

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 37<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

*Expert Level Meeting*  
**WORKING TOGETHER ON A GLOBAL STUDY  
ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY**

Date and Venue: 09:30 – 11:00  
Thursday, 8 March 2018  
Palais des Nations, Room XII

Organisation: NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Background:

There is an acute lack of comprehensive, disaggregated data and qualitative research on child detention. The exact number of children deprived of their liberty worldwide is unknown and it is hard to gain a comprehensive view of the length and conditions of detention, the reasons behind this situation and of the opportunities to genuinely benefit from non-custodial alternatives and from effective social reintegration strategies. As a result, States lack a clear indication of the magnitude and of alternative approaches that benefit both children and society.

To address these concerns, in 2014, the General Assembly commissioned for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty through its resolution A/RES/69/157. Framed by international standards, the Global Study will collect sorely needed qualitative and quantitative data to document the situation of children deprived of liberty, in all its forms. Moreover, the Global Study will identify good practices and formulate recommendations for action at national, regional and international level to prevent detention and reduce the number of children deprived of their liberty and put in place effective non-custodial alternatives to detention.

Objectives of the panel discussion:

- ✓ Present the institutional framework around the Global Study, including the UN Inter-Agency Task Force, the Group of Friends, the NGO Panel on the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and the network of academics/research institutions;
- ✓ Discuss the Global Study questionnaire that is being sent to States (as well as to other key stakeholders);
- ✓ Mobilize political support and commitments to support the effective implementation of the Global Study.

## PROGRAMME

### Opening and moderation

- **Ms. Lene Wendland, Chief, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** – *why the need for a Study and the important role of States, NGOs, etc.*

### Panel discussion:

- **Ms. Jo BECKER, Advocacy Director for Children’s Rights, Human Rights Watch, co-convenor of the NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty** – *the process so far (since 2014)*
- **Prof. Manfred NOWAK, Independent Expert for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty** – *the questionnaire & importance of responding*
- **Ms. Ann-Kristin VERVIK, Child Protection Expert, Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC)** – *violence against children deprived of liberty*
- **Ms. Virginia GAMBA, Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children affected by Armed Conflict (SRSG/CAAC)** – *children deprived of liberty in the context of armed conflict*
- **Questions and Answers**