

45th SESSION
HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL
ROUND-UP

14 September – 7 October 2020

Summary

The 45th session of the Human Rights Council took place from 14 September until 7 October 2020 and was opened by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

She stated that multiple underlying factors, such as weak health care systems and inequality, have made us more vulnerable to the COVID19 pandemic. Last week's fire in the **Lesbos** camps impacted the lives of thousands. She called all States, including those members of the European Union, to protect the lives and human rights of migrants. The human rights situation in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** has aggravated since the pandemic started. More than 38% of Gazans live in poverty and access to water and sanitation is compromised. Furthermore, there have been worrying reports of sexual violence directed to girls, boys, and women in **Somalia**.

The severe economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic in the **Americas** has to be addressed with a human rights approach. In **Colombia**, the OHCHR has documented killings of human rights defenders in a context of violence and other human rights violations. In **Brazil**, there has been an increase in the participation of the military in civil affairs as well as the killing of at least 10 human rights defenders in 2020.

The OHCHR has not received the necessary funds to complete its required work. These difficulties may persist until next year and will affect our work. It is time to rise to the occasion.

DCI-International Secretariat (DCI-IS) delivered a [statement](#) on behalf of **DCI-Greece** during the interactive dialogue with the Working Group on arbitrary detention, condemning the harmful measures taken by the Greek government in response to the arrival of migrants. DCI-IS took part in a [joint statement](#) as part of the **Girls Advocacy Alliance** delivered by Plan International during the Annual Discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council, highlighting that those affected by forms of discrimination are most equipped to discuss their own issues and propose solutions to them. The rights of Indigenous peoples also featured prominently at this Council session, with the holding of the Annual Panel on the rights of indigenous people for which **DCI-Colombia** prepared a written [statement](#).

Moreover, DCI-IS was involved with country situations related to the National Sections. DCI-IS followed the [interactive dialogue](#) with the Independent Expert on the **Central African Republic (CAR)**, the [Enhanced Interactive Debate](#) on the High Commissioner's report on **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and final report of experts on Kasai, as well as the [Interactive dialogue](#) with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Somalia**. DCI-IS also delivered a [statement](#) on behalf of **DCI-Palestine** during on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. The Group of Eminent International & Regional Experts (GEE) on the human rights situation in Yemen delivered their latest report during an interactive dialogue at this session, where DCI-IS delivered a [statement](#) on behalf of **DCI-Yemen** urging Member States to renew the mandate of the GEE and not to delist parties killing children or using them as child soldiers as well as co-signing a Save the Children joint [statement](#). In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.25](#)) on the **human rights situation in Yemen**, the Council decided to renew the mandate of the GEE for a further period of one year.

The resolution on the Rights of the Child ([A/HRC/45/L.48/Rev.1](#)) was also adopted without a vote during this session, which focused on the right to a healthy environment. The Council urged States to take effective measures to ensure that all children in vulnerable situations can exercise their rights on an equal basis with other children, and that the effects of environmental harm do not affect them disproportionately.

Violence against children

Annual Panel on the rights of indigenous peoples on protection of indigenous human rights defenders (HRDs)

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Indigenous peoples face specific challenges, experiences, marginalisation, and suffer from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. COVID19 is also disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, exposing pre-existing structural inequalities. Indigenous peoples were already disadvantaged in terms of access to quality health care prior to the pandemic. Indigenous human rights defenders support their people's rights, however, protecting their way of life has increasingly jeopardised these defenders' own lives. Reports of increased harassment, attacks, acts of violence and killings are worrying and reflect the impunity that often follows these crimes. It is the responsibility of States to protect these peoples, ensuring that they are not silenced and can act without risk of intimidation. Read OHCHR report [here](#).

Ms. Aida Quilcué Vivas, Indigenous woman from the Nasa peoples of Colombia and Human Rights Counsellor of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia

The 115 Indigenous peoples existing in Colombia run the risk of physical and cultural extermination, and we are on the brink of a genocide. Despite the peace agreement, they continue to face systematic violations of the rights of indigenous peoples. There were regions where indigenous peoples live have been affected by displacements, anti-personal mines and forced recruitment. There were also places where the rapes of indigenous girls took place. We are facing a hazardous situation because the Colombian Government has not taken measures to restrict the activities of security bodies or to protect the life and land of indigenous peoples.

Mr. Andrew Anderson, Executive Director of Front-Line Defenders

Indigenous people's rights defenders face significant violence defending and advancing their individual and importantly their collective rights. The recognition of indigenous rights by States is essential for protecting indigenous defenders.

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Indigenous woman from the Kankanaey Igorot peoples of the Cordillera Region (Philippines), former Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Concerning how to empower indigenous peoples to be able to protect and assert their rights, Governments have to comply with certain recommendations.

1. conduct impartial and prompt investigations to provide effective redress and reparations to the victims of crimes and extra-judicial killings.
2. zero-tolerance approach to killings and violence against indigenous HRDs.
3. legislations creating due diligence obligations for companies registered in their jurisdiction.
4. comprehensive review of national legislation to ensure due process and the revocation of regulations and practices that violate the principle of legality and contradict international human rights obligations.
5. laws and policies which expressly support the protection of human rights defenders should be in place as well and the recognition of collective land rights.

With DCI-Colombia, we issued a [statement](#) calling the Colombian government to comply with the Constitution and guarantee the rights of all children, especially to those who belong to indigenous peoples. As despite having a wide range of national and international norms and jurisprudence that seek to safeguard the rights of these peoples, exclusion and systematic violation of the rights of indigenous peoples has been a constant pattern for more than 200 years. In addition, corruption, drug trafficking, the worsening of the armed conflict, the presence of multinational mining companies in the territories of indigenous peoples, the deterioration of the environment and lack of water in places like high Guajira, further exacerbate the situation. More recently, the COVID19 pandemic has contaminated 72 indigenous peoples. All these factors disproportionately affect indigenous children. **Watch the Panel discussion [here](#).**

Justice for Children

General debate under agenda Item 7 on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

State of Palestine, Mr. Ibrahim Khraishi

Amidst the pandemic, the occupying power continues its attacks against civilians, targeting children, health workers, women, restraining the freedom of movement. Thousands of Palestinians are in jail in Israel and thousands are dying because there is no health care available. The sanitary conditions in jails are appalling, there is collective punishment and the conditions in which Palestinians are kept in Israeli jails and placed in cold rooms constitute an overt violation of international law. Criticising the plan touted by the United States, the State of Palestine said the annexation it provided for was a violation of international law and the right to self-determination, preventing the establishment of two States.

General debate

Speakers highlighted that the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, and all other forms of collective punishment targeting the Palestinian people must end. Expressing concern, some speakers recalled that the period from March to August 2020 had seen the demolition or confiscation of 389 Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, on average, 65 per month, the highest average destruction rate in four years. The removal of item 7 from the Council's agenda would ensure that the violations in the occupied Palestine were unheard and remained unaddressed.

In an oral [statement](#), delivered on behalf of DCI-Palestine, we highlighted that at the end of June, 151 Palestinian children were detained in Israeli prisons and detention centres, 48% of which were held in pretrial detention. Israeli authorities held at least 120 Palestinian children at prisons and detention centres inside Israel, which amounts to unlawful transfer in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Moreover, in the current COVID-19 context, Palestinian children imprisoned by Israeli authorities live in close proximity to each other, often in compromised sanitary conditions, with limited access to resources to maintain minimum hygiene routines.

We called on Member States to:

- demand that Israeli authorities immediately end detention and prosecution of Palestinian children in the Israeli military court system;
- call for the release of all Palestinian children currently detained in Israeli prisons and detention centres.

⇒ Watch the debate [here](#).

Children and armed conflict

Interactive dialogue with the Group of Eminent International & Regional Experts on the human rights situation in Yemen

Mr. Kamel Jendoubi, Chair of the Group of Experts on Yemen (GEE)

Serious violations continue to occur at the hands of all the parties; individuals are subject to arbitrary detention and other forms of ill treatment, especially those perceived as opposing the party in control, such as human right defenders and journalists as well as members of marginalised groups. Gender-based violence, including sexual violence against children is continuing unabated. Children as young as 7 years-old are being recruited into armed forces and used in hostilities. Therefore, compromising their right to education, both directly and also indirectly, by the actions against educators and use of schools for non-educational purposes. Many of the violations the group has identified may amount to war crimes while impunity prevails.

Ms. Melissa Parke, Member of the Group of Experts on Yemen (GEE)

In the event of the renewal of the mandate, the GEE will continue to document the violations of human rights law relating to the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, as well as enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. The group wished to examine in more detail the violence against internally displaced persons, most of whom are women and children. Children, in addition to being negated their right to education, are losing their lives and limbs on landmines and through their unlawful recruitment into armed forces. Yemen is also the worst place on earth to be a woman or a girl.

In a DCI [statement](#), it was highlighted that there has been a direct increase in child's rights violations such as the denial of nutrition, education, and health services. More than 12 million children need urgent humanitarian assistance and are at high risk of malnutrition. The conflict has further destroyed the education system resulting in more than 2 million children not attending school. We therefore:

- Call upon the Human Rights Council to ensure that the situation of human rights of children in Yemen remains on its agenda by renewing the mandate of the GEE.
- Call upon all parties to the conflict to stop violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, some of which may constitute war crimes, and to fully cooperate with the GEE.
- Call upon all States to cease all arms transfers to parties to the conflict.
- Urge the Yemeni authorities, in cooperation with international agencies, to ensure the continued arrival of

DCI also co-signed a Save the Children [statement](#) urging Member States “to call for an independent, transparent review of the listing and de-listing decisions, which includes broad consultation with civil society and other stakeholders, to ensure the listing and de-listing criteria accurately and consistently reflect the evidence collected by the UN’s Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM).”

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Central African Republic

Yao Agbetse, Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic (CAR)

COVID19 represents an exacerbating reality to CAR’s current political context and humanitarian crisis. From July 2019 to June 2020, 890 human rights and international humanitarian law violations were documented in CAR affecting civilians: 1522 victims including 83 boys and 101 girls. The sexual violence incidents documented include rapes, sexual slavery and forced marriage; victims are often reticent to prosecute because of fear of reprisals. Children continue to be recruited by armed groups despite the peace agreement stipulation for demobilisation of children. There is a lack of respect for three action plans signed by the MPC, the FPRC and the UPC with the SRSG CAAC. Several armed

groups continue to occupy schools and hospitals, thus depriving access to education and health care in the current COVID19 context. There is a need to properly end children's participation in armed groups as well as reducing their exposure to hate speech and including them in the national humanitarian plan. Finally, 2.6 million people in CAR require humanitarian aid but the humanitarian response was insufficiently funded.

Enhanced Interactive Debate on the High Commissioner's report on Democratic Republic of the Congo and final report of the International Team of Experts on the situation in Kasai

Ms. Michele Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights



As a direct result of violence, destruction, and fear; some 5.5 million Congolese have been internally displaced and at least 922,000 people have fled to other African countries. Threats against human rights defenders, CSOs and journalists as well as arbitrary detention continue to be observed. The outbreak of COVID19 has led to heavy-handed restrictions with unwarranted and excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests, and unlawful detentions. Due to the overcrowding and poor sanitary conditions prevalent in many detention centres, the practice of detaining people for minor infractions should be discouraged. There is continued and large-scale sexual violence linked to armed conflict across the DRC, with 1.376 victims, amongst them women and girls. While ending militia action in the east requires solving the root causes, there is a need of a disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration programme; combatting impunity by putting in place effective transitive justice mechanisms; and enhancing the protection of civilians. OHCHR continues to support NGOs who work with victims of sexual violence to ensure effective prevention and early response.



Mr. Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Chair of the Team of International Experts in Kasai

The Kasai region continues to suffer socio-political crisis with the addition of inter-community conflict leading to the forced displacement of thousands of children, women and men. This is in addition of the humanitarian crisis arising from the forced expulsion of Congolese from Angola. The absence of a demobilisation and reintegration policy for former militia members means that this humanitarian crisis is a threat to security and the enjoyment of Human Rights in Kasai. Finally, one of the issues that requires major attention is impunity.

Watch the full dialogue [here](#).

Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia

Isha Dyfan, Independent Expert on Human Rights in Somalia

The protracted armed conflict and chronic humanitarian crisis have been compounded with COVID19, thus placing an unbearable burden on Somalia's already fragile institutions. Much remains to be done to address the rooted patterns of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that women and girls continue to be subjected to. Rape and other forms of sexual violence against women, girls and boys occur with impunity forcing victims to turn to other avenues to seek redress of these crimes. The provisions of the new draft law on sexual intercourse would allow for child and forced marriage, negatively impacting the rights of women and children and their enjoyment of physical and mental health as well as their wellbeing. It is unacceptable to continue invoking custom, tradition, or religious consideration to justify violations against the rights and dignity of women and girls.

Protecting women and girls and safeguarding respect for freedom of expression, are critical, especially as Somalia prepares for its upcoming elections. The meaningful participation of women, youth, and minorities must be a priority. Amongst the key areas to be included in the transition plan there is the need to ensure the respect for children's rights in the context of armed conflict and promote child justice and youth empowerment; promote women and children's health; and protect the rights of internally displaced persons, refugees, persons with disabilities and minorities.

Watch the full dialogue [here](#).

Deprivation of Liberty

Interactive dialogue with the Working Group on arbitrary detention

Ms. Leigh Toomey, Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

The Working Group continued to explore various thematic issues to assist stakeholders in preventing arbitrary detention. In the context of its annual report, the Working Group urged States and stakeholders to address the situation of female detainees, including by giving full effect to safeguards embodied in global standards such as the Bangkok Rules. It also encouraged States to use modern technologies to minimise the need to resort to deprivation of liberty, without discrimination in providing access to such opportunities. **Read the Working Group's report [here](#).**

From 2 to 13 December 2019, the Working Group visited Greece and observed challenges in the criminal justice system, such as widespread pre-trial detention, insufficient awareness of the right to legal assistance, and instances of short trials. In the context of migration, the Working Group noted a lack of awareness among detainees of their right to apply for international protection and of the procedures in doing so, as well as a burden on shelters for unaccompanied children, instances of inaccurate application of procedures for the assessment of age and vulnerability, and insufficient legal aid. During an unprecedented global COVID19 pandemic, the need to prevent and address the arbitrary deprivation of liberty is greater than ever. **Read the Working Group's report on Greece [here](#).**

State of Greece

The issue of unaccompanied minors is controversial and attracts considerable misunderstanding. Greece is aware that unaccompanied minors must not be detained but be treated in a special way as persons in vulnerable situations. Greece fully adheres to these principles and therefore never intended to keep unaccompanied minors in detention or confinement. Due to the sudden and almost exponential increase in numbers of unaccompanied minors arriving on the Greek territory, there was not sufficient capacity, knowledge and expertise to immediately adapt to this new situation. The first priority was to keep these minors safe from the numerous threats surrounding them. Keeping them under surveillance was at that time the best response while finding better solutions, which have already been put in practice. Greece, with the support of the EU, has developed procedures to treat this issue.

In collaboration with **DCI-Greece**, a [statement was delivered](#) during this dialogue raising concerns that recent measures put in place by the Greek authorities ostensibly taken to control the spread of COVID-19 are paving the way to the mass detention of children on the move.

Furthermore, we called on the Greek Government to comply with:

- International human rights standards, including article 37 b) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Recommendations of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty which establishes that immigration detention is never in the best interest of the child and cannot be justified; and the
- Recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, to “release all migrant children [...] from immigration detention and place them in appropriate alternative care and non-custodial reception facilities that promote and respect human rights”.

Watch the dialogue [here](#) and read the statement [here](#).

Gender

Annual Discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

People whose voices have been systematically silenced suffer more from the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID19, among them women and girls. Girls from poorer rural communities were the first to drop out school, as they were called upon to look after family members or had no means to follow online lessons. Women and girls are affected by institutional racism and other forms of intersectional discrimination, increasing the risk of women of African descent to be victims of police brutality, gender-based violence (GBV) and the denial of decent work to migrants. Moreover, women from racial minorities are more at risk of incarceration.

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Laws, policies and programmes intended to advance gender equality should address women in all their diversity. Our fight for gender equality must include and connect with other forms of oppression; laws that criminalise for reasons such as sex work, gender identity or drug use must be removed. An intersectional lens to analyse data and evidence must be adopted. Lastly, protecting and fulfilling the rights of adolescent girls is imperative.

Mr. Felipe Gonzáles Morales, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Women and girls may decide to abandon their country of origin because of a high rate of sexual violence, forced marriage, unequal access to rights and remedies, family control and gender expectations. During transit, migrant women and girls are victims in a disproportionate fashion of trafficking, extortion and harassment. It is of crucial importance to implement the Global Compact for Migration on a human rights basis with a gender approach and consider the needs of children, recognising their capacity to act as well as their leadership.

Dr. Joia Crear Perry, President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative

The same system that do not value black women's lives in policing, do not value their lives in education, housing or even in healthcare. In the US and globally, black women continue to bear the burden of the maternal care crisis. Reproductive justice, maternal health, patriarchal violence, and State's sponsored brutality and misconduct are black women's immediate concerns. Controlling the bodies of black, indigenous, and poor women will never result in the structural changes needed for sexual and reproductive wellbeing.

Ms. Pragna Patel, Founding member and current director of Southall Black Sisters

Although there is growing awareness about intersectionality, there is a huge gap between the rhetoric and the reality. There must be an understanding and addressment of the structural power context that gives rise to inequality and vulnerability behind the laws, policies, and practices. Quality impact assessments on all social laws and policies should be implemented to effectively analyse how they impact the most vulnerable groups. Reforms need to be made not only in gender-specific laws and policies but also in the ones related to immigration, housing, education, welfare and social security to remove the multiple barriers faced by migrant and other marginalised women.

As part of the [Girls Advocacy Alliance](#), DCI co-signed a joint [statement](#) delivered by Plan International highlighting that those affected by forms of discrimination are most equipped to discuss their own issues and propose solutions to them. These are often the voices that are most side-lined in decision-making processes, facing a myriad of challenges including patriarchal norms, digital divide and lack of financial support to participate. It is therefore imperative that this Council centres the voices of girls and young women, including by institutionalising their participation in its mechanisms. **Watch the dialogue [here](#).**

Resolutions and decisions¹

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.48/Rev.1](#)) on the **rights of the child: realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment**, adopted without a vote, the Council urges States to take effective measures to ensure that all children in vulnerable situations can exercise their rights on an equal basis with other children, and that the effects of environmental harm do not affect them disproportionately, including by strengthening the collection of disaggregated data, by requiring that childhood exposure monitoring and children's rights impact assessment procedures take fully into account the impact of proposed policies, programmes and projects on those in the most vulnerable situations, including their gender dimensions, and by providing children at particular risk and their parents, or primary caregivers and legal guardians with assistance in accessing effective remedies.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.34](#)) on **human rights and indigenous peoples**, adopted without a vote, the Council decides that the theme of the annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples, to be held during the forty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, will be the *situation of human rights of indigenous peoples facing the COVID-19 pandemic and have a special focus on the right to participation*, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to encourage and facilitate the participation of indigenous women and to make the discussion fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.24/Rev.1](#)) on **promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)**, adopted without a vote, the Council calls upon the UN High Commissioner to systematically include the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations which have been identified by the UNSC in the women and peace and security agenda in country-specific related work and relevant thematic reports, and encourages her to hold consultations with women human rights defenders, women's organisations and women peacebuilders.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.46/Rev.1](#)) on **promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations**, adopted without a vote, the Council requests the United Nations High Commissioner to submit to the Human Rights Council at its 49th session an *analytical report on a comprehensive approach to promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations*, including good practices, challenges and lessons learned at the national, regional and international levels, with input from all relevant stakeholders, including UN Member States, UN bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Council, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations and women and girls in humanitarian situations.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.51](#)) on **technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights**, sponsored by Yemen and Bahrein, adopted without a vote, the Council requests the High Commissioner to continue to provide substantive capacity-building and technical assistance to the Government of Yemen and technical support to the National Commission of Inquiry to ensure that it continues to investigate allegations of violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen, and in line with international standards, and submits its comprehensive report on alleged human rights violations and abuses in all parts of Yemen as soon as it is available, and encourages all

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=26360&LangID=E>

parties to the conflict in Yemen to extend full and transparent access and cooperation to the National Commission.

MANDATE RENEWALS AND NOMINATIONS

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.25](#)) on the **human rights situation in Yemen**, sponsored by the Netherlands and Canada, adopted by a vote of 22 in favour, 12 against and 12 abstained, the Council decides to **renew the mandate of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts** for a further period of one year, renewable as authorised by the Council ; and also decides to transmit the report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts to the General Assembly, and recommends that the Assembly transmit the report to all relevant bodies of the United Nations.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.52](#)) on **assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights**, adopted without a vote, the Council decides to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, for one year to assess, monitor and report on the situation of human rights in Somalia with a view to making recommendations on technical assistance and capacity-building.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.53](#)) on **technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, adopted without a vote, the Council renews the mandate of the team of international experts on the situation in Kasai. It requests OHCHR to provide technical assistance, including the necessary forensic expertise, to the Government of the DRC in order to support the judicial authorities in their investigations into allegations of human rights violations and abuses, with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.

In a resolution ([A/HRC/45/L.54](#)) on **technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic**, adopted without a vote, the Council decides to renew, for one year, the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, which is to assess, monitor and report on the situation with a view to making recommendations relating to technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and requests all parties to cooperate fully with the Independent Expert in carrying out his mandate.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 36th session

Following capacity building interventions with DCI International Secretariat and an extensive process of mobilising coalition and governmental stakeholders, DCI-Liberia (jointly with the GAA) has submitted an alternative report for the UPR of Liberia focusing recommendations around three themes: 1) Ending impunity for violence against children, 2) Eliminating child marriage, and 3) Providing access to education for girls and decent work for young women. DCI-Liberia has been officially invited to participate as Child Rights speaker at the upcoming 36th pre-session of the UPR (see [here](#) the calendar for the pre-session) the first ever in a virtual format to take place on October 13th. DCI-Liberia has recorded a video statement and will attend the Q&A session with other panellists and Member States. Prior to this, DCI-Liberia also engaged in an in-country pre-session on October 9th hosted by the Independent National Human Rights Commission and UPR Info, with OHCHR-Liberia, ahead of the UPR Working Group on 2nd November 2020. DCI-Liberia and the International Secretariat continue advocacy and lobbying efforts to brief Member States on the most pressing child rights issue.