

Human Rights Council (37th Session)
Item 3 – Special Rapporteur on Torture
Delivered by: Defence for Children International (DCI)

Thank you Mr / Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the NGO Panel for the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, Defence for Children International calls upon members of the Human Rights Council to effectively support the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

Children deprived of liberty are exposed to increased risks of abuse, violence, acute social discrimination and denial of their basic human rights; and society at large is affected as deprivation of liberty increases social exclusion, recidivism rates and even public expenditure.

The United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty will:

- Assess the magnitude of the situation of children deprived of liberty, through the collection of quantitative and qualitative data and statistics;
- Formulate recommendations and document good practices to implement relevant laws and standards, and significantly reduce the number of children deprived of liberty through effective non-custodial measures guided by the best interests of the child;
- Raise awareness and promote a change in stigmatizing attitudes and behaviour towards children deprived of liberty, or at risk of being so.

We encourage members of the Council to support the realization of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, through the compilation of the apposite questionnaire (which was formally distributed to Missions in Geneva on 16 February 2018); through the participation in key events (such as the expert level meeting which will take place next Thursday, 8 March at 09:30 in Room XII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva); and through financial and political support to ensure this Study is carried out to the best extent possible as it is an important instrument of change for the critical situation of children deprived of liberty.

Thank you Mr / Madam Chairperson.