

working towards a world **Without immigration** detention

IDC Annual Report 2022-2023

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IDC Annual Report 2022-23 0 Z ш Z 17

3	Letter from the Chairperson and Executive Director
5-15	Regional and Global Programmes of Work
16-17	Fundraising, Membership and Core Functions
18-19	New Publications and Research
20-21	Our Partners and Team
22-23	Financial Statements
24	Get Involved

This annual report contains information for IDC's financial year July 2022–June 2023.



Letter from the Chairperson and **Executive Director**

Over 2022 and 2023, we have witnessed large movements of people around the world in search of safety, livelihoods and the pursuit of a stable and fulfilling life. Conflicts, economic crises, violence and climate-induced displacement have driven record numbers of people to leave their homes. Despite global dialogue, many countries have hardened their immigration stances, leading to more stringent laws and policies. This includes the criminalisation of migration and one of its clear manifestations: immigration detention.

Rising migration and displacement

are juxtaposed alongside increasing

xenophobia and political resistance

to welcoming migrants. This only

illuminates the complex, ongoing

challenge of fostering global soli-

tion detention.

darity and action around migration,

human rights and ending immigra-

On the global stage, IDC continues

alternatives to detention (ATD). We

International Migration Review Forum

(IMRF) in May 2022 and successfully

supported a Human Rights Council

(HRC) resolution calling on states

to stop the arbitrary immigration

detention of migrants, end child

We also worked alongside UNICEF

and UNHCR to organise key events

as part of our co-leadership of the

on ATD. These included the first

child immigration detention and

a global peer learning focused on

ending child immigration detention.

In different regions, IDC took part in

key collaborations with civil society,

connecting and enhancing national,

regional and global efforts. Examples

of this multistakeholder approach

governments and other actors,

UN Network on Migration workstream

global youth consultation on ending

detention and prioritise ATD.

to be a key actor in promoting

supported the implementation

of state pledges on ATD after the



include our work in Thailand to support the implementation and evaluation of the ATD memorandum of understanding to end child immigration detention, as well as our work in Malaysia towards ending child immigration detention. Collaboration was also essential for IDC's work in Mexico to support local authorities at the southern border to enhance child protection and in our work towards ending detention for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Our coordination of the work of the European Alternatives to Detention Network has generated important conversations about how ATD works in practice and the importance of case resolution



Carolina Gottardo Executive Director

Alice Nah Chairperson, IDC Committee

at the regional level. We have also achieved national-level impacts in several European countries, including Belgium, Bulgaria and Italy amonast others, in partnership with network members.

IDC continues to strengthen partnerships with members in the MENA region—particularly across North Africa-and engage in capacity-building efforts. Meanwhile, we are re-envisioning our regional programme in Africa, with a focus on East Africa and Southern Africa. We have also carried out successful peer learning as a methodology for sustaining and scaling up promising migration practices-including the Regional Peer Learning Platform with representatives from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, and peer learning efforts in the Americas and Europe, including with government authorities and civil society actors.

This year we also started a new area of work exploring the use of digital technologies on immigration detention and ATD which we will continue developing next year.

Our publications this year encompassed a range of vital topics, including multiple reviews of promising practices and approaches in the MENA region, a study of public attitudes towards migrants and refugees in Thailand, research about the potential of ATD in the context of the European Asylum and Migration Pact and an investigation into the impact of long-term detention on Rohingya communities in Malaysia, amongst others.

During the year, IDC embarked on a strategic planning process that led to the development of our Theory of Change and our new Strategic Plan (2023-28), which will be accompanied by a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

We believe that the leadership of people with lived experience deepens IDC's strategic analysis and strengthens the relevance of our operational priorities. As such, we are pleased to welcome Hayat Akbari to the IDC Committee. Hayat has led initiatives in the Asia Pacific region for over a decade with civil society organisations and served as a Youth Ambassador for

"It is only through multistakeholder collaboration...that people will be able to move with rights and dignity."

IDC's Global Campaign from 2012-2017. We are also pleased to welcome onto our International Advisory Committee both Mishka Pillay, Board member of Freedom for Torture and Commissioner in the Commission on the Integration of Refugees in the UK, as well as Hasan Al-Akraa, founder of the Al-Hasan Volunteer Network and the Refugee Emergency Fund in Malaysia.

Movement building is also a key part of our new Strategic Plan and we continue supporting the rollout of IDC's leadership curriculum for people with lived experience in different regions, including Asia Pacific, MENA and the Americas.

During this reporting period, IDC officially became registered in the Netherlands—a step that promises

new avenues for development and access to vital funding opportunities. IDC's regional programs also expanded with the addition of new Regional Managers in MENA and Africa.

We strengthened our core functions with the addition of a role leading operations and another on learning, development and impact. This has translated into stronger internal systems that have enabled the work IDC does at different levels.

Diversifying our funding base has also been an important focus, and we successfully secured new funders, consolidating our partnerships with philanthropic trusts, foundations, government entities and UN agencies. We also began exploring the possibility of expanding our funding strategy to incorporate individual giving.

We would like to thank our members and partners for their steadfast and powerful efforts towards ending immigration detention and to express our ongoing solidarity with communities impacted by immigration detention.

Deepening economic inequalities, growing insecurities, climate-induced displacement and ongoing conflict mean that many people around the world will continue to turn to migration for their safety. It is only through multistakeholder collaboration and a shared commitment to social justice and human rights that people will be able to move with rights and dignity. To this end, we remain firmly committed.



Members of the IDC team gather in 2023

AFRICA

The past year has marked significant developments in IDC's activity and potential influence in Africa. With the appointment of IDC's Africa Regional Manager in January 2023, IDC has reinvigorated our programme in the region and is generating the information, connections and public profile needed to ensure impact in the region. This work-designed to address regional-specific issues around immigration detention with targeted advocacy and action-has this year been largely focused on East Africa and the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa.

A cornerstone of IDC's efforts in Africa this reporting year was the initiation of our regional mapping program. IDC embarked on a comprehensive research project exploring immigration detention and its alternatives, including promising practices, in seven countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa. Countries researched included Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

This exercise culminated in the creation of seven distinct country profiles and a regional report, which delineates the laws, policies and practices in these countries, as well as promising practices on ATD. It is envisioned that these insights will bolster advocacy efforts to safeguard refugees, migrants and other people on the move experiencing or at risk of detention in the region.

Recognising the importance of collective action, IDC has actively sought to engage with regional networks. We became members of the East and Horn of Africa Anti-Trafficking Network and the Kenya Civil Society Network on Anti-Trafficking. These affiliations will be instrumental in underscoring promising laws and practices to protect vulnerable migrants, including survivors of trafficking.

As a network organisation, IDC has been proactive in engaging regional members and building up our presence in the region. In 2023, we were invited to present the Vulnerability Screening toolkit—a collaborative effort developed with UNHCR to help identify and address vulnerabilities among migrants. We also convened a number of meetings to share IDC's mission, vision and objectives for Africa, including a discussion with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), emphasising the role of national human rights institutions in promoting ATD.

IDC partnered with one of our regional members– Lawyers for Human Rights–to establish a network for civil society organisations (CSOs) within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). This network serves as a peer learning platform, enabling CSOs to exchange knowledge on ATD and bridge the gap between national and regional advocacy.

The network's inaugural session—which took place in July 2023—saw participants delve into the nuances of implementing ATD in their specific contexts. IDC also presented success stories from other global networks to inspire and motivate members of this nascent network.



IDC 's Africa regional manager, Lilian Obiye, speaks at the UN Network on Migration panel discussion

In June 2023, IDC was invited by the regional UN Network on Migration to participate in a panel discussion. The dialogue centred on preparing for the regional reviews of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) slated for 2024.

IDC's participation facilitated a consensus among stakeholders to organise learning sessions. These sessions aim to share best practices in the GCM's implementation and document various approaches with the potential for sustainable impact.

This reporting year has been positive for IDC's work in Africa. Re-building a regional program from the ground up, IDC has made commendable strides in a short span. Through strategic collaborations, stakeholder engagements, reinvigorating networks and the establishment of new networks, IDC has fortified its commitment to ending immigration detention and upholding the rights of migrants, refugees and other people on the move in Africa.

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AMERICAS

In the face of increasing migration enforcement and pressing humanitarian challenges, IDC's work in the Americas has navigated a complex landscape to advocate for the rights of migrants, refugees and other people on the move.

During this reporting period, IDC strengthened protection, reception and care frameworks on the ground in Mexico—a nation which encounters the majority of migrant and refugee children in the region—furthering our work to end child immigration detention in practice. IDC also led the Action Group to End Detention of Refugees in a pioneering multi-pronged advocacy strategy aimed at reforming law and policy.

From <u>empowering youth community leadership</u> to fostering international collaborations around ATD, IDC's endeavours this year have been marked by precision, adaptability and a commitment to tangible change.

The tragic fire in the Ciudad Juárez detention centre on Mexico's northern border was a shocking reminder of the urgency of our mission. In response, IDC immediately convened <u>collective action</u> to ensure a coordinated response to the tragedy. This led to heightened activity on <u>our social media</u>, press releases in support of local organisations and a well-publicised statement about the event's impact. IDC and the Action Group raised the call for government action, <u>directly calling on legislative commissions</u> to prevent the repeat of such harm.

Prior to this tragedy, IDC co-hosted—alongside Mexico's Migration Policy Working Group—visits to <u>Ciudad Juarez</u> and to the <u>southern border gateway of Tapachula</u>. These visits aimed to raise awareness of detention conditions with influential members of the Mexican Congress. The peer-learning exchanges we hosted with local civil society groups that monitor detention centres took the ATD movement beyond Mexico City to the border regions, where detention is an even greater concern.

We have proactively engaged with the Mexican Congress with comprehensive training on detention and ATD, while also presenting pioneering legislative proposals to reform immigration laws that enable mandatory and automatic detention. These proposals are informed by the litigation, advocacy and lived experiences of detention shared in the Action Group to End Detention of Refugees and by IDC's new global research on detention and ATD, set out in two upcoming briefing papers.

IDC made history when we led the Action Group in submitting the <u>first amicus curiae brief on ATD</u> in a

Mexican case and subsequently a <u>second brief in</u> <u>collaboration with the Global Strategic Litigation</u> <u>Council</u>. These briefs tapped into global best practices and foregrounded the legal obligation of the authorities to consider ATD.

In March 2023, the Supreme Court of Mexico held that irrespective of the duration of an administrative procedure, <u>foreign nationals could not be held in detention</u> <u>centres beyond the 36-hour constitutional limit</u> established for administrative offences. This ruling was a culmination of years of legal and policy advocacy, marking a significant milestone in our efforts and those of our partners.

Over this period, IDC's long-standing engagement with federal, state and local child protection authorities in Mexico deepened thanks to multiple visits to the southern border states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz. As advisor to the newly-created state and local protection commissions, IDC provides targeted technical assistance and in-depth training, which to date has been instrumental in establishing state-level strategic and operational plans with multi-stakeholder participation.

"IDC's work in the Americas has navigated a complex landscape to advocate for the rights of migrants, refugees and other people on the move."

Meanwhile, our <u>peer-learning exchanges</u> with child protection authorities, frontline protection and public shelter staff in Mexico's southern states have led to <u>new perspectives and interest</u> in rights-based alternative care strategies for migrant children. These efforts to strengthen stakeholder coordination and <u>increase</u> <u>the referral of children</u> to appropriate community-based reception and care alternatives have been transformative, ensuring that national policies that protect the rights of migrant and refugee children are implemented.

Our research initiatives this year provided pivotal supporting evidence for these efforts. IDC monitored the coordination of state and local authorities in the implementation of national legal and policy protections for migrant and refugee children. We assessed existing reception and care in southern Mexico, and we documented evidence of rights-based models, including an independent living model with SOS Children's Villages. This model focuses on the transition processes for youth from shelter to independent living, providing insights into good practices, challenges and recommendations for authorities involved in these processes. This research is due for publication in late 2023.

Furthermore, our work with SOS Children's Villages Mexico to develop and pilot a Spanish-language youth <u>community leadership curriculum</u> has been welcomed as a positive way to support the empowerment of youth with lived experience and foster their participation in policy decisions that affect their lives.

As the leading organisation focused on ending detention and promoting the adoption of alternative care models, IDC made a significant contribution to the regional agenda. We worked towards furthering the transnational protection of migrant and refugee children through our participation in the Regional Migration Conference and its Regional Consultation Group on Migration. the UN Migration Network's fourth annual meeting.

IDC's engagement with US civil society groups working against detention led to an invitation to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) first ATD symposium. In this important forum, IDC presented promising ATD practices from other relevant contexts, following up with a visit from our Executive Director to Washington DC, meetings with the government, UN agencies and CSO partners, and a detailed technical advice submission at the



Americas Project Officer, Carolina Carreño, represents IDC at the Mexican Senate

Regional and Global Programmes of Work

Government's request.

A key member of the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations on Migration, IDC co-hosted a comprehensive technical training programme-Diploma on Migrant Children-to strengthen the protection capacity of participating public institutions and civil society organisations from 10 countries in the Mesoamerican region. Based on our work in the region, IDC presented insights on country and regional implementation of the GCM at Our projects and initiatives have been supported by various grants. Notably, UNHCR Mexico has supported IDC's advocacy to end detention for people seeking asylum, while the US Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration has funded IDC, alongside Asylum Access Mexico, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and the Institute of Women in Migration (IMUMI), in a consortium to strengthen protection of children on the move in Mexico. Hispanics In Philanthropy is currently funding new IDC research and community engagement that focuses on the psychosocial impact of immigration detention and the lived experiences of those at risk in the Mexico-Central America migration corridor.

IDC's work in the Americas was marked by strategic collaborations and significant achievements. Our multi-faceted approach, from high-level advocacy to grassroots engagement, has ensured that we remain at the forefront of the mission to end immigration detention and safeguard human rights in the region.

ASIA PACIFIC

Over the past year, IDC's advocacy, partnerships and ground operations have driven significant impact in the Asia Pacific and particularly in South East Asia, setting the stage for future initiatives.

IDC has continued to influence and facilitate regional peer learning with government representatives—a testament to our credibility in policy circles.

A landmark event was the second in-person peerlearning roundtable in Putrajaya, Malaysia, co-convened by IDC and the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration secretariat. The 35 participants—including officials from the governments of Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand—discussed implementing ATD and engaging people with lived experience. Feedback on both this and previous peer learning roundtables, provided by governments in the region, indicated their support for the platform and their willingness to continue engaging with it.

IDC hosted and supported a series of other events during this reporting period. We co-convened a crucial bilateral discussion between participants from Thailand and Malaysia, furthering understanding and cooperation, particularly on child protection frameworks and reform mechanisms. Our <u>regional Community of Practice meeting</u> offered a forum for the exchange of ideas and updates among civil society peers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

We co-convened a well-received <u>webinar</u> sharing how stakeholders—both within Thailand and globally collaborate to build a movement to end immigration detention. The webinar demonstrated how change has been achieved in the country, beginning with children and expanding ATD to other migrants in vulnerable situations.

IDC co-organised a regional CSO briefing on the ASEAN Framework on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration. This marked a critical juncture in our regional activity, ensuring IDC members and partners actively and meaningfully contribute to learnings and advocacy across national, regional and global forums.

In continued regional collaboration with OHCHR, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM, IDC co-convened the Asia-Pacific UN Network on Migration (UNMN) <u>ATD Thematic Work-</u> <u>stream</u>. As part of this, we launched the <u>Asia Pacific ATD</u> <u>mapping report</u> and <u>19 corresponding country profiles</u>, which detail the immigration detention landscape in the region and promising practice on ATD, and organised a series of knowledge exchanges on immigration detention and ATD. These initiatives have helped to foster a regional approach amongst CSOs and UN bodies centred around peer learning and mutual coordination.

In Thailand, IDC worked alongside UNMN co-chairs to establish the <u>Thailand Sub-Working Group on ATD</u>—a key coordinating and monitoring body examining solutions for effective and sustainable ATD. This working group has been coordinating with the regional and global UNMN working groups on ATD, showcasing holistic national, regional and global efforts in promoting ATD.

IDC supported the Thai-led Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP) to deliver its National Strategy 2023-24, which articulates shared goals and activities to end immigration detention. IDC strengthened and supported CRSP's work, co-organising a consultation on Rohingya displacement in Thailand and an event to coincide with World Refugee Day, focused on arbitrary detention and lived experience.

"Over the past year, IDC has reaffirmed its commitment to the rights of refugees, migrants and other people on the move in Asia Pacific."

In parallel, IDC worked with both the Thai Department of Children and Youth and UN agencies to plan community-based ATD for Rohingya children and their families. We also supported CRSP to organise a workshop focused on the government's National Screening Mechanism. The workshop led to the formation of an informal NSM Taskforce-made up of the Thai Immigration Bureau, UNHCR and CRSP-designed to increase coordination among agencies at the operational level.

IDC partnered with the Thai Department of Children and Youth and UNICEF Thailand to evaluate progress on the Government's memorandum of understanding on ATD for children (MOU-ATD). This evaluation will support the Thai Government to share lessons learnt and improve practice to maintain its position as a leader in this space.

We also contributed to a series of public engagement events designed to foster increased awareness of and sympathy for people affected by immigration detention in Thailand. This included a seminar with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote positive public sentiment, affirming the Government's pledge at the IMRF 2022 to tackle discrimination and xenophobia. We also partnered with a social change agency, Sidekick, to produce a <u>report on public attitudes towards refugees and</u> <u>migrants</u>, and mobilised civil society to host a hybrid roundtable that secured commitments from Thai political parties to uphold refugee and migrant rights.

In Malaysia, IDC and our members continued to work with the Malaysian Government towards releasing children from immigration detention into the care of NGO shelters, resulting in public commitments from the Home Minister. IDC played a crucial role, helping to develop a process for release, including legal provisions, shelter placement and case management mechanisms. We also engaged parliamentarians and organised ministerial briefings to align key messaging on ATD for children and coordinated with civil society to ensure international child protection standards were front of mind.

IDC led the rebranding of the 'End Child Detention Network' as the 'End Detention Network' (EDN) and the development of a new national strategy in Malaysia. The new strategy broadens the network's focus to incorporate wider immigration reform and advocate for a no-detention stance for any migrant or refugee, regardless of age and background.

IDC continues to coordinate the EDN, offering multifaceted support for this key civil society network, including convening regular meetings, data-driven stakeholder engagement strategies, coordinating submissions to parliament and interactions with key international and local allies.

Another key milestone was the development and publication of IDC's <u>report on the impacts of deten-</u> <u>tion on Rohingya refugees in Malaysia</u>. The report identifies the varied and cascading effects of detention on individuals, families and communities. It provides strategic recommendations for the safeguarding of the Rohingya and the broader refugee community in Malaysia. The report was released with a presentation at the Malaysian Parliament.

Our work in public perception has also advanced in Malaysia. IDC carried out a public research project and facilitated targeted discussions with EDN members and refugee advocates, addressing challenges and opportunities in public engagement. The meeting resulted in public advocacy and mobilisation strategies to combat negative perceptions.

IDC, in partnership with Akar Umbi Society, conducted a series of leadership and advocacy workshops under The Azalea Initiative. This programme provides personal development growth opportunities and supports the empowerment of young refugee women to be changemakers for their communities.

IDC also extended its advocacy to other countries in the Asia Pacific region during this period. We

supported partners in Japan to advocate against regressive changes to an immigration bill. Following the ruling by South Korea's Constitutional Court that their immigration detention system was unconstitutional, IDC briefed the National Human Rights Commission of Korea and other CSO network partners on ATD strategy.

Over the past year, IDC has reaffirmed its commitment to the rights of refugees, migrants and other people on the move in Asia Pacific through strategic advocacy, partnerships, research and strategic communications, reinforcing our vision of a world free from immigration detention.

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Asia Pacific Programme Officer, Hannah Jambunathan, speaks to participants at a community of practice event

EUROPE

Over the past year, IDC has directed various initiatives across Europe, with the clear-cut objective of reducing and ultimately ending immigration detention. The team's work has been diverse, deepening collaborations, expanding outreach and driving critical initiatives forward.

IDC's continued coordination of the <u>European Alter-natives to Detention Network</u> (EATDN) demonstrated the power of collective effort. In May, IDC convened the <u>network's annual meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria</u>. Discussions centred on policy influence, future initiatives and the network's Theory of Change. IDC also initiated planning for an online EATDN meeting focused on lived experience leadership and made several improvements to the network's communications channels, including the EATDN website and social media.

IDC conducted a study on the advocacy impact of the EATDN as a whole and also the impact of members' advocacy at both national and regional levels. This publication highlights substantial advocacy victories and features inspiring stories of change from our members. Contributors to the project shared candid insights into their progress, challenges and strategies, reinforcing our united front against immigration detention. The study also highlights future opportunities for change and makes key recommendations in this respect to civil society, governments and funders.

In November 2022, we bolstered the capacities of policymakers, judges and lawyers at an expert training session in Belgium. Collaborating with JRS Belgium and the Move coalition, IDC conducted sessions on international legal standards and case



The IDC team attends the 2023 European Alternatives to Detention Network meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria

management-based ATD, with a concentrated discourse on alternative care for children. This training was crucial in fostering a nuanced understanding of ATD protocols and their essential role in upholding human rights amongst legislative experts.

In association with the law firm Linklaters, the team embarked on a comprehensive research project focusing on ATD in the context of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. This ambitious research sought to uncover whether the proposals provided any flexibility for meaningful ATD, finding that the Pact arguably does not allow for ATD as presently drafted. The study analysed both current and proposed legislative frameworks, culminating in a <u>report</u> and associated <u>blog analysis</u> on the topic.

Our strategic litigation efforts have gained momentum with the planning and coordination of the Regional Consultation on Strategic Litigation on the Rights of Refugees and Migrants, which will take place in Warsaw in September 2023. To be held at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR) offices in coordination with the Global Strategic Litigation Council, this assembly will summon legal experts, advocates and academics from across Europe, focusing on detention and policy externalisation. The consultation will feature a series of interactive sessions, which will enhance collaborative strategies to help bring key cases to national-level courts and to the European Court of Human Rights.

Our participation in the European Migration Network Returns Expert Group workshop in Cyprus in June—both as speakers and as strategic consultants—showcased both IDC's commitment to practical solutions and examples of successful government and civil society partnerships. The workshop was attended by representatives from EU member states and also

"IDC has directed various initiatives across Europe with the clear-cut objective of reducing and ultimately ending immigration detention."

featured an IDC member—the Cyprus Refugee Council—presenting their ATD pilot, providing a real-world example of ATD in practice.

IDC's commitment to fostering dialogue and sharing expertise was evident in our organisation of two pivotal national roundtables. The first—held in February in Italy, in partnership with IDC members, Progetto Diritti and CILD—aimed at sensitising parliamentarians and local authorities to the realities of immigration detention and viable strategies for its reduction. Encouragingly, despite the prevailing political tensions in Italy, certain parliamentarians who participated are keen on bringing detention and ATD to the forefront during parliamentary sessions, prompting IDC to engage with in-country partners for necessary follow-ups.

The second roundtable—held in June in Belgium in partnership with JRS Belgium—convened key stakeholders, including cabinet members and public officers in Belgium, to explore durable solutions for migrants through case management-based approaches. Notably, representatives from the UK Home Office and Action Foundation, known for their recent ATD pilot, contributed as panellists. The roundtable underscored case management's role as a viable, effective ATD, emphasising IDC's commitment to practical, humane immigration strategies and helping to advance conversations with the Belgian government on ATD.

This reporting year was marked by a blend of targeted initiatives, strategic partnerships, key events and advocacy. With a solid foundation laid this year, IDC Europe is poised for more impactful endeavours in the future, championing the rights of refugees, migrants and other people on the move.

MENA

Reinvigorating our work in the MENA region in 2021-2022 was an essential milestone for IDC. Historically, the region has been challenging due to its complex socio-political dynamics. Immigration detention in many of these countries often ties in with broader issues of human rights and governance.

Despite these environmental factors, IDC has been diligent in pushing for the human rights of people affected by and at risk of immigration detention, in collaboration with local partners. We have established dialogues with key stakeholders, produced targeted research, developed strategic collaborations and delivered innovative capacity-building efforts. IDC has not only responded to the immediate needs of the region but has also laid the groundwork for sustainable impact in the years to come.

The reporting year commenced with IDC mapping immigration detention trends in the MENA region, with the aim of supporting peer learning among national governments. The research mapping, in partnership with UNICEF, focused specifically on protection and care practices for refugee and migrant children, with an emphasis on promising practices in ending child immigration detention.

As a result of this mapping, IDC produced detailed profiles of nine different countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, and a regional report that will be published in early 2024. The mapping also resulted in the development and publication of two separate policy briefings for governments in the region.

"IDC navigated the year with a judicious blend of research, collaborations, on-ground engagements and capacity-building initiatives."

The first policy briefing explored whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches to providing protection and care to children on the move, while the second focused on detailing community and family-based alternative care initiatives for refugee and migrant children in the region.



IDC presents the results of regional mapping of immigration detention trends in the MENA region

To share the research findings and spotlight promising practices in the region, IDC co-organised with UNICEF an event in Amman, Jordan in November 2022. This 3-day workshop was titled MENA Regional Children on the Move Cross Border Continuum of Protection and Care. The event brought together eight governmental delegations-Jordan, Egypt, Djibouti, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Sudan and Morocco-and included government representatives from immigration and interior ministries, as well as social affairs and family support authorities.

Building on our capacity-building work in the region, IDC collaborated with UNICEF to conduct a training workshop for CSOs representing eight MENA countries. Sessions aimed to equip participants with information on standards around immigration detention, introduce screening and referral mechanisms, discuss guardianship and placement options, and highlight successful alternative care examples.

IDC continued to build our connections in the region this reporting year. We conducted two national consultations in Lebanon and in Tunisia, meeting with different stakeholders and focusing on local, refugee-led and community-based organisations. We were also invited by the MADAR Network-a

project focused on displaced people in the central Maghreb region of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia-to participate as panellists in a public webinar focused on the challenges faced by migrant women in the context of immigration detention.

During this period, IDC also worked to adapt our Community Leadership Curriculum to the MENA context. The curriculum—which was developed with the goal of supporting the leadership and meaningful participation of people with lived experience of detention—is grounded in our belief that people with lived experience must be involved in shaping the policies that directly impact their own lives and communities.

The revised curriculum has been designed to be relevant to the unique linguistic, cultural, political



no onondo yalamaa yabandi bimahtan keymiklar norunlar yoldu. Torkiya'nın kondi iç onnilma de yoelegmaak zorunde kelmiglaidi.Sienie, temeoz orteoku caomda bli coosilikan onidiği 'tunuya'da, başartulu bir yab olmanin okul kaydi aQinalndo kondlutne çıhardığı ongi

and social nuances of the MENA region and to provide community leaders with valuable tools and strategies that resonate with their specific realities. During this reporting period, the MENA region's ever-evolving dynamics posed unique challenges. Particularly, the situation in Tunisia and the conflict in Sudan significantly influenced migratory dynamics. However, IDC remained agile, adapting to these changes and ensuring the mission's continuity.

In the MENA region, IDC navigated the year with a judicious blend of research, collaborations, on-ground engagements and capacity-building initiatives. The journey, marked by both challenges and achievements, marks a new chapter in IDC's presence in the MENA region.



MENA Regional Manager, Asma Nairi, speaks at an IDC/OHCHR workshop

GLOBAL

IDC's work at the global level continued advancing well during this year. Our engagement involved building on the effective work that we did at the IMRF in May 2022, including following up on pledges related to ending child immigration detention and promoting ATD.

Four governments–Colombia, Mexico, Thailand and Germany-presented pledges on ending detention and promoting ATD at the IMRF. IDC has been actively engaging with these governments to provide practical support on realising these ambitions.

Our collaboration with the UN Network on Migration continued to grow over the reporting year. IDC has continued to act as co-leaders of the UN Migration Network Working Group on ATD-alongside UNICEF and UNHCR-and we have been instrumental in shaping the group's workplan for 2023-25.

The group organised the **Fourth Global Peer** Learning on Ending Child Immigration Detention in May 2023, with representatives from 35 governments from different regions participating. The event was co-sponsored by Colombia, Mexico, Thailand and Portugal, and IDC secured government speakers from Mexico, the United States of America, Thailand, Indonesia and Australia.

Events such as this-using the global peer learning methodology-pave the way for more countries to take steps towards ending immigration detention, both for children and more broadly, including sharing promising practices at local, national and regional levels.

IDC also co-organised the first global Youth Consultation on Ending Child Immigration Detention

alongside the Migration Youth and Children's Platform, UNICEF, UNHCR and the UN Migration Network. The event brought together more than 100 young people from around the world to participate in conversations on ending child immigration detention and to help shape future policy and practice.

IDC presented at the UN Migration Network implementation meetings, which were a series of discussions designed to link global policy with regional and national initiatives. IDC was also present at the 2022 UN Migration Network annual meeting in Geneva, with our Executive Director as a key speaker. Additionally, IDC was influential in the work to develop measurable indicators for the implementation of the GCM, specifically those related to promoting ATD.

In 2022–23, IDC continued its role as a civil society representative at the steering committee of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). In this role, IDC co-drafted a Guidance Note on Engagement with Civil Society, Migrants and Communities, which aimed to increase civil society representation, ensure that the whole-of-society approach-one of the guiding principles of the GCM-is implemented, and enhance access to meaningful participation and funding for CSOs in MPTF-related projects.

During this period, IDC participated in a number of global events, including the UN Migration Network annual meeting. IDC was also invited to lead a session on child immigration detention at a conference in Mauritania, which commemorated the anniversary of the Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty.

"IDC's established relationships and excellent reputation with various actors, government missions and UN agencies have been instrumental in our achievements."

IDC also attended a high-level ministerial meeting in Egypt on migrants and refugee health, linking healthcare access with efforts to end immigration detention and promote ATD. The team also helped to facilitate a meeting in Geneva-organised by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)-about the meaningful participation and leadership of people with lived experience. This involved meetings between leaders with lived experience and several governments' missions to the UN.

Additionally, IDC was one of the expert organisations that supported the development of the UN Women Recommendations on the Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk in Migration Contexts. We participated in a key expert meeting in June 2022 and were instrumental in developing the draft recommendations.

Over the summer of 2023, IDC was active in shaping the language of Mexico's Resolution to the HRC. Our efforts ensured that the resolution—which concerns the human rights of migrants-includes references to ATD and ending child immigration detention. This addition to the HRC resolution marks a significant achievement, adding to the growing body of international documents influenced by IDC, and is a testament to our persistent efforts and the support of country missions to the UN.

During this reporting year, IDC also started a new area of work looking at the impact of digital technologies on immigration detention and ATD. We plan to do further research and advocacy on this issue.



Additionally, we continue co-leading the detention working group at the Global Strategic Litigation Council.

Over the course of 2022-23, IDC's established relationships and excellent reputation with various actors, government missions and UN agencies have been instrumental in our achievements. As we look forward to the next vear, we will remain at the forefront of international advocacy, working diligently to end immigration detention and safeguard the rights of migrants.

IDC Executive Director, Carolina Gottardo, speaks about ATD at the 2022 IMRF

FUNDRAISING, MEMBERSHIP AND CORE FUNCTIONS

Over the last year, IDC has undertaken a journey to enhance core functions, striving for greater efficiency, relevance and increased sustainability in a rapidly changing environment. The primary goal has been to diversify our funding base and strengthen the strategy and delivery of our core functions—including operations, learning and impact, and communications—to ensure that IDC operates effectively to achieve its mission.

We have been laser-focused on fundraising this year and have made excellent progress on diversifying IDC's funding base, securing new donors, developing new partnerships and exploring different sectors. The challenging trend in the reduction of core funding continues, accompanied by an increase in project funding. IDC has responded with efforts to increase cost-effectiveness and full cost recovery, including more realistic budgeting efforts. This has resulted in a solid income throughout the year, plus careful expenditure patterns, which have ultimately been reflected in excellent financial results.

"The significance of IDC as the world's leading movement to end immigration detention gives us a unique space in the global discourse."

IDC's membership forms the heart of the organisation and we have been focused on deepening the value we offer. This year saw IDC enter into the early stages of our 5-year membership strategy (2023-28), successfully enhancing IDC's membership infrastructure by digitising the application process and organising a new system for member management. We have also improved member communications, updating policies and strengthening onboarding processes.

This year, IDC has developed a new framework to ensure effective implementation and assessment of our strategic initiatives. This includes bolstered reporting mechanisms and increased accountability, creating a more effective framework for all funders and stakeholders. This ensures that our partners have a clear picture of the change their support is facilitating.

IDC has also strengthened our finance and administration function, including the introduction of an in-house bookkeeping role and optimised functionality of our accounting tools. The implementation of a Human Resources Management System has automated various HR processes, streamlining our internal operations. All of these initiatives are aligned with our broader strategic goals for sustainability and organisational strength.

The significance of IDC as the world's leading movement to end immigration detention gives us a unique space in the global discourse. The last year saw IDC begin to fully embrace this opportunity in our external communications as we sought to expand our audience by more consciously targeting the interested public.

IDC's new communications objectives for the period 2023-24 outline tactics for enhancing brand recognition and reputation, building our public profile and adding value for members, supporters and the impacted communities at the core of our work. As part of this, IDC began a rebranding process in 2023, with revisions to visual identity, messaging and external channels, including website and social. IDC's relaunch will mark a deliberate strategic shift towards garnering public support and strengthening our wider influence through communications.

Over the past year, IDC has enhanced our fundraising, membership and core functions to amplify our positive impact, ensuring that we are expertly positioned to achieve our mission of ending immigration detention for good.





Alternatives to Detention in the Proposed EU Migration Pact

On 23 September 2020, the European Commission published a Migration and Asylum package consisting of several legislative proposals and non-legislative accompanying documents, which it communicated to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions for consideration. As of June 2023, the Pact remains subject to ongoing scrutiny.

This scoping paper considers the viability of ATD, principally as understood in the 'wide' sense, in the context of the Pact as currently drafted. Findings suggest that, while it is implied within the various instruments that immigration detention will continue to be subject to the principle of 'last resort', the Pact arguably does not allow for ATD as currently drafted.

Available Language: English



REPORT

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HOST

Evaluation Report: Thailand ATD Program

IDC partner HOST International successfully piloted an effective, community-based ATD in Thailand by working in partnership with government, civil society and community. Between 2019 and 2021, HOST's community-based case management programme has challenged immigration norms, influenced thinking in ATD and supported 211 children and 110 adults to transition out of detention and into Thai society. In partnership with IDC, this evaluation was conducted during 2021 and 2022, and highlights the successes of HOST's community-based case management programme and the lessons learned. It also provides recommendations for specific interventions in relation to the urban refugee context in Thailand.

Available Languages: English



MENA Policy Brief: Community & Family-Based Alternatives

Based on the same analysis, this policy brief focuses on detailing community and family-based alternative care initiatives for refugee and migrant children in the MENA region.

Available Languages: English, Arabic

Impact of Prolonged Immigration Detention on Rohingya Families & Communities in Malaysia



In 2017, a violent security crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State triggered the largest exodus of Rohingya in recent history. At the time, the Malaysian government took a vocal stance against the persecution of the Rohingya, positioning themselves as supportive and sympathetic to their plight. However, as growing numbers of Rohingya have sought irregular means of travelling to Malaysia to reunite with family and community members, levels of public and political tolerance in the country have waned. The Malaysian government has increasingly adopted a securitised and frequently ad-hoc approach in responding to Rohingya and other refugee communities. This has included more boat pushbacks, more frequent immigration enforcement raids, and the immediate, arbitrary and indefinite immigration detention of many Rohingya in Malaysia.

Previous research has documented the ways in which Malaysia's laws and policies are applied towards Rohingya and other refugees. However, less attention has been paid to the ways in which Rohingyas experience these policies and the means by which they have responded to corresponding threats to their safety and security. This research report focuses on how Rohingya families and communities have been impacted in the immediate and longer-term by Malaysia's harsh and indefinite immigration detention policies. It also provides strategic and relevant recommendations for increasing access to protection and services for Rohingya refugees in Malaysia, not least the need for ATD and a refugee-, survivor-centred approach in policies and responses at both national and regional levels, in line with international protection and human rights standards. This research was undertaken by IDC for the Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRiA) project, an initiative of the Danish Refugee Council, the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, the Mixed Migration Centre, Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia, HOST International and the Geutanyoë Foundation.

Available Language: English, Malay

IDC Strategic Plan: 2023-2028

Available Languages: English

The Study of Thai Public Perceptions Towards Migrants and Refugees

The Study of Thai Public Perception Towards Migrants and Refugees seeks to understand if one's acceptance of migrants and refugees is influenced by proximity to people, surroundings and beliefs; and if so, what forms of communications could mobilise empathetic groups into action.

Available Language: English

IDC Theory of Change

This document provides an overview of IDC's Theory of Change, describing what IDC believes needs to happen to end immigration detention and the work that IDC does to contribute to this goal. As a global organisation, IDC works in a range of different contexts to address specific local, national, regional and global opportunities and challenges. This Theory of Change provides an overarching strategic direction that brings together these different strands of work. It is a living document that will be reviewed and updated according to evolving realities.

Available Languages: English, Spanish

MENA Policy Brief: Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approaches

With the aim to support sharing among governments in the MENA region, IDC and UNICEF conducted a research mapping to analyse trends and identify promising protection and care practices for refugee and migrant children. This policy brief focuses on detailing whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches to providing protection and care of refugee and migrant children in the MENA region.

Available Languages: English, Arabic

IDC also contributed to the following publications and resources this year

Submission to the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (UN SPT) on Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) draft general comment 1 on places of deprivation of liberty

A Summary of the Consultation Forum for Children & Youth Affected by Migration Toward the National Plan of Action on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration

Video introduction to HOST's Community-based Protection Programme in Thailand

Human Lives Are At Risk In Migration Governance Systems That Center Immigration Detention

Best Interests of the Child: Ending Immigration Detention of Children in Thailand–Fletcher School of Law

Driving change and ensuring sustainable impact. Reflections from the 2023 European Alternatives to Detention Network meeting

Working to Uphold People's Rights in the Digital Age of Migration Policy

Peer Learning: A Methodology Towards Sustaining & Scaling Up Promising Migration Governance Practices



International

Theory of Change

Detention

Coalition

International

Strategic Plan

2023-2028

International Detention Coaliti

Detention

Coalition

This document provides an overview of IDC's Strategic Plan, outlining the specific issues IDC will focus on during the five-year period between 2023-2028. The plan outlines our strategic priorities, what we want to achieve and how we plan to get there. It is designed to complement IDC's overarching Theory of Change.

OUR PARTNERS & TEAM



IDC would like to thank our members and partners around the world for their continued support this year. Particular thanks go to members of IDC's International Advisory Committee and the IDC Committee, who give of their time so generously and enable us to make our collaborative efforts effective and global in scope. Additionally, the generosity and commitment to collaboration of all our members and partners enables IDC's network to achieve far more than any single organisation could. Thank you all for your vision, energy, commitment and willingness to share your knowledge.

During the 2022-2023 financial year, IDC's committee members included:

IDC Committee

Hayat Akbari, Committee Member (from November 2022) Christina Fiahlo, Committee Member Anne Harrison, Treasurer Evan Jones, Deputy Chairperson Dr. Alice Nah, Chairperson Dr Champa Patel (until November 2022) Dr. Melissa Phillips, Secretary Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh, Committee Member Sebastiaan Van Der Zwan, Committee Member

International Advisory Committee

Eleanor Acer Hasan Al-Akraa Jenny Collins-White Alejandra Macias Delgadillo Oktay Durukan Gretchen Kuhner Solomon Wasia Masitsa Nabeelah Mia Mishka Pillay Anderson Selvasegaram Melanie Teff

Funders

Most importantly, we thank our funders who continue to share our vision of a world where immigration detention no longer exists and people who migrate live with rights and dignity: <u>Centre for Multicultur-</u> al Youth, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP), IOM Thailand, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Porticus Foundation, Robert Bosch Foundation (RBF), The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), UNHCR Mexico, UNICEF MENA and UNICEF Mexico along with donations from private individuals and from staff members who participate in conferences.

Our Team Members

During the 2021-2022 financial year, IDC team members included:

Elizabeth Alvares, Americas Programme Support Officer Gisele Bonnici, Americas Regional Coordinator Carolina Carreño Nigenda, Americas Childhood Project Officer Chawaratt Chawarangkul, Southeast Asia Programme Manager Vivienne Chew, Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator (until April 2023) Hannah Cooper, Europe Regional Manager Mary Cruse, Communications Coordinator (from May 2023) Silvia Gómez, Global Advocacy Coordinator Carolina Gottardo, Executive Director Mario Guido, Europe Programme Officer (from November 2022) Hannah Jambunathan, Asia Pacific Programme Officer Mia-lia Boua Kiernan, Operations and Development Manager (previously Communications Coordinator) Pablo Loredo, Americas Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (until January 2023) Amera Markous, MENA Regional Coordinator (until February 2023) Diana Martínez, Americas Programme Officer Asma Nairi, MENA Regional Manager (previously MENA Programme Officer) Lilian Obiye, Africa Regional Manager (from January 2023) Pia Solf, Finance and Administration Coordinator Laura Kubeil Webb, Bookkeeper (from January 2023) Min Yamada Park, Impact, Development and Learning Coordinator (previously Asia Pacific Programme Officer)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

International Detention Coalition (IDC) continues to focus on maintaining a strong financial position in order to be able to consistently maximise impact. In 2023, we have continued to diversify funding sources and this has led to an expansion of activity within different regions.

IDC reported a small surplus of \$32,704, which has been earmarked for activities in the coming financial year. Revenue was \$1,730,658, a small reduction over the prior year. There were \$571,323 in unspent grant funds at the end of the year, most of which will be spent on activities during the first six months of the new financial vear.

Expansion of activities to new regions has resulted in additional expenses, with new team members contributing to higher employee costs and higher direct activity costs.

Cash and reserves balances remain strong with the intention to maintain six months expense coverage as a safeguard against unexpected events.

Anne Harrison

Treasurer, IDC Committee, International Detention Coalition

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTION COALITION INC. **REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

OPINION

We have audited the financial report of International Detention Coalition Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of International Detention Coalition Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

(i) giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and

(ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in

Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

EMPHASIS OF MATTER - BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

WE DRAW ATTENTION TO NOTE 1 TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT, WHICH DESCRIBES THE BASIS OF ACCOUNTING. THE FINANCIAL report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Registered Entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The responsible persons of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

At IDC, we use AI tools to aid the generation of content, including editorial, video and imagery. All outputs are produced and iterated by IDC staff and contractors in line with our AI ethics code.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023	

Ν ASSETS **CURRENT ASSETS** 5 Cash and cash equivalents Trade and other receivables 6 Other assets 8 TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS NON-CURRENT ASSETS Property, plant and equipment 7 8 Other assets TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL ASSETS LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES Trade and other payables 9 Employee benefits 11 10 Other liabilities TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL LIABILITIES NET ASSETS

EQUITY Accumulated surplus TOTAL EQUITY

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	NOTE	2023 [\$]	2022 [\$]
Revenue	4	1,730,658	1,864,984
Finance income		47,994	_
Other income	4	18,560	13,729
Employee benefits expense		(1,155,512)	(1,006,010)
Depreciation expense		(4,208)	(3,965)
Other expenses		(594,734)	(313,346)
Foreign exchange losses		(10,054)	(15,326)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		32,704	540,066

Statements Financial

OTE	2023 [\$]	2022 [\$]
	903,084	1,461,544
	556,016	24,279
	72,054	16,179
	1,531,154	1,502,002
	7,806	6,050
	51,785	7,236
	59,591	13,286
	1,590,745	1,515,288
	21,962	30,506
	121,758	128,830
)	571,323	512,954
	715,043	672,290
	715,043	672,290
	875,702	842,998
	875,702	842,998
	875,702	842,998

GET INVOLVED

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of IDC and join the world's leading movement dedicated to ending immigration detention.

- Engage in dialogue on immigration detention and how to end it
- Access tools and training designed to help you
 advocate against immigration detention
- Connect with other individuals and civil society organisations working for change in your region

Find out more about how to become an IDC member.

TRAINING

IDC team members are international experts on alternatives to detention and advocacy against immigration detention. We provide a variety of specialised training courses for governments, UN agencies and civil society organisations.

Interested in learning more? <u>Get in touch</u> or check out our <u>free online toolkit</u>.

STAY IN TOUCH

Delivered quarterly, IDCs newsletters are a rich resource filled with compelling news, inspiring stories and dynamic multimedia content. Each edition is designed to keep you informed and connected to the global movement to end immigration detention. <u>Subscribe today</u>!



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