

**Defence for Children International (DCI) statement before the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with SRSG on Violence against children**

Defence for Children International (DCI) welcomes the opportunity to speak in this dialogue on behalf of the [NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty](#), comprised of [170 NGOs](#).

We thank the Special Representative for her continued engagement towards the eradication of deprivation of liberty of children and her efforts to secure follow-up of the [UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#).

We commend the Special representative for highlighting that the COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to engage in child-justice reforms and while we have witnessed children being released from places of detention, these efforts must be accelerated if we are to see a real impact on the rights of children.

Indeed, the NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty remains concerned that children continue to be deprived of their liberty in many settings around the world despite the detrimental effects on their mental and physical health.

We call on Member States:

- to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Study,
  - to implement good practices on alternatives to detention,
  - to release children from places of detention due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19,
  - and furthermore, to ensure an effective monitoring mechanism at the international level.
- In this regard, we highly encourage that deprivation of liberty is officially included in the mandate of the Special Representative, during its next regular renewal by the resolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee of the UNGA.

This engagement is crucial for the success of the process initiated by the Study presented at the UNGA in 2019 and its impact on the lives of millions of children deprived of their liberty all over the world.

Madam Special Representative, what recommendations can be made to ensure that children being released from places of detention receive the appropriate after-care that they need?

Thank you.