

# UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty: Sub-regional Launch

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Future Africa  
University of Pretoria, South Africa

In collaboration with

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## 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 (CRC), which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Article 37(b) 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. To address this situation, in December 2014 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) invited the United Nations Secretary-General (SG) to commission an in-depth Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty ([A/RES/69/157](#) §52.d). In October 2016, Manfred Nowak was appointed as Independent Expert to lead the Global Study. The Independent Expert submitted his final report on the Study to the General Assembly and presented it during its seventy-fourth session ([Resolution 72/245](#) §37). Following the presentation of the UNGA report relating to the Global Study to the UNGA Third Committee in New York on 8 October 2019, and the presentation of the comprehensive version of the Global Study to the UN in Geneva on 19 November 2019, it is pivotal for the findings of the Study to be presented in the different regions of the world and discuss the best way forward in implementing the findings and corresponding recommendations.

## Overall objectives and purpose of the Global Study Launches

- Present the Global Study findings, conclusions and recommendations and discuss the most effective mid-/long- term follow-up strategy;
- Share best practices within the country/region;
- Facilitate the discussion and development of an initial National Action Plan (NAP) by engaging relevant stakeholders;
- Support key-stakeholders with plans for future capacity, by means of trainings and consultations

## Participants

The Independent Expert, together with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, hosts this one-day Global Study Sub-regional Launch to which key stakeholders from all members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union representatives as well as the Indian Ocean Island States have been invited to discuss and strategise the implementation of the Global Study recommendations and discussions around effective long-term follow-up. The event is open to participation from State representatives and other relevant stakeholders from the Southern African region to allow for an inclusive process. Participants include States, UN Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and academics.

08:00 Buses depart from Fortis Manor Hotel and Protea Hotel in Hatfield

08:30 – 09:00 Conference Registration

09:00 – 09:30

Opening by **Prof Stephanie Burton**, Vice Principal: Research and Post-Graduate Education, University of Pretoria and **High-Level Representative of the Government of South Africa**

09:30 – 10:15

Keynote Address by **Justice Albie Sachs**, Former Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

10:15 – 11:00

Human Rights Watch video on the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty  
Presentation of the United Nations Global Study by Independent Expert, **Prof Manfred Nowak**

11:00 – 11:15 Health Break

11:15 – 12:00

Presentation of the African Region by **Prof Benyam Mezmur** and **Prof Ann Skelton**, Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

12:00 – 13:15

Statements of the SADC Government Representatives on the status and progress regarding deprivation of liberty of children within their respective countries and initial plans on implementing the Global Study recommendations

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 Buses depart (HRDA Class of 2019 and Alumni for Xenophobia Event)

14:15 – 16:15

Parallel Breakout Sessions

16:15 – 16:30 Health Break

16:30 – 17:30

Reporting back to the Plenary by Rapporteurs

17:30 – 17:40

Terre des Hommes Child Participation video

17:40 – 18:00

Closing Plenary Session and Way Forward

18:00

Buses depart for Cocktail Dinner, 'Born Naked' Theatre Performance and Discussion at Brooklyn Theatre (*Greenlyn, Shop 21, Thomas Edison St, Menlo Park*)