of forms of violence against children (cyber bullying, stalking, cyber grooming) in a teaching methodology; enhancing collaboration between schools and parents, and between schools and the police; and increasing literacy among parents in the IT field.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN MAURITIUS
In October 2014, DCI-Mauritius acted as co-organiser of the Halley Movement Experts Meeting which focused on “Redefining Child Welfare: The Future Beyond 2015”. Following the Stakeholders Meeting held in 2010, aimed at reviewing the situation of child development and protection in Mauritius, the Experts Meeting further reflected on the issues of child welfare and paved the way for future actions and commitments.

Through a programme of over 10 structured presentations, the day examined trends in child development on a national scale. The core topics to be discussed included: youths & child welfare issues - history and emerging partners; child development & protection systems in the country; internet safety and web oriented programmes for youngsters; parental skills programmes leading to healthy child development; and intergenerational approach for child welfare in rural & remote regions.

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS PALESTINE
On June 19, 2014, DCI-Palestine published a new report bringing to light the devastating impact on Palestinian children of growing up near increasingly violent Israeli settlements and Israeli military outposts.

The report, “Growing Up between Israeli Settlements and Soldiers”, details the experiences of children and their families living in villages and towns hemmed in by expanding and often violent settler communities. It finds
that attacks on schools, assaults on individual homes, and the physical abuse of children are occurring throughout the West Bank as a result of close proximity to settlements and military outposts.

Since Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, it has established some 125 Jewish-only settlements that house 515,000 Israelis. Israel recently approved plans to build 1,500 new settlement units in the West Bank, following the failure of U.S.-brokered peace talks. In 2013, Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, increased by 130 percent compared with 2012, according to Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics. Israel’s continued settlement expansion comes at a time when Israeli officials are considering unilateral action to annex areas in the occupied West Bank under full Israeli control, according to media reports.

Stationed throughout the West Bank, Israeli soldiers, police and private security firms protect settler populations at the expense of Palestinian civilians. Unlike Israeli civilians living across the Green Line, Israel’s pre-1967 boundary with the West Bank, many settlers carry government-issued arms. In this hyper-militarized environment, disproportionate physical and psychological violence is inflicted on Palestinian children.

Following incidents of settler violence, the report finds that lack of justice is the norm, and not the exception. At the center of the issue is the disparate treatment of Palestinians and Israelis living in the West Bank by the Israeli government. Though they live in the same territory, all Palestinians are subject to military law, while Israeli settlers fall under the Israeli civilian and criminal legal system.

Israeli settlers, including children, often attack Palestinians with stones and other objects, but they are rarely held accountable as the Israeli army lacks the authority to arrest Israeli settlers in the West Bank. As a result only Palestinians, often children, are detained or arrested in connection with stone-throwing exchanges, according to affidavits collected by DCI-Palestine.

“Unfortunately children are consistently the victims of this persistent and unrestricted violence”, said Rifat Kassis, Executive director of DCI-Palestine.

DCI-Palestine estimates that the Israeli military has detained over 8,000 children since 2000. Since 2008, there have been at least 170 Palestinian children in Israeli detention at any given time. Almost more alarming than the fact that 1,405 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers since 2000 is the climate of impunity that makes such violence possible.
DONORS & PARTNERSHIPS
The information below refers to the financial situation of the International Secretariat (IS) 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 DCI-IS (as established by article 10, “Organizational structure”, of the DCI Statutes).

SOME DETAILS
Our accounting is established in accordance with 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 01 January to 31 December 2014. Accounting is established in Swiss Francs (CHF). 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
Loterie Romande
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands through DCI/ECPAT NL
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg
République et Etat de Genève
Ville de Genève

For certain activities, Defence for Children International receives donations in kind, in goods or in services for a value of approximately 50’000 CHF.
Where do the donations come from?

ICCO & Kerk in Actie Foundation 18%
NLD Ministry of Foreign Affairs 12%
MFA of Luxembourg 6%
Ville de Geneve 3%
Republique et Canton de Geneve - Solid. Intl. 5%
IPJJ Contributions 5%
Membership Fees 8%
Donation 8%
In Kind Contribution 9%
Other Income 11%
Republique et Canton de Geneve - CAGI 9%
Loterie Romande 7%
IPJJ 3%
Awareness Raising 17%
Research & Monitoring 8%
Support Costs 5%
Advocacy and Lobbying 30%
Capacity Building 26%

How do we spend donations at DCI?

Awareness Raising 2%
Advocacy and Lobbying 14%
IPJJ 5%
Support Costs 8%
Research & Monitoring 17%
Capacity Building 26%

INVESTMENT RATIO

74% Investment in Program Activities
26% Investment in Program Support
## INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2014

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>184,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRIBUTIONS IPJJ</td>
<td>85,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATIONS</td>
<td>55,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>13,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBERSHIP FEES</td>
<td>52,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER INCOME</td>
<td>43,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>435,045</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Currency in CHF**

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>107,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRIBUTIONS IPJJ</td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVOCACY &amp; LOBBYING</td>
<td>195,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>10,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION &amp; FINANCES</td>
<td>78,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>421,074</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,970</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>435,044</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## BALANCE SHEET 2014

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>255,236</td>
</tr>
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### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liability</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>15,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Contributions</td>
<td>27,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Donations</td>
<td>175,705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>5,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>224,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital as of 01/JAN</td>
<td>17,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result of Exercise</td>
<td>13,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>31,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>256,235</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Currency in CHF*
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 the balance and the profit and loss statement is available upon request to our accounts department.

Annually, an independent consultant is entering the accounts, which are then approved by the International Executive Council (IEC) of DCI in between International General Assemblies (IGAs), taking place every four years.
ACTING NOW FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
LOOKING AHEAD: DCI IN 2015

In 2015, DCI-IS 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. DCI’s International Secretariat will continue to serve as the focal point for the Movement as it provides an invaluable link between DCI national sections and the United Nations, and equips the Movement to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

With ongoing and renewed support from donors, and DCI national sections’ work on the implementation of regional programs about the human 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.

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS: ACTING NOW FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

In 2015, Defence for Children International will continue to advocate for child-friendly mechanisms and practices in criminal justice systems and will build on the success of its campaign calling for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL). After the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially requested the Global Study to be carried out (A/RES/69/157, paragraph 51.d on 18 December 2014), DCI will continue to strengthen its lobbying activities in order to ensure the concrete implementation of the Study, and in particular secure the appointment of an Independent Expert by the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG). DCI believes that the Study will become a strong platform for advocacy and action leading to considerable advancements for the respect and protection of children’s rights, and ultimately reduce the number of children deprived of liberty. The microsite for the campaign for the GSCDL, with all relevant background documents and information, will continue to be updated (http://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/).

Furthermore, as leading international non-governmental organization in the field of children’s rights and juvenile justice, and to bolster support for the Global Study, DCI will organize and be involved in a high number of panels and events. For example, the very first World Congress on Juvenile Justice (WCJJ), to be held in Geneva on 26-30 January 2015 and will gather around 900 delegates from more than 80 countries, and also the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in Doha, Qatar in April 2015.

In addition, DCI will remain proactive in regard to the organization of side-events at the occasion of the 28th, 29th and 30th sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC). DCI will also continue to address the HRC, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC Committee) and other UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies on various child rights issues, relevant to the Global Study, justice for children and even other important thematic areas, and by means of
submission of a vast number of oral and written statements, bilateral meetings, participation in events, etc.

In 2015, DCI will also look to consolidate its role as the only child rights organization specialized in justice for children and involved in the violence against children agenda within the Arab world. The regional office of DCI in Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) will organize the seventh regional workshop on child justice in the Arab world, to be held in March 2015, in cooperation with the Women, Family and Children’s Department of the League of Arab States (LAS). On this occasion, DCI will present the “Arab Guide on Child-Friendly Justice”, which will hopefully lead to the adoption of common rules in all legal aspects affecting children in conflict with the law throughout all stages of judicial proceedings, and thus make child-friendly justice a concrete reality in the MENA region. The Guidelines document that will be presented has been greatly inspired by the success of a previous and similar campaign led by DCI: the Kampala Conference on “Achieving Child Justice in Africa”, which was co-organized with the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) in 2011, and subsequently saw the adoption of the “Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice System in Africa”.

CAPACITY BUILDING: STRENGTHENING THE MOVEMENT FOR A STRONGER IMPACT

In addition to strengthening and improving its lobbying and advocacy capacities, DCI considers capacity building as a crucial component of the Movement. In this regard, the International Secretariat will organize a five-day training program in Geneva for DCI national sections on: “Mainstreaming Gender Equity within the DCI movement – Equal Opportunities for All”. The aim of the training will be to ensure the implementation of the Code of Ethics and Gender Policy, adopted by the International General Assembly (IGA) of DCI in November 2012, and to give the opportunities to representatives of DCI national sections to improve their understanding and knowledge of gender equity issues and policies. Focus will also be put on how gender equity can be implemented in operational programmes and mainstreamed through advocacy activities. The training program will enhance peer to peer exchange and hope to conclude with the adoption of regional plans of action on mainstreaming gender equity within the DCI Movement.

Last but not least, DCI will launch, by the end of April 2015, a new website (www.defenceforchildren.org) that will include a new layout and enhanced logo. The design of the new website will aim at making navigation faster, more interactive and more user-friendly: visitors will be able to better grasp DCI’s activities and goals by navigating through the “About Us”, “Thematic Areas” and “Resources” sections. The homepage will feature the latest information on juvenile justice and child rights issues, and visitors will be able to keep up-to date with DCI’s activities by subscribing to the new version of the DCI Newsletter, re-named “Child and Justice”. The new website will also feature an
intranet platform where national sections and the International Secretariat will be able to share information more easily and efficiently. The intranet platform is thus part of the wider capacity-building strategy of the IS as it consolidates and upgrades the exchange of information between DCI national sections and with the IS.

Overall, DCI is confident that its future efforts directed towards the promotion and protection of the rights of children as fully fledged human beings will largely add to DCI’s role as one of the leading non-governmental organizations in the field of children’s rights and justice for children. In this regard, The International Secretariat of DCI remains exceedingly grateful to all those who provided invaluable support throughout 2014, and looks forward to continued collaboration in its work to lobby for the implementation of child-friendly justice worldwide.
FOR COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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PHOTOS: DCI, except pictures on page 07,09,11 and 73 (www.pixabay.com)

Special thanks to DCI-IS volunteers and interns for their valuable contribution to the report.
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Please note, the content of this report does not necessarily reflect the individual positions of organizations represented.

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