

PRESS STATEMENT #12/2014
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A step in the (human) right direction for children being deprived of liberty worldwide

Today, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially requested for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty to be carried out. In its Child Rights Resolution, the UNGA explicitly invites for the commission of “an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty”¹. This marks the success of the campaign calling for such Study and the commencement of its concrete implementation.

Defence for Children International (DCI) is proud to announce the success of its campaign calling for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which was officially launched in March of this year, with the support of over sixty non-governmental organizations (NGOs), States and United Nations human rights agencies and experts. The initial idea to launch such campaign derived from the clear observations of how deprivation of liberty is both harmful and costly, yet there remains an acute lack of information on the situation of children being detained worldwide.

The Global Study on Children Deprivation of Liberty is to encompass children involved in criminal justice systems, children in need of protection, children with physical or mental disabilities, children exposed to drug abuse, children detained with their parents, children in immigration detention, and those suspected of threats to national security. This Study will collect qualitative and quantitative data on the situation of children in detention, while also registering good practices, such as non-custodial measures, which work in the best interests of the child. It will take a collaborative approach with the involvement of a range of actors, including agencies of the United Nations agencies and experts, States, civil society organizations, academia and children themselves.

This Study is a major enterprise and a key instrument of change, which will finally check in on the status of the human rights of children being detained around the world. It will get the ball rolling on this stagnant and even regressive issue, and place it on the political and social agendas of countries worldwide. Through the Study, we will be able to analyze and improve current policies and practices, while serving the best interests of both the child and society at large. DCI looks forward to actively participating, along with all other relevant stakeholders, in such important task.

For more information, please visit the official website: <http://www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info/> and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ChildrenDeprivedOfLibertyCampaign>)

¹ A/C.3/69/L.24/Rev.1 (paragraph 51.d)