

THE GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

Statement of Support from Former Chairpersons of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

As former chairpersons of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, we enthusiastically welcome the UN General Assembly's invitation to the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth study on children deprived of liberty.

From our examinations of scores of state parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we have been encouraged by many states' efforts to uphold international standards and ensure that detention of children is only used as a last resort, for the shortest possible period of time, even in cases of severe offenses. However, we have also been gravely concerned that far too many children are subjected to excessive and punitive confinement that violates their rights and has a long-lasting negative impact on their psychological and social development.

We believe a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty will be an invaluable tool to inform our understanding of children deprived of liberty, and be a catalyst for more effective measures to end the arbitrary, unnecessary, or illegal confinement of children. Meeting this goal will improve the lives of countless children, and strengthen our societies.

We have seen first-hand the positive impact of previous UN studies on the impact of armed conflict on children and violence against children. These studies have prompted significant improvements in law, policy, and practice that have made a real difference for children.

We urge member states to support the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. We also encourage the appointment of a well-respected, independent expert to lead this important initiative, in coordination with relevant UN actors, civil society, and other stakeholders.

We look forward to a Study that will advance our knowledge base, support member states in protecting the rights of children, and most importantly, help give children the best possible future.

Signed,

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