

# IDC Advocacy and Campaign Building

Developing the advocacy and campaign capacity of members and the IDC, with a particular focus on children in detention and alternatives to detention.

## Advocacy and Campaign work

IDC members have consistently raised two key issues over the past three years:

1. The impact of detention on children.
2. The need for alternatives to detention.

The IDC has worked extensively over the past year on these issues through lobbying, submissions, research, media, member advocacy support and strategy meetings. This includes meetings and reports to the following national, regional and international bodies.

## Government meetings, submissions, research and media

### International

1. Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD). IDC's Position on Children in Detention raised in the Civil Society Forum, Philippines, October 2008.
2. Attendance at the 2008 UNHCR NGO Consultation, panelist in the Detention Monitoring session and submission to UNHCR on immigration detention priorities and recommendations.
3. Regional Representative attendance at the UNHCR Detention Workshop, November 2008 in Geneva.
4. Meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, in Sydney on 25 February 2009.

The IDC has met with and supported members working on detention advocacy, education and campaign strategies and initiatives in Australia, Belgium, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, UK and USA. We have also given extensive support to members around the world by email and Skype.

### Media

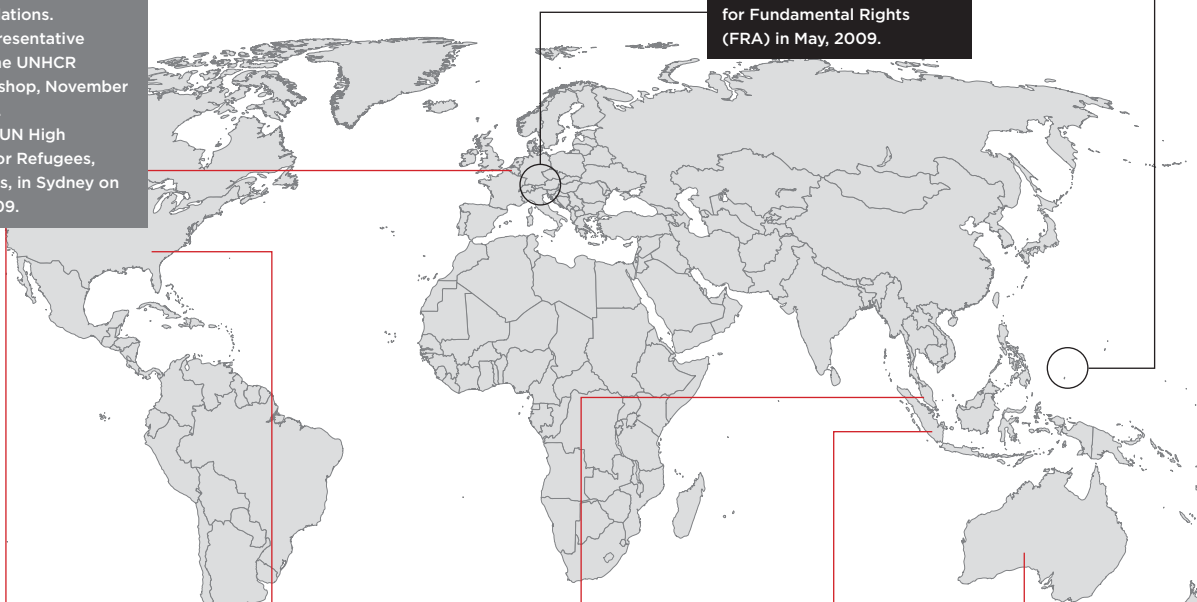
Press statements on the International Day of the Child, November 20, 2008, and Human Rights Day, December 10, 2008. Media coverage in Australia, Belgium, Japan and Mexico on children and alternatives to detention.

### EU

Submissions on alternatives to detention and best practice to: 1. Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population in November 2008; 2. UNCHR (Comments provided on the EU Amendment on Reception Conditions Directive in February 2009); 3. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in May, 2009.

### ASEAN

Drafting of a submission on the Rohingya push-backs for the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network in January-February 2009 (see page 8).



### Belgium

Meetings with and report provided to the Belgian Government in June 2008, including Annemie Turtelboom, Minister for Immigration and Asylum, and Marie Arena, Minister for Social Integration, Pensions and Large Cities, on the development of alternatives to the detention of children and families. Special parliamentary session held for the IDC Director to speak on alternatives to the detention of children, attended by 32 parliamentarians from all major parties. Meetings also held with the Immigration Department and Federal Agency Reception Asylum Seekers and the Head of the 127Bis Detention Centre.

### USA

Submission made to Dora Schiro, Special Advisor on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Detention and Removal of the Department of Homeland Security conducting an inquiry into alternatives to detention. Submission on the outcomes of alternatives to detention in Australia, April 2009. The submission focused on the significant changes and outcomes of Australia's detention policy, where children are no longer detained and community-based alternatives to detention have been developed with the input of civil society.

### Malaysia

Meetings with the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) in November 2008 and April 2009 to explore training for detention monitoring, detention standards and best practice with SUHAKAM and the Department of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Women, Family and Development for late 2009.

### Indonesia

Meeting with Indonesian Ombudsman and Human Rights Commission on immigration detention in the region. Participation in training session on the OPCAT and detention monitoring, run by Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Komnas Ham and Elsam, with attendance from Government officials, police and military in November 2009.

### Australia

Meeting with the Minister for Immigration's Immigration Detention Advisor and submission on the need for further development of alternatives to detention to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, Inquiry into Immigration Detention, in August 2008 and public hearing in January 2009.

### Research

The IDC has been involved in a range of internal and external research projects on detention issues over the past 12 months, including:  
IDC Reports: 1. Case management as an alternative to detention; 2. Impact of immigration detention on children in Florida, USA; 3. Briefing paper on detention in Japan; 4. Research undertaken to develop the IDC website and International Detention Monitor; 5. Global surveys on detention policy and practice and children in detention.  
Partner Research: The IDC has developed partnerships with Robyn Sampson of Latrobe University, Melbourne to develop the handbook on alternatives to detention; and Australian academic and author Dave Corlett to undertake research into children in detention.  
Member Research: The IDC has assisted many members in detention research over the past year including, the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) USA and Europe and Equal Rights Trust. We have also supported member research initiatives through sharing contacts, material and intellectual input by email and Skype teleconference.