



DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNACIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI

Human Rights Council 10th Session

Item 9: Report of the Working Group on People of African Descent

Oral statement presented by Defence for Children International (DCI), a non-governmental organisation with special consultative status.

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to express our appreciation to the Working Group for electing to focus its most recent session on the situation of children of African descent. We also welcome the Group's willingness to involve members of civil society in its expert panel.

The Working Group's report raises key recommendations for promoting and protecting the rights of children of African descent. We would urge the Working Group to continue systematically examining the rights of the child in its future reports, using the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We welcome the Group's conclusions on the need to prevent the overrepresentation of children of African descent in the justice system. DCI would like to emphasise that children of African descent are also vastly overrepresented as victims of murder and other forms of extreme violence. This discrimination is systemic and built into the very justice systems designed for protection. In its report, the Working Group emphasises the need for data collection to address some of these challenges. DCI would like to further recommend that the Group investigate practices of racial profiling within police forces and urge States to collect disaggregated data on the number of children stopped and remanded by police.

DCI appreciates the Working Group's recommendation to States to develop and implement restorative justice programmes for children in conflict with the law. In addition, DCI would emphasise the importance of training police and justice professionals on the discrimination of children of African descent, and the need to hire professionals of African descent to ensure that police forces themselves are representative of the communities with whom they work.

We would welcome any comments or ideas the Group might have in this regard.

Thank you,