World Alliance of YMCAs and Defence for Children International (DCI)

INVITATION

“Education and Psycho-social Support as Tools for the Genuine Reintegration of Children and Youth in Conflict with the Law”

Parallel Event, 10th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

12h00 – 14h00, 19th March 2009, Palais des Nations, (Room to be announced)

12h00: Informal lunch
13h00: Panel discussion, followed by Q&A

It is estimated that over one million children and youth world-wide are deprived of their liberty, frequently in conditions that constitute degrading and inhumane treatment. Even once their sentences have been completed, many of these children and youths face continued violations of their human rights, by not receiving appropriate after-care or support to reintegrate with their families and communities.

This Parallel Event will explore how education, skills training and social and psychological preparation can be used to promote the genuine and meaningful reintegration of children and youth in conflict with the law. There will be a one-hour panel discussion followed by an opportunity for dialogue and questions from all participants.

This event is unique in that we will hear from experts and professionals in the field and from young people themselves. We hope to create the conditions for a truly interactive dialogue where we can find real solutions to this urgent problem.

Panellists will include:

Mr H. Kotrane, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and of the CRC Task Force on Juvenile Justice

Mr. Kotrane will outline some of the difficulties associated with the reintegration of children and young people including the negative stigmatisation of former young offenders, the lack of positive success stories in the media, and the absence of a human rights approach to reintegration. He will share recommendations for action to be taken by governments, juvenile justice professionals, and media to ensure the healthy reintegration of children in line with the core principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

YMCA Youth Advocates from South Africa and UK

Young people with real life experience in the juvenile justice system will share testimonies about their rehabilitation and reintegration experiences. What type of education or training did they receive in preparation for their return to society? What could have been provided to make this transition easier and what recommendations would they have in this regard?

Mr A. Hazizaj, Executive Director, DCI Albania

DCI Albania is one of few NGOs in the country to work with young offenders, and recently launched two initiatives for reintegration and rehabilitation. Mr Hazizaj will share some of the lessons learnt and other good practices of NGO interventions in this field.