

Defence for Children International (DCI) statement before the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against children

Defence for Children International (DCI) welcomes the opportunity to speak on behalf of the [NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty](#).

We commend the Special Representative for highlighting that preventing and ending the deprivation of liberty of children are both urgent and possible. We thank the Special Representative for her continued engagement towards the eradication of deprivation of liberty of children, recognising that it is a form of violence that violates their rights. We welcome the Special Representative's engagement on ending child institutionalisation and for providing specific advice on ending all forms of deprivation of liberty of children during her country visits.

Three years after the Presentation of the Global Study in the UNGA, the NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty in partnership with the UN Inter-agency Task Force organised [the Global Forum on Justice for Children and Deprivation of Liberty](#), held in Mauritania in November 2022 which represented an opportunity to take stock of the work achieved on justice for children and deprivation of liberty, whilst mobilising key stakeholders to take action in front of unprecedented challenges.

The major outcome of the Global Forum is a **Roadmap for Action¹** which is officially launched today. This Roadmap aims at accelerating implementation of the recommendations of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, and at promoting concerted action and activities among Member States, UN Task Force members, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. Looking forward to this concerted action, it is important to continue to build on, and to use, good practices on alternatives to custodial measures, and gain momentum towards ending the deprivation of liberty of children.

We call on Member States:

- to comply with international human rights standards, including article 37 b) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 16-years-old without exception,
- and; to implement the recommendations of the [UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty²](#).

Thank you.

¹ <https://defenceforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GSCDL-roadmap-EN.pdf>

² United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, 2019
<https://childrendeprivedofliberty.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Full-Global-Study-Nov-2019.pdf>