

Ending Violence Against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems



From Words to Action

**Brussels, Belgium
October 1-3, 2008**



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

“No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable”

This is the key message of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children, the aim of which was to report on the scale of violence against children in five settings: home and family, schools, care and justice systems, the workplace and the community, and to make recommendations for combating the practice within each context.

The aim of DCI’s conference - **Ending Violence Against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems: From Words to Action** - is to address the Study’s recommendations for ending violence against children in institutions – and more specifically, in juvenile justice systems. While the UN Study found violence to be rife across all five social settings, the violence experienced by children in care and justice systems is particularly challenging as it remains hidden from the public eye and affects some of the most disadvantaged groups of children in society.

Institutionalised children, (including those in orphanages, prisons, juvenile detention facilities, reform schools) are often subjected to violence from staff and officials responsible for their well being, as well as from other prisoners in the case of police stations and detention centres for example. This violence can take the form of isolation, torture, beatings, harassment, rape, and humiliation. Moreover, the negative stigmatisation of these children fuels public apathy about violations of their rights, resulting in impunity for the perpetrators and public silence around the problem.

The UN Study has been crucial in drawing attention to these issues and making recommendations, but there remains an urgent need for concrete follow-up response and action. The objectives of the conference are thus to raise awareness, share best practices and build the capacities of NGOs to lobby their governments to act. This conference is structured with plenary sessions followed by thematic workshops and practical training to mobilise civil society in pushing for less words and more action in ending violence against children.

***PROVISIONAL
PROGRAMME**

Ending Violence Against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems: From Words to Action

Maison Notre-Dame du Chant d'Oiseau - Brussels, Belgium - October 1-3, 2008

Wednesday, 1 October <i>Understanding the Causes and Forms of Violence against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems</i>	Thursday, 2 October <i>From Findings to Solutions</i>	Friday, 3 October <i>Training</i>
Opening Session (9:30-10:00) Welcome and Keynote Speakers	Plenary Session (9:00-11:00) “Using International Monitoring and Complaints Mechanisms”	Training Workshops (9:00-12:00) 1. Follow up to the UN Study on Violence: How NGOS can engage with the Special Representative on Violence against Children
Plenary Session (10:00-12:45) “Violence against Children in Juvenile Jus- tice Systems: Causes and Current Trends”	Thematic Workshops (11:00-12:30) Plenary Session (13:45-15:45)	2. Follow up to CRC General Comment No.10 on Children’s Rights in Juvenile Justice
Plenary Session (14:00-16:00) “Forms of Violence against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems: Regional Contexts”	“Action to Combat Violence against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems” Thematic Workshops (15:45-17:00)	3. Urgent Appeals and Individual Complaints Mechanisms 4. No Kids Behind Bars! Campaign
Thematic Workshops (16:00-17:30)	Closing Session (17:00 - 17:30)	*** Workshops will be repeated again in the afternoon from 14:00-17:00

*Conference working languages are English, French and Spanish. Interpretation will be provided.

A detailed programme and registration details will be available soon!

**For more information, please contact: conference@dcj-is.org or visit
the conference website: www.dcj-conference.org**