

## Chronology of IDC institutional developments<sup>1</sup>:

- **September 2003** - NGOs discuss the idea of a coalition on the detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants at the PreExcom Consultations, with meetings on detention held in 2003 and 2004.
- **September 2005** - The Coalition formalized as a network, with a Steering Committee appointed for 3 years, coordinated by 2 volunteers and supported by the role of 13 regional representatives in 12 regions.
- **June 2006** – The IDC publicly launched, with a core position, mission statement and press release. LIRS donated US\$20,000 for the establishment of the IDC, which was held by JRS International, as the IDC did not have a bank account.
- **September 2006** – An initial strategic plan developed.
- **September 2007** – At the Annual Planning Meeting, the Steering Committee agreed to explore the IDC being hosted by another organization to develop the network as a formal not-for-profit, with funding, strengthened governance model and employ staff to achieve the objectives of the coalition. A funding submission to Oak Foundation was submitted.
- **May 2008** – An email sent to all members by Anna Gallagher and Melanie Teff outlining that 5 organizations from 3 countries had expressed interest in hosting the IDC and that Steering Committee had approved the development of a partnership with Oxfam Australia with the aim for the IDC to be incorporated by early 2009, pending funding. A proposed governance model of an International Advisory Committee and Governance Committee was flagged. It was also announced that Oxfam Australia appointed Grant Mitchell to act as an interim Coordinator for 3 months using the residual AUS\$16,000
- **June 2008** – The Annual Planning meeting held and the proposed new governance structure raised: “At present it will be necessary to have an executive committee appointed. Given that the organization will be based in Australia it will be necessary for two or possibly three people on that executive committee to be based in Australia. The executive committee will only be responsible for making basic operational decisions, e.g. finances and staffing, however the broader strategic decisions will be made by the broader representational advisory committee.”
- The meeting also explored the need for a 2-year strategic plan, in line with Oak Foundation expectations. “Need to develop a 2-year strategic plan- to be based on the existing strategic plan, last year’s annual meeting and this year’s meeting outcomes and the circulation of another questionnaire among members regarding the proposed work plan. Core elements of the work plan (circulated to members)- include Coalition, Campaign and Capacity Building”, with a focus on children, conditions and alternatives to detention.
- **August 2008** – Grant sent the Steering Committee an update of developments since his appointment, including a request for Steering Committee members to join an IDC Governance Working Group to develop the organization’s governance structure, together with a draft Terms of Reference for their input. The same week members were sent the survey for input into strategic planning, the minutes of the annual meeting and an outline of the proposed Governance Working Group.
- **August 2008** – Funding of AUS\$125,000 secured from Oak Foundation in late August, and Anna Gallagher emailed the Steering Committee to seek approval of Grant’s appointment as Coordinator, to be reviewed in 6 months when incorporated. A 2-year budget was submitted, both approved. Anna also announced the finalized members of the Governance Working Group;

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<sup>1</sup> Emails confirming these developments post 2007 are in the G&F Committee google group.

Melanie Teff, James Thomson, Andrew Galea Debono and Stephanie Cousins and Brendan Ross from Oxfam and herself. The group was to report back to the Steering Committee once legal advice was approved.

- **September 2008**- Probono legal advice sought from Maddocks, Global Survey completed, Strategic Plan drafted and member review concluded, with 177 members in 49 countries.
- **October 2008** –Following the completion of the Global Survey, a summary of findings were sent to members for comment on October 7<sup>th</sup>, which included: “A range of detention concerns have been identified as part of the findings of the 2008 IDC Global Detention Survey. The three core priorities identified by members, in line with the IDC Value Statement, being:
  1. Ending and limiting detention, particularly for children
  2. Improving the rights of detainees, the conditions of detention and monitoring of places of detention
  3. Developing and promoting alternatives to detention.

The survey confirmed both the interest in, and the need for the Coalition, to develop its work and support its members in seeking change for detainees. This includes making an impact on policy, practice and the lives of detainees by building organizational and member capacity and influencing decision-makers and public opinion on the rights of detainees and the need for alternatives to detention.

In light of these priorities, the majority of members want the Coalition to focus its work on three core strategic goals:

- 1) **Coalition Building** – Developing the Coalition and strengthening communication and information-sharing between members
- 2) **Advocacy and Campaign Building** – To develop the advocacy and campaign capacity of members and the IDC, with a particular focus on children in detention and alternatives to detention
- 3) **Capacity Building** – The facilitation of training, resource and skills-sharing and targeted partner projects with and between members, with a particular focus on members in the south.

The findings of the survey have been incorporated into the IDC Strategic Plan for member and Steering Committee consideration, and will provide a basis for further research and advocacy initiatives in the coming year.”

- **October 2008** The following week, a draft Strategic Plan and survey findings were provided to members for input by October 20<sup>th</sup>. Members were also informed of the funding approved from Oak, the appointment of Grant for 6 months, and the work being done to develop our governance structure.
- Following further input from members and the Governance Working Group, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, Grant sent the Strategic Plan and Governance Model to the Steering Committee for approval, which occurred in November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Governance Model included: “Given the changing nature of the IDC from a volunteer network to a formal incorporated organization, and the accompanying legal requirements in Australia under Victorian law for associations, a new IDC Governance structure has been developed for the Steering Committee’s consideration. The Governance Working Group have aimed to keep the structure as simple as possible given the IDC at present comprises of only one staff member and has limited resources to manage, while ensuring international and member representation. The proposed 3 levels of governance structure, below, will be reviewed after 18 months.
  - 1) International Advisory Committee (including regional representatives)
  - 2) Governance and Finance Committee
  - 3) Secretariat.”

This email outlined the need for 5 members to join the Governance Committee, including 2 members required to be Australian.

- **November 2008** The International Detention Monitor e-newsletter launched as the primary communication email mechanism with members, including IDC updates and news. From December 2008, these updates have been more operational in nature, including coalition, campaign and capacity building initiatives. In addition, special request emails have been sent, such as input into the Child Detention Survey, Annual Meeting/Side Meeting and other initiatives. Regional representatives have been cc:d to regional initiatives being developed.
- **February 2009:** Planet Wheeler Foundation provided AUS\$65,000 for core work towards our objectives, particularly children in detention.
- Final legal advice was sought, with the recommendation that the IDC become incorporate as an association in Victoria, with a Governance Committee. A Terms of Reference and Constitution, based on the IDC Governance Model and incorporated legal requirements in Victoria was completed and provided to the Steering Committee for approval on February 20<sup>th</sup>, together with the draft website. A list of 5 people interested in joining the Governance and Finance Committee was also provided:
  - Anna Gallagher (Advisory Committee)
  - Alice Nah (SE Asia Representative)
  - James Thompson (Aust/Pacific Representative)
  - Beth Eggleston (Oxfam Australia)
  - Mary Latham (Treasurer)
- In December Grant had advertised a vacancy for a Treasurer on OurCommunity, with Mary Latham expressing interest. Her CV and details were sent to the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee was asked to sign and fax or email approval of the Governance and Finance Committee and the Constitution and Statement of Purpose, so the organization could meet its legal obligations to become an incorporated entity.
- **March 2009:** By March 2<sup>nd</sup> a quorum of 9 signed approval forms had been received, as per Constitutional requirement 12.4, endorsing the Constitution, Statement of Purpose new Governance and Finance Committee, with their first meeting held that evening.
- As per the Constitutional requirement, 16.6.1, the Committee appointed the role of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and appointed Grant Mitchell Director, which was announced to Steering Committee and members, including on the website the following day, together with the Terms of Reference, Constitution and names of Governance and Finance Committee. Members were also invited to email expressions of interest to join the Advisory Committee, as there were 6 vacancies under the new structure, as well as Regional Representative vacancies in South Asia, Southern Africa and South America.
- The following week the papers were lodged for incorporation, with IDC Inc. becoming official on March 11, 2009.