ACTORS FOR JUSTICE
ADVOCATES FOR RIGHTS
THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT

DCI is a leading child rights focused and membership based grassroots movement placing all members on equal footing. Created during the International Year of the Child (1979), DCI coordinated the NGO input for the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Presently, DCI's mandate is to ensure ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted action directed towards effective implementation of the human rights codified in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols. DCI is also strategically based in Geneva to engage with the UN Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies mechanisms.

DCI has an active membership within key networks and fora, in particular Child Rights Connect and its different thematic Working Groups, the Global Partnership to end violence against children, the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) to End Child Immigration Detention, and Child Justice Advocacy Group (CJAG), among others.

OUR VISION

DCI takes actions to promote the individual and collective human rights of children at local, national, regional and international levels. 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 MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

We work to recognise every child as a rights-holder and empower children to claim their rights; raise awareness of children’s rights at local, national, regional and global levels; proactively and constructively inform and influence policy makers and service providers on children’s rights, at local, national, regional and international levels and to contribute to the development of legislation and policies and their implementation in accordance with the rights of all children as set out in the Convention.
OUR PRESENCE

Number of Staff and Volunteers

30,000

Estimated number of children directly supported by DCI every year

28,000

Over 30 National Sections

children, professionals and community members participating annually in DCI empowerment programs and activities

200

Number of Staff and Volunteers
WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT
PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

National Sections and Associated Members

International Secretariat
Geneva

Regional Desks

International General Assembly

International Executive Council

Advisory Committee

WORLD SERVICE FOUNDATION
Brussels

Monitoring
Direct services to children
Expertise and capacity-building
Advocacy and awareness-raising

Coordination
Support/capacity-building
International Advocacy

Coordination
Support
Regional Advocacy

Governance and Guidance

Fundraising
Project Expertise
OVERARCHING PRIORITY

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

• Our overall, long-term objective is to: **Promote justice in all its forms** (criminal, civil and administrative as well as economic, environmental, social and cultural justice) that respects children’s rights and meets their needs and to **defend children’s access to justice** and to justice systems that respect and guarantee their rights, empower and support children to claim all their rights, and are adapted to the needs of children.

• DCI National Sections operate **Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs)** where children receive psychosocial support and legal counsel and representation, in a child-friendly and centered approach. An estimated **30,000 children benefit yearly** from these direct interventions.

• DCI is an active founding member of the Child Justice Advocacy Group (CJAG). The group unites key international nongovernmental organisations working in the field of justice for children. Its position paper “**Bringing Children Home**” emphasises the rights of children set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and asserts that children must never be criminalised for their association with or membership in a terrorist group.
THEMATIC PRIORITIES

CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

- Until the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty was published, there was simply no reliable data on the numbers of children deprived of liberty in the world. Three years after its publication, the Global Forum, was an opportunity to define action for the coming years, as it was aimed at discussing and analysing new recommendations on the issues of justice for children and the deprivation of their liberty. DCI, as co-chair the NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty will ensure that this issue remains on the international agenda.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- In countries like Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Liberia, DCI actively contributes at country level to improve national legislation and domestic policy frameworks on preventing violence against children. DCI has led the drafting process of national bills aimed at improving response on issues such as gender-based violence and sexual violence.

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

- DCI ensures that the most basic needs of refugee children are met, particularly through its National Sections in Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy and Greece, by providing quality healthcare services and ensuring access to education and economic opportunities, as well as by defending their human rights as refugees and migrants. DCI, also systematically advocates against the use of detention in migration settings.

CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

- In the Central African Republic, DCI creates new life prospects for former child soldiers through education. In Colombia, DCI ensures that children are an integral part of the nation-wide peace-building process. In the occupied Palestinian territories and Yemen, DCI monitors child rights’ violations and provides legal assistance to children detained and tried before military courts.

- DCI published the Children in War report, a publication that listened to children’s concerns regarding meaningful participation, as well as providing them with safe pathways.
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

CHILD PARTICIPATION

• Child participation means involving children meaningfully in all matters that affect their rights and well-being. For their participation to be meaningful, children need support, particularly in the form of access to education, as well as special training and briefings.

• Support child led initiatives, such as the Children’s Parliament in Yemen, Child Rights Clubs in Bolivia and Girls’ Rights Clubs across West and Central Africa, to ensure that children are primary actors of change.

GENDER EQUALITY

• In 2019, we renewed our Code of Ethics and Gender Policy by establishing minimum standards that will ensure equal participation and access to resources to women and men at all levels of the organisation and to promote gender awareness and sensitivity.

• In 2021, DCI joined the She Leads consortium. Its objective is to increase sustained influence of girls and young women on decision-making and the transformation of gender norms in formal and informal institutions.
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