

20 September 2013

Invitation

Expert Meeting on Alternatives to the Immigration Detention of Children

*Organised by the International Detention Coalition (IDC) with the support of the
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
and the Government of Liechtenstein*

Side event at the 2nd UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue
on International Migration and Development

Wednesday, 2 October 2013

Room 7 (NLB)

1.15 – 2.30

Dear Sir or Madam,

The impact and need for alternatives to the detention of refugee, asylum-seeker and migrant children continues to gain international attention. Given the detrimental effects that detention has been shown to have on the long-term physical and mental health of children, migrant children should not be detained because they or their parents, guardians or family members do not have legal status in a country.

The Most recently, the issue of children and human rights has been placed squarely on the agenda of the 2nd UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). Significant research and policy change has been undertaken in this area in a number of countries since the first UN HLD in 2006. Most notably, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has recently stated that:

“Children should not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their or their parents’ migration status. The detention of a child because of their or their parents’ migration status constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child. In this light, States should expeditiously and completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their immigration status.”

The International Detention Coalition (IDC), with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), would like to invite you to a side-event and discussion on alternatives to the immigration detention of children in New York on 3 October 2013.

The IDC will present a number of good-practice examples from states around the world who are exploring and implementing child-sensitive alternatives to detention (ATD) and will outline a model for child sensitive management of refugee, asylum seeker and irregular migrants outside of places of immigration detention. We will also discuss the development benefits of implementing ATD, including cost savings, more efficient migrant processing, and high rates of compliance.

We will also hear from the distinguished panellists regarding the human rights framework of migrant children in detention; state reporting on child detention and ATD at the

Committee on the Rights of the Child; and how governments are taking steps to avoid the immigration detention of children.

Speakers

- *Ms. Jyoty Sanghera*, Chief, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, OHCHR
- *Mr. François Crépeau*, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants
- *Govt. participant TBD*
- *Grant Mitchell*, Director, International Detention Coalition

Interpretation from English into French will be available.

We would value your participation and hope you will join us. Please confirm your attendance by emailing blewis@idcoalition.org.

Sincerely,

Grant Mitchell
Director



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International Detention Coalition

The International Detention Coalition (IDC) is a unique global network of over 250 non-governmental organisations, faith-based groups, academics and practitioners in more than 50 countries that advocate for and provide direct services to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in administrative detention. We are the only international organisation focused explicitly on immigration detention and alternatives to detention. With an international Secretariat based in Melbourne, Australia, the IDC works globally through Regional Coordinators in Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East & North Africa (MENA). www.idcoalition.org