

CONCEPT NOTE

PANEL DISCUSSION ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

*on the occasion of the presentation of the report to the General Assembly
on the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty
by the Independent Expert*

DATE & VENUE:

Tuesday, 08 October 2019, 6:15 pm

Danny Kaye Visitor's Center, UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza (44th Street between 1 and 2 Avenues)

BACKGROUND:

Childhood is when children develop their personality, their emotional relationships with others, their social and educational skills and their talents. For children, deprivation of liberty means depriving them of their childhood.

Placing children in institutions and other facilities where they are, or may be, deprived of liberty is difficult to reconcile with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Article 37b CRC clearly states that deprivation of liberty of children shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

Deprivation of liberty means deprivation of rights, agency, visibility, opportunities and love. The Global Study contributes to the ultimate goal of the Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind and, in particular, to leave no child behind bars. Depriving children of liberty has an impact on their development, and on their ability to lead healthy and constructive lives in society – leaving not only a permanent mark on their lives but also on society at large.

To address this situation, in December 2014 the United Nations General Assembly invited the United Nations Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty ([A/RES/69/157](#), paragraph 52. d). In October 2016, Manfred Nowak was designated as Independent Expert to lead the Global Study development. The Independent Expert submitted his final report on the Study ([A/74/136](#)) to the General Assembly and will present it during its seventy-fourth session on 8 October. The event is organized to mark this occasion.

OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Present the key findings of the Global Study
- ✓ Mobilize support for the effective follow-up to the Global Study and its recommendations, and its dissemination across regions
- ✓ Create a new momentum for children's rights in the context of deprivation of liberty, making the invisible children deprived of liberty seen and heard

PROGRAMME:

6:15 pm – *“Musicians for Human Rights” (Children’s Choir)*

Opening

Video on the Global Study (provided by Human Rights Watch)

- **H.E. Ambassador Jan KICKERT**, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations
- **Volker TÜRK**, Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Coordination
- **Najat MAALLA M’JID**, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children / Chairperson of the United Nations Task Force on the Global Study
- **Henriette AHRENS**, Director of Programmes a.i., UNICEF
- **Simone MONASEBIAN**, Director, New York Office, UNODC

Report to the UN General Assembly of the Global Study

- **Manfred NOWAK**, Independent Expert leading the Global Study
Presentation of the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

Video: Voices of Children (provided by Terre des Hommes)

“Musicians for Human Rights” (Children’s Choir)

Panel Discussion: Deprivation of Liberty is Deprivation of Childhood

Moderated by **Virginia GAMBA**, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

- **Manfred NOWAK**, Independent Expert leading the Global Study
- **Ben MAJEKODUNMI**, Chief of Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section, OHCHR
- **Jo BECKER**, Co-chair of the NGO Panel on the Global Study
- **Ann SKELTON**, Chairperson of the Advisory Board for the Global Study / Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Sima SAMAR**, Right Livelihood Award Laureate

“Musicians for Human Rights” (Children’s Choir)

8:30 pm – Reception

Please **RSVP** by 3 October to Mabel Mutoro at mmutoro@unicef.org