



# International Detention Coalition

Human rights for detained refugees,  
asylum seekers and migrants

## IDC MEMBER REPORT 2011



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### Message from President and Director

The past year has been busy and productive for the IDC. The Secretariat has grown to five staff, membership has grown to over 250, partnerships and funding have increased and the work of the Coalition has further expanded in all regions. The guidance of our governance structure, both the Governance Committee and Advisory Committee, and support from our members, have been crucial.

This expansion and consolidation could not be timelier. The use of immigration detention continues to increase internationally, with devastating impact on the rights, dignity and wellbeing of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The increased regionalization of detention, with governments expanding and exporting their detention models across borders, highlights the growing need for targeted international advocacy work and the strengthening of regional civil society networks.

#### **Our message is simple: 'There are alternatives'**

The IDC remains the only international body working solely on immigration detention. Our reputation as a leader and expert in immigration detention issues and our constructive solutions

approach has been instrumental in getting alternatives to immigration detention on the international agenda. UN, government and civil society meetings, delegation visits and training have been successful in promoting and developing alternatives to detention at the international, regional and national levels. Our handbook: *There are alternatives*, is the most practical tool available on how governments can prevent and avoid unnecessary immigration detention. But we have much more to do.

The year ahead will see the IDC take our handbook to governments around the world, develop advocacy and capacity building projects with members in Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, and the launch of the global campaign against the detention of children.

We are very excited about the year ahead, and the growing interest and support in the IDC and its work for the human rights of people affected by immigration detention policies, practices and laws around the world.



Anna Marie Gallagher (President)  
Grant Mitchell (Director)

# IDC ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS JULY 2010–JUNE 2011

## 1. COALITION BUILDING

Develop the Coalition and strengthening communication and information-sharing between members

Achievement: The IDC is a stronger and more active global network and better able to support its members and people in immigration detention.

Activities included:

- Expanded Secretariat with 5 staff and 20 volunteers
- Core and Project funding received
- Increased membership across all regions to 250
- E-newsletter membership now 1,200, with a circulation of over 4,000
- IDC website averaging 10,000 hits per year



South East Asian Detention Workshop, Bangkok, 2010

*"Thanks to the IDC for all the work you are doing. It feels good to have friends to share concerns regarding detention. Up until our meeting I have felt very alone indeed. Now I can share with many." IDC member in Asia*

## 2. ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGN BUILDING

Develop the advocacy and campaign capacity of members and the IDC, with a particular focus on children in detention and alternatives to detention (ATD)

Achievement: The IDC has met more than 30 governments and been successful in putting alternatives to detention on the international UN agenda and increasing dialogue and development of alternatives to detention in Asia, Europe and the Americas. Members have been assisted in their advocacy and capacity building work in all regions, including greater collaboration between civil society, academia, NHRIs and UN agencies on advocacy initiatives. This collaborative work has impacted on detention policy in a number of countries, including the release of a number of vulnerable groups, such as children in Japan.

Activities included:

- ATD research completed and launched to 15 governments at the Global ATD Roundtable in Geneva in May 2011
- Extensive advocacy work undertaken with members including statements, submissions, research, media, member advocacy support and strategy meetings on alternatives to detention and children in immigration detention
- ATD training and advocacy undertaken in Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific, with further regions to follow
- International campaign against the detention of children being developed with members

*"At the roundtable on alternatives to detention in Seoul with the IDC, we had the very first discussion with the Japanese government on alternatives to detention. Some progresses in practice: The immigration started to release many detainees. No asylum-seeker children in detention now. We proposed the government start to have a regular meeting on alternatives to detention." Japan Association for Refugees (JAR), June, 2010*



IDC delegation visit to 127BIS Immigration Detention Centre, Belgium, 2010

*"I always really enjoy our delegation efforts! It's great an organisation like the IDC exists to take the lead on this, so we can contribute together to some progress globally on the issue of detention!" Pieter Stockmans, Flemish Refugee Action.*



### Put a CAP on immigration detention!

Emerging from two years' research and international advocacy work on alternatives to detention, the International Detention Coalition has completed: *There are Alternatives: A handbook on preventing unnecessary immigration detention*. The IDC has identified alternative to detention examples from around the world, combined

into a good practice handbook, including CAP, the Community Assessment and Placement model. CAP is a unique combination of mechanisms to prevent unnecessary detention with strategies for effective and humane case resolution in the community, reducing the financial and human cost of immigration detention. See following page for details. To download visit: [www.idcoalition.org/cap](http://www.idcoalition.org/cap)

### 3. CAPACITY BUILDING

Facilitate training, resource and skills-sharing and targeted partner projects with and between members.

Achievement: IDC members have been supported in their capacity building needs through training, sharing information and resources, including the development of training, tools, research and reports developed to support members in their work

Activities included:

- Global Mapping of regional capacity and advocacy needs completed
- IDC training material developed, including Standards, Monitoring, ATD, Psychosocial and Advocacy
- Training in Asia and Americas, including detention standards, monitoring and alternatives
- Planning underway for regional workshops in Asia, Africa, Middle East and North Africa and the Americas

*“I don’t think I can tell you enough times how incredibly impressed I am by what you’ve managed to achieve in the way of improving detention practices in the region.”*  
IDC member in the Americas



The East Asian Alternatives to Detention Roundtable, South Korea, April, 2010

*“In the Asia Pacific Region, the IDC has created strong momentum on advocacy concerning the rights of detainees. IDC has helped to create space for dialogue with governments on detention, which did not previously exist. Through training workshops and the dissemination of research findings, IDC has helped to lay the foundations for future change in detention practices in the region. IDC has been an invaluable partner to the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, providing leadership and expertise on matters concerning detention.”* Alice Nah, APRRN.

### ONGOING INTERNATIONAL WORK

- Regional Detention Workshops: The IDC is working hard to expand its support and development of regional networks in the coming year. The IDC are planning regional member and stakeholder detention workshops in Africa, Middle East, Asia and the Americas in the coming year, to undertake training and advocacy, campaign and network development with IDC members. Find out more details at [www.idcoalition.org/region](http://www.idcoalition.org/region)
- Campaign against the detention of children: The IDC is currently working with our members to develop a global campaign against the detention of children. Find out more details at: [www.idcoalition.org/children](http://www.idcoalition.org/children)
- Campaign to prevent immigration detention: The IDC will launch, train and lobby its handbook in every region in 2011 and is developing an international advocacy strategy on preventing unnecessary immigration detention. Find out when the IDC is coming to your region and use this opportunity to build momentum. [www.idcoalition.org/cap](http://www.idcoalition.org/cap)

#### International Detention Projects

The IDC is currently working on a range of global detention projects:

- **UN Mapping Project** - Mapping UN discussions and developments on immigration detention
- **Global Detention Access Mapping Project** - Mapping access to places of immigration detention aimed at developing a confidential referral mechanism, assist in individual case, advocacy and practice, policy and legal issues arising and identify the benefits of access, to encourage enhanced and open visitation, access and monitoring around the world.
- **Global Detention Survey Project** - The Global Detention Project and the IDC are collaborating on a regional survey project with members aimed at developing an international database on detention facilities, practices and policies.
- **Global LGBTI Detention Mapping Project** - The IDC and ORAM International are mapping international protection concerns for LGBTI in the immigration detention context, aimed at developing a public report and an international advocacy strategy.

#### IDC Regional Work:

The IDC’s work is divided into six regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and Middle East & Northern Africa (MENA). IDC staff coordinates regional work, including Grant Mitchell (International/Asia Pacific), Lucy Bowring (MENA/Africa), Katherine Wright (Europe) and Gisele Bonnici (Americas). Volunteer regional representatives further assist this work: Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh - Southern Africa; Lucy Kiama - Eastern and Western Africa; Grusa Matevzic - Eastern and Central Europe; Jerome Phelps- Western Europe; Nancy Perez - Central America; Andrea Black - USA; Janet Dench - Canada; Seta Hadesian - MENA; Anoop Sukumaran - Asia; James Thompson - Oceania. To contact visit: [www.idcoalition.org/contact](http://www.idcoalition.org/contact)



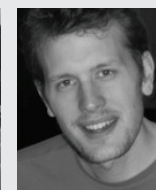
Grant Mitchell



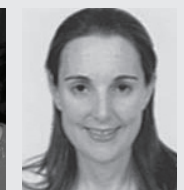
Lucy Bowring



Katherine Wright



Jeroen Van Hove



Gisele Bonnici

**Introducing the IDC Secretariat team:** Grant Mitchell (Director), Jeroen Van Hove (Campaign Coordinator), Lucy Bowring (Capacity Building/Regional Coordinator - MENA/Africa), Katherine Wright (Administration/Regional Coordinator - Europe) and Gisele Bonnici (Regional Coordinator - Americas).

# WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL DETENTION COALITION

The International Detention Coalition (IDC) is a global network with a membership base of more than 250 non-governmental organisations, faith-based groups, academics, practitioners and individuals working in 50 countries around the world. Coalition members research, advocate and provide a range of direct services to and on behalf of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.

## IDC mission statement

The IDC aims to promote greater protection of and respect for the human rights of those held in immigration detention and to raise awareness of detention policies and practices globally. The IDC also aims to promote the use of international and regional human rights standards and principles as they relate to the detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

## Background and vision

The IDC began in 2003 as an informal network following discussions between civil society groups at the annual UNHCR NGO Consultations in Geneva and became an incorporated non-governmental organization in 2009. Member meetings and consultations have identified three core priorities:

- Ending and limiting immigration detention, particularly for children

- Developing and promoting alternatives to immigration detention
- Improving rights, conditions and monitoring of detention facilities.

## Governance and operations

The IDC Secretariat is based in Melbourne, Australia and develops and implements IDC operations. Members and Committee meet annually in Geneva for the IDC Annual Planning Meeting to identify priorities and assist in planning for the coming year. The IDC Secretariat operations are overseen by a six-member Governance Committee: Anna Marie Gallagher (President), Alice Nah (Vice President), Beth Eggleston (Secretary), Mary Latham (Treasurer), James Thompson and Michelle Brane. A 24-member International Advisory Committee oversees strategic planning and policy, including the regional representatives, Governance Committee, representatives from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Refugee Council of the USA, Oxfam Australia, and Michael Gallagher (JRS International), Eleanor Acer (Human Rights First), Leslie Velez (LIRS) and Melanie Teff.

## WHY THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION

Governments around the world are increasingly using detention as a migration management tool, with hundreds of thousands of men, women and children detained in conditions falling below international standards and that deny basic rights. They are also cooperating bilaterally or multilaterally in attempts to restrict migration flows, sharing information and at times personnel in these efforts. NGOs and others working with detained people and on migration related detention issues, therefore, should share resources and information in order to promote greater respect and protection for the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Detention policies and practices in one region affect other regions. Therefore, there is a need to tackle the global picture and assess and address the regional and international impact of government policies and practices.

Join the international work on immigration detention:

- Visit our website: [www.idcoalition.org](http://www.idcoalition.org)
- Join our e-list or follow us on [www.twitter.com/idcmonitor](https://www.twitter.com/idcmonitor) or [www.facebook.com/idc.cap](https://www.facebook.com/idc.cap)
- Receive our e-newsletter for last news and developments
- Look up and share case studies on our alternatives blog
- Keep us updated about tools or resources and developments [info@idcoalition.org](mailto:info@idcoalition.org)
- Become a member of the Coalition

## Acknowledgements

The IDC would like to thank our members and friends from around the world for support over the past year. Particular thanks to members of our Governance and Advisory Committees, Secretariat staff, volunteers, and our many members around the world for their tireless support. Many thanks to thank our funders, Oak Foundation, Planet Wheeler Foundation, Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, Open Society Foundations, ANZ Foundation and The Myer Foundation. A special thanks to Oxfam Australia for their continued support.

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