

PUBLIC LIVE-STREAM

# Experiences of working with and for children deprived of liberty: making the invisible visible

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Online Global Classroom



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## Experiences of working with and for children deprived of liberty: making the invisible visible

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 deprivation 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 guiding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. 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.

In the context of this year's Global Classroom on the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, this high-level panel, moderated by Verónica Gómez, President of the Global Campus of Human Rights, is to bring the practical implementation of the Global Study to the forelight. The experts will be sharing their experiences working for and with children deprived of liberty and the GC students will have the opportunity to ask the experts questions based on the respective research they have done on the Global Study.

The High-level panel discussion will commence after a presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the Global Study and presentation of its Executive Summary by Manfred Nowak, Independent Expert leading the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights. The presentation and the High-level panel will be publicly live-streamed.

This High-level Panel Discussion will be open for external participants to join via live stream. Please register at <https://forms.gle/68acaZUWaGi1XJNL8>

For any further questions, please contact Manu Krishan: [manu.krishan@gchumanrights.org](mailto:manu.krishan@gchumanrights.org)

### THE PANELISTS



#### MANFRED NOWAK (AUSTRIA)

Manfred Nowak is Professor of International Law and Human Rights at Vienna University and Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights. He has been appointed as Secretary General of the GC/EIUC in January 2016. He served in various expert functions, such as UN expert on enforced disappearances (1993-2006), UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2004-2010), judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996-2003) and Vice Chairperson of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (2013-2018). In 2016 he was appointed Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.



**NAJAT MAALLA M'JID (MOROCCO)**

Najat Maalla M'jid is a Medical doctor in Pediatrics who serves as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. She was appointed to the role by Secretary-General of the UN António Guterres in May 2019. M'jid previously served as the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Children Pornography from 2008 to 2014. Furthermore, she leads and coordinates the UN High-Level Interagency Taskforce (UNITF) of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

**FELIPE GONZALEZ MORALES (CHILE)**

Felipe Gonzalez Morales is the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. He was the former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2010-2011), where he also served as Commissioner and Rapporteur on Migrants and Refugees between 2008 and 2015, as well as Rapporteur on Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, United States, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. He is Professor of Public International Law at the Diego Portales University in Chile, where he is also director of the Master in International Human Rights Law. He has been Director of the Center for Legal Research and founder and first director of the Center for Human Rights of the Diego Portales University.

**KARABO OZAH (SOUTH AFRICA)**

Karabo Ozah is the Director at the Centre for Child and an extraordinary lecturer in the Department of Private Law of the University of Pretoria. She obtained her LLB and LLM in Child Law (cum laude), as well as a Certificate in Advanced Labour Law from the University of Pretoria. She started her legal career as a candidate attorney at the University of Pretoria Law Clinic, in 2005 and joined the Centre for Child Law in 2007. Karabo appears regularly in the High Court and had her first appearance in the Constitutional Court in 2016.

**BENOIT VAN KEIRSBILCK (BELGIUM)**

Benoit Van Keirsbilck is trained in social work and children's rights. He is the Director of the Belgian section of Defence for Children – International (DCI) and the former President of the International Executive Council (International board) of DCI. He is one of the founders and member of the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Rights of the Child (CIDE) which gathers 4 universities and 2 NGO in the French part of Belgium. The CIDE organises a University degree and conducts academic research on children's rights. Finally, he is Chief Editor of the Journal of Children's Law (Belgium) and member of the Advisory board of the UN Global Study on children deprived of liberty. Benoit also represents the NGO Panel of the UN Global Study co-convened by DCI and Human Rights Watch.