

Human Rights Council (31st regular session)

Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue, SRSG violence against children

Delivered by: Defence for Children International (DCI)

In March 2014, the NGO Panel launched a campaign calling for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty which – following numerous lobbying activities – concluded successfully with the formal request to commission the Study through the United Nations General Assembly child rights resolution in December 2014 (A/RES/69/157 para52.d).

We welcome this decision made by the General Assembly and the subsequent decision of the Secretary General to designate the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG/VAC) to facilitate the initial consultations on how to take the Study forward in the lead up to the appointment of an Independent Expert.

We would like to recall that the key goal of the Study is to collect comprehensive, disaggregated data and qualitative research from across regions on the number and situation of children in detention – information which is sorely lacking. To this end, the Study will be technical and scientific in nature. Through the collection of sound evidence and reliable data, the Study will also provide a consolidation of promising practices and the formulation of recommendations to support the work of Member States, UN agencies and other stakeholders to more effectively implement international laws and standards.

It is crucial that the Study follows a collaborative and participatory approach, including all actors: UN agencies, Member States, civil society organizations, academia and children. An Independent Expert must be appointed to best broker cooperation and contributions to the Study by all relevant stakeholders – this would not be an ongoing mechanism, his or her mandate would end when the Study is complete. Follow-up could be carried out by existing mechanisms.

We encourage Member States to support the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty through voluntary contributions and to actively be involved throughout its effective realization, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

The NGO Panel is eager to collaborate and contribute to a Global Study that is carried out to the best extent possible, with in-depth data collection and analysis, and coordinated collaboration of all relevant stakeholders, guided by an Independent Expert.

Thank you.