

**26 June – BICE Congress 2013**

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE: what socio-educational approach?**

*With the patronage of Professor Maria FALCONE, sister of Judge FALCONE*

According to UNICEF, there are currently **1.1 million children in prisons worldwide**.

- Many of these children suffer appalling and undignified living conditions, with mistreatment sometimes bordering on torture. This 26th June, **United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**, will provide an occasion to reflect on this issue.
- For almost all of them – children in detention and awaiting trial, or those imprisoned for minor offences – prison becomes a training ground for re-offenders.

The situation is paradoxical, given that since the adoption of Convention on the rights of the child, international norms have moved towards increased protection of minors. However, the implementation of these norms by those states who have adopted them is far from optimal; there is a growing shift towards repression.

« *BICE has observed this evolution over several years. We need to move away from a general trend to treat these youths, particularly adolescents, as enemies of society, and set up a **system of justice based on education and rehabilitation**. This is the message we wish to send out* » (Alessandra Aula, Secretary General of BICE)

The BICE Congress is part of a vast program entitled **Childhood without bars**, underway in 9 Latin American and African countries. Its aim is to promote policies for childhood protection and civil society initiatives for the social and family rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law.

Without ignoring the complexities of the issue, representatives of academia, government, civil society, as well as field ombudsman from different world regions, will highlight the efficiency of alternatives to imprisonment, with a particular focus on **restorative justice**.

In France, a **bill on penal reform** is shortly to be the object of parliamentary debate, with several measures on juvenile justice. The upcoming congress is therefore extremely relevant.

*Event sponsored by the French Development Agency and the International Francophone Organisation*

*The Congress is open to the public (9H-18H)  
obligatory email registration :  
[congres2013@bice.org](mailto:congres2013@bice.org)*

*Place: Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs – Conference Centre*

### **About BICE - [www.bice.org](http://www.bice.org)**

Created in 1948, BICE is an international NGO, present on four continents, leading projects in 25 countries. BICE acts in an advisory capacity to the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, where it has a permanent representation. It has operational ties to UNESCO, and plays a participatory role in the European Council and the International Francophone Organisation.