



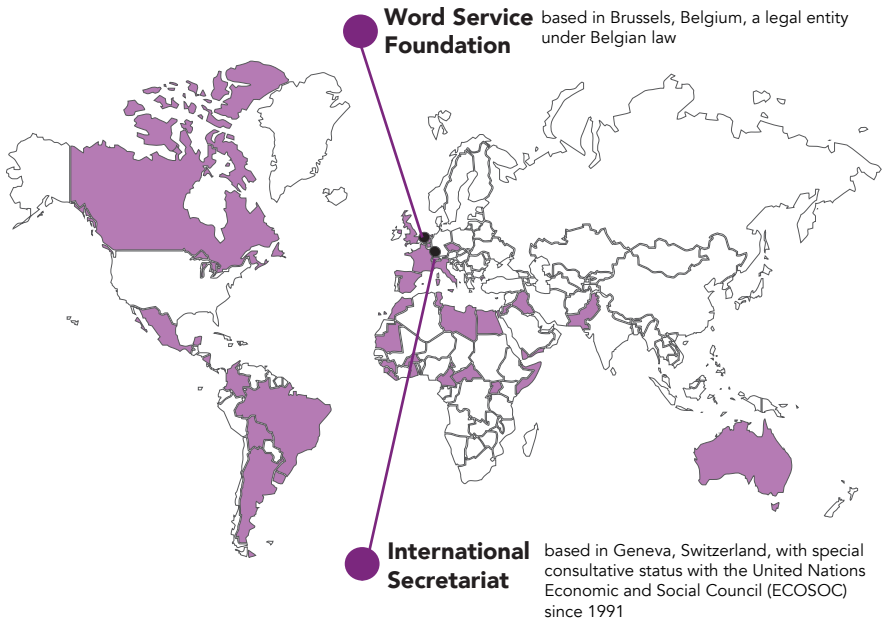
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
WORLD SERVICE

ACTORS FOR JUSTICE, ADVOCATES FOR RIGHTS



Defence for Children International (DCI)

Our presence



30,000

Estimated number of children directly supported by DCI every year

Over **35** National Sections

28,000

children, professionals and community members participating annually in DCI empowerment programs and activities

200

Number of Staff and Volunteers

Defence for Children International (DCI) The International Movement

DCI is a leading child rights focused and membership based grassroots movement placing all members on equal footing. Created during the International Year of the Child (1979), DCI coordinated the NGO input for the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Presently, DCI's mandate is to ensure ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted action directed towards effective implementation of the human rights codified in the UNCRC, by means of its effective coordination between different levels (through its National Sections on the ground, Regional Desks, International Secretariat in Geneva and World Service Foundation in Brussels).

DCI has an active membership within key networks and fora, in particular Child Rights Connect and its different thematic Working Groups, the Global Partnership to end violence against children, the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) to End Child Immigration Detention, and Child Justice Advocacy Group (CJAG), among others.

Our vision

We believe that children, as human beings, must be able to pursue a life in which they can exercise and enjoy their human rights with dignity, in a just and responsible society.

Our mission and principles

As a worldwide Movement, it is our aim to ensure ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted action towards the effective implementation of the human rights codified in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by means of effective, multi-level coordination and active membership within key networks and fora.

In all that we do, we aspire to orient our work so that it is transparent, accountable, socially-transformative and sustainable.

Our human rights & child centered approach



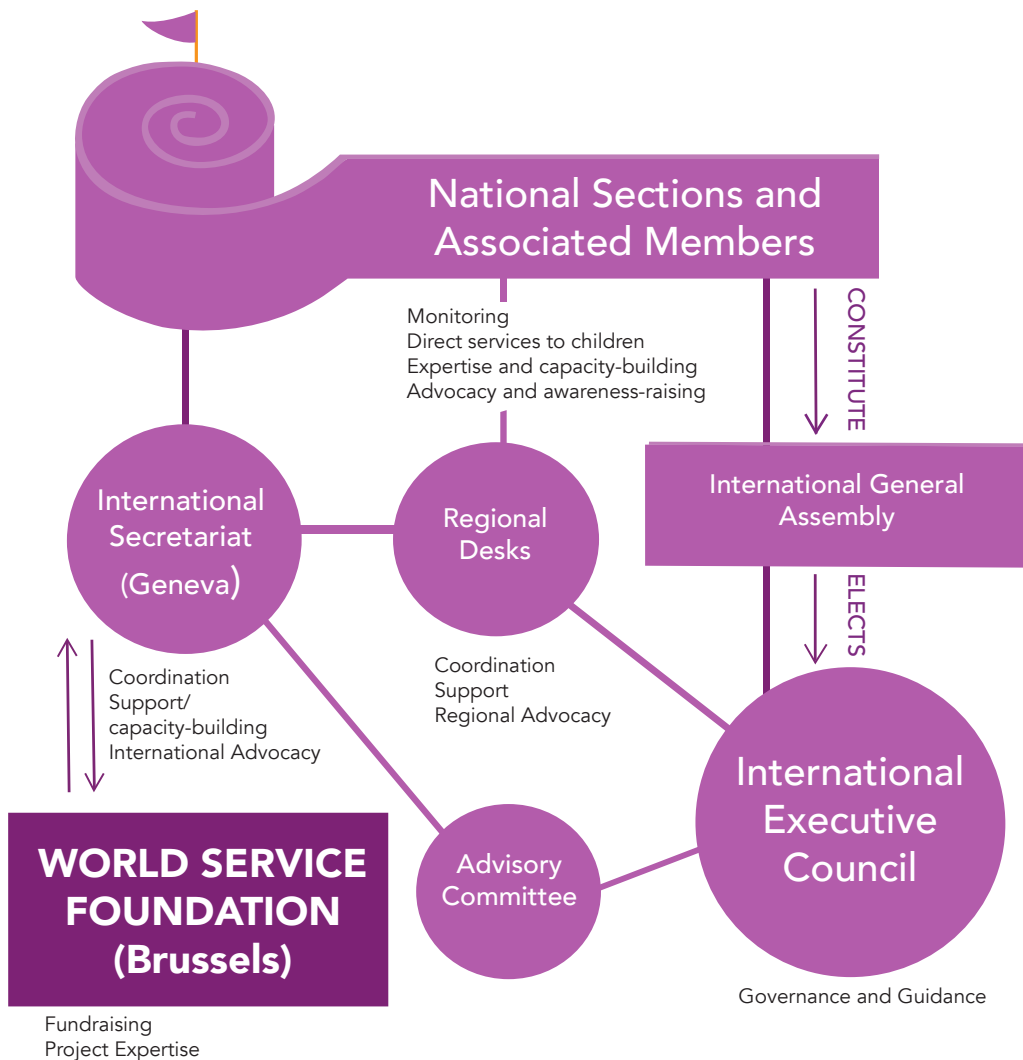
©DCI-Netherlands

As an international movement, DCI is composed of some 35 National Sections — all of which have their own legal status and are guided by local child rights defenders who are committed to upholding the rights of the child through strategic action and effective empowerment of children.

DCI National Sections are present across 5 continents and have an equal voice in the strategic actions the Movement leads. DCI's National Sections can consistently rely on the support of other DCI Sections, as well as relevant Regional Desks, the International Secretariat (Geneva) and the World Service Foundation (Brussels).

For nearly 40 years, DCI has actively contributed to protecting and promoting the rights of children worldwide. Over the years, DCI went on to become the “go-to” NGO for leadership, experience and technical expertise on the topic of Justice for Children: from the drafting of the UN Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (1985), to the follow-up to the UNCRC's General Comment No.10 on Juvenile Justice (2007), and up to the coordination of the NGO Panel for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (on-going).

Worldwide Movement Participatory Governance



The DCI World Service Foundation

The DCI World Service Foundation (DCI-WS) was established by the DCI International Movement in 2016 to strengthen its work and guide the implementation of the Movement's Strategic Framework by supporting the development of projects, mainly by providing technical expertise and conceptual advice to DCI's National Sections and Regional Desks.

DCI-WS is responsible for ensuring a systematic approach in the Movement's relations with donors, public and private partners, who would like to actively contribute to the growing impact of DCI's activities around the globe.

The DCI-WS is strategically located in Brussels, Belgium, to connect the Movement with EU and international partners and access related project opportunities within that fora.

The Foundation - a legal entity under Belgian law - is supported and directed by its Board consisting of three founding members (from DCI Belgium, DCI Netherlands and the International Secretariat in Geneva), as well as the DCI President and the four Vice-Presidents of the International Executive Council elected by the DCI International General Assembly (IGA).



How your contribution will impact children directly

In line with its Strategic Framework 2017-2021, DCI prioritizes the following thematic strands:

Justice for Children

"The use of deprivation of liberty, which is to be in conformity with the law and "ultima ratio" (...) remains a systematic and primary answer to offences committed by children, who are often involved in the justice system due to other reasons, such as poverty and migration", Jean Zermatten, former Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- DCI National Sections operate Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs) where children receive psychosocial support and legal counsel and representation, in a child-friendly and centered approach. An estimated 30,000 children benefit yearly from these direct interventions.
- DCI has established Regional Observatories in Latin America and in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It conducts visits to places of detention to monitor the situation of children deprived of liberty and to better inform policy makers on the realities and human rights violations which require attention.
- DCI co-convenes the NGO Panel for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty together with Human Rights Watch, for ensuring effective Civil society participation in the compilation of the Study (more than 140 NGOs form part of the Panel as of July 2017 www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info).

Without Defence for Children International there would simply be no Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Independent Expert entrusted to lead the Global Study

Prevention and Protection from Violence



"The children must, at last, play in the open veldt, no longer tortured by the pangs of hunger or ravaged by disease or threatened with the scourge of ignorance, molestation and abuse, and no longer required to engage in deeds whose gravity exceeds the demands of their tender years." – Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

- In countries like Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Liberia, DCI actively contributes at country level to improve national legislation and domestic policy frameworks on preventing violence against children. DCI has led the drafting process of national bills aimed at improving response on issues such as gender-based violence and sexual violence, and has worked hand-in-hand with professionals and communities to establish formal and informal child protection systems.

- On a daily basis, through its Socio Legal Defence Centres, DCI protects thousands of children from violence and develops their own life plan, through access to psychosocial support, healthcare and life-skills training.

Children on the Move

"The total number of refugees has increased by 59% over the last five years, from 10.4 million to 16.5 million. Half of the refugees are children under the age of 18..."
(UNICEF, A child is a child, May 2017)

- In West Africa, DCI is designing a sub-regional child protection policy for children on the move, while engaging globally with travel and tourism companies, to improve responses to sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children.
- DCI ensures that the most basic needs of refugee children are met (particularly through its National Sections in Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy and Greece), by providing quality healthcare services and ensuring access to education and economic opportunities, as well as by defending their human rights as refugees and migrants.
- DCI systematically advocates against the use of detention in migration settings (in line with international standards) and carries out relevant activities which involve - inter alia - the empowerment of children themselves.



©UNICEF

Children Affected by Armed Conflicts



©Beit Hanoun-Pixabay

"The impact of armed conflict on children is everyone's responsibility. And it must be everyone's concern." (Graça Machel-Mandela, UN Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, 1996)

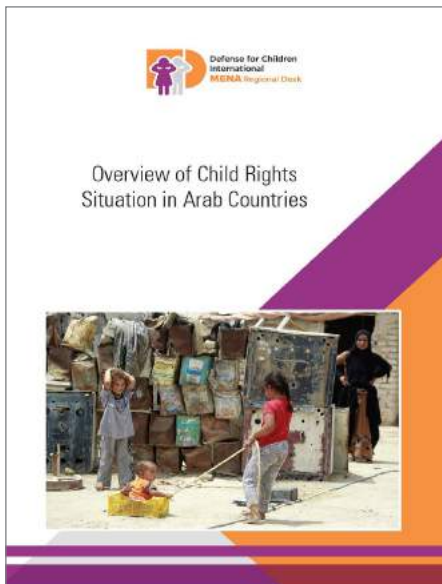
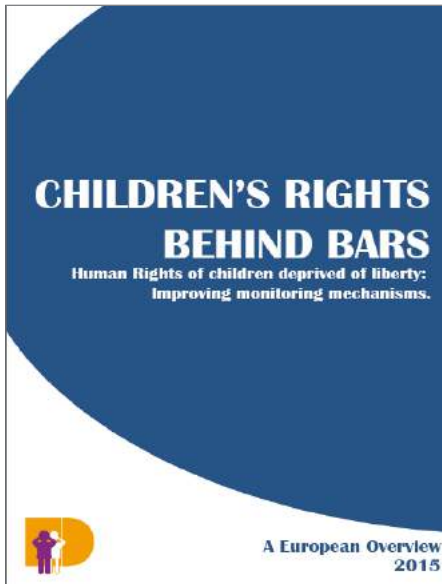
- In the Central African Republic, DCI creates new life prospects for former child soldiers through education and vocational training.
- In Colombia, DCI ensures that children are an integral part of the nation-wide peace-building process.
- In the occupied Palestinian territories and other countries affected by conflicts, DCI monitors child rights' violations and provides legal assistance and representation to children detained and tried before military courts.

Cross-Cutting Issues

In all of its actions, DCI consistently integrates three major cross-cutting issues: **children deprived of liberty, child participation and gender equality**. In this regard, DCI continuously works towards:

- Protecting the human rights of children deprived of liberty in various contexts (criminal system, institutionalization, migration, etc.) and promote alternative as prescribed in international law.
- Support child led initiatives, such as the Children's Parliament in Yemen, Child Rights Clubs in Bolivia and Girls' Rights Clubs across West and Central Africa, to ensure that children are primary actors of change.
- Achieving substantive gender equality, as established in DCI's Code of Ethics and Gender Policy, and ensure its full integration into specific projects, such as the Girls Advocacy Alliance project led by DCI Netherlands, to effectively empower girls in advocating for their rights.

DCI Publications: Research and reports based on field data





©DCI-Sierra Leone

Let's talk about it:

**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI)
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

1, rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 734 05 58

WORLD SERVICE FOUNDATION

Rue du Marché aux Poulets 30, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 203 79 08

- ✉ **Mr. Alex Kamarotos, director@defenceforchildren.org**
- ✉ **coordination-worldservice@defenceforchildren.org**
- 🌐 **www.defenceforchildren.org**
- 📘 **@Defence4Children**
- 🐦 **@DCIsecretariat**

©2017 Defence for Children International, All rights reserved ©Picture Cover Page: DCI-Colombia



**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
WORLD SERVICE**