

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
DÉFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL
DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL



THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

ACTORS FOR JUSTICE ADVOCATES FOR RIGHTS



OUR VISION

We believe that children, as human beings, must be able to pursue a life in which they can exercise and enjoy their human rights with dignity, in a just and responsible society.

OUR MANDATE

DCI's mandate is to ensure ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted action directed towards effective implementation of the human rights codified in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), by means of effective coordination between different levels and active membership within key networks and fora. DCI's holistic approach recognizes that an overarching goal is to ensure globally comprehensive child protection systems, which include preventative measures.

WHO WE ARE

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.

We promote and protect the human rights of children at the local, national, regional and international level, and were one of the drafters of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.

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

OUR PRESENCE



World Service Foundation
based in Brussels, Belgium,
a legal entity under Belgian law

International Secretariat
based in Geneva, Switzerland, with special
consultative status with the United Nations Economic
and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1991

Over **34** National Sections

5 Continents

4 Regional Desks: Americas, Africa,
Middle East and North Africa, Europe

THEMATIC PRIORITIES 2017-2021

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

From the drafting of the UN Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, to the follow-up to the UNCRC's General Comment No.10 on Juvenile Justice, and up to the coordination of the NGO Panel for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, DCI has grown to become the "go-to" NGO for leadership and technical expertise on Justice for Children.

DCI National Sections operate socio-legal defence centres that provide children coming into contact with the law, and their families, with socio-legal information and support, free-of-charge legal advice and representation, referrals to service providers, and psychological counselling. In parallel, DCI runs preventative, rehabilitation and empowerment programmes and contributes to the establishment of comprehensive child protection systems at the national level.



60,000

Annual number of children, professionals working with children and other key stakeholders that are provided with direct socio-legal services and are empowered to better promote and protect the human rights of children.

DCI pays particular attention to the specific needs of girls and leads gender-transformative actions that challenge gender roles and stereotypes and empowers girls and young women to become agents of change.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Actively involved in the realisation of the UN Study on Violence against Children (2006), DCI has devoted efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Study's recommendations and will continue to do so as member of Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. DCI's interventions are designed to address violence in its various forms, including gender-based violence and sexual abuse and exploitation, while striving to ensure that homes, schools, and other settings where children are deprived of liberty, constitute safe environments for children.



CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Active members of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Ending Child Immigration Detention, DCI aims to ensure that all policies and programmes affecting children on the move, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced, are guided by the principles of non-discrimination and best interests of the child. DCI's interventions on the ground are designed to ensure that children on the move are not deprived of their human rights, such as health and education, while protecting them from abuse and exploitation.

CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

Founder of the NGO working group on Children and Armed Conflict, DCI fights against forced recruitment and detention of children in conflict areas, while ensuring that children continue to enjoy their basic human rights. Interventions are also tailored to promote children as actors of change and peace, both in conflict and post-conflict situations.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Children Deprived of Liberty: In line with DCI's thematic priority Justice for Children, DCI has worked specifically on the issue of children deprived of liberty. DCI launched the call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty in March 2014, obtaining a formal request for the Study to be carried out in December 2014 through UNGA resolution 69/157 para.51.d. The DCI Movement will devote major efforts in the coming years to contribute strongly in the implementation of the Global Study, in particular as co-convenor of the NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

For more information please visit: childrendeprivedofliberty.info



Children's participation: The participation of children is one of DCI's pillars. DCI involve children meaningfully in all matters affecting their rights and wellbeing. Not only in DCI activities but in matters that are undertaken by local, national and international authorities and institutions. Child participation is key in empowering children to become actors and human rights defenders conscious of their rights.

Gender: DCI adopted a Gender Policy to establish standards that serve as guidance to incorporate gender transformative actions in all programme and policy development, as well as project implementation at all levels. Currently, several sections of DCI are implementing the Girls Advocacy Alliance, a joint program which aims to eliminating gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women through strategic lobby and advocacy.

BRINGING CHANGE

RAISING AWARENESS & ADVOCATING AT ALL LEVELS

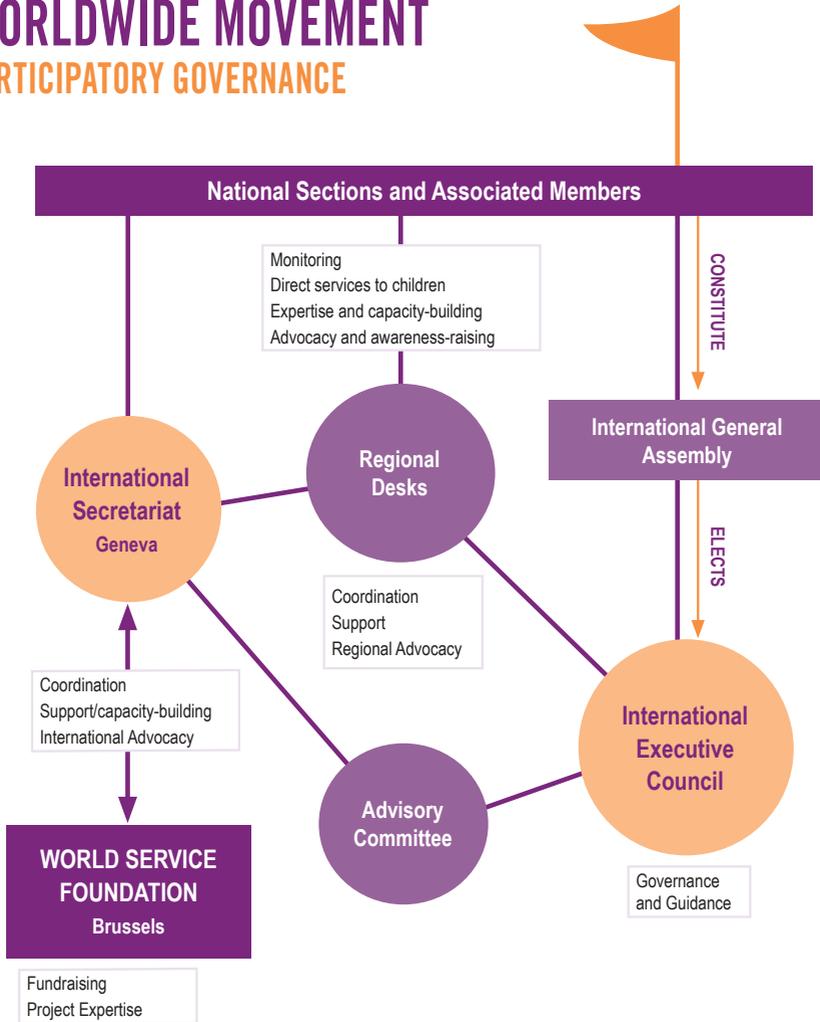
DCI conducts strategic and evidence-based advocacy and lobby initiatives at local, national, regional and international levels to bring about necessary policy and practice changes.

SHARING EXPERTISE & BUILDING CAPACITIES

DCI intervenes in various fora to share its expertise on child rights issues and strives to strengthen the capacities of professionals working directly with children.

WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE



PRODUCING PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR ACTION

DCI produces crucial research, monitoring reports and practical tools for action based on field data.

PROTECTING & EMPOWERING OF CHILDREN

DCI National Sections provide direct services to children through their Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs) and empowers them to thrive and become actors of change.



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