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

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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

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FOREWORD

In March 2017, DCI held its 12th International General Assembly (IGA) – an ever-important event for the DCI Movement as it only occurs once every four to five years. The IGA allows for DCI National Sections to foster debates, celebrate successes, and most importantly, reflect on potential upcoming challenges and priorities. On this occasion, we had both the wonderful opportunity of welcoming new sections that have joined in the time since our last IGA of 2012, and the regrettable task of bidding farewell to those which have had to leave the Movement. Nonetheless, DCI continued to look forward as the IGA served as the perfect time to adopt a new global strategy aiming to unite the Movement into one voice through the coming years the Strategic Framework 2017-2021, defining our four major priorities (Justice for Children, Violence against Children, Children on the Move, and Children affected by Conflict) and our three cross-cutting issues (children deprived of liberty, child participation, and gender).

As of March 2017, the Movement is proudly represented with 35 National Sections and 3 Associate Members across 5 continents. However, while we note the importance of creating a global presence through our increasing National Sections, we recognize that our priorities would be better placed on building coherence within the existing Movement, namely by achieving balanced geographical distribution and speaking with one voice as the leading child rights-focused and membership-based grassroots movement we are. These focuses will allow the Movement to become stronger and more cohesive while dually encouraging change in a sustainable way and ensuring the fulfilment of children's rights throughout different scales.

Our value as a Movement lies precisely in our active engagement at all levels: local, national, regional and international. National Sections influence real changes on the ground ensuring the effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), by employing a variety of means including leading advocacy campaigns and lobbying activities with national authorities, giving direct assistance to children to ensure their rights are respected, building the capacity of key child rights stakeholders, and fostering a child rights-based approach to laws,

policies and programmes. The International Secretariat (IS), based in Geneva, ensures that children's realities are heard on an international level, as well as understood and fully recognized by multilateral arenas in Geneva. Perhaps most importantly, the IS pursues the accountability of States for the fulfillment of the human rights of children.

Thanks to DCI's persistence in monitoring the status of children's rights globally, we have been able to conclude that despite considerable progress the implementation of the UNCRC has been quite meagre in its capability to bring about effective policy reforms or in verifying consistent follow-ups and data collection regarding critical issues, such as children deprived of liberty. In response, DCI launched a campaign in 2014 and lobbied for the UN General Assembly to pass a resolution requesting a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL). Today, with more than 150 NGOs supporting the study, the process of data collection, good practices and alternatives to custodial measures have begun.

2017 was a pivotal year in the progression of DCI's milestone project, the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL). After the appointment of the Independent Expert, Professor Manfred Nowak, in October 2016, DCI as co-convener of the NGO Panel for the Study, together with Human Rights Watch (HRW), provided notable support as it entered the implementation phase. With the support of two long-standing donor states – Austria and Switzerland, as well as new donors who came aboard at a vital time – funding obstacles were quickly overcome, allowing progress to begin and securing an optimistic end to 2017 with the promise of delivering the Global Study. Subsequently, DCI alongside the NGO Panel called for additional funding and looked to in-kind contributions as an alternative form of funding. Among others, DCI organised an African Regional Consultation pertaining to the Global Study in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2018. The UN General Assembly in New York then granted an extension for the Study delivery until October 2019. Currently, research has begun for all focus areas with DCI taking a leadership role in the process.

With 2019 just around the corner, the upcoming year promises to be special for DCI. Beyond the Global Study delivery, 2019 looks forward to both the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC and the 40th anniversary of the DCI Movement. In order to honour these anniversaries, DCI believes we need to work diligently to advance our strategic priorities as a way to guarantee the rights of the child as a reality, face challenges, and empower children to become key actors and human rights defenders themselves. We often claim that children are the future, but we must also learn to recognize their capabilities to affect the present – **and all we have to do is listen to them**.

Abdul Manafff Kemokai
President of the DCI Movement

Alex Kamarotos
Executive Director of DCI-IS

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) - GOVERNANCE

I. ABOUT US – ACTORS FOR JUSTICE, ADVOCATES FOR RIGHTS

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) is a leading child rights-focused and membership-based grassroots movement, founded in 1979 – the first International Year of the Child.

DCI's mandate is to ensure ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted action directed towards effective implementation of the human rights articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by means of DCI's effective co-ordination at different levels (national, regional and international) and its active membership within key networks and fora. DCI believes in a holistic approach to the rights of the child, including empowerment of children as actors for justice and advocates of their own human rights.

DCI has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UNICEF, UNESCO, the ILO and the Council of Europe. DCI also has observer status with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), the Inter-American Court on Human Rights and the League for Arab States, among others. Moreover, DCI maintains a close relationship with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)and other key agencies and experts on the human rights of children.

The DCI international Movement can be found across 5 continents and is composed of 35 National Sections, 3 Associated Members, 4 Regional Desks, an International Secretariat in Geneva (under Swiss law), and a World Service Foundation in Brussels (under Belgian law). DCI National Sections have their own legal status and are led by local child rights defenders committed to upholding the rights of the child through strategic action and effective empowerment of children.

2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (IGA) 2017

The International General Assembly (IGA) is DCI's highest governing body, composed of one or more representative(s) from each DCI National Section.

The 12th IGA took place in Geneva on March 1-3. Taking place every 4 to 5 years, the IGA is a special occasion for the DCI Movement as it allows us to take stock of achievements and assess challenges at the national, regional and international level. Following previous consultations at the regional and national level, the IGA adopted the 2016 reports of the International Secretariat and the International Executive Council (IEC).

On this occasion, critical debates pertaining to the Movement itself, including its membership development, coherence, sustainability, and, most importantly, how to strategize our substantive work around common thematic priorities, were discussed. After in-depth discussions, both in plenary and breakout sessions, the IGA adopted the Strategic Framework 2017-2021 including four thematic priorities and 3 cross-cutting issues. Beyond the Strategic Framework, the IGA unanimously adopted the Declaration for the Human Rights of Children and three declarations focusing on country-specific situations, namely concerning Italy, Costa Rica and Argentina, as proposed by these respective National Sections. Finally, the IGA elected the new International Executive Council (IEC), President and Treasurer. Succeeding Benoit Van Keirsblick (DCI-Belgium) as President of the DCI Movement, is Abdul Manaff Kemokai (DCI-Sierra Leone), while Aloys Van Rest remains Treasurer of the

Movement. The IGA also concluded that the next edition will take place in Mauritania in 2021.

3. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2017 - 2021: VISION AND ROADMAP

The Strategic Framework has been a collective effort to identify common strategic areas of work for the whole DCI Movement. Four main areas were defined, taking into account DCI's National Sections priorities, programmatic activities and leadership at the national and regional level, and the International Secretariat advocacy work at the international level. **Justice for Children** remains the overarching priority of DCI, an area where the Movement has actively engaged for the last 15 years. **Violence Against Children**, an area where DCI has also been involved, with a special focus on gender-based violence in recent years. **Children on the Move** is defined as the third global priority for DCI, as several Sections have been working in the area for years including work with asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and internally displaced children. This is a major issue in most regions where DCI is present, and at the international level, remains a top priority for children's rights organizations to include a child-rights based approach during the negotiation of the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees. DCI is in the Steering Committee of the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts. Finally, **Children Affected by Conflict** is defined as the fourth priority for the Movement, including long-term crises and national security contexts.

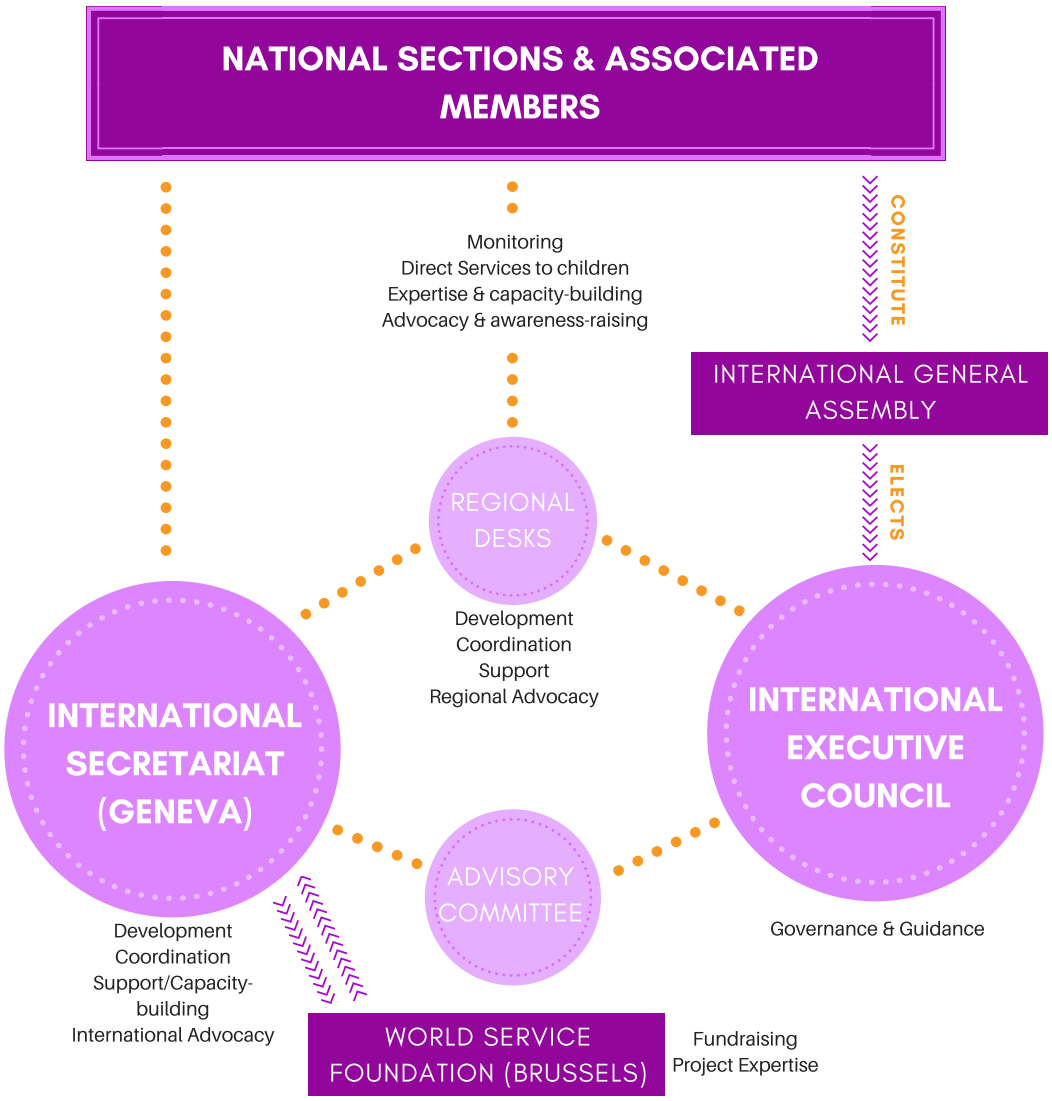
in addition of the four strategic priorities, the IGA adopted three cross-cutting issues: children deprived of liberty, gender, and child participation. These issues will be mainstreamed in all activities of DCI. The Strategic Framework arrives at a key moment for the Movement and will permit us to create a comprehensive roadmap and vision for the coming years. The adoption of the Strategic Framework is not an end in

and of itself, but rather the beginning of a roadmap that will lead to national, regional and international action plans. Regional meetings led by the Vice-Presidents started in Geneva during the 12th IGA and continued physically and digitally through the internal SharePoint platform which has been fully operational since the end of 2017.

This annual report is structured according to our new strategy, and it is designed to give you updated information on DCI's work in 2017 in all our priority areas and at all our operational levels (national, regional, and international).

4. PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Defence for Children International (DCI) is a leading child rights-focused and membership-based grassroots Movement placing all members on equal footing.



5. PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

Regions: Africa, Americas, Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) & Asia-Pacific, and Europe

AFRICA

1. Burkina Faso
2. Cameroon
3. Central African Republic
4. Ghana
5. Guinea Conakry
6. Liberia
7. Mauritius
8. Sierra Leone
9. Somalia
10. Uganda

AMERICAS

11. Argentina
12. Bolivia
13. Brazil
14. Canada
15. Colombia
16. Costa Rica
17. Mexico (Associate Member)
18. Uruguay

MENA & ASIA-PACIFIC

19. Australia
20. Egypt
21. Iraq (Provisional)
22. Jordan (Associate Member)
23. Lebanon
24. Mauritania
25. Morocco
26. Pakistan (Associate Member)
27. Palestine
28. Tunisia
29. Yemen

EUROPE

30. Belgium
31. Czech Republic
32. France
33. Greece
34. Italy
35. The Netherlands
36. Spain
37. Switzerland
38. United Kingdom

6. IEC COMPOSITION

DCI's **International Executive Council** (IEC) is the interim governing authority between International General Assemblies. Members of the International Executive Council are elected for a period of 4 years during DCI's International General Assembly. The IEC elected on March 3rd, 2017 is composed of 8 members, each from a different National Section and representing the 4 regional sections of DCI.

President:	Abdul Manaff Kemokai
Treasurer:	Aloys Van Rest
Vice-President Africa:	Nirmal Busgopaul
Vice-President Americas:	Vilma Gomez Pava (until Nov 2017)
	Juan Pedro Fumeiro (since Nov 2017)
Vice-President Europe:	Géraldine Mathieu
Vice-President MENA & AP:	Khaled Quzmar
Councillor:	Juan Pedro Fumeiro (until Nov 2017)
	Vilma Gomez Pava (since Nov 2017)
Councillor:	Arwa Al-Fakih

7. COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Akila Aggoune
Mr. Nigel Cantwell
Ms. Sally Christine Cornwell
Mr. Jaap Doek
Ms. Moushira Khattab
Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz Carrón

8. STAFF AT THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Executive Director: Alex Kamarotos
Advocacy Coordinator: Anna D. Tomasi *(Maternity leave Jan 2017 - June 2017)*
Advocacy Officer: Isabell Meenen *(Replacement Dec 2016 - May 2017)*
Project Officer: John Vigne *(until July 2017)*
Paula Trujillo *(since July 2017)*

Temporary staff and interns: Jaime Barria, Irene Ceccanti, Wânia Correia, Julia Dietrich, Samar Djacta, Valentina Giachino, Maryam Khatib-Shahidi, Nerissa Morales, Helle Sanden, Laure Salamolard, and Estafania Vélez Vasco.

RAISING AWARENESS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

I. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY AT THE UN

CONNECTING THE NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL: COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The DCI International Secretariat (IS) is strategically located in Geneva (Switzerland), the heart of human rights. The IS has a leading role, particularly in the area of justice for children, in informing and guiding international advocacy within the UN network. DCI is involved in the drafting of thematic resolutions, the organization of key events (e.g. the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child), and important non-governmental organisation (NGO) and interagency working groups that inform and guide States and UN experts in their respective roles and activities.

Beyond its role as leading actor within the child rights arena, DCI also plays an important part in ensuring its respective National Sections remain informed and participate where possible in international advocacy. This generally includes assisting in reporting to key human rights mechanisms of the United Nations via the submission of stakeholder reports to treaty bodies, and participation in corresponding pre-sessions and country reviews, and the Human Rights Council (HRC), mainly through the submission of key thematic/geographic statements, as well as the organization and participation in specific events.

THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In 2017, DCI raised awareness on key child rights issues by means of delivering the following statements at the Human Rights Council:

34th session	35th session	36th session
1. Statement on Global Study for Children deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) [Justice for Children] 2. DCI co-sponsored a statement delivered by Child Rights Connect // 2030 Agenda [Protecting the rights of the child in the Sustainable Development Agenda] 3. DCI co-sponsored a statement on fair financing, equal treatment and accountability to all children) [Children's rights] 4. Joint NGO Oral Statement by the Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict [Children and Armed Conflict] 5. Statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories [Violence against children & Justice for Children] 6. Joint Statement on the Situation of Human Rights of Children and Adolescents Affected by the Armed Conflict in Colombia [Children's Rights]	1. Joint statement Girls Advocacy Aliance (GAA) [Women and Girls' Rights] 2. Oral Statement in light of the report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the realisation of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl (GAA) [Education-Gender] 3. Joint oral statement for the Panel Discussion on unaccompanied migrant children [Migration] 4. On behalf of the NGO Panel (GSCDL), Oral statement Panel Discussion on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and HR [Migration //GSCDL] 5. Statement for the General Debate on the situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories (with DCI-Palestine) [Conflict situations, Violence against Children & Justice for Children]	1. Statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Central African Republic (CAR) (with DCI-CAR) 2. Statement for the General Debate on Yemen (DCI-Yemen) [Children and Armed Conflict] 3. Statement on UPR Outcomes-the Netherlands (with DCI-Netherlands) [Children's rights] 4. Statement on UPR Outcomes UK (with DCI-UK) [Children's rights] 5. Statement on Integration of a Gender Perspective [Gender] 6. Statement on Annual Discussion on Indigenous Peoples on the situation of the rights of indigenous children in Colombia [Indigenous Rights] 7. Statement for the General Debate on the HR situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories [Violence against children & Justice for Children]

ORGANISED EVENTS AND STRATEGIES

In March 2017, during the 34th regular session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), DCI organised a side-event with the newly appointed Independent Expert, Manfred Nowak, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC), Marta Santos País, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG/CAAC), Leila Zerrougui. The event aimed to mobilize political support and commitments for the effective implementation of the Global Study. In addition, the IS delivered a statement to the UN Human Rights Council to reiterate the need for States to financially support the Study.

As member of the NGO Working Group on Violence Against Children (WG/VAC), DCI co-organised a side-event on ending violence at national and local levels in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular target 16.2 to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

In addition, for the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (6 March) of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which was dedicated to the "Protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", DCI co-sponsored a statement delivered by Child Rights Connect stressing that all Goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda are relevant for children and called on member States to adopt robust accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In conjunction with the debates of the Human Rights Council concerning Yemen and related to advocacy for the adoption of a resolution, DCI was among a number of organizations calling to end the suffering in Yemen as they approached 1000 days of ongoing war. Furthermore, DCI was part of a diverse coalition of over 430 public figures and organizations from across the globe calling to stop the gross violations of human rights in the country. The joint statement gathered significant global media attention, including an array of mentions in Le Monde, the Guardian, the Hill, the Daily Mail, Channel 4 News, Al Jazeera, CNN, Arte and the Washington Post, while thousands tweeted, saying #YemenCantWait for a UN Security Council action to prevent further victims of the conflict.

THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

DCI-Palestine submitted a stakeholder's report to the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Israel, condemning the treatment of the human rights of Palestinian children in Israeli territory. More specifically, DCI raised concerns related to the Israeli military detention system, the use of solitary confinement for interrogation purposes, the renewed use of administrative detention against child detainees, the increasing use of live ammunition, and child fatalities. DCI-Palestine was part of the speakers of the UPR Pre-Session in Geneva where the recommendations of the report were presented to permanent missions.

As part of the Girls Advocacy Alliance programme (GAA), DCI-Ghana together with the Ghana NGO Coalition for the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) and Plan International-Ghana, with technical support provided by DCI-IS and ECPAT International, submitted a joint report to the UPR of Ghana. The report discerned acts of violence against girls and women - in particular child marriage, child sexual exploitation (CSE), CSE in the context of travel and tourism (SECTT), and lack of access to education and decent employment - as the most pressing human rights issues in Ghana. On account of DCI-IS support, the GNCRC as an implementing partner of the GAA, was part of the panellists of the UPR Pre-session in Geneva.

THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

In 2017, DCI continued to strengthen its strategic relationship with the CRC on a bilateral basis and through the active contributions made in the reporting process. Specifically, DCI submits alternative reports on countries where DCI is present and gives inputs to the Committee's General Comments and Day of General Discussions proposals.

Additionally, the CRC officially released General Comment No. 21 on Children in Street Situations. DCI-Yemen, with the support of DCI-IS, had provided contributions on the treatment of human rights for such children. The CRC and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) also released two joint General Comments on the rights of children in the context of International Migration. At this time, DCI-Costa Rica and DCI-Netherlands, with the support of DCI-IS, contributed with inputs to the zero draft.

The IS presented a proposal for the Day of General Discussion (DGD) focused on Children Deprived of Liberty, with the aim to provide a unique platform for experts to exchange information and ideas regarding the topic, while also contributing to the implementation of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL). In addition, DCI-IS contributed to the preparatory work for the DGD proposal on "Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders", which was chosen by the CRC as the topic for discussion in 2018.

DCI-Argentina presented an alternative report during the Committee's pre-session of Argentina (3 October). The President of DCI-Argentina, Norberto Liwski, travelled to Geneva to follow the discussions and meet with Committee members with the support of the IS. Prior to such, the IS convened a prepatory coordination meeting with all Argentinian organisations present for the presessional review, as well as UNICEF-Argentina.

DCI-Spain submitted an alternative report for the review of Spain together with the GSIA Association (Group of Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence). The country review of Spain took place on January 2018.

"In times where support from the UN services are more and more scarce because of the need to cope with smaller resources, in times where financial support from member States becomes more and more scarce as well because of austerity measures, and even maybe because the work of the CRC is not always and not everywhere really welcomed, it is a real relief to be able to count on an institution like DCI, trustworthy in its information, timely concerning submissions and willing to help out in providing most needed input that is missing, if the CRC wishes to continue to work correctly, based on verified facts. I just hope that this highly appreciated working relation will continue!"

Renate Winter
Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

2. REGIONAL ADVOCACY

AFRICA

At the African Union (AU) level, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) officially granted Observer Status to DCI in 2017, becoming the 20th organisation to obtain this status. This was a stepping stone for the Movement, as it serves to recognize DCI's meaningful contribution, not only towards the work of the ACERWC,but also towards the promotion and protection of the human rights of children in Africa.

During the 29th ordinary session of the ACERWC in Maseru, Lesotho (May 2017), DCI and ECPAT presented a joint report on the experience of survivors of child sexual exploitation. It was concluded with a call on the Committee to give a voice to survivors of childhood sexual exploitation by providing them with a space to advocate with AU states. The Committee acknowledged DCI´s and ECPAT´s plea and will consider dedicating the Day of the African child to "Amplifying Survivors' Voices and Driving Access to Justice for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse".

DCI also contributed to the development of the joint General Comment on Child Marriage of the ACERWC and the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). This involved DCI's participation in the discussion of the document, which was approved in 2017.

AMERICAS

DCI Americas has a leading role in the Worldwide Movement for children in Latin America and the Caribbean (*Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia* in Spanish). It actively advocates for, promotes and defends the human rights of children within this regional scenario. Additionally, DCI collaborates with "la Red Latinoamericana y caribeña por la defensa de los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescentes (Redlamyc)" – a regional network of children's and adolescents' rights organisations.

Since March 2017, DCI Americas has contributed to the regional strategy supporting the UN Global Study of Children Deprived of Liberty. The strategy seeks to articulate National Preventive Mechanisms against torture, civil society and states. The overall objective is to undertake a regional consultation on the topic, including the monitoring of centres where children are deprived of their liberty. To this end, DCI Americas partners with human rights Institutions, preventive national mechanisms, UNICEF, UNDP, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

In 2017, the Vice-President participated in the Global Child Forum in São Paulo (Brazil), organized by the governments of Brazil and Sweden, in seeking to bring together Corporate Social Responsibility actors to discuss how to uphold the human rights of children while working at the community level.

On the anniversary of the UN CRC and Universal Children's day (November 20), DCI Americas issued the Buenos Aires Declaration. It aimed to raise awareness on the prevalence of major issues for children in the region including: sexual violence, exploitation and the worst forms of child and adolescent labour; trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, children and adolescents in migration contexts; and the increased use of criminal law as a solution for social conflict.

EUROPE

At the European level, DCI engages with the European Union and the Council of Europe.

In 2017, DCI Europe had an active role in the European Forum of the Rights of the Child, which was focused on children deprived of liberty and alternatives to detention. DCI contributed to the development of this Forum by providing speakers and actively participating in different workshops and debates concerning: children in conflict with the law; children in immigration detention; children in institutions (deprived of parental care, with disabilities, and others); and children with incarcerated parents. As part of this Forum, DCI signed various declarations, particularly pertaining to the care of migrant children and the need to put children´s human rights back at the centre of European policies.

DCI maintains an observer status with the Council of Europe. As such, it has the opportunity to participate in the follow-up processes for the

Council's strategy on children's rights, which work in parallel to DCI's priorities, including violence against children, justice for children and children's participation. Throughout 2017, DCI Europe followed the Council's Working Groups on children and new technologies; guardianship of unaccompanied minors; and the detention of migrants, including children. Moreover, DCI aided in the development of an online training on child-friendly justice and produced a practical guide for parliamentarians on the monitoring of places where migrant children are deprived of their liberty.

MENA & ASIA-PACIFIC

DCI MENA collaborates closely with the League of the Arab States (LAS) and acts as regional expert in all advocacy efforts to promote and defend the human rights of children in the region.

In 2017, DCI MENA's regional desk effectively participated in a special event led by the LAS on children's rights in areas affected by armed conflict, with a special focus on the human rights of Palestinian children under Israeli occupation. Additionally, DCI MENA participated in a conference organized by Emirates Human Rights Association (EHRA) and Child Rights International Network (CRIN) aiming to identify substantial violations of the human rights of children in the Arab region, with a special focus on Juvenile Justice Systems.

FROM INTERNATIONAL TO NATIONAL:
REALIZING DCI´S THEMATICS PRIORITIES & CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD

I. JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

An introduction by Renate Winter, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

It has not been long – just one century – since teachers in the US convinced the judiciary that children are different from adults, in that they have different capacities to distinguish right from wrong and to take appropriate decisions as a consequence. It was in mid-1900 that the first Youth Court was established in the US, followed reluctantly – at least in the beginning – by Europe.

The start of juvenile justice was a rather patriarchal one: The welfare system postulated that children were not responsible for what they were doing, nor were they able to decide anything concerning their life. It was the judge who decided without involving the children, without even listening to them, without giving them any possibility to object.

We have come a long way since, via restrictive, retributive justice systems, allocating responsibility to children, and thus attributing guilt and punishment without involving them once again; via the establishment of the Convention of the Rights of the Child only a quarter century ago, its ratification by all member states of the UN with only one exception; via the acceptance of its Optional Protocols by quite a huge number of member states as well and finally via the establishment of the Committee of the Rights of the Child.

We have come a long way and we are by no means nearing an end where children are accepted as rights holders, involved in regulating

their problems, including those with the law. With their assistance we can develop sound and healthy facilitation of (re) integration and not exclusion.A long way to go for the Committee to convince member states, all member states, through the use of dialogue, recommendations, General Comments, and open days of discussion, that:

- children, all children, are responsible for what they do, but that their maturity has to be considered
- children, all children, have to be asked why they did what, but that their life situation has to be taken into account
- children, all children, should contribute to making good what they have done wrong, but acknowledging their capacities to do so
- children, all children, are part of society, easy to influence but often not capable to resist bad influence
- children, all children, need first of all education, non-violent education, but not punishment
- deprivation of liberty is never an educational tool, rather one to destroy any good intentions left.

Indeed, we have a long way to go if one looks into the horrendous number of children deprived of liberty in prisons, in closed "special schools", in mental health institutions, in administrative detention at borders, in military institutions, or in secret prisons. The Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty will soon shed light on this situation, if enough money is secured to finalise it, money that does not seem available, neither from the UN system nor from member states. Would it be allowed to conclude that nobody really wants to know, maybe because nobody wants to change that system?

A long way to go, indeed, when considering the still-existing inequalities in the juvenile justice system concerning access, remedies, treatment, reactions to, involvement of, punishment for children of minorities, children in a variety of very difficult situations, and girls.

DCI and OMCT have created the Justice for Children Award to take these issues out of the dark, most recently focusing on violence against girls in the justice system. Young adults submitting papers painted a dire picture concerning physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional violence, torture, stigmatization, harassment, intimidation, illegal deprivation of liberty, inappropriate sentencing – you name it.

There is a long way to go for all of us and for the Committee especially, to convince member states.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Through its persistent work over the past three decades – from the drafting of the UN Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (1985), to the follow-up of the UNCRC's General Comment No. 10 on Juvenile Justice (2007), and up to the leading and coordination of the campaign for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL) – DCI became the "go-to" NGO for leadership, experience and technical expertise on Justice for Children. Despite the national and international attention on this issue, the level of political will to ensure compliance with international norms and standards remains low. Pursuing the protection and respect of human rights of children involved in the justice system remains a huge challenge.

Justice for children remains a core priority for the organization. DCI's overall long-term objectives are for the conditions of children within justice systems to be internationally acknowledged; to place children within the frame of justice as a priority on international, regional and national agendas; and too see that national child-friendly justice systems are established, guided by the principles enshrined in the UNCRC and all other relevant international, regional and national norms and standards.

DCI-IS is an active member of the Child Justice Advocacy Group and the of Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children with Incarcerated Parents, which link key NGOs working towards justice for children for the purposes of discussing and strategizing on common actions and critical issues.

Through its National Sections, DCI has found that Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs) prove extremely effective in providing children with the opportunity to effectively access justice and obtain remedies. SLDCs proactively promote, and reactively protect, the human rights of children as codified in the UNCRC – distinctly, its guiding principles (non-discrimination; best interests of the child; right to life,survival and development; and child participation). The goal of SLDCs is to provide direct access to justice for children in conflict with the law, child victims of the law, child victims and witnesses, and adults confronted with child rights violations. These services are further accompanied by corresponding social and legal support in the form of: information provision, referrals to other service providers, psychological counselling, and free of charge legal advice and representation.

2017: WHAT DCI HAS ACHIEVED ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Oral statement on the grave violation of the human rights of Palestinian children
DCI-Palestine delivered an oral statement, focusing on the use of administrative detention, solitary confinement and other grave violations against Palestinian children. DCI-Palestine also spoke on the issue during a side-event with BADIL, Al-Haq, Diakonia and Addameer.

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

DCI's main priority for the advancement of justice for children remains the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL).

In 2014, DCI launched a campaign and lobbied for the UN General Assembly to request the commissioning of a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty– which was ultimately successful. In 2017, DCI continued to play a key role in leading the way forward for the implementation of the Study by working with the Independent Expert for the Study, Professor Manfred Nowak, the UN, and civil society for the Study to become a reality. DCI, as co-convener of the NGO Panel for the Global Study with Human Rights Watch - presently composed of more than 150 human rights organizations from across the globe - also worked closely within its NGO network to ensure the Study obtained support and remained a priority on political agendas. These efforts were a success and the end of 2017 saw contributions by a number of States as well as private foundations for the Study's implementation.

"Without DCI there would be no Global Study on Children deprived of Liberty. DCI as one of the leading NGOs defending children's rights was instrumental in convincing States in the UN General Assembly in 2014 to invite the Secretary General to commission this Global Study. As co-convener of the NGO Panel, DCI managed to mobilize 140 dedicated NGOs to participate in the joint research, data-gathering and advocacy endeavors in support of the Global Study. During our recent fundraising campaign, DCI was crucial in saving the Global Study."

Manfred Nowak
Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

March 8, 2017:
The NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (NGO Panel) organized a side event titled "Implementation of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty" during the Human Rights Council in **Geneva, Switzerland**. This event was supported by the Delegation of the European Union and the Permanent Missions of Austria, Chile, Switzerland, and Uruguay to the United Nations in Geneva.

March 13-14, 2017:
An expert meeting - "Methodology, Data Collection and Way Forward" - was held in **Venice, Italy**, to gather key actors involved in the Global Study. The group reviewed and finalized a draft of the in-depth questionnaire - a data and information-gathering tool to be sent to states and other stakeholders.

September 2017 :
The biannual resolution on Human Rights in the Administration of Justice, including Juvenile Justice, was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in **Geneva, Switzerland**, without a vote. DCI actively contributed to the drafting of the text, ensuring child rights principles were included and enhanced

October 2017 :
The Independent Expert for the Study provided the United Nations General Assembly in **New York, USA**, with an update on the status of the Study and called for additional financial and political support from member States. DCI, as co-convenor of the NGO Panel, enhanced these efforts through advocacy, communications, and social media support.

October 11-12
Prof. Nowak, participated in the Human Dimension Seminar on "Rights of the Child: Children in Situations of Risk" organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in **Warsaw, Poland.** There was a specific Working Group on children deprived of liberty and a Regional Consultation on three themes covered in the Global Study. As co-convenors, DCI and Human Rights Watch participated .

November 7-8:
The 11th European Forum on the Rights of the Child was held in **Brussels, Belgium** and focused on alternatives to detention. Discussions included children deprived of liberty in different contexts. Experts and key actors Marta Santos Pais, Renate Winter, and Professor Nowak, among others, gathered to discuss EU and International Commitments on children deprived of liberty in different contexts and share personal testimonies

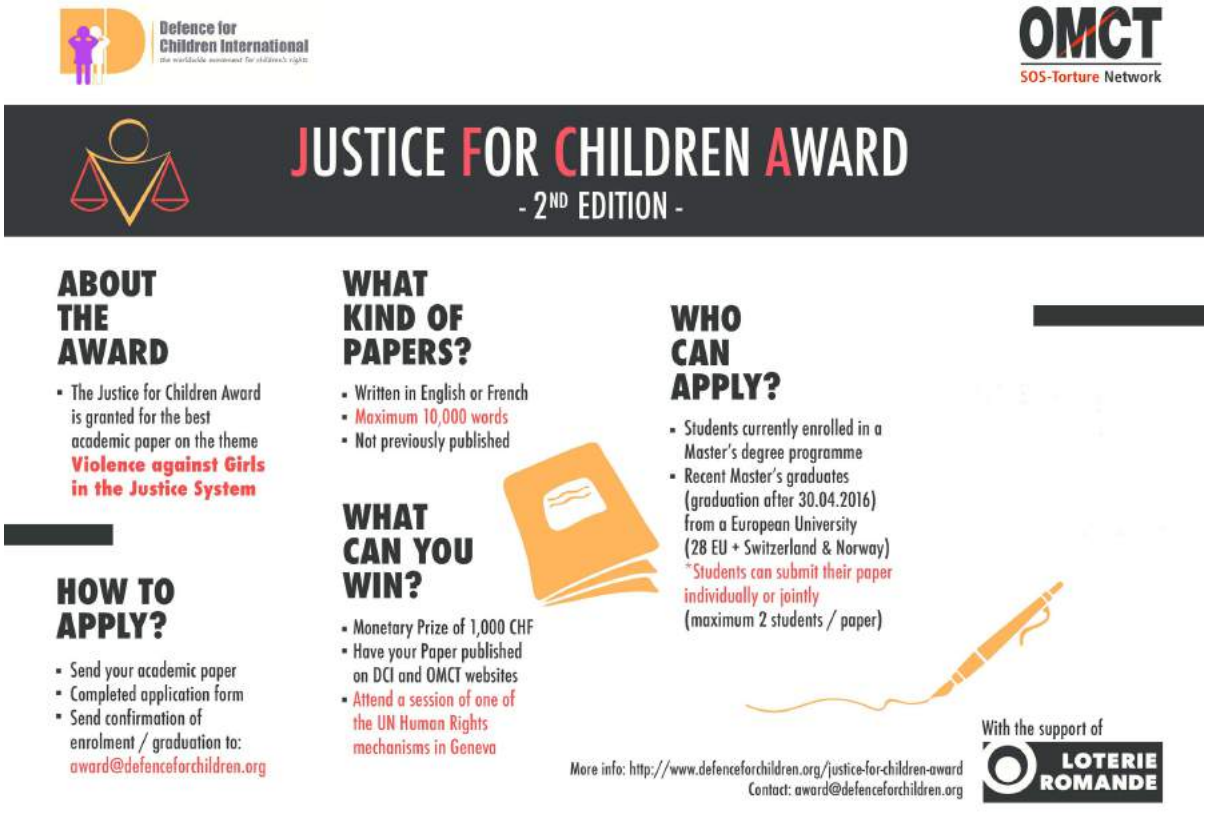
November 7-8:
A meeting was also held with participants ranging from NGOs and EU representatives to UN agencies to discuss data collection for the Study, in **Brussels, Belgium.**

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AWARD: PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE & RESEARCH

Organized by DCI and the World Organization against Torture (OMCT), the Justice for Children Award competition aims to encourage academic research on the obstacles and challenges for the realization of children's rights in justice systems, with a focus on violence against children.

As the 2017 edition focused on violence against girls in the justice system, Mr. Philip Waszczuk emerged our victor for his winning article: "No blame for being vulnerable: access to justice of disabled girls in Uganda on the example of sexual violence." The Jury welcomed the integration of a multidisciplinary analysis, in combination with the use of qualitative methods such as interviews with NGOs working in Uganda. The Award Ceremony is set to take place in October 2018.

THE JURY OF THIS PRIZE are **Renate Winter**, international judge and Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; **Eric Sottas**, legal expert and former OMCT Secretary-General; **Benoit Van Keirsbilck**, Director of DCI- Belgium and Editor in chief of « Journal du Droit des Jeunes »; **Philip Jaffé**, psychologist and Director of the Interfaculty Centre for Children's Rights of the University of Geneva; and **Jean Zermatten**, former judge at the Valais juvenile court and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.



IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

20 942 CHILDREN, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITY LEADERS, & CHILD WELFARE STAKEHOLDERS

BENEFITED FROM OUR JUSTICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

DCI's National Sections working at the national level provide direct support to children in conflict or contact with the law through legal aid and representation, psychosocial support, mediation and family tracing and reunification. In addition, DCI works closely with professionals working with children, duty bearers, justice professionals and child rights and child protection stakeholders by providing technical assistance, capacity building activities and trainings on how to ensure the human rights of children in conflict or contact with the law.

In the Americas, **DCI-Mexico** is working on the **prevention of criminal recidivism** by promoting social reintegration of adolescents in conflict with the law. **500 children and their families** have benefited from these activities in 2017. Likewise, **DCI-Colombia** developed a pilot project in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Unit from the District of Bogotá on **restorative juvenile justice**. **DCI-Argentina gave social-legal assistance to 70 children and their families** who are victims of institutional violence.

During the **visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to Uruguay**, DCI presented the situation of adolescents in conflict with the law in the country focusing on the excessive duration of pre-trial detention since the Parliament passed a reform to the Penal Code.

DCI-Liberia provided free legal representation to **72 children** and trained **8 community volunteers** on behavioural change awareness messages on improved access for children victims of abuse in vernacular languages. In the framework

framework of age determination in the adjudication of cases within the justice system, **DCI-Liberia** continued its birth registration campaign and in 2017 registered **5 212 children – 2 835 boys and 2 377 girls**.

DCI-Sierra Leone supported children in conflict and in contact with the law - **753 victims and 451 alleged offenders** – by giving them access to direct socio-legal support including legal aid and representation, **psychosocial counselling, mediation, and family tracing and reunification. 85% of the children in conflict with the law assisted and represented** by **DCI-Sierra Leone** were **discharged, acquitted or received a non-custodial sentence,** while **67% avoided pre-trial detention.** In addition, **over 80% of the cases** reported concerning rape and other forms of child sexual abuse were forwarded to the court for prosecution, while over **60% avoided pre-trial detention**.

In Europe, **DCI-Belgium** implemented the project AWAY (Alternatives Ways to Address Youth) aiming at promoting restorative justice in Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria from Belgium's experience on the topic. Approximately **300 professionals** of the juvenile justice system were trained and sensitized on child-friendly justice systems and restorative justice. Likewise, **DCI-UK** continued running its Youth Legal Centre where **legal advice was provided in 250 cases for children and their families**, and **9 trainings** on high standards for legal representation were conducted. Through its Children's Rights Help Desk, **DCI-Netherlands** provided direct assistance in **1 303 cases** where children's rights were violated: **651 related to their migration status, 389 on family law, 39 on child exploitation and forced labour, including sexual exploitation**, and **169 related to poverty and education**.

In Iraq, DCI provided **legal representation** to more than **400 children in conflict with the law** and increased awareness of almost **800 police officers** on children's rights in conflict with the law, and generally regarding the human rights of children enshrined in the UNCRC. **In Pakistan**, DCI's associate member established learning corners and skill setups for learning and rehabilitation of juvenile inmates, of which **120 male and female juvenile prisoners** benefited from formal education and skills training programmes. **DCI-Yemen** provided psychological support to over **1 000 children in conflict with the law.**

DCI-Morocco conducted **empowerment trainings and provided psychosocial** care to **149 young women in contact with the law**: 22 were place in child protection centres and received psychological support; 68 were part of coaching sessions with specialized mentors; 38 were trained and certified as security officers; 17 received training on social enterprises; and 4 gained access to an informal job. Through an inclusive and gender-sensitive capacity building programme on juvenile justice, **DCI-Tunisia** trained **30 NGOs** in the hopes of integrating a child rights-based approach into their interventions.

In Australia, DCI ran an online campaign **advocating to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility** across all Australian jurisdictions to the UNCRC standard of 12 years.

CASE MANAGEMENT

DCI-Palestine has a long-standing reputation as a justice actor in the MENA region. In 2017, it represented and closed **204 files for children**, both in Israeli Military detention and Civil detention.

DCI-Sierra Leone monitored **1 204 cases of children** in contact and in conflict with the criminal justice system, both victims and offenders, and followed-up and documented **817 cases of children at the traditional justice mechanisms.**

MONITORING DETENTION PLACES

DCI-Palestine's lawyers conducted investigations to monitor Israeli violations against children during arrest, interrogation and trial resulting in **the collection of 161 sworn affidavits and torture forms.** Of these, 137 were for children from the West Bank and 24 were for children from East Jerusalem. The information collected was used for advocacy at the international level to highlight and expose these practices and violations.

IN 2017 DCI-PALESTINE led efforts to support the first-ever bill in U.S. Congress focused on Palestinian human rights, specifically grave human rights violations against Palestinian child detainees. The bill prohibits U.S. financial assistance to Israel from being used to support the ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children in military detention. DCI-Palestine also undertook a tour in England, Scotland and Wales to raise awareness about Palestinian children detained by Israeli authorities. As a result, 114 members of the Parliament signed an Early Day Motion, expressing their concern about the *"military detention of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities."*

DCI-Iraq monitored the situation of children in conflict with the law – arrest, investigation, detention, alternatives to detention - through its volunteer teams who **conducted field visits to document cases of human rights violations.**

DCI-Uruguay continued to monitor the living conditions of children and adolescents deprived of their liberty under the State's Protection System. DCI collected **good practices of conditions of deprivation of liberty for children** to develop monitoring guidelines for duty bearers and professionals working on juvenile justice.

TRAININGS & CAPACITY BUILDING ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

In 2017, DCI-Palestine organized a training course for 25 lawyers who appear before military courts and organize visits for children in prison. The main purpose of the training was to reflect on their work and to advance their sensibility while representing children in court. Our section trained 304 child labour inspectors, protection officers, child protection counsellors, juvenile protection counsellors and community-based organizations representatives on alternatives to detention. It also conducted 25 outreach awareness raising workshops across the West Bank for care centres, school counsellors, academics and lawyers; and provided 120 legal consultations. DCI-Palestine conducted a capacity building training in Jordan for DCI National Sections in the MENA region on Juvenile Justice standards.

DCI-Palestine worked with the national prosecution office on a study on "Mediation in Juvenile Cases", highlighting to what extent law is enforced in mediation and diversion cases. The findings of the study were shared with 200 Juvenile Justice stakeholders in three workshops, and the recommendations of the study have been adopted by the prosecution office to improve the diversion system in Palestine.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

DCI has been actively engaging in international and regional efforts to advocate for the effective elimination of violence against children, underpinning its work on Article 19 of the UNCRC and the CRC's General Comment No. 13 on the right of children to freedom from all forms of violence.

2. ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

DCI was a major partner in the NGO collaboration for the preparation of the UN Study on Violence against Children in 2006 and its subsequent follow up. DCI-IS is an active member of the Child Rights Connect's working group on Children and Violence. This group aims to join efforts to advocate for the elimination of violence against children with the UN human rights mechanism and bodies in Geneva and to follow-up on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. DCI-IS is also a member of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and the International Group on Children and Violence.

Some progress in the adoption of legal instruments has been achieved, yet some of the worst forms of violence remain lawful around the world and some estimates report that at least one billion children endure

some kind of violence every year (See: International NGO Council on Violence Against Children, 10 years on: Global Progress and Delay in Ending Violence Against Children – Rhetoric and the Reality, November 2016). In this regard DCI will continue to advocate at all levels for the elimination of violence against children, and it will remain one of its thematic priorities at all levels of implementation.

2017: WHAT DCI ACHIEVED ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Co-sponsorship of side event on ending violence against children at the national and local level
As member of the Child Rights Connect's Working Group on Violence Against Children (WG/VAC), DCI co-organised a side-event on ending violence at national and local levels in the context of the implementation of the SDGs, in particular target 16.2 to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children". This event aimed to highlight the importance of having a child-rights based and a gender approach for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Participation and co-sponsoring of statement on the Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women on engaging men and boys in the prevention and response to violence against women and girls
In June 2017, during the 35th regular session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), on the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women a panel discussion was held on how to best engage men and boys in the prevention and response to violence against women and girls. On this occasion, DCI co-sponsored an oral statement delivered by Plan International, on behalf of the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA), which recalled that breaking the cycle of violence requires changing norms, and meaningfully engaging men and boys had benefits for both men and women.

IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

21 154 CHILDREN, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITY LEADERS, & CHILD WELFARE STAKEHOLDERS

BENEFITED FROM OUR ACTIVITES TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

In countries where **DCI runs Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs)**, National Sections provide direct assistance to children victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, as well as children at risk and in need of protection. DCI National Sections work jointly with relevant stakeholders at the

national level to ensure effective child protection systems and referral mechanisms of quality.

DCI-Liberia reached **365 children survivors of violence** through the provision of psychosocial support and counselling services, facilitation of referrals for gender-based violence (GBV) and medical referral centres, provision of general life skills sessions and facilitation of costs for survivors and theirs parent for court proceedings.

Through is team of lawyers, **DCI-Palestine** provided legal support to **40 children - 19 boys and 21 girls** - who werevictims of community violence, including 10 cases of economic exploitation and 10 cases resulting from a bad environment around them.

In the Americas, **DCI-Costa Rica**, through the project "*Trazos de colores*," promoted community networks for detecting, preventing, providing care for, and reporting cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. In Costa Rica, DCI collaborates with state institutions to provide free physical and mental health attention for adolescents who are victims of institutional violence.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Development of Standard Operating Procedures on cross border child trafficking

Between April and August 2017, **DCI provided technical and logistical support to Mano River Union countries who share borders**, particularly Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, to draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the use of border security officials, community leaders and civil society organisations (CSOs) in preventing and responding to cross border child trafficking. With this SOP, DCI worked with law enforcement officials including INTERPOL to successfully arrest two perpetrators of child trafficking.

Safeguarding children online

DCI-Mauritius, alongside other local NGOs, organized the "Mauritius Colloquium on Internet and Child Trafficking" to promote knowledge and understanding on how to protect children online.

CHILD LABOUR

In **Burkina Faso**, DCI combats **the worst forms of child labour** in the goldfields of the north-central region and aims to enable socio-economic and educational reintegration of children in their villages of origin. **A data collection and processing bank** has been set up in order to have

disaggregated data by age, sex, and type of work performed by the children in the goldfields. A sociological study was undertaken with **20 children** to formulate **tailored-made reintegration** strategies, including alphabetization programs. Finally, awareness raising activities and campaigns on the risks of hazardous jobs for children were conducted among families, communities and main gold paneers.

DCI-Lebanon through the New Start project aims at improving the living conditions for children working in worst forms of child labour or in direct risk of such. In 2017, **900 children** were provided with literacy, numeracy and life skills trainings as well as training on their human rights. **200 children were enrolled in vocational training courses**; **10 animators** participated in a training workshop on conducting structured **recreational and psychosocial support activities**; **12 social workers** were trained on **international conventions** related to worst forms of child labour and Lebanese labour law; and **150 parents** of working children were sensitized on children rights, child protection and labour law.

In the Americas, **DCI-Costa Rica** through the programme "*EEMPATA: Educación y Empleabilidad Para Adolescentes Trabajadores en Agricultura*" continue to accompany children and adolescents in tobacco-producing areas through rural vocational training. **109 children - 57 boys and 52 girls** - were provided with academic reinforcement, and **687 students** participated in remote school programmes. Likewise, **DCI-Costa Rica** consulted **31 children and adolescents** on their views and opinions on child labour. The results were brought as input for the **IV Global Conference on Child Labour**, which took place in November 2017.

FIGHTING AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

DCI-Guinea (Conakry) supported community projects to prevent harmful practices – such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage – and provided direct services for children at risk. In 2017, **205 community dialogues** were organized, **277 educational talks** on the topic were delivered and **136 children at risk** received direct attention.

DCI-Burkina Faso engaged in the f**ight against child marriage** in the province of Tanghin Dassouri through educational activities on the human rights of girls – pecifically on harmful practices – with parents, and traditional and religious leaders. DCI advocated with local authorities for the **return of married girls to the education system and for their inclusion in socioeconomic programs.**

In **Mauritania**, DCI, through a project to prevent and tackle sexual violence against boys and girls, provided care to **127 victims of sexual assault**, assisted **27 victims of domestic violence**, supported **117 minors in conflict with the law** and implemented **30 income-generating activities** for adolescent survivors of sexual violence and 20 families of child survivors. **DCI-Tunisia** also engaged in the fight against sexual violence. Solely in 2017, **30 trainers** were formed, and **1000 children along with 500 families** were reached through awareness raising activities on **sexual violence prevention.**

DCI-Yemen continues to work jointly with other organizations to advance girls' and women's rights with the project ***My safety, Our Future: The Protection of Women and Girls from Gender-based Violence***. This project aims at mobilising the community to identify key risks and address negative norms, attitudes and practices perpetuating the social acceptance of gender-based violence.

In the Americas, **DCI-Colombia** continued to fight for the rights of indigenous girls. In the Department of Vaupés, our section **monitors cases of sexual violence against girls** and engages in prevention activities based on an **ethnic approach** to indigenous populations. Likewise, **DCI-Costa Rica** supported **22 adolescents** who were victims of child marriage, and provided technical assistance to **18 local authorities** to strengthen protection systems at the national level.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

3. CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Children on the move comprise of child migrants, child refugees, children seeking asylum, internally displaced children, and stateless children. Concerns about the violation of rights and protection of this broad grouping of children have been growing rapidly as the numbers of children on the move have increased in recent years due to wars, civil strife and economic shortcomings in many states. DCI has, over the past few years, undertaken some notable initiatives to protect the rights of these children. It is now a priority theme within DCI's 2017-2021 Strategic Framework. Specific targets for DCI with regard to children on the move, include: tracking and monitoring developments within the UN agencies as they address issues affecting refugees, migrants, victims of trafficking and asylum seekers, including the two Global Compacts which stemmed from the New York Declaration (2016), and its specific Child Rights Initiative; continued participation in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Ending Child Immigration Detention (DCI-IS); contributing to the GSCDL (case studies, documentation,examples of

good practices); promoting the DCI Practical Guide, "Monitoring places where children are deprived of liberty."

The rapid rise in the number of children on the move is often coupled with detention in poor conditions. Although the issues affecting some categories of children, such as migrants, may well differ from those of refugees, asylum seekers or internally displaced children, DCI aims at ensuring that all children on the move can benefit from adequate protection measures, and have the possibility to advocate for their rights.

2017: WHAT DCI HAS ACHIEVED ON CHILDREN ON THE MOVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Engagement on panel discussion on unaccompanied migrant children at the HRC 35th session
During the panel discussion on unaccompanied migrant children, DCI delivered an oral statement, on behalf of the NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, recalling that child immigration detention is a child rights violation and alternatives must be provided, and that member States should support the Global Study, as it will provide key data and promising practices in the area of justice for children, including (unaccompanied) migrant children. DCI also co-sponsored an oral statement, delivered by ECPAT International, on the need to better safeguard the rights of unaccompanied migrant children, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, including sexual exploitation.

Contribution to the joint General Comments (22nd and 23rd) on the human rights of children in the context of international migration of the CRC Committee and the CMW Committee.
In 2017, DCI-IS coordinated the inputs on behalf of the DCI Movement to contribute to the zero draft. Several comments related to the respect of the human rights of children in the move submitted by DCI Sections were included in the final versions of these documents. The General Comments include, among others, migrant children that return to their country of origin, either voluntarily or by force, alone or with their parents; children left behind by their parents (or one of them) who have migrated to another country; and children that migrate unaccompanied and separated from their parents (for reasons such as seeking employment, family reunification or as victims of trafficking, labour exploitation and child labour.

The Global Conference on Children on the Move, Berlin on 12-13 June 2017
DCI actively participated in the Global Conference on Children on the Move, held in Berlin on 12-13 June 2017. The Conference's main objective was to bring together civils society actors, governments and other stakeholders to create a collective strategy on protecting the rights of children on the move and other children affected by migration. The Conference concluded with concrete recommendations for protecting, promoting and implementing the human rights of children on the move in the two Global Compacts, which negotiations are to be concluded in 2018. DCI is part of the Steering Committee of this initiative and monitors the negotiations of the two global compacts.

IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

12 421 CHILDREN, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITY LEADERS, & CHILD WELFARE STAKEHOLDERS

BENEFITED FROM OUR ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Children on the move remain a major challenge in Western Africa. In 2017, DCI organized a sub-regional meeting of DCI Sections from **Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea** and the **Mano River Union (MRU) Secretariat** in Freetown. This led to the development of **an action plan aimed at addressing the issue of children on the move and child trafficking for CSOs and the MRU Secretariat.**

In the Americas, **DCI-Argentina** delivered health services and legal assistance to Senegalese families and their children living in the country. **DCI-Canada** provided direct assistance to children at risk of being sent out of Canada with failed refugee parents. Consequently, DCI developed a forum discussion on the human rights of children in the move to raise awareness on the topic in Canada.

TAKING THE LEAD in protecting Syrian refugee children in Lebanon

In total in 2017, **DCI-Lebanon** provided protection and attended the education needs of **more than 2 800 Syrian refugee children**, making up 95% of constituents of this National Section.

Through the methodology "I*ncredible ME*" – based on therapeutic arts and aiming at empowering refugee children to challenges and build their resilience while reducing anxiety and distress – **20 new facilitators** successfully completed the Training of Trainers and can independently lead group sessions through this psychosocial methodology. **460 Syrian refugee boys and girls** completed the full course and **460 children participated in awareness raising sessions** on types of violence, self-protection tools, and focal points for reporting cases of violence and abuse. These activities were carried out in **four refugee camps** in North Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon and Beqaa Valley.

Moreover, **160 Syrian refugees out of school** children were provided with preschool preparatory courses to allow them to enrol in state school; **82 out of school young Syrian refugee boys and girls** have **successfully passed the entrance exam** and have been enrolled in state school at first primary in the scholastic year 2017-2018. **10 workshops** were conducted for **100 parents** of targeted children on child rights, protection, referral & education services available, school registration procedures and general discussions on the challenges faced with their children.

Through the Hope Project, **DCI-Lebanon** contributes to the **protection of children** from school dropouts, exploitation in cheap labour and being recruited into armed conflict. This project targets out of school Syrian refugee children considered Syrian refugee children considered high risk due to their poor economic situations, and vulnerable families that struggle to feed their children. In 2017, **2800 refugee children** were provided with essential food items, **250 out of school refugee children** were successfully integrated into **formal education** and **500 parents** benefited from **awareness raising** workshops on **child protection.**

In Europe, various DCI National Sections provided direct assistance to children on the move to ensure that their human rights are respected and fulfilled. In **Greece**, DCI established a new section which aims to: establish a **Socio Legal Defence Centre** (**SLDC**) which would provide direct legal assistance and representation for children and their families; visit migration detention centres; and monitor the human rights situations of children arriving to the island.

In **Italy**, DCI, in collaboration with the Ombudsman for children, delivered capacity-building trainings to **150 citizens and 20 professionals working with children on the move**, to enhance protection of **unaccompanied and separated children** by reinforcing the guardianship system in Sicily. Through the project ELFO, **DCI-Italy** and **DCI-Spain** seek to improve the level and quality of protection of child victims or potential victims of violence by empowering guardians, legal representatives and foster families of children deprived of parental care. In 2017, through research, training, capacity building, awareness raising and public advocacy **150 citizens** and **100 professionals** working with children on the move were sensitized on children´s rights.

The projects *Let Us Learn* and *We Belong*, run by **DCI-UK**, work towards

enabling young migrants access to university and further education. Through lobbying and youth-led campaigning, **400 youth were supported directly**, with **50 youth engaging in two campaign actions**.

Similarly, **DCI-Netherlands** led several research initiatives and publications regarding the situation of deported children to Armenia, family reunification, regulation of long-term resident children (Children's Pardon), and child statelessness. Through DCI´s **Children's Rights Helpdesk** 651 migrant children were provided with legal support, representing **12% of the cases handled**. In **six cases DCI-Netherlands** joined children and their families in court or was authorized as their legal representatives.

Finally, **DCI-Australia** supported and promoted all efforts **to close Australia's off-shore detention camps and end the immigration detention of children in Nauru** – presently known as one of the gravest human rights concerns for the country.

4. CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

DCI has a long history of advocating for the protection and the rights of children in armed conflict or affected by conflicts in general (internal strife, political conflicts, etc.). Over the past 20 years DCI has been actively promoting the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts at the national, regional and international levels. Some of DCI's main tools in doing such range from the Graça Machel report of 1996, the Study on Violence Against Children in 2006, the work of different Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, and the more recent Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015. DCI's international advocacy has been most visible, for example, for Palestine, Colombia, the Central African Republic, and in the work related to Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, for which DCI was elected the co-convener in 2017.

Children in conflict situations should enjoy full protection and realisation of their human rights in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols (particularly OP on children in Armed Conflict) and other relevant international standards; and be enabled to develop their potential as fully-fledged responsible

members of society while looking to be actors of change and peace during and post-conflict.

WG of children and armed conflict with Ms. Virgina Gamba, current UN SRSG for Children and armed Conflict (28 June 2017)

Vilma Gomez Pava, from DCI-Colombia, with Ms. Leila Zerrougui, former UN SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict (6 March 2017)

2017: WHAT DCI HAS ACHIEVED ON CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

In 2017, DCI worked closely with the former UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, concerning the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and its chapter on children deprived of liberty in situations of armed conflict. Following Ms. Virginia Gamba's appointment in the spring of 2017, DCI-IS continued this collaboration. The first meeting with Ms Gamba took place in DCI offices in Geneva in June 2017, together with the members of Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

In October, DCI engaged in New York in the 72nd session of the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), specifically in the process of the draft resolution on the rights of children. On this occasion, DCI conducted meetings with the SRSG and her team on potential collaborations for relevant DCI Sections working on children and armed conflict and in post conflict situations, such as DCI-Colombia, DCI-Central African Republic, DCI-Yemen, DCI-Somalia, DCI-Liberia and DCI-Sierra Leone. DCI-Palestine and DCI-Colombia have also met directly with the SRSG.

2017: WHAT DCI HAS ACHIEVED ON CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Open Letter to UN Secretary General on the situation of children affected by armed conflict

In June 2017, DCI, together with several human rights NGOs, drafted an open letter to the UN Secretary General on the issue of children affected by armed conflict. The letter called on the UN's decision to freeze any new additions of parties to conflict that committed grave violations of children's rights to the annexes to the 2017 annual report to the United Nations Security Council on children and armed conflict. The letter urged that there be an updated list issued, that includes all perpetrators responsible for patterns of grave violations against children in 2016.

Active advocacy for the establishment of an investigative body of human rights violations in Yemen

DCI-IS presented a statement on behalf of DCI-Yemen during the General Debate on Item 10 during the 36th HRC session. It also co-signed an open letter, together with partner NGOs, to support the establishment of an investigative body to examine human rights violations in Yemen. After several years of persistent advocacy these efforts gave some positive results during the 36th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in September 2017. The HRC adopted a resolution which requests the High Commissioner to establish a Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts with knowledge on human rights law in the context of Yemen. It has the mandate to monitor and report on the situation of Human Rights and carry out a comprehensive examination of all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and other appropriate and applicable fields of international law committed by all parties to the conflict since September 2014, including possible gender dimensions of such violations, and to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violations and abuses and, where possible, to identify those responsible. The Group of Eminent Experts will present its first report to the Council in September 2018.

IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

13 649 CHILDREN, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITY LEADERS, & CHILD WELFARE STAKEHOLDERS

BENEFITED FROM OUR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT

In the **Central African Republic** (**CAR**), DCI has set up child friendly spaces for children that have been separated from their families due to the protracted conflict affecting the country. **150 children** have been provided with direct assistance and with identity papers. DCI has also been involved in demobilization and disarmament processes of child soldiers. Likewise, **DCI-CAR** supported adolescent mothers who are victims of the armed conflict to integrate them into the working life. As a result **190 young mothers were trained in sewing and 235 in computer science.**

In the MENA region, **DCI-Iraq** reached out to approximately 1 000 children, including internally displaced children, through awareness raising campaigns on keeping children safe from violence linked to armed conflicts. It also provided health and psychosocial support, family support, shelter and food to children victims of armed conflict. Additionally, **DCI-Palestine** developed a manual and carried out awareness raising activities on how to protect children/students in armed conflict settings, as per the **Safe Schools Declaration**. It also conducted a mapping of institutions and focal points in areas at risk where children can come for protection. **DCI-Lebanon**, through an educational programme, empowered teenagers with a high risk of being recruited by armed groups to protect themselves and acquire social and project life skills.

DCI-Colombia, through the project "*Niñez y Paz desde los territorios*," trained **600 children**, **including indigenous children**, and **15 organisations** on how to advocate for the inclusion of children's rights and child protection measures in the peace process. Furthermore, as part of the Coalition Against Child Recruitment in Colombia (*Coalición contra la Vinculación de Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes y Jóvenes al Conflicto Armado en Colombia-COALICO*), DCI contributed to the demobilisation and disarmament process of the children released by las FRAC (Fuerzas Revolucionarias Armadas de Colombia). DCI continues to monitoring the Colombian peace agreement implementation and the fulfilment of the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on child recruitment.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

Deprivation of liberty is a cross-cutting issue as it is applicable to all DCI's priority themes: justice for children, violence against children, children on the move and children affected by armed conflict. Deprivation of liberty is, and has historically been, DCI's overarching area of expertise. DCI's activities range from the drafting of the UN Minimum Rules for the ration of Juvenile Justice (1985), the follow-up to the UNCRC's General Comment No. 10 on Juvenile Justice (2007), to the leading and coordination of the campaign for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL), in addition to direct work DCI National Sections carry out for and with children deprived of liberty across the globe.

Some examples of our National Sections work encompass the project "**Children behind bars 2.0**," in which **DCI-Belgium** and **DCI-Italy**, alongside other governmental stakeholders and human rights organisations, aim to advance the protection of children deprived of their liberty by improving the detention conditions, particularly through constant monitoring and training of justice professionals. In 2017, the project worked directly with **200 justice professionals** and directly with **30 children deprived of liberty**.

DCI-Belgium, DCI-Italy and DCI-Netherlands are working together to protect the rights of children deprived of their liberty trough the project "**My Lawyer, my Rights**". This project aims to advocate for the proper implementation and effective monitoring of European directives on the on the right of the access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings; on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings; on the right to interpretation and translation; and on the right to information. In 2017, the role of the lawyer for children in the EU member states and their juvenile justice systems was mapped, and an online data base was created to enable easy access to this information. Throughout the year around **500 youth lawyers, officials and policy makers** were trained via this project.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

DCI's priority on child participation is underpinned by the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), both Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) and Article 13 (right of every child to 12 express his or her views, also in judicial and administrative proceedings) as well as the Optional Protocol 3 to the Convention, which allows individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its Protocols. The Sustainable Development Goals also call for responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (target 16.7).

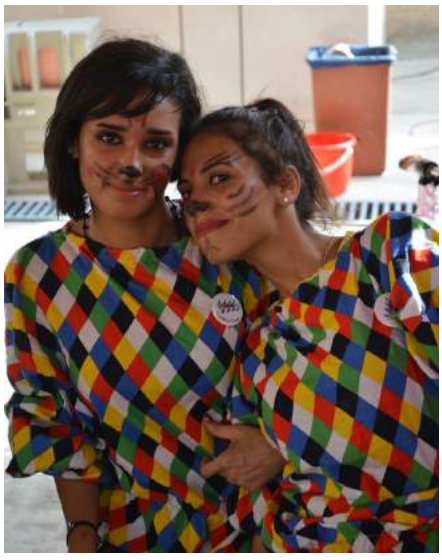
The participation of children in all domains and actions that affect them is one of the pillars of the DCI Movement. Child participation means involving them meaningfully in all matters that affect their rights and well-being. This applies not only in DCI activities, but in all matters that are undertaken by local, national and international authorities and institutions. For their participation to be meaningful, children need support, particularly in the form of access to education, as well as special training and briefings.

DCI National Sections try to **ensure child participation takes place in all**

of its activities. For example: training sessions, tool kits, children's clubs, or the drafting/publication of child-friendly versions of documents, including child led alternative reports for the UNCRC Committee. Efforts are also devoted to briefing and guiding governments and other authorities on the means to ensure child participation. DCI has further established a Working Group on Child Participation to help ensure and guide this important aspect, including all related activities of the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

17 DCI Sections around the world involve children in the planning and implementation of their projects, and support children's parliaments and youth ambassadors' projects. One example of this is the project "**Democracy School**" run by **DCI-Yemen** and other partners, aiming to expose violations of children's rights, provides legal and social aid to children in distress, and raises government and public awareness of children's rights. This project supports the **Children's Parliament**, which allows child participants to directly **impact policies affecting them**. This project gave Yemeni youth a platform to push for high-level commitment aimed at improving conditions in key areas like education and health.

GENDER



Since DCI's IGA in 2012, a Code of Ethics and gender policy rules on gender parity in Executive Positions were adopted as a step to further ensure the gender perspective in our organization. DCI's new Strategic Framework 2017-2021 sets gender as a cross cutting issue, requiring that it be incorporated into all DCI policies, projects and activities according to the principles enshrined in the CRC and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Sustainable Development Goals (Target 5) also calls for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls, not only to ensure a fundamental human right, but to encourage economic development and growth.

DCI advocates at all levels for the rights of the girls and young women to

be fulfilled and upheld. Girls face particular forms of discrimination and violence throughout their life, starting even before birth and continuing throughout childhood and adolescence. The consequences are considerable and often fuel violence against future generations of both girls and boys. To this end, DCI National Sections have developed programs and projects mainstreaming a gender perspective, and most notably have developed programs that fight gender-based violence (GBV) and empower girls to become advocates of their own human rights, as well as the rights of others. DCI has also established a Working Group on Gender to guide the Movement in incorporating this important element into all DCI activities.

Apart from the projects run by DCI Sections at the national level, integrating a gender perspective, or programs to eradicate gender-based violence and/or empower girls as human rights defenders, **DCI advocates at the international level for the fulfilment of the human rights of girls**. In 2017, an OHCHR report on the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, to which DCI contributed, was presented before the UN Human Rights Council. **DCI-IS** delivered an oral statement, on behalf of the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA), **recalling the need for gender transformative actions to ensure the enjoyment of the right to education by every girl.** Moreover, the Council adopted a resolution on this topic and **DCI contributed emphasizing the need for the integration of gender equality and human rights education as part of mandatory curricula.**

GIRLS RIGHTS

The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA): engaging at all levels to promote equal rights and opportunities for girls and young women

The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) is a 5-year joint advocacy programme of Plan Nederland, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands which aims to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV) and combat economic exclusion of girls and young women in 10 countries throughout Asia and Africa, through strategic lobby and advocacy at the national, regional and international level. This program, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was launched in 2016 and has identified four strategic goals:

- Strengthened public support for the elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women;

- Increased influence of civil society organisations and networks (in particular girls' and young women's organisations) on government and corporate/private sector actors to eliminate gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women;
- Improved policies and practices of corporate/private sector actors in support of the elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women;
- Effective implementation of legislation and public policies and improved practices of government actors in support of the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women.

DCI-IS engages with UN Human Rights mechanisms and bodies in Geneva to affect global policy change at the international level. Global advocacy in multilateral arenas is thus vital to support and strengthen local efforts of the GAA country partners to advocate for the elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women.

DCI National Sections in **Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone** implement this programme at the national level. They strive to encourage change by influencing policy, empowering girls and young women to advocate for their own human rights, and engaging with international advocacy opportunities and reporting activities.

INFLUENCING POLICY CHANGE

DCI-Sierra Leone provided technical expertise in the drafting of the **National Diversion Policy**, the on-going review of the **Teachers' Code of Conduct**, and the **Law Reform on Child Marriage**. DCI further played an instrumental role in **disseminating and promoting** the implementation of the National Protocol on Sexual Gender-Based Violence and the Sexual Offences Act (2012). It also **advocated for the ban of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) in 30 communities across the country.**

DCI-Liberia led the drafting and development of the **National Child Welfare & Protection Policy.** This is not only a breakthrough for the protection of children in the country, but will serve as an advocacy tool for CSOs' engagement in the fight against child marriage, sexual violence and abuse.

EMPOWERING GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

DCI-Sierra Leone supported the advocacy and lobby efforts of **16 girls groups – totalling to 960 girls and young women**. These girls monitor and

respond to gender-based violence issues in their communities and promote girls' participation in community programmes.

In Liberia, resulting from DCI's support, 6 young women were selected to undertake training in agriculture. Upon completion of such, these young women will be employed and will conduct further trainings for youth across the country. DCI also advocated for the enrolment of **50 young women** into Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In Ghana and Sierra Leone, DCI conducted awareness raising campaigns and capacity building activities, **reaching more than 5 000 people** – children, households, CSOs, government officials and community leaders – with sensitization messages against sexual and gender-based violence towards girls and young women.

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

On the occasion of the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Ghana**, in 2017 DCI-IS supported country partners in the submission of stakeholder's report, to participate as panellist at the UPR pre-session and to facilitate meetings with Permanent Missions in Geneva to share GAA concerns and recommendations on the situation of girl's rights in the country. As a result, 61 of the recommendations accepted by the Government are related to GAA, and will be used at national level to advocate against GBV and economic exclusion of girls and young women. Moreover, GAA delivered a statement during the 36th HRC session for the Adoption of the UPR Netherlands advocating for the advancement of girls rights.

6. THE WORLD SERVICE FOUNDATION

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
WORLD SERVICE

While they have notoriously encountered difficulties in developing long term strategies which ensure financial stability, NGOs are quickly recognizing that financial sustainability is essential.

As the civil society sector becomes more professional, the fundraising field has produced numerous significant changes. NGOs now require deeper methodology and expertise in order to maintain financial stability. Donors have developed stricter requirements in terms of project writing, financial justification, project management techniques, and results/evaluations. And at the time, the DCI movement lacked a central body dedicated to resource mobilisation for projects.

As a result, DCI felt it was necessary to make changes in parallel to the fundraising environment, and which would allow the movement to move forward in a financially sustainable way. This is why, in 2016, the World Service Foundation (WSF) was created in direct link to the DCI International Secretariat. Strategically located in Brussels, it connects the entire Movement to the European Union and international partners, and maximizes access to related funding opportunities. The main purpose of the Foundation is to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2017 -2021 adopted during the IGA in March 2017 and the subsequent regional plans, and ensure a more global and coherent action for DCI worldwide.

2017 AT A GLANCE

The WSF supported several DCI National Sections in drafting and submitting project proposals to relevant donors and budget lines throughout 2017. This exercise was often collective, involving various DCI Sections of the same region - or even from different regions - as well as the International Secretariat in common project proposals and activities.

2017 was a crucial year for the Foundation as it was a year of challenges but also a year of success. The first two board meetings took place in July and November, where a new plan of action was adopted. In addition, an institutional brochure in English, French and Spanish was developed to better disseminate the Foundation's strategy and activities to donors and key stakeholders.

WORLD SERVICE FOUNDATION AREAS OF ACTION

1. **Capacity Building:** supporting National Sections and Regional Desks in their capacity to develop projects, mainly by providing technical expertise and conceptual advice by: • Developing methodological tools • Revising project proposals & giving suggestions for improvements well as technical support linked to the application processes	As a result, National Sections have advanced their skills to submit projects proposals and have better chances to find adequate resources for their activities. This is essential for their development as well as for the development of the Movement. If DCI-WSF's project writing expertise is essential, the Sections' field expertise and knowledge are fundamental to build and implement relevant projects that respond to the context and needs of each country where DCI is present.
2. **Fundraising:** ensuring a systematic, coherent and efficient approach in the Movements' relations with donors, public and private partners who would like to contribute to the growing impact of DCI activities worldwide. Our actions are mainly: • Constant monitoring of new opportunities • Donor identification • Information sharing on funding opportunities	A follow-up with donors is essential. DCI-WSF is in Brussels, and therefore maintains good relations with the main European donors ensuring good contacts and strategic partnerships good through bilateral meetings, conferences and seminars. The Foundation also maintains a relationship with the various Directorates General (DG) of the European Commission which works on themes related to our thematic priorities: DG JUST, in charge of the Justice; and Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) programs in particular and DG International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) in charge of the EuropeAid program.

Results: 60 potential donors have been identified // 10 projects (different thematic) from DCI National Sections and regional desk supported: mainly MENA, Europe, RCA, Somalia, Uganda, Mauritania, Lebanon, Belgium // 2 Official partnerships with DCI Belgium to disseminate the results of the project in the Movement and encourage exchange of good practices

FINANCIAL FACTS

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTED HERE INCLUDE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI), BASED IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

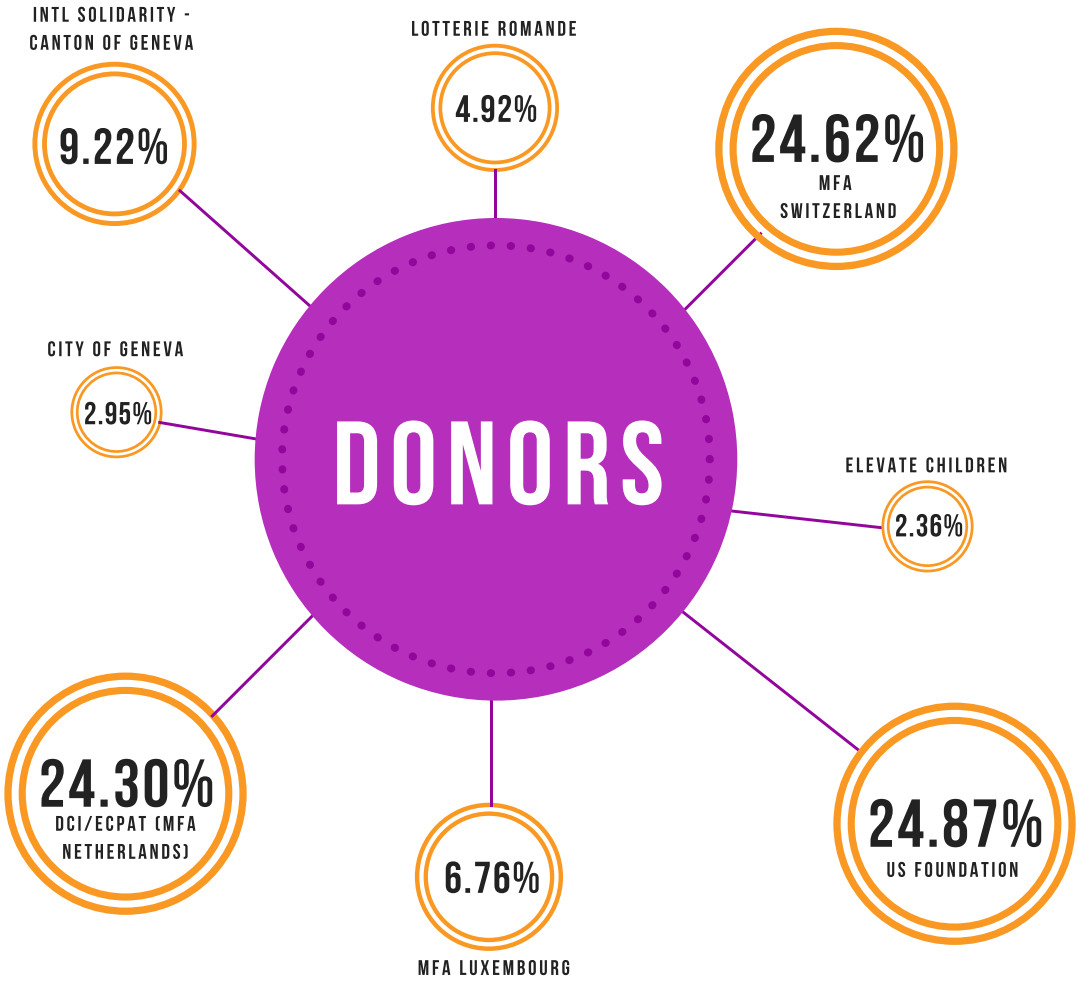
I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME	2017 (CHF)	2016 (CHF)
CONTRIBUTIONS	433 040	408 313
DONATIONS	3 394	4 111
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	2 726	889
SUB-RENTING	45 488	45 449
OTHER INCOME	1 106	437
MEMBERSHIP FEES	38 310	43 597
EXCHANGE RATE	3 751	329
TOTAL INCOME	**527 815**	**503 125**

EXPENDITURES	2017 (CHF)	2016 (CHF)
SALARIES & SOCIAL CHARGES	260 362	235 160
CONSULTANTS	28 611	18 974
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	125 773	91 402
OFFICE RENT	55 195	56 167
EXPENSES INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & IGA	24 042	15 384
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	24 232	66 105
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**518 216**	**483 192**
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	**9 599**	**19 932**

2. OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors and partners. Your contributions enable us to achieve important steps towards the realisation of children's rights worldwide.



3. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

The audited financial statements of Defence for Children International - International Secretariat are established in accordance with the Statutes of the organisation and the applicable provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The financial statements include the accounts of the Swiss-based organisation Defence for Children International (DCI), the International Secretariat of the Movement based in Geneva. They do not include the accounts of DCI National Sections or projects conducted by partners, who are independent from DCI. According to the DCI Statutes, the International Executive Council (IEC) has the competence to approve the accounts for the previous year in-between International General Assemblies (IGA) taking place every four to five years. Our accounts have been audited by the company "Wuarin & Chatton S.A", from Geneva (Switzerland). A copy of the report and the financial statements can be requested to our financial department.

FIDUCIAIRE
WUARIN
& **CHATTON**

Report of the Auditor on annual accounts

In accordance with the mandate received, we have audited the accounting and financial statements (balance sheet and statement of Income and Expenditures) of the **DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL, Geneva,** for the year ending December 31st, 2017.

The Treasurer is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to perform a limited examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss standard on the limited statutory examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of foundation personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of foundation documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of the examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with the statutes and the Swiss law.

Geneva, February 21st, 2018

FIDUCIAIRE WUARIN & CHATTON SA

Patrick Ciocco
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in charge

Jean-Philippe Ladisa
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosures :

Financial statements :

- Balance sheet
- Statement of Income and Expenditures
- Annex

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EXPERT suisse

OBJECTIVES & GOALS 2018

1. PUTTING CHILDREN AT THE FOREFRONT OF DCI'S ACTIVITIES

- Continuing to provide social-legal assistance and other direct services to children.
- Leading and supporting child empowerment initiatives.
- Conducting co-ordinated awareness-raising and advocacy activities on child rights at all levels & reinforcing the capacities of professionals working with children.

2. STRENGTHENING DCI & IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2017-2021

- Regional coordination meetings in Africa, the Americas, Europe and MENA. to develop action plans implementing the Strategic Framework at the regional, national and international level.
- Continue co-ordination, exchange of information, positioning and sharing of best practices for our strategic priorities and cross-cutting issues.
- Strengthen the World Service Foundation to further consolidate project management and resource mobilisation and ensure financial sustainability to support National Sections and the Movement's development.
- Developing and implementing DCI's new branding identity.

3. REALISING DCI'S LEADERSHIP IN OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES & CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AT ALL LEVELS

Justice for Children & Deprivation of Liberty

- Continuing to strengthen DCI's expertise on, and model of, Justice for Children at the national, regional and international levels
- Co-organizing the Continental Conference on Justice for Children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the African Child Policy Forum, and ongoing follow-up and implementation of Call to Action.
- Active participation in the World Congress on Justice for Children in Paris, France, and in other activities and conferences with key partners on Justice for Children.
- Strong engagement with key partners including the Working Group of Children with Incarcerated Parents (Child Rights Connect) and the Child Justice Advocacy Group.

United Nations Global Study for Children Deprived of Liberty

- Active involvement in the drafting and review process for desk-based research, particularly for the administration of justice chapter of the UN Global Study for Children Deprived of Liberty as well as significant input from National Sections into questionnaire.
- Continuing to co-convene the NGO Panel for the UN Study of Children Deprived of Liberty, including facilitating NGO engagement, conducting advocacy, supporting implementation, and facilitating Regional Consultations.

Violence Against Children:

- Continuing DCI's advocacy at the national, regional and international level in line with National Sections' activities to end Violence against Children in all settings.
- Strong engagement with key partners, including the Working Group of Violence Against Children (Child Rights Connect) and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.
- Continuing to reinforce DCI's work with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children.

Children on the Move

- Participation in the Steering Committee of the Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migration.
- Following developments on children on the move during the Human Rights Council sessions and monitoring treaty body engagement on this topic.
- Advocacy at the National, Regional and International level in line with DCI National Sections' activities with children in the context of migration.

Children Affected by Conflicts:

- Strong engagement in relevant groups such as the Working Group of Children and Armed Conflict (Child Rights Connect), as co-convener.
- Continue to reinforce DCI work with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict.
- Special focus and advocacy with National Sections working on this strategic priority, such as Yemen, CAR, Colombia, Palestine, Somalia and Iraq.

Child participation

Involving children meaningfully in all matters that affect their rights and well-being, both in DCI activities and those undertaken by local, national and international authorities and institutions.
Participation in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion "Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders."

Gender

- Involving children meaningfully in all matters that affect their rights and well-being, both in DCI activities and those undertaken by local, national and international authorities and institutions.
- Participation in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion "Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders."

GLOSSARY

AC - Advisory Committee
ACERWC - African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR – African Committee on Human and People's Rights
ACRWC - African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AU – African Union
CAR - Central African Republic
CIP - Children of Incarcerated Parents
COALICO - Coalición contra la Vinculación de Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes y Jóvenes al Conflicto Armado en Colombia
CMW – Committee on Migrant Workers
CRC - Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRIN – Child Rights International Network
CSE – child sexual exploitation
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
DCI - Defence for Children International
DCI-IS - Defence for Children International – International Secretariat
ECOSOC – UN Economic and Social Council
ECPAT - End Child Prostitution and Trafficking
EEMPATA - Educación y Empleabilidad Para Adolescentes Trabajadores en Agricultura
EHRA – Emirates Human Rights Association
FGM – female genital mutilation
FRAC - Fuerzas Revolucionarias Armadas
GAA - Girls Advocacy Alliance
GBV - Gender-based violence
GC - General Comment
GNCRC – Ghana NGO Coalition for the Rights of the Child
GSCDL - Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty
GSIA – Group of Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence
IACHR - Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IDP – Internally Displaced Person/People
IEC - International Executive Council
IGA - International General Assembly
ILO - International Labour Organization
LAS – League of Arab States
MENA - Middle East and North Africa
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
MRU - Mano River Union
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation
OHCHR - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OMCT – World Organisation Against Torture
OP3 - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure
OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SECTT – sexual exploitation in the context of travel and tourism
SDG - Sustainable Development Goals
SLDC - Socio-Legal Defence Centre
SOP – Standard Operating Procedures
SR - Special Rapporteur
SRSG - Special Representative of the Secretary General
TVET - Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNCRC - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF – United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UPR - Universal Periodic Review
VAC - Violence Against Children
WG - Working Group

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DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
the worldwide movement for children's rights

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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