



Concept note

Side event on the administration of juvenile justice
HRC24, 9-27 September 2013

The Restorative Approach: A Way to Implement the Aims of the Juvenile Justice System

The 2012 annual full-day meeting on Children and the administration of justice set up an important milestone towards the Human Rights Council's efforts in mapping out path to States compliance with articles 37, 39 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As for the 2013 meeting, mental and physical health perspective of children deprived of their liberty provided fruitful opportunity to exchange good practices and reaffirm pledges and universally agreed principles, in relation to General Comment n°10 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant non-legally binding international instruments.

Whilst resolutions on the administration of justice consistently remind States their international obligations, many challenges remain in both developed and developing countries to prevent juvenile delinquency and ensure effective protection of children in conflict with the law. Punitive approach focusing on custodial measures still prevails and media reports increase the tendency and the perception that a child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law does not deserve any respect for his or her human rights, including during the judicial proceedings.

Among the pressing challenges, the lack a child-friendly juvenile justice system, the trend of lowering the age of criminal responsibility, poor detention conditions in violation of international norms, constant recourse to deprivation of liberty, high recurrence rates, and social, family and professional reintegration mainstay deficiency.

In June 2013, the International Catholic Child Bureau organised in Paris an international Congress on Juvenile Justice and the restorative approach focusing on socio-educational measures to ensure that education and reintegration of the child is the primarily aim of juvenile justice systems. To assume a constructive role in society, a child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law needs positive and comprehensive institutional, administrative, private sector, social and community-based responses.

The side event provides space to deepen reflection and actions, and to promote genuine restorative legislations and practices aiming at respecting the rights of the child and effective reintegrating programs of children in conflict with the law. It is a plea for an administration of juvenile justice which considers that childhood is "entitled to special care and assistance", and "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care", in order to preserve his or her best interests. The presentations will be compiled for follow-up.

Date: 16 September 2013

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XXII

Time : 14:00 – 16:00

Panel:

Moderator:

H.E. **Ambassador** Laura Dupuy Lasserre, **Permanent Representative** of Uruguay to the **United Nations – Geneva**
Opening Remarks

Keynote Speakers:

Mr. Gerold Vollmer, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations – Geneva
Juvenile Justice: Progress and Challenges at the Human Rights Council

Ms. Ileana Bello, Director Defence for Children International, Geneva
Detention Conditions According to International Legally and Non-Legally Binding Instruments

Ms. Renate Winter, Expert Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRC efforts in Promoting a Child-friendly Justice System

Ms. Alexandra Martins, Crime Prevention Officer - Justice for Children Justice Section - UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna
Technical Assistance Efforts to Promote Restorative Justice for Children

Ms. Laurence Mourier, Juvenile Justice Program Coordinator for BICE, Brussels
Outcomes of BICE's 2013 International Congress: Pillars of the Restorative Approach to Juvenile Justice