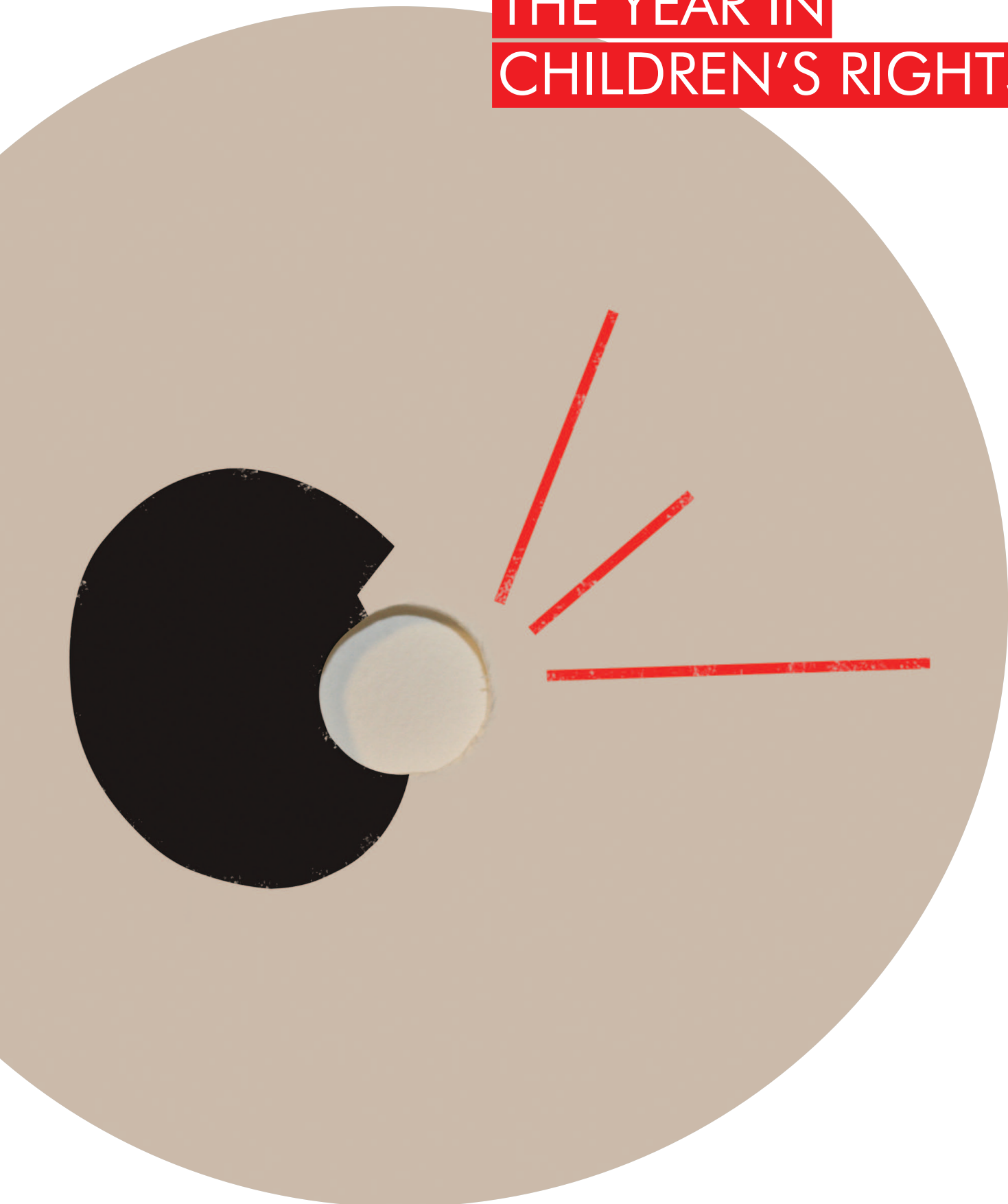


THE YEAR IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



About CRIN

Children have human rights too, not because they are “the future” or “the adults of tomorrow”, but because they are human beings today.

Our organisation

Child Rights International Network - CRIN is a global research, policy and advocacy organisation. Our work is grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our goal

A world where children’s rights are recognised, respected and enforced, and where every rights violation has a remedy.

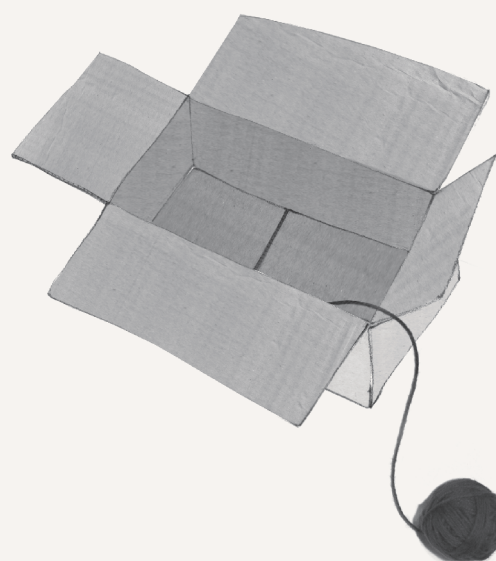
Our beliefs

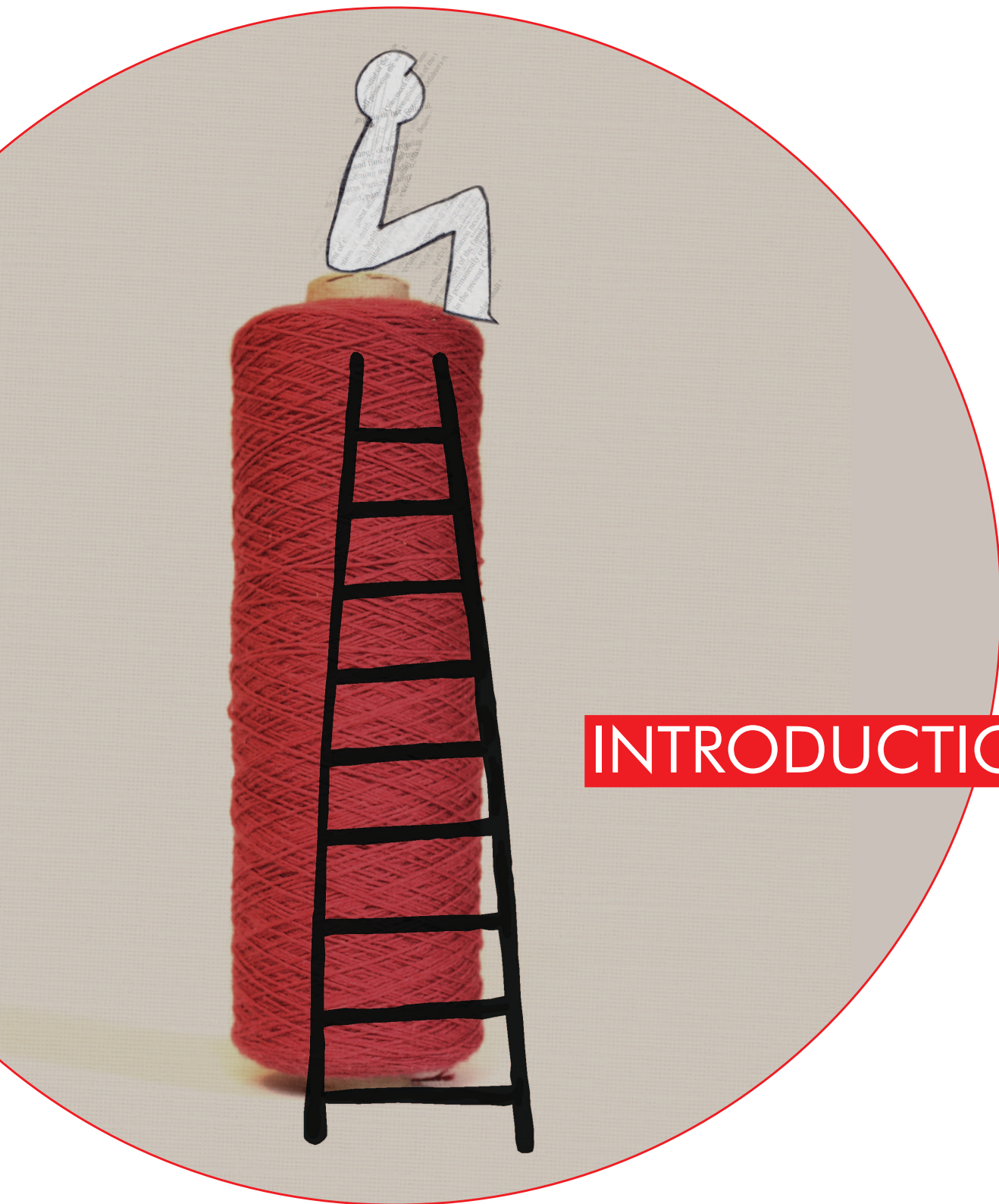
All work is based on five core beliefs:

- We believe in rights, not charity;
- We are stronger when we work together;
- Information is power and it should be free and accessible;
- Societies, organisations and institutions should be open, transparent and accountable; and
- We believe in promoting children’s rights, not ourselves.

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INTRODUCTION

The world was struck with disbelief in 2014 as country after country was pummelled by violence. From the rise of the jihadist group Islamic State (IS), which wrested control of cities across Syria and Iraq, to deadly fighting in Ukraine and the abduction of more than 200 high-school girls by extremist group Boko Haram in Nigeria, it seemed a matter of time before the whole world would be engulfed by violence and guarantees to protect children's rights completely reversed.

Children were placed front and centre of the violence, both literally and in the rhetoric of those responsible. Among its atrocities, IS runs camps to indoctrinate children into hatred. Boko Haram, whose mantra is "Western education is a sin", concentrates its attacks on schools. And in other places "the need to protect children" has become a common refrain for justifying all manner of human rights violations - against children and adults. Russia, for example, regularly uses children as rhetorical human shields in its ongoing programme of censorship. Similarly in Kenya, a bill before the National Assembly which proposes the stoning of people for being gay cites the protection of children in its reasoning. So how is it possible that children are still used in

Violations of children's rights stem from an entrenched perception that they are blank canvases to be painted by adults

this way? Why are there so many of us working to change this, and yet so little progress? And crucially: what can we do about it? The events of 2014 prompted CRIN to reflect on these questions, not only in relation to humanitarian crises, but also the plethora of everyday violations that children face: in their interactions with health care services where they are denied information about and involvement in what is happening to them; in breaches of their privacy by adults intent on monitoring and controlling their communications with others; and in the corporal punishment to which they are subjected which would be a criminal offence if applied to an adult.

We always come to the same conclusion: violations of children's rights stem from an entrenched perception that they are blank canvases to be painted by adults, rather than human beings with rights, views and feelings of their own. And for this perception to be laid to rest, we must abandon the idea of charity that dominates the world's approach to children, because - as the opening to this report demonstrates - this is doing nothing to advance their status. Instead we must be willing to engage in serious policy debate, including on difficult and sensitive issues, and consider strategies such as legal advocacy that strike at the heart of why children continue to face violations of their rights on a massive scale.

In spite of being overshadowed by darker events in 2014, this idea has begun to take root in some quarters. Children finally secured access to a global complaints mechanism in April (see Chapters 1 & 3). The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's review of the Holy See's record on children's rights in January triggered a series of lawsuits and inquiries into the sexual abuse of children by members of the Catholic Church, finally advancing the pursuit of justice and accountability. We have also seen the emergence of court rulings tackling new areas of children's rights, such as male circumcision and freedom of expression - areas in which children's rights, undiluted by those of their parents and communities, are typically met with hostility.

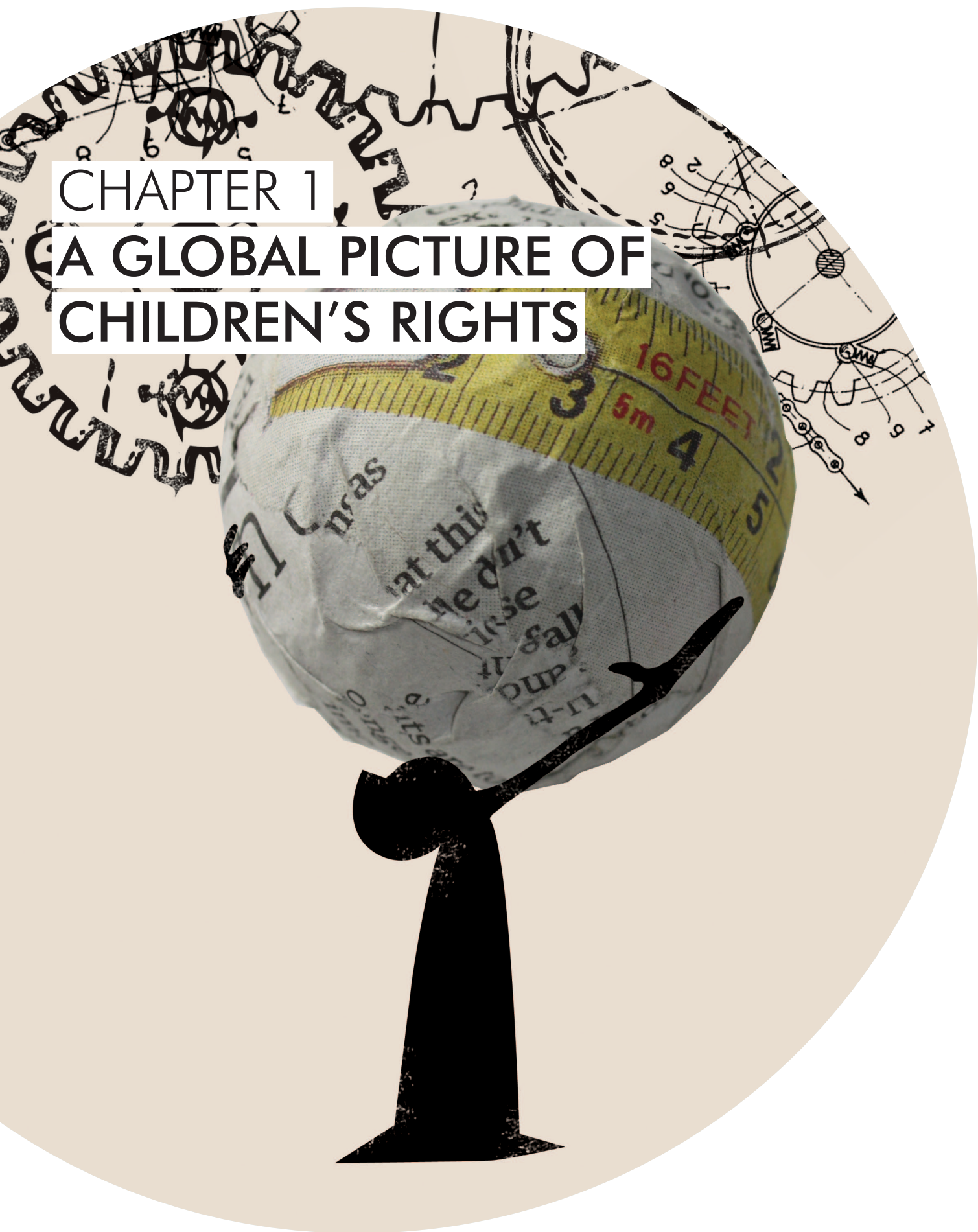
In this context, we have spent 2014 expanding our legal research and advocacy work, in particular, to establish how children can access justice in every country in the world, and to bolster the capacity of children and their advocates to claim their rights through their national legal system. Like all our work, this is a collaborative project which is already involving NGOs, law firms, governments and individuals across the world. We hope you will join us in these new efforts, and continue to feed into our ongoing monitoring and analysis. In this way we can develop an authoritative collective voice on children's rights that doesn't fade according to issue, geography or popularity - however inconvenient.

We hope you enjoy reading about the work you have contributed to.

The CRIN Team

CHAPTER 1

A GLOBAL PICTURE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



INFORMATION IS A POWERFUL – AND NECESSARY – TOOL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ADVOCACY. THAT IS WHY OUR WORK TO MONITOR WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NEWS, AT THE UN AND IN LAW REFORM AROUND THE WORLD IS THE BASIS OF EVERYTHING WE DO. IT GIVES US AN AUTHORITATIVE PLATFORM TO HIGHLIGHT GAPS BOTH TO BOLSTER ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY OTHERS AND TO ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR OWN RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK.

Where we recognise a pattern of violations or a gap in children's rights advocacy, we determine whether to take action, for instance, by conducting further research, provoking debate with a policy or discussion paper, or starting a campaign. Sometimes this work tackles the conditions needed to fulfil children's rights, at others it addresses specific issues. We always aim to work collectively and also support other campaigns around the world. The ultimate goal is to make sure all children's rights are covered - and eventually fulfilled.

This is a round-up of some of the events that unfolded between September 2013 and August 2014 and how we responded to them.

Armed conflict: no one is exempt

The international community was paralysed by decisions about how and in what circumstances to provide support to those affected by armed conflict, particularly in the shadow of past mistakes. In a damning statement on the handling of the Syrian crisis, Paulo Pinheiro, Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, said: "the international community, and specifically the Security Council, has yet to demand accountability for the crimes that are being committed daily against the Syrian people," even though more than three years have passed since the conflict erupted. The Commission's latest [report](#), published in June, notes a "marked increase in the number of attacks on functioning schools resulting in the killing and maiming of children".

The UN Secretary-General's [annual report](#) on children and armed conflict also attests to the escalation of violence across the world this year. The report documents cases of children recruited and used by seven national armies and 50 armed groups fighting wars in Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and in 11 other countries. Extremist group Boko Haram, which is fighting to reinstate an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria, made

its first appearance on the Secretary-General's list of perpetrators. The group sparked international outrage in April when it abducted more than 200 high-school girls, and dozens of boys and men just a few months later.

The list goes on as the UN [recorded](#) "horrific" human rights violations in Iraq by fighters of the so-called Islamic State group and associated forces, including abductions, sexual slavery, trafficking, and forced conversions, including of children. Navi Pillay, outgoing UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, declared: "They are systematically targeting men, women and children based on their ethnic, religious or sectarian affiliation and are ruthlessly carrying out widespread ethnic and religious cleansing in the areas under their control. Such persecution would amount to crimes against humanity."

But while various parts of the UN undertake rigorous monitoring of the situation of children in armed conflict, the UN as a whole - which was set up to regulate relations between States - is facing new challenges in how to confront non-state actors like Islamic State. To date, the Security Council has placed six individuals affiliated with IS and Al-Nusra Front on its Al-Qaeda sanctions list and threatened measures against those who support them with finance, recruitment or weapons. But more also needs to be done - by all of us - to tackle the root causes of conflict and the terrible violence that is their corollary.

What we do know is that for many of these groups, rhetoric against "Western values" has become the go-to pretext for much of the violence unleashed. Western governments have responded with rhetoric defending these values. Both are divisive. They highlight the need to revert to the universal values of human rights and bring those responsible for atrocities to justice through the international justice systems that we built together. And, as the most ratified of all international human rights treaties, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be the starting point for addressing

the root causes of violence - a point brought into sharp relief by the use of children by warring parties in their political power plays.

In Gaza, for example, seven weeks of fighting saw more than 2,200 people killed, the vast majority Palestinian civilians, including 501 children. A further 100,000 were left homeless. On the Israeli side, 69 people died, among them five civilians, including one child. The toll on children was made clear when, at the height of the conflict, the Israeli Broadcasting Authority banned a radio advertisement by human rights organisation B'Tselem which listed the names of some of the scores of children killed because it was "politically controversial". B'Tselem has petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn the ban. Israel and Hamas have since agreed to a long-term ceasefire.

Children were also used in the armoury of those

the UNCRC should be the starting point for addressing the root causes of violence

fighting in eastern Ukraine where, between mid-April and August 2014, at least 23 children were killed and 38 wounded in fighting that escalated after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula and pro-Russian separatists established a self-proclaimed People's Republic. Both pro-Russian and Ukrainian groups have used the evacuation - or blocking of evacuations - of children in institutions as a political tool.

Read more on children and armed conflict in countries around the world at: <https://www.crin.org/en/home/rights/themes/armed-conflict>

Immigration policy: pushing the boundaries

As many sought to flee violence, their destination countries pushed them back. In the European Union, States are edging those potentially seeking asylum into taking more and more dangerous routes, according to a report by Amnesty International. Their deterrent measures of choice include sophisticated surveillance systems, a Europe-wide team of border guards to patrol EU frontiers, threats of lengthy detention, and the unlawful expulsion of migrants and refugees without access to asylum procedures.

Across the Atlantic, protests took place outside the White House in the United States over the deportation of unaccompanied children fleeing violence and poverty in Central America. The Obama administration voiced its intention to amend the 2008 anti-trafficking law, which requires lengthy deportation proceedings for most child migrants, to allow for faster deportation of the tens of thousands of child migrants from countries that do not border the US.

Australia also came under fire for intercepting two boats in international waters carrying some 200 Sri Lankans seeking asylum. One of the boats, which was carrying 41 Tamils, was sent back to the Sri Lankan navy without adequate screening of their protection claims. The second boat was carrying 153 people, including 37 children, and was intercepted before it reached Australian waters. Critics say the State's actions are an attempt to evade its obligations under international law. The situation turned from bad to worse when the president of the country's Human Rights Commission described evidence of a cover-up of the scale of mental health concerns among children seeking asylum by officials in Australia's immigration department. Dr Peter Young, former director of the mental health services at detention centre service provider, International Health and Mental Services, disclosed that immigration officials had asked him to withhold figures on "significant" mental health issues from his reporting.

Inhuman sentencing: violent hypocrisy

Death penalty

Despite their condemnation of abuses committed by armed groups in the region, some States in the Middle East continue to execute people for offences committed as children - one of the most serious acts of violence imaginable. Reports from the last year, including Amnesty International's annual review of the death penalty worldwide, indicate that four men were executed for offences allegedly committed while under the age of 18 in Iran, three in Saudi Arabia and one in Gaza. Iran also executed a former child bride: Farzaneh Moradi, who was reportedly forced into marriage at the age of 15, was hanged on 4 March after being tried in dubious circumstances for allegedly murdering her husband. Executions of child offenders are also thought to have taken place in Yemen, where the absence of birth certificates often means juveniles are tried and executed as adults because their real age is unknown. Elsewhere, in the Maldives, two people were



sentenced to death by the Juvenile Court in May in relation to a murder committed when they were under 18. Worrying developments also emerged from Brunei Darussalam where, if provisions of the new penal code based on Islamic law are fully implemented, the death penalty, amputation, whipping and flogging will all be authorised for offences committed by children. Whipping and forms of life imprisonment are already lawful. Finally, in Nigeria, campaign groups are urging

authorities to commute the death sentence of a young man who confessed to a murder under duress. Moses Akatugba was arrested when he was 16 and charged with armed robbery. His lawyer has filed an appeal against the judgement at the Court of Appeal. Amnesty International has called on the Governor of the Delta State — where Moses is imprisoned — to overturn his death sentence in the run-up to Independence Day (when death sentences are overturned). The human rights group has launched a Save Moses Petition.

But good news was confirmed from Bangladesh which abolished the death penalty for children by enacting the Children's Act 2013; Burkina Faso accepted a UPR recommendation to bring its penal code in conformity with the prohibition of the death penalty for juvenile offenders; and in Mauritania the Court of Appeal overturned the death sentences against three juvenile offenders - these were, however, commuted to prison terms.

In further developments, UN Secretary-General (UNSG), Ban Ki-moon, released his 2014 report on the question of the death penalty. The report includes a section on the use of the death penalty against child offenders, noting that in 14 States children can still be lawfully executed. These are: India (Jammu and Kashmir), Iran, Laos, Maldives, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tonga, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The UNSG urged States to immediately stop sentencing child offenders to death. However, this year, for the first time, the UNSG asserted that when "the death penalty is abolished, they [States] must avoid sentencing children to life

imprisonment as an alternative punishment." The report also includes information on the children of parents sentenced to death or who have been executed. CRIN has submitted information to the report for three consecutive years to make clear that where the death penalty is abolished or commuted, children should not be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Corporal punishment

In news on corporal punishment as a sentence, Grenada's Juvenile Justice Act 2012 prohibits corporal punishment as a sentence, however, this has yet to be brought into force. Iran's new Penal Code came into force in June 2013, but while this changes the law on corporal punishment and the death penalty as a sentence, neither are prohibited. CRIN is working to verify developments in other countries.

Life imprisonment

In 2014, our campaign for the prohibition and elimination of all forms of inhuman sentencing of children - defined to include sentences of death, life imprisonment and corporal punishment - saw a particular emphasis on life imprisonment. In April, CRIN published a report on life imprisonment in the European Union to highlight the prevalence of such sentences and the different forms that life sentences can take. A similar report was published on Commonwealth countries in 2012.

Our attention to life imprisonment has been prompted by a frustration with the narrow focus on life imprisonment without parole within the child rights community. This masks the fact that life sentences cover a range of practices, from the most severe form of life imprisonment without parole, in which a person is sentenced to die in prison so long as their sentence stands, to more indeterminate sentences in which at the time of sentencing it is not clear how long the sentenced person will spend in prison. What all of these sentences have in common is that at the time the sentence is passed, it is possible that a person may be detained for the rest of their natural life.

As part of CRIN's work on all these violent sentencing practices, we submit information to relevant UN authorities. This year we drew attention to inhuman sentencing practices in advance of the Universal Periodic Reviews of Dominica (September 2013); Iran (March 2014), Kiribati (June 2014) and Guyana (June 2014). In addition, recommendations in submissions on Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia in March 2013 were picked up by States during the October 2013 review.



Juvenile justice: allowing adults to get away with abuse

Violations of children's rights in the justice system are not confined to violent sentencing. One of the most common abuses in this arena is a failure to recognise children's unique developmental status and the fact that juvenile justice systems should always aim for rehabilitation, not retribution.

The idea of a system based on rehabilitation is certainly not reflected in reductions in the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) by some States - a development which means stigmatising more and younger children as criminals. Bolivia lowered its MACR from 16 to 14, while a draft Criminal Code in the Philippines seeks to lower the MACR in that country to 13 - only a year after a decision was made to retain the current age of 15. Meanwhile the UN Committee Against Torture criticised a call for a referendum in Uruguay to lower the MACR from 18 to 16.

In another regressive pattern, the Jordanian Parliament voted in favour of amending the country's penal code to allow children as young as seven to be tried and imprisoned for serious offences. Children found guilty of such crimes could incur sentences of up to 15 years in jail. Supporting members of parliament said the amendment is designed to stop families using children to commit so-called "honour" crimes to avoid prosecution. A proposal to treat child offenders as adults was also mooted in El Salvador as a way of curbing rising crime rates instead of addressing the poor policies and adult abuse which are at their root.

But good news came from the US, where the state of New York agreed to reforms banning solitary confinement for prisoners under 18 following a lawsuit filed by New York Civil Liberties Union. In a related statement, US Attorney General Eric Holder called for an end to the "excessive" use of solitary confinement in juvenile facilities, underscoring the dangers of the practice and the

particular difficulties.

Meanwhile in India, attempts to redefine "juveniles" in order to try them as adults were thwarted by the Supreme Court in a move that will prevent children aged 16 and 17 from being tried in adult courts across India. CRIN contributed legal research to Centre for Child and the Law (CCL) which brought the case. However, a bill that would permit children aged 16 or older to be tried as adults for serious crimes has been introduced in the lower house of the Indian parliament.

CRIN believes that defining an arbitrary age within the CRC at which children no longer enjoy protection is discriminatory. It also conflicts with the CRC's principle that children's best interests must be a primary consideration in any decision or treatment they receive, which should always be geared to contributing to their maximum possible development. Instead lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility exposes children to a criminal justice system of harsh legal punishments such as corporal punishment, life imprisonment and the death penalty. That is why we promote a policy position in which we stimulate support for the idea of separating criminalisation from responsibility. It does not absolve children of responsibility - many children know that an offence they have committed is wrong, and denying this does little to promote respect for their evolving capacities. However, children's developmental status requires a special approach. We want to encourage States to design systems which focus entirely on rehabilitation and prevent future offending, always with necessary attention to public safety and security.

As part of our work to promote a more humane justice system for children, we also submitted our views to the UN Human Rights Committee's draft general comment No. 35, which addresses the right to liberty and security. The comments focus on those sections of the general comment that specifically relate to children's rights in the context of the right to liberty and security of person and

freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention.

Accessing the justice maze

Children come into contact with the law for many reasons - whether the law seeks out the child or the child seeks out the law - but whatever the reason, they need to be able to use and trust the legal system to protect their rights. Children's ability to access justice made headway when the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (known as OP3) finally entered into force on 14 April after receiving its tenth ratification. This means children will now be able to complain to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child when their rights are violated if their national system has failed them (provided their government has ratified the treaty). It is hoped that OP3 will also spur advances in how national legal systems treat children. CRIN has fought in coalition with others for a complaints mechanism for the CRC since 2006 - read more about the campaign's next steps in Chapter 2.

Aptly, the 2014 annual day on the rights of the child at the Human Rights Council focused on access to justice for children. CRIN submitted information for the occasion and published coverage along with a series of editorials explaining the maze children have to navigate in order to access justice.

human trafficking cases by encouraging more victims to testify in court. The new law includes provisions granting courts the power to award restitution to victims, as well as the right of victims to make impact statements and have those taken into account by the court when sentencing the offender. Among other provisions, the law also states that vulnerable child victims can be provided a place of safety where they must be separated from adults and placed in conditions that reduce the risk of harm to the child.

Read more on access to justice in Chapter 2.

Sexual abuse: confessions and convictions

In January, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's historic review of the Holy See's record on children's rights gave momentum to demands for justice by survivors of child sex abuse by members of the Catholic Church. Prior to the review, the Committee had requested the Holy See to provide details of every case of child sex abuse by members of the clergy that had been made known to the State. CRIN presented a global report mapping the scale and reach of the abuse and its cover-up in an effort to support the Committee and demand justice, accountability and reform.

The Committee expressed its "deepest concern about child sex abuse involving "tens of thousands of children worldwide," and denounced the Holy See for failing to acknowledge the extent of the crimes, protect children from abuse, and ensuring impunity for perpetrators. Full details of the Committee's recommendations is available at: https://www.crin.org/sites/default/files/attachments/holysee_crc_concluding_observations.pdf

The Holy See's human rights record came under scrutiny again just a few months later in May by the UN Committee against Torture. After meeting with NGOs, the Committee raised rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in the Catholic Church as violations of the Convention against Torture by the Holy See. CRIN made a joint submission to the review with World Organisation Against Torture.

The UN's focus on child sex abuse in the Catholic Church sparked investigations and prosecutions around the world. The European Court on Human Rights held that Ireland had violated the European Convention on Human Rights' prohibition on torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to an effective remedy in a case about a child (now adult) who had been sexually abused by a teacher in a Catholic school. In Poland the

Children need to be able to use and trust the legal system to protect their rights.

In related news, France's highest administrative court, the Conseil d'Etat, ruled that a child can take legal action when his or her fundamental freedoms are at stake, an option previously open only to emancipated children. The ruling was the outcome of a case involving an unaccompanied refugee child who was placed in care under a judge's order, but was left homeless after the local authority failed to provide support. The child was seeking an emergency court order to force the local authority to comply with the judge's decision.

Meanwhile, in August the Kenyan Parliament passed a Victim Protection Bill, which increases the protection afforded to victims of crime by providing them a range of legal rights. The aim of the bill is to secure higher conviction rates in

first ever lawsuit was brought against the Catholic Church for its refusal to provide compensation to people who were abused as children by members of the clergy. More than a dozen priests had been convicted of sexually abusing children in the country, but this was the first time that a civil suit was filed against the Church as an institution. Meanwhile in [Mexico](#) a criminal complaint against a priest was filed for the first time after Vatican officials ordered his removal. Repercussions were also felt in the [Dominican Republic](#) where, in the first sentence of its kind handed down to a top papal representative, the Vatican's former ambassador, Archbishop Jozef Wesolowski, was "defrocked" after being convicted by a church tribunal of child sex abuse, and is now [awaiting](#) a criminal trial.

The Catholic Church is not the only religious institution that needs to confront and deal with

marriage registrars. Finally, in the United States, 19 former students of a [Jewish](#) high school sued school administrators and teachers for covering up and "facilitating" decades of sexual abuse against students during the 1970s and 80s.

In the context of ever increasing revelations about the scale of abuse, in January, we launched a campaign to end sexual abuse in all religious institutions and prise open the arcane, opaque structures that allow abuse to continue. While the campaign started with the Catholic Church, it aims to push for reform that will open all religious institutions to scrutiny, prevent cover-ups and allow victims to access to justice. In addition to influencing the recommendations issued by UN Treaty Bodies through our publication, we reported live from the CRC session in Geneva, using [#HolySeeConfess](#) on twitter, and developed a [toolkit](#) with concrete actions that advocates and victims could take around the Holy See's review by the CRC. We are now building a [snapshot](#) of significant legal challenges to child sex abuse by members of the clergy that lawyers, victims and support groups can use as a free resource.

Hard labour: children's sexual and reproductive rights

One of the reasons sexual abuse is allowed to continue is the secrecy and shame that shrouds discussion about sex. In particular, absent or confusing sex education policies mean children do not get the information they need to have safe and healthy sex lives. Instead they are left vulnerable to unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, abuse and exploitation.

A report by Amnesty International [drew attention](#) to this issue and other barriers to sexual and reproductive rights that continue to hold sway. These include attitudes and laws that condone child marriage and marital rape while outlawing abortion, sex outside marriage and same-sex sexual activity, which in some cases is punishable by death.

In an effort to challenge some of these obstacles, International Planned Parenthood Federation [published case studies](#) from various jurisdictions exploring some of the legal barriers children face. In a new set of [recommendations](#) for States, the World Health Organisation also reinforces the importance of privacy and confidentiality in the context of sexual and reproductive rights.

Progress has already been made in some countries. In the Philippines, for instance, the Supreme Court [held](#) that a landmark reproductive health law is constitutional, in this way expanding public access

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sexual abuse. The [Salvation Army](#) is currently being investigated by the Australian government's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse over historical abuse claims, including in four boys' homes in the 1960s and 70s. Allegations have also been made against the church-cum-social justice charity in the UK. Also in the UK, a senior [Jehovah's Witness](#) was jailed for sexually abusing two girls, with the court hearing how the man used his role to "exploit and abuse" members of his congregation between 1987 and 1995. He had previously been cleared of the complaints by a Jehovah's Witness judicial committee after the women reported his behaviour to the church. Meanwhile, in many Muslim countries, child marriage continues to be widely accepted. But in a recent positive development in [Muslim](#)-majority Bangladesh, which has the highest rate of child marriage in South Asia, Parliament is expected to pass the Child Marriage Prevention Act. This carries criminal sanctions for anyone responsible for the marriage of a girl under the age of 18, including parents and



to reproductive health services and mandating sex education in schools. However, while the Court upheld most of the law, some provisions were struck down, including one allowing girls under 18 who already have children or have suffered a miscarriage to access birth control without their parents' written consent.

Children are also claiming their own rights in this sphere. A school board in [Canada](#) dropped abstinence-based sex education after a girl and her mother filed a complaint. The 18-year-old said a workshop that the Edmonton Pregnancy

Care Centre held at McNally High School misled students about contraception, sexually transmitted infections and other issues in order to push abstinence.

Finally, a decision by South Africa's Constitutional Court recognised that accepting consensual sexual activity between children is not the same as condoning abuse. The Court [declared](#) sections 15 and 16 of the Criminal Law Act, criminalising consensual sexual activity between children (even kissing), to be unconstitutional. The decision upheld a January ruling by the Pretoria High Court that certain sections of the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act (2007) were invalid because the range of such activities was defined too broadly. The presiding judge said that the act criminalised conduct that "virtually every normal adolescent participates in at some stage or another."

Last rights

Tension over children's right to make decisions about their own bodies was reflected in emotionally charged debates about assisted suicide and euthanasia. In February, [Belgium](#) amended its 2002 euthanasia law, becoming the first country in the world to lift all age restrictions on the right to die. Critics of the bill, many of whom purport to represent children's interests, made unfounded claims that it will allow euthanasia to be rolled out to any and all child patients who express a wish to die. CRIN responded with a [policy paper](#) outlining the children's rights perspective on the debate. Fundamentally, Belgium's amendment responds to the reality of terminally ill children who, as human beings, suffer extreme physical pain just as adults do, and recognises that in the same way that illnesses do not discriminate based the age of

a person, neither should health care. In addition, by removing arbitrary age limits on euthanasia, the law recognises children's evolving capacities, giving consideration to maturity - rather than age - in evaluating if a patient has the capacity and discernment to make this fundamental. In such cases, medical professionals emphasise that strict procedures will govern the practice and that euthanasia is always a last resort.

In related news, NGOs in Scotland issued a [joint statement](#) calling for children's rights to be taken into account during discussions about the assisted suicide bill, but took no position on whether children should have a right to assisted suicide. Beyond Europe, a draft bill in [Japan](#) proposes legalising euthanasia from age 15.

Harmful traditional practices do not make the cut

Children's bodies continue to be used as a stronghold for those holding onto harmful practices based on tradition and culture. Last year we reported that in its recommendations to Israel, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern for the first time about the long and short-term impact of male circumcision, recommending a study into its implications. Others have now added their voices to the debate, including a group of children's ombudspersons from the five Nordic countries, together with paediatric associations, who have [committed](#) to working with their governments to achieve a ban on the practice. The subject of male circumcision is also making its appearance in courts, with the Higher Regional Court of Hamm in Germany recently [ruling](#) that doctors must appropriately inform a child about circumcision before it is carried out. This follows the first clear [legal challenge](#) to non-therapeutic male circumcision by a regional court in Cologne, Germany, in 2012. Elsewhere, in June, the High Court of Israel [rejected](#) a ruling by the Supreme Rabbinical Court that required a woman to circumcise her one-year-old son in compliance with the demand by the child's father in divorce proceedings. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe also [issued](#) a resolution on children's physical integrity, which included recommendations against circumcision for religious reasons, along with early childhood interventions in the case of intersex children, and the coercion of children into piercings, tattoos or plastic surgery.

Corporal punishment is one of the most long-standing and widespread harmful practices affecting children. It is emblematic of the persistent denial of children's agency. However,

the past year saw a number of countries - though still too few - join the ranks of those who have banned all forms of corporal punishment. These were: [Bolivia](#), [Brazil](#), [Honduras](#), [Macedonia](#), [Malta](#) and [Turkmenistan](#). Continuing this trend, a court in France sentenced a parent for physically punishing their child. While there is currently no legislation banning corporal punishment of children in the home in [France](#), the Limoges Criminal Court “convicted a father of a violent gesture combined with humiliation” towards his son and fined him €500. Meanwhile, in [China](#), the Education Ministry exhorted teachers in primary and secondary schools to refrain from all forms of physical punishment and to respect students’ dignity. Similarly, [Fiji](#)’s Education Ministry warned teachers that corporal punishment would not be tolerated in response to three cases now under investigation by police.

Austerity policies: building future debt

Social and economic policy is another area where children’s own views and interests are all too often overlooked. In a recent [report](#), the UN Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt on human rights, Cephias Lumina, voiced concern about the effects of foreign debt. Mr Lumina observed from his country visit to Greece that spending cuts there have resulted in increased poverty among young people, and reduced access to healthcare and education. The impact has been most significant on vulnerable groups including children, women and immigrants. He emphasised that economic, social and cultural rights should to the maximum extent possible be factored into programmes and policies, including austerity policies.

Other high-level officials share these concerns about the effect of austerity programmes on children. In a [report](#) published in October 2013, Nils Muiznieks, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, said that “cuts in social, health and educational budgets have led to a worrying growth of family poverty” in Spain, following his visit to the country in June.

Also in Europe, the Office of the Children’s Commissioner in England published a child rights based [analysis](#) of the impact of austerity measures there. Among the findings, the report warns of a significant increase in child poverty expected over the next few years.

Courting children’s freedom of expression

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai, also singled out children for special attention in a recent [report](#). Mr Kiai cautioned against age restrictions placed on the enjoyment of these rights, particularly laws prohibiting children from protesting, joining and forming groups and accessing information online. He also criticises laws banning “homosexual propaganda” for violating the rights of the LGBTI community, including children, and notes the serious problems associated with denying civil and political rights to already disenfranchised groups such as children.

Beyond the UN, children’s freedom of expression and peaceful assembly were also put to the test in national courts - with mixed results. A court in Turkey vindicated this right, [ruling](#) in favour of 24 children who had been detained in 2013 after taking part in anti-government protests in Istanbul’s Gezi Park. The children had faced charges of “violating the demonstration law”, “resisting arrest by public officers” and “damaging public property”. The court dismissed the accusations, stating that all Turkish citizens, including children, have the right to demonstrate peacefully in accordance with article 26 (freedom of expression) and 34 (freedom of assembly) of the country’s Constitution and under provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Courts elsewhere took a different stance. In [Bahrain](#), scores of children were detained and reportedly tortured for taking part in unsanctioned protests and allegedly attacking police officers. Anti-government protests have engulfed the country since 2011 when Shi’ite Muslims took to the streets to demand greater recognition of their rights in the Sunni-ruled kingdom. In the same region, detainees in police custody in [Egypt](#), including teenagers, have been subject to beatings, sexual abuse and electric shocks, according to victim testimonies. Since the army ousted President Mohammed Morsi last July, an estimated 20,000 people have been rounded up in a crackdown on dissent. A growing number are now emerging from police custody and prisons alleging torture - claims the military-backed government denies. Meanwhile in [Iraq](#), a student from the northern town of Erbil was held in solitary confinement in October last year after declaring himself an atheist. The boy revealed to his father that, as a result of his reading, he “no longer believed in God and religion is just a myth” - his father reported him to the police.

Freedom of expression was one of many subjects of contention raised by protesters in the run-up to the World Cup in Brazil. In addition to a barrage of censure about housing rights, inequality, bad governance and violence, critics denounced an [anti-terrorism bill](#) which they said could be used to stifle legitimate protest - a particular concern in a country in which security forces have a history of overstepping their powers and a shaky record of dealing with dissent. Freedom of expression also took centre ground during the opening ceremony when one of three children who released white doves staged a protest to demand recognition of [Indian land rights](#). Jeguaka Mirim, an indigenous Guarani boy, held up a red banner reading "Demarcation now", but FIFA censored the act and television cameras panned away. The land of Brazil's Guarani has been snatched for cattle-ranching and sugar cane production. This means that many Guarani people are forced to live in overcrowded reserves or roadside camps in the grip of malnutrition and disease. To mark the World Cup, CRIN published special CRINmails about [children's rights in Brazil](#) and a post-tournament [analysis](#) of how competing teams matched up on children's rights.

In Iraq, a student from the northern town of Erbil was held in solitary confinement in October last year after declaring himself an atheist.

[Russia](#) has taken a more creative approach to violating children's right to freedom of expression: by opening summer camps to teach children to love their motherland. Children will be instructed by veterans who served in Chechnya and Afghanistan in military tactics and firearms and about radiological, chemical and biological defence.

Protection vs access to information: an unnecessary rivalry

Children's access to information took yet another blow in [Russia](#), where a draft law seeks to protect children from information that is considered "unpatriotic". The bill aims to restrict children's access to information that "denies or distorts patriotism" - defined as "love of the fatherland, devotion to it, striving to serve its interests

through one's actions." Similarly in [Venezuela](#), the imposition of socialist ideology in schools and the consequent violation of children's rights to freedom of expression and access to information was one of the reasons why anti-government protesters took to the streets. Elsewhere, [Singapore's](#) Information Ministry reversed a decision by the National Library Board to remove three children's books from its shelves because they feature gay parents. Judged to be "pro-homosexual" and not "pro-family", one of the books tells the true story of two male penguins in a New York zoo that raised a baby penguin, while another features children adopted by single, mixed-race, gay and heterosexual parents. The move followed a protest by some 350 people, including parents and children, and widespread criticism from the literary world and internet users. While the books will continue to be available at the National Library, they have been removed from the children's section and placed in the adult section.

These events are part of a disturbing trend of limiting children's access to information and discriminating against specific groups in the name of "child protection" which has gained force over the last year. Through our monitoring of news and legal reforms around the world, we became aware of a number of States who have passed or proposed such laws. In particular, a sinister pattern of laws has emerged which criminalise the "promotion of homosexuality to children". But while a number of human rights NGOs are campaigning against these laws from the standpoint of discrimination, children's rights issues (access to information, sex education, internet restrictions, etc.) have been largely neglected.

To set this straight, CRIN launched a [policy paper](#) and [campaign pages](#) to highlight disproportionate restrictions on children's right to access information, explain how this right intersects with all children's rights, and call for stronger global standards and leadership on this issue. We are also developing a set of relevant case law summaries and working with freedom of expression organisations such as IFEX to investigate advocacy opportunities in this area.

In the context of our access to information work, we also made a [submission](#) to the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion on children's rights and digital media held on 12 September. The paper looks at how rights set out in the CRC might be understood and enacted in the digital context.

In a related project, CRIN helped compile information for a report by the UN Special

Rapporteur on freedom of expression - the rapporteur's first report dedicated to children's rights. The report discusses how children's right to freedom of expression is articulated in international human rights treaties, barriers faced by children to enjoying this right, positive examples of promoting children's right to freedom of expression and the role of the internet in all of this. It concludes with recommendations to various groups. The report will be published later this year.

Defending the defenders

Children's rights advocates are also affected by restrictions on their civil and political rights. The work of human rights advocates depends on their freedom to speak out, but this freedom is increasingly under pressure - both through events in particular countries and on the global stage.

CRIN has been deferred from attaining ECOSOC status six times since we applied in May 2010 by what we believe are tactics used by some States to deny access to NGOs critical of governments and select their own jury at the UN.

On 7 May, Board member and Chairperson of the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) in Pakistan, Rashid Rehman Khan, was gunned down in his office by unidentified assailants. He had received death threats for his role as legal counsel representing a man accused of blasphemy. Just a day later in Honduras, the director of Casa Alianza, which advocates for rights of homeless children, was beaten and arbitrarily detained after publicly criticising the government's policies and their impact on children.

But beyond individual countries, even that alleged place of refuge - the UN - saw a string of repressive regimes, including Iran, Mauritania and Azerbaijan elected to a Committee on NGOs that determines civil society access to the UN.

That is why this year, CRIN turned its attention to tracking the structures which are intended to give children's rights advocates the chance to speak out against abuse, in particular ECOSOC's Committee of NGOs which can enable or block NGOs' participation in the UN system.

For NGOs to participate fully in the UN system, they need ECOSOC status. Without it, they are confined to the sidelines - unable to submit questions, attend UN sessions or hold side events in their own name. However, the process of getting ECOSOC status lacks transparency and clear requirements.

CRIN, together with other NGOs, took action to urge the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs to stop blocking access for legitimate human rights organisations.

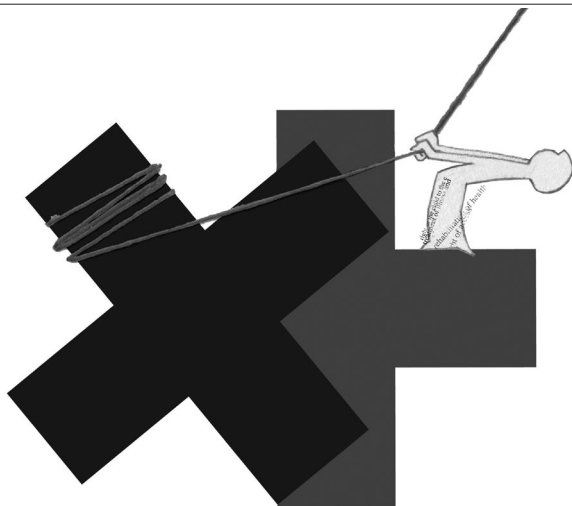
CRIN has been deferred from attaining ECOSOC status six times since we applied in May 2010 by what we believe are tactics used by some States to deny access to NGOs critical of governments and select their own jury at the UN.

We soon discovered that this impression is shared by others. The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) has reported on ECOSOC's work and its lack of transparency. The Human Rights House Foundation called ECOSOC the "21st century censorship bureau" in an article from May 2014.

States who sit on the Committee are controlling the review process to defer applications, such as asking (often repetitive) questions that go beyond the scope of what NGOs are required to submit with their applications.

We believe that the legitimacy of the UN system is at stake if States are able to continue blocking access to NGOs they feel pose a threat. For this reason, in a joint open letter with other NGOs, we called on members of the Committee to:

- Stop blocking legitimate human rights organisations and recommend them for ECOSOC Status;
- Review applications of organisations in line with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31;
- Develop working methods to ensure transparency and legitimacy, in line with the spirit of the United Nations; and
- Ensure that the United Nations Department of Public Information continues to provide coverage of the work of the Committee, as stated in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31



You can find more information below on our campaign page: “ECOSOC: less politics, more human rights” campaign page: www.crin.org/en/home/campaigns/transparency/ecosoc-less-politics-more-human-rights

The future of children's rights – in whose hands?

Our ECOSOC work forms part of a wider campaign to achieve open and transparent processes in how candidates for the top jobs in children's rights are selected. In 2014, we monitored a number of developments in new appointments.

The UN Human Rights Council appointed 19 independent human rights experts to Special Procedure (SP) roles. Among them was Maud de Boer-Buquicchio from the Netherlands who took up the role of Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in the first week of June.

A Dutch jurist and former Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Boer-Buquicchio was the impetus behind the Lanzarote Convention, which sets the highest global standards for protecting children from sexual violence, and she played an important role in the UN Study on Violence against Children. CRIN was pleased to support Ms Boer-Buquicchio's candidacy and interviewed her about her views on the children's rights landscape globally and her plans for the role.

Also in June, States met at the UN General Assembly in New York to elect nine people to serve on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Elections to the Committee take place every two years, and members are elected for a term of four years. Those selected will replace outgoing members of the 18-strong Committee whose terms expire on 28 February 2015.

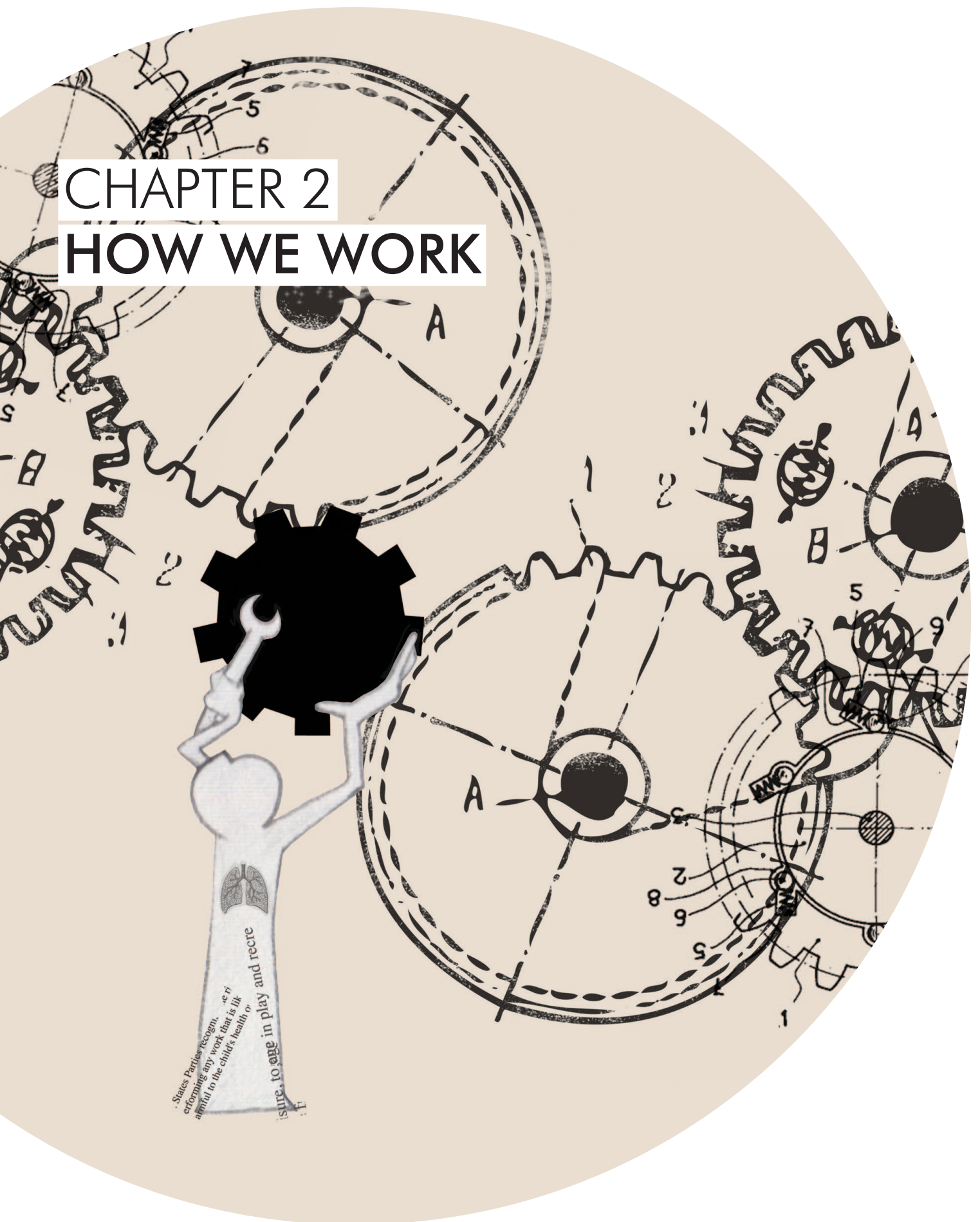
In the CRIN tradition, we interviewed all candidates who were available and willing to speak to us to give both States parties and civil society a better picture of their credentials. We asked them about their experience in children's rights, what they think they can contribute to the Committee, what they think about topical areas of children's rights, their vision for the Committee and how they plan to work with civil society.

Of those elected, five already sit on the Committee and were reelected; they were joined by newly selected members from Togo, Venezuela, Morocco and Samoa - the first ever member from Asia Pacific.

Daily children's rights updates are available on the CRIN website by country and theme. This is part of our online library which contains nearly 30,000 resources including news, events, reports, laws and information on advocacy and campaigns.

CHAPTER 2

HOW WE WORK



States Parties recognize the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate fully in cultural life for the child's health, well-being and development.

THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF THE VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST PART OF THIS REPORT IS THE REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS OF THEIR OWN, AND ARE NOT SIMPLY AN APPENDAGE OF THEIR PARENTS OR THE STATE. THIS IS A FACT REPEATED IN REPORT AFTER REPORT, IN COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY.

For 20 years, CRIN has formed part of a global movement, propelled by the Convention, which has been working to change this, principally by monitoring violations of children's rights, by sharing information and encouraging advocacy. There is no question that some advances have been made: violations of children's rights are more visible; legal reform has taken place in many countries to children's benefit; and, as of this year, children have access to a global complaints mechanism.

But, even though they represent nearly half the world's population and everyone is a child once, children still face discrimination and violations of their rights on a massive scale - violations which are all too often met with complacency. For instance, this year the first cases ever brought to trial for carrying out female genital mutilation in Egypt and the UK were met with celebration, but - the first cases? - surely we should be angry.

And, while children's rights advocacy has made great strides on a number of single issues - largely as a result of single-minded advocacy efforts by few organisations such as the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, more needs to be done to improve children's status overall.

CRIN believes some of these problems are the result of a collective failure to interrogate the reasons why the full range of children's rights is not being fulfilled and to challenge them in the strongest way possible - just like we would if they were happening to any other human being - with the law. The law is the first place children's rights should be recognised. Without it, children have no basis to claim their rights. But the law is not just about a piece of paper. The legal channels for children to challenge violations of their rights must be accessible and just. And the only way we can hope to make this happen consistently - not just exceptionally or as a fringe trend - is by working collectively.

With these thoughts in mind, this chapter explains some of the philosophies that guide our work and the strategies we are developing to carve out steady indelible reform, specifically: how we're promoting free and accessible information for all, using the law and seeking out partners in all regions of the world. These efforts are always combined with our core monitoring, policy and advocacy work (more in Chapter 1).

Open source movement

One of our core beliefs is that information should be free and accessible. To put this belief into practice, our work follows the principles of the open source movement. "Open source" began life as a technical term used to describe open access to software source code, but its use has since expanded to describe a movement dedicated to open participation and sharing. Some of the ways we practice this in our work is by making all the work we do, and that of others where they agree, freely available on the website. When we conduct legal research, we produce guides on how we do this (e.g. on how to find out what the law is on a particular issue). This includes information on how to locate up-to-date legislation and case law, as well as where to find other useful legal resources on children's rights in each country. We also produce plain language guides on a whole range of subjects, from how to use the UN to how to get legal assistance. Read more in Chapter 5.

Artwork

This year we made a decision to use artwork over photographs in all our work. This was a conscious move away from the current practice of using images that merely evoke a sense of pity and inspire charity without confronting why children's rights are violated all over the world. Instead, we hired an artist to help us develop original artwork with the aim of opening the viewer's mind to think differently about children and their place in society. See examples on our website at: www.crin.org.

Using the law

The law is a powerful tool for enforcing children's rights, but it can also breach these rights. We work to encourage advocates to use the law to challenge children's rights abuses, and push for legal reform if the law itself violates children's rights or fails to recognise them. This section gives a flavour of our legal work.

Access to justice

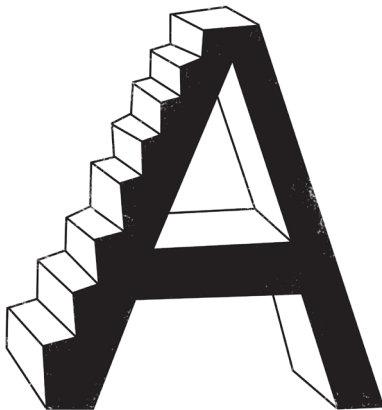
The last year has seen the launch of one of our most ambitious projects yet: to map out how children can access justice for rights violations in every country in the world. [Access to justice for children: challenging violations of children's rights](#) demonstrates how advocates can use their national legal systems to challenge violations, achieve remedies for victims and achieve legal change. So far 78 country reports have been published, with many more underway. The reports are the result of a collaborative project between CRIN and law firms (see page x). We are presenting completed reports to NGOs, other experts, and to governments to verify the information and

encourage law reform. We aim to publish all country reports by mid-2015.

Once all country reports are completed we will undertake analysis of the global state of access to justice for children to help identify gaps and areas for advocacy. As part of a communications strategy, we will rank countries based on a set of carefully developed criteria.

A snapshot of findings so far:

- The legal status of the CRC in national legal systems is mixed - it tends to be stronger in "monist" countries where treaties are automatically incorporated into law upon ratification, and weaker in "dualist" countries where a separate piece of incorporating legislation is needed. And in other countries courts must deem a provision of the CRC to be "directly applicable" before it can be enforced by individuals in court (France, Belgium).
- In the majority of countries reviewed so far, children cannot bring cases by themselves and must be represented by their guardian or "next friend". There are limited exceptions: e.g. children between the ages of 14 and 18 may represent themselves during court cases
- (Ukraine); children can appear before a court without a representative in "personal status" or "personal rights" matters (Greece, Switzerland); children may apply to the court to permit them to act on their own behalf without a "next friend" (Barbados); children have a right to request a hearing before a judge (France, Belgium, Mauritius, Luxembourg).
- Some countries have additional restrictions: e.g. children must be represented by their legal tutor, who is defined in family law as their father (Algeria, Tunisia); children are prohibited from bringing a civil or criminal action against their parents unless the case is taken up by the public prosecutor (Thailand).
- The provision of legal aid varies, from being available in all settings (South Korea, Switzerland) and to children automatically (Belgium, Luxembourg), to not having formalised legal aid systems at all and being reliant on pro bono support or NGOs (Ethiopia and Vanuatu).
- Constitutional protection lawsuits are available to redress violations of individual human rights, including under the CRC (Mexico). National human rights institutions may also bring cases to court on behalf of children whose rights have been violated (Ireland, Thailand, Fiji). Public interest class actions are permitted in some countries, and may even be brought by a government authority (Sweden).
- The availability of judicial remedies varies: e.g. compensation for victims of crime is available directly from the State (Greece, Sweden, and other EU states); the High Court cannot grant injunctions against the government or its officers (Singapore). Where the constitutionality of laws is concerned, some courts can strike down unconstitutional laws (US), while others can only review bills before they have become laws (Sri Lanka); bills/laws can be found to be unconstitutional but passed by parliament regardless (Sri Lanka, Canada), and some courts cannot strike down laws at all (UK).
- Limitations periods are one of the main barriers to children being able to seek redress, but in some places this is not the case or it is starting to change (Malta, Germany, Uganda, Nigeria), such as war crimes and crimes against humanity (Switzerland, Belgium).
- Child-friendly procedures for giving evidence in court also vary widely: e.g. child witnesses may not be required to testify under oath in certain circumstances, though they may be guilty of an offence if they knowingly give false evidence



(Dominica, Ireland); children under a certain age are restricted in their ability to give evidence (Indonesia).

All country reports are made available at this link: <https://www.crin.org/en/home/law/access>

Case law

As part of our work to inspire legal action, we maintain a case law database which includes both cases that cite the CRC and important decisions for children's rights that don't specifically refer to the CRC.

In the past year, we have added some 80 new summaries to this database. In addition, with the help of pro bono law firm Skadden, the focus of our CRC in Court database has shifted to identifying and summarising cases for those jurisdictions where we lacked, or had few, cases citing the CRC. This enabled us to publish cases from Singapore, South Korea, Latvia and other jurisdictions that were not previously covered in our database. In addition, our access to justice research has also led us to identify new cases.

Lists of cases are also available to support our campaign on child sexual abuse in religious institutions, with another batch being prepared for our access to information campaign.

Legal advocacy

In our work to support the use of legal advocacy, we also contribute legal research to cases brought by others (see Chapter 1) and undertake workshops. We are also planning another batch of legal advocacy workshops with partners, starting with a regional workshop in East Africa in early 2015, covering Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. These workshops bring together campaigners from legal and non-legal backgrounds to identify legal blockages to children's rights and develop advocacy strategies. In preparation, we are conducting legal research to identify areas of children's rights to cover in the workshop. So far, CRIN has hosted two legal advocacy workshops. Reports capturing the discussions and plans for future advocacy are made available at: www.crin.org/node/249.

Legal clinics

It is all very well promoting the use of legal action to enforce children's rights, but the law and legal systems are very complex, which means legal assistance is needed to navigate them effectively. Legal clinics are one means of helping children to understand legal proceedings, defend their rights

and make their voices heard.

With this in mind, we carried out a global mapping of legal clinics - both general and child-specific. The idea behind this research is to understand how clinics operate, identify where they are missing and create a network of legal clinics for children. We prepared a questionnaire and circulated this to legal clinics worldwide asking how they were set up, how they operate, whether they provide legal services to children and what challenges they face. We received 32 responses from general clinics, and 16 child-specific clinics.

We also published a [directory](#) mapping legal clinics with a specific focus on children's rights in the European Union. This provides a guide for children seeking free legal advice and is also a useful resource for students, lawyers and activists interested in learning about how legal clinics work and how to set up their own.

Legal research on specific issues

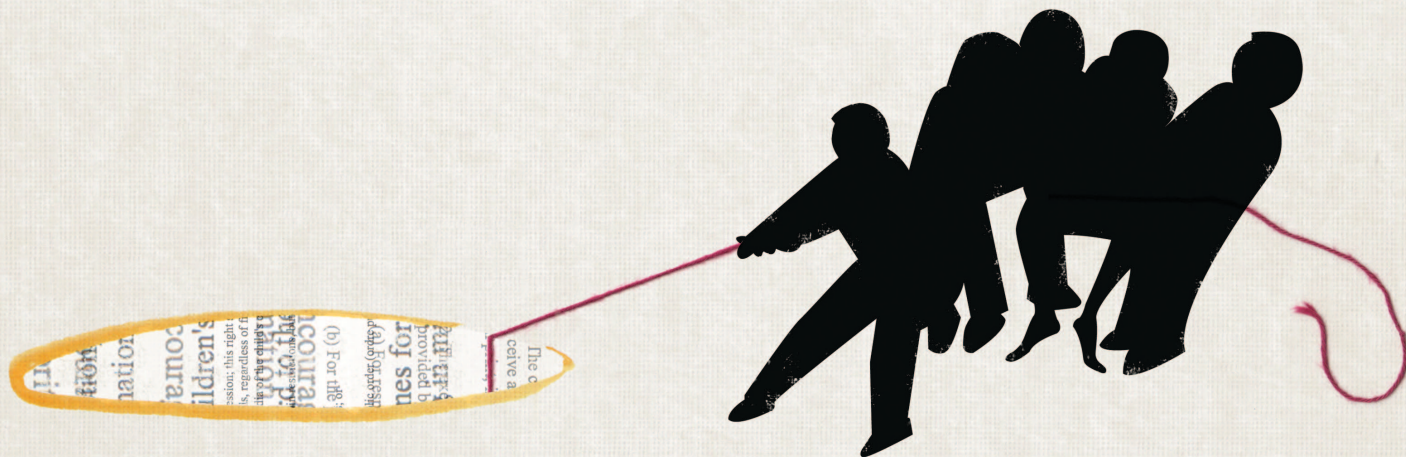
Besides drawing attention to legal action as a neglected form of advocacy, CRIN develops original research on neglected issues identified in our work to track law reform. This research is often a precursor to our policy and advocacy work. Read more in Chapter 1.

Regional programmes

For our work to be most effective, it must be collaborative. At CRIN, much of our work is about supporting advocates working nationally with new advocacy strategies, legal research and inspiration from other parts of the world - and this relationship is reciprocal.

However, in some regions we take a more active role, either because repressive regimes mean that advocates are not willing and able to challenge the status quo or because no regional children's rights network exists as yet. We have identified two regions in particular - the Middle East and North Africa, on the one hand, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia on the other - where we feel we can help join up some of these dots. This is why we operate programmes for these two regions which take on research, communications, networking and advocacy activities (more below).

Beyond these regions, our work is divided along language rather than regional lines - for several reasons. In some places, such as Latin America, children's rights networks are flourishing - no doubt partly as a result of a common language as well as the strong regional human rights advocacy that developed in response to similarities in many of these countries' histories. This means



our work is more about sharing information, particularly about opportunities for advocacy on the international scene, for advocates to take up in both Spain and Latin America. We also translate a considerable amount of information, this year with the help of two successful partnerships with the University of Salamanca and the University of Alcalá, both in Spain.

In other cases, a language may be used in multiple regions or countries that do not share the same children's rights concerns. This is the case for French, and again means that we provide information in French but, for the moment at least, have not taken a more active role in a particular region, although we are beginning to develop contacts and research in Francophone Africa.

Explanation aside, this is some of the work unfolding in our regional programmes.

Middle East and North Africa

Our MENA office is thriving and from October will have its own dedicated office space. We are also piloting a legal internship programme in different regions, starting with the MENA office. The idea is that we send an international law graduate to spend a year in the MENA office supporting the staff there with research, legal analysis and writing.

In other news:

We continue to monitor the situation of children's rights in Arabic speaking countries through our bimonthly Arabic CRINmail. In the last year, the main issues included coverage of the conflict in Gaza - we published daily updates in Arabic and wrote in-depth articles on the situation of children and the Human Rights Council's resolution on the subject. We also reported on armed conflict in Syria and its impact on children's rights; children's civil and political rights across the region, especially in Egypt; inhuman sentencing of children, particularly in Yemen; and issues of violence against children.

We stepped up our advocacy efforts for the prohibition of the death penalty for children in Yemen, working closely with international NGOs and lobbying governmental bodies to urge them to abolish the death penalty and improve the situation of children sentenced to death.

We increased our networking efforts by contacting governments and NGOs – including national and regional networks - and successfully built partnerships with organisations in several countries including Egypt, Yemen and Palestine. We found the networks to be helpful in campaigning for the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the CRC. CRIN is leading the campaign for the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol in the region along with national civil society organisations. As part of this work, we translated CRIN's guidelines to the Optional Protocol into Arabic.

In partnership with a local organisation in the occupied Palestinian territory, CRIN conducted a study on the situation of refugee children in conflict with the Palestinian Authorities' laws in Bethlehem, in the West Bank. The study examined the challenges these children face when they come in contact with the justice system. The research aimed to assess needs for establishing a legal clinic for Palestinian children who are refugees. The UN Development Programme UNDP has now agreed to fund a project to assess refugee children in conflict with the law. We also plan to expand the research to include children in conflict with the law across the West Bank and in Gaza.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

This year our Eastern Europe and Central Asia desk conducted detailed research with organisations in the region to find out how CRIN can support their work more effectively and help to fill gaps in areas of policy and advocacy identified as neglected.

The results of our advocacy survey indicate that more than half of our partner NGOs in Russian

speaking countries want legal training activities, such as CRIN's legal advocacy workshops. In fact, 16 NGOs have already been involved in some form of legal advocacy, and two in strategic litigation cases. We were due to hold a legal advocacy workshop in Ukraine, however, this has stalled because of the current political situation. We are currently investigating the possibility of holding a workshop elsewhere in the region.

The Eastern Europe and Central Asian regional desk also contributed to our wider global research on legal clinics, garnering 20 responses.

One issue pinpointed as neglected in our networking and through the survey was the plight of unaccompanied children in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This prompted us to undertake research on the issue. Our research report aims to start a debate about non-compliance of the CIS Chisinau treaty with international legal norms, as well as some domestic legislation in CIS countries, and provide recommendations for an advocacy agenda. The geographical scope of the report will cover the following CIS states: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The report should be finished in autumn 2014.

On other issues, our global campaign and policy work on children's access to information was the result of research into laws restricting this right in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Our policy and campaign pages on this issue have also been launched in Russian.

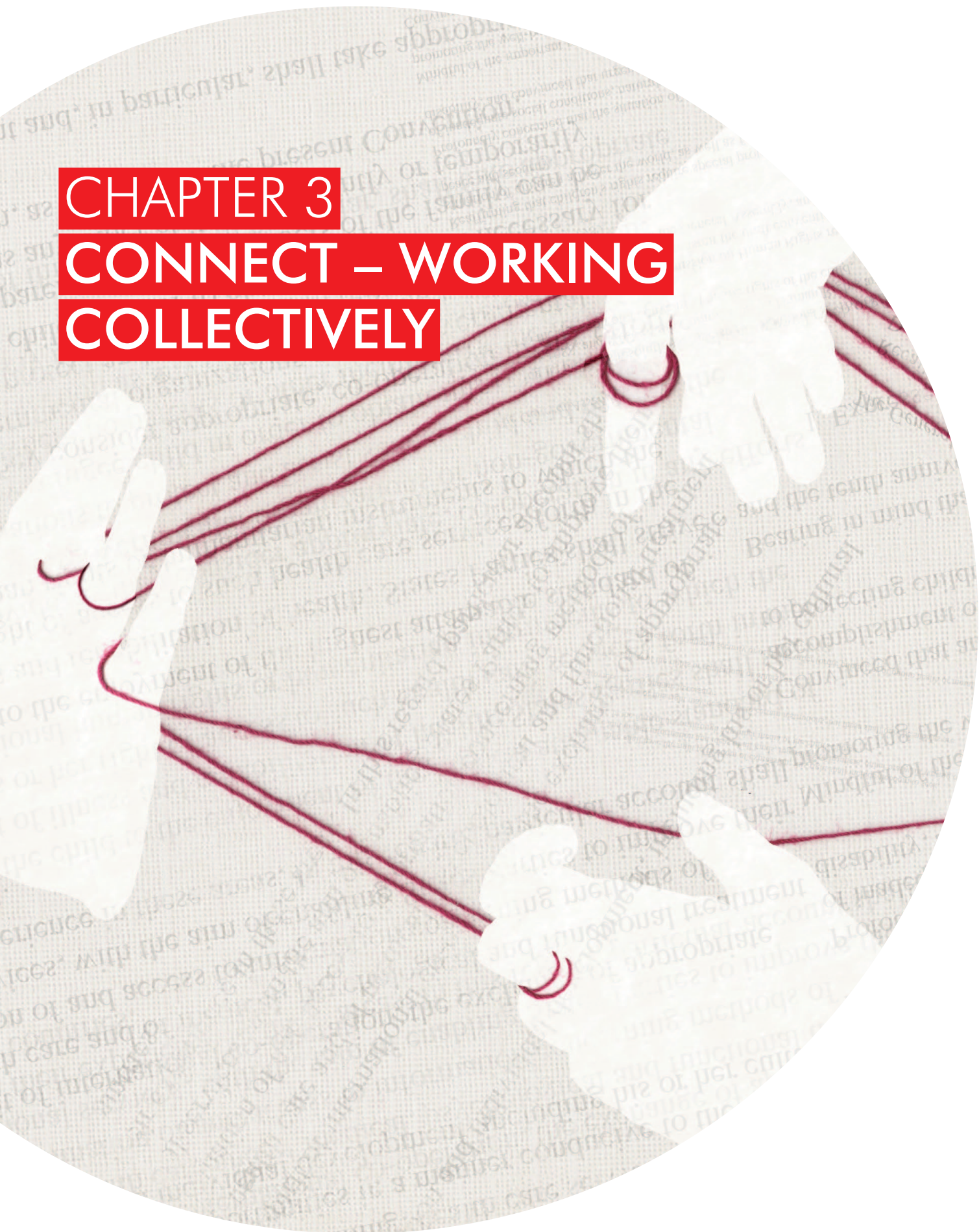
As part of our access to justice work, a country report for Ukraine has been translated, while translations for Georgia and Kyrgyzstan are pending. Other translated publications include the OP3 CRC toolkit and the CRC in Court toolkit. Updated publications include child-friendly justice and guides to strategic litigation and legal assistance.

Finally to strengthen our ties in the region, we attended a European children's rights NGO network meeting in Bulgaria. We have since exchanged information on education and access to information. We have also advised partners and other NGOs about contacts and issues in the region, for instance corporal punishment and on the Street Child World Cup.

Much of our work is about supporting advocates working nationally with new advocacy strategies, legal research and inspiration from other parts of the world — and this relationship is reciprocal.

CHAPTER 3

CONNECT – WORKING COLLECTIVELY



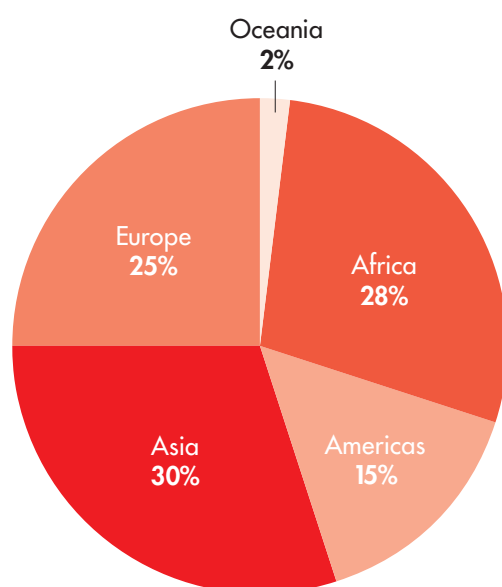
CAMPAIGNING TO CHANGE LAWS AND PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDREN IS A MAMMOTH TASK. AND WHILE WE HAVE TWO PROGRAMMES WORKING ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN SPECIFIC REGIONS, THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER WAYS WE WORK WITH OTHERS - FROM JOINT CAMPAIGNING, TO SUPPORTING NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS, ORGANISING AND PARTICIPATING IN WORKSHOPS AND SHARING INFORMATION. THESE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE WORKED WITH PARTNERS IN THE LAST YEAR.

Children's rights directory

Building a global movement for children's rights requires identifying key partners (existing and potential) with whom to raise the profile of children's rights nationally, regionally and globally. We work with NGOs, UN bodies, law firms, media outlets, academic institutions and all other organisations working on children's rights.

Our website is our main platform for instigating interaction and advocacy. It is a tool for identifying threats to children's rights as well as new opportunities to challenge them. It also provides space for national perspectives on global and regional campaigns.

This is a breakdown of 2,276 organisations listed in our children's rights directory by region.



International Council on Violence against Children

CRIN is a member of the International NGO Council on Violence Against Children (henceforth InCo) which was set up to support strong and effective follow-up to the 2006 UN Study on Violence Against Children (henceforth the Study or Violence Study). The NGO Council plays a central role in identifying priorities and follow-up activities with the SRSG on Violence against Children; ensuring civil society participation in these activities; monitoring the implementation of the Study's recommendations by States; and making effective use of information channels and networks, such as CRIN, to keep the child rights community informed of progress.

In the last year, the InCo published a major new report on creating non-violent juvenile justice systems. The aim of the report was not only to report on the numerous violations children suffer, but provide a guide for how to build a system that is non-violent. The report was launched at an event in New York where the Permanent Representative of Norway, the SRSG on Violence Against Children, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and CRIN's Director spoke. CRIN promoted the report with a special edition Violence CRINmail.

Since the Violence Study's inception, CRIN has hosted a microsite for civil society's participation in following up the Study's recommendations. This information is now integrated into CRIN's new website at this link: <https://www.crin.org/en/home/rights/themes/violence>

Child Rights Connect (formerly the NGO Group for the CRC) and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRIN continues to work with Child Rights Connect and sit on the Executive Committee. Together we provide coverage of the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, report on the Committee's sessions and make alternative reports, general comments and Concluding Observations available on the website. CRIN and Child Rights Connect also join forces to encourage NGOs and others to lobby their governments to propose new members to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Mainstreaming children's rights

CRIN participates in Child Rights Connect's Working Group on Mainstreaming Children's Rights. The aim of this WG is to develop and coordinate an overall strategy to ensure children's rights issues are addressed throughout the UN. The WG in particular coordinates information and advocacy activities for the HRC's annual day on the rights of the child - this year on access to justice. Plans are now underway for next year's day on investing in children.

Coalition for the ratification of CRC Complaints mechanism

CRIN belongs to the Ratify OP3 Coalition, which was set up to encourage States to ratify the complaints mechanism under the CRC, which came into force in April. The group, which has expanded considerably in the last few months, is composed of international, regional and national NGOs and networks, human rights institutions and other non-governmental bodies. It held a side event at the UN Human Rights Council's session in March, just prior to the mechanism's entry into force.

Though OP3 has now come into force, it is not yet accessible for most children around the world. States must ratify the Protocol for the complaints procedure to be used by children in their jurisdictions. For this reason, the Ratify OP3 Coalition launched a [new website](#) to provide information on the status of ratifications and tools for lobbying. CRIN wrote and co-ordinated the sign off of the coalition's [press release](#), and developed the communications strategy and media toolkit for national members. We are now the campaign's focal point in MENA and worked on the coalition's website redesign to which we contribute updates. CRIN staff have given an [interview](#) to ESCR-Net and written for online German law journal [JuWiss](#) on the topic.

Now, substantive discussions have begun on how to use the OP3 and what might make good first cases. In the year ahead, the Coalition will be organising a conference and a workshop to propel things forward.

You can keep up to date on ratification progress around the world and find the latest news on the OP3 at: <http://www.ratifyop3crc.org>

Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ)

CRIN is a member of the UN Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ). IPJJ is a coordination panel which provides technical advice and assistance on juvenile justice. The panel is composed of 13 UN agencies and non-governmental organisations actively involved in juvenile justice. It was established following the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1997/30. The IPJJ aims to increase the availability of information, tools and advice on juvenile justice.

Proposal for a global study on children deprived of their liberty

CRIN joined a coalition of NGOs, initiated by Defence for Children International (DCI), in calling for a global UN study on children deprived of their liberty. The proposed study will take into account deprivation of liberty in all its forms, including: children in conflict with the law, children confined due to physical or mental health or drug use, children living in detention with their parents, immigration detention, and children detained for their protection or for national security reasons such as during armed conflict. It will involve a range of actors, including UN agencies, States, civil society organisations, academic, and children.

International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

Following the adoption of a General Comment on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights¹, by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRIN is working in partnership with the International Commission of Jurists and the Committee on the Rights of the Child to develop materials for civil society to use the General Comment in its monitoring of children's rights violations by the business sector.

¹ General Comment/recommendation, CRC, CRC/C/GC/16

Supporting international campaigns

CRIN hosts an online advocacy platform, supporting international campaigns by hosting them or offering exposure and publicity. On our campaigns page, we host or give coverage to the following campaigns for:

- online action to urge ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention. As part of the campaign, CRIN signed a [letter](#) sent to Ministers of Labour around the world;
- the [universal ratification](#) of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC; and
- the Council of Europe's [One in Five campaign](#) against the sexual abuse of children.
- To view our campaigns page, visit: <http://crin.org/violence/campaigns/index.asp>

Ombudspersons

CRIN continues to work with existing children's ombudspersons around the world. We have worked in partnership with the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) for over eight years, providing web hosting services, information and encouraging its members to participate in international children's rights advocacy. The ENOC site can be found at www.crin.org/enoc

As part of our transparency campaign, CRIN monitors restrictions, or threats, to children's ombudspersons across regions. CRIN supports those campaigning for the development and establishment of ombudspersons in countries where there are none or where their mandates are not in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child or the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions.

Legal professionals

A number of law firms have played an important role in CRIN's campaign activities, including by contributing research based on their experience of legal practice within the countries in which they operate.

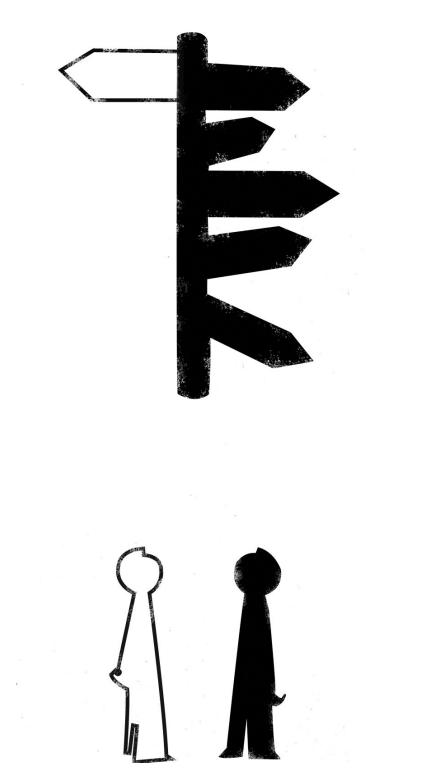
White & Case LLP is assisting us with preparing reports on access to justice for children worldwide. Pro bono lawyers at Skadden and DLA Piper as well as legally trained interns are also supporting us with this research (see page x).

As part of the ongoing CRC in Court database, law firms and pro-bono lawyers continued to research cases in which the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been cited, and produced summaries for inclusion in the database. Skadden contributed to this database, as did legally trained interns who contacted through the University of Roehampton and King's College London in the UK, and Vermont Law School in the USA. Skadden has also provided case summaries related to our campaigns and for our broader legal database which includes cases which do not cite the CRC, but are nevertheless important for children's rights.

In addition, we are a member of the Host Committee for the upcoming PILnet European Pro Bono Forum in London.

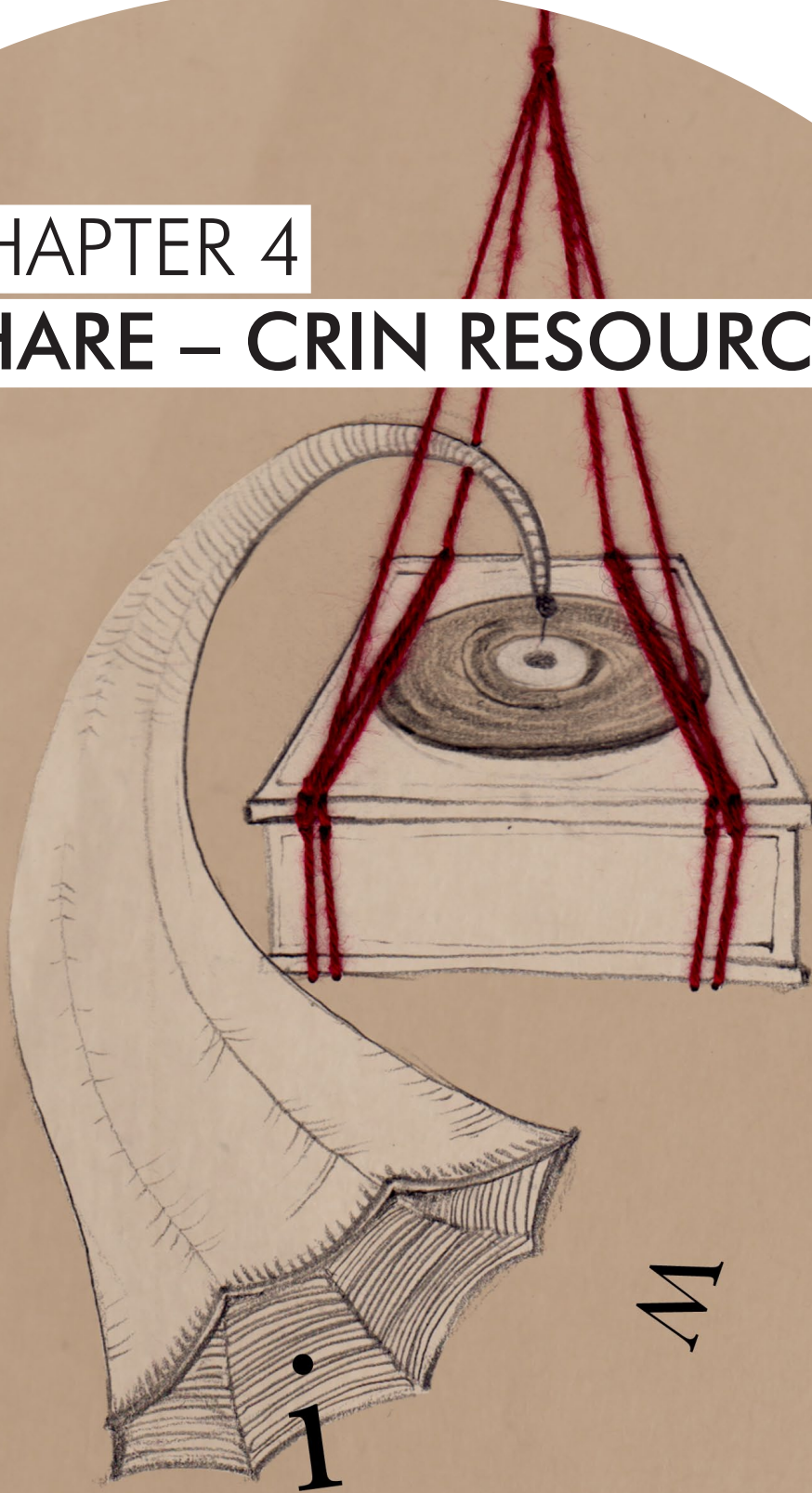
Teachers, journalists, health professionals, governments, judges...

The majority of CRIN's users are NGOs, UN agencies and, increasingly, lawyers. But many more groups have a role to play in securing children's rights. For this reason we have developed a [series of guides](#) to provide ideas for how children's rights can be applied to their work day-to-day. It is not designed to tell people how to do their jobs, but rather gives them the tools to understand how children's rights fit into it.



CHAPTER 4

SHARE – CRIN RESOURCES



IN EARLY 2014 WE LAUNCHED A BRAND NEW WEBSITE. THE SITE PLACES A STRONGER FOCUS ON ADVOCACY AND BETTER SUPPORTS ADVOCATES THROUGH ACCESSIBLE GUIDES AND OTHER TOOLS. IT ALSO FEATURES FRESH AND ORIGINAL CONTENT.

This includes a new campaigns section, which looks at the problem, the solution and how to get involved, for all our existing and new campaigns, and a guides section to make our toolkits more accessible. The new website also better explains our work and what we do, and has dedicated spaces for our monitoring, research, policy and advocacy work, as well as a comprehensive news service.

Guides

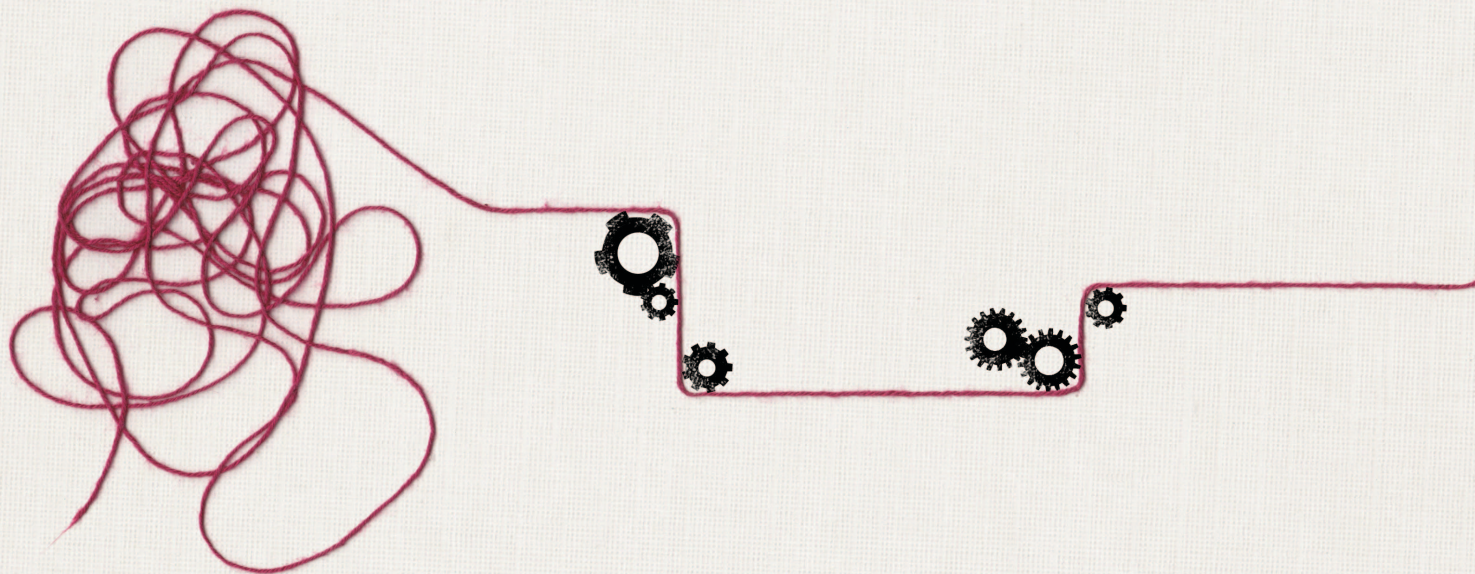
A major highlight of the revamped website is a new **Guides** section which features information, guides and toolkits - all written in plain language - to help our different users to promote, protect and advocate for children's rights. They are all free to access, download, use and share. While on our old website our various guides may have been difficult to locate, now they have been brought together in one place.

- Under the **Introduction to children's rights** section, users will find answers to basic questions such as: What are children's rights? What rights are unique to children? And how discrimination affects the fulfilment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The **User guides** section offers a range of guides aimed at particular practitioners, each explaining how children's rights are important for their work. These comprise health professionals, teachers, judges and lawyers, social workers, parliamentarians, journalists and, of course, children.
- In the **Children's rights mechanisms** section, users will be able to read about the mechanisms that promote and protect children's rights at international, regional and national levels. The guide identifies the various mechanisms and explains what they do, what impact they have on children, and how NGOs can engage with them to further children's rights.

- The section on **Children, the law and legal systems** contains information on how to use the law to get children's rights enforced and achieve reform. It also includes advice on how to ensure the legal system itself does not cause violations of children's rights.
- Under the **Campaigns and advocacy toolkits** section, users can read the advocacy guides attached to CRIN's campaign work, including on ending the inhuman sentencing of children and sexual violence within religious institutions.
- And finally the **Communications and research** section offers users advice on achieving successful advocacy through effective communication. This page includes a guide on NGO communications work, guidelines for journalists, and advice on how cyber activists can stay safe online.

CRINmail

- CRINmail continues to be the flagship publication of our work on children's rights. It is a regular email news and information list, produced in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian, that covers both general children's rights issues as well as four thematic areas of our work (see below). CRINmails offer a selection of news and analysis, events, reports, case law, calls for participation and employment announcements.
- In addition to supplying information and support, the CRINmail launches campaigns, highlights neglected or emerging issues, and promotes the work of children's rights advocates and organisations around the world. Across the nine different CRINmails, there are well over 10,000 subscribers. Subscriptions to CRINmail generally increase by almost 20 percent each year, depending on the edition, and this trend continues. Anyone can subscribe to the list free of charge and submit information for inclusion.



CRINmail lists:

- CRINmail English: This is CRIN's original list. Distributed once a week.
- CRINmail Arabic: Distributed every two weeks.
- CRINmail French: Distributed monthly, plus special editions.
- CRINmail Spanish: Distributed monthly, plus special editions.
- CRINmail Russian: Distributed monthly.
- CRINmail Children and Armed Conflict: Distributed monthly.
- CRINmail Violence against Children: Distributed monthly.
- CRINmail Child Rights at the United Nations: Distributed monthly
- CRINmail Children in Court: Covers updates on global developments in strategic litigation for children's rights, including court cases, legal advocacy campaigns, and news and publications. Distributed monthly.

Email information service

CRIN receives about 100 email enquiries per week, mostly involving questions about children's rights and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and questions about CRIN itself. We aim to respond to emails within three days of receipt. The enquiry desk also moderates and approves submissions of resources and feedback posted on the website by our users. About 20 to 30 resources are submitted to CRIN for publication each week, varying from press releases and calls for information to new reports and job adverts.

Working languages

Ensuring key resources are available in as many languages as possible is central to CRIN's work. As an information hub, it would be discriminatory and contrary to our core values to publish information in just one language.

CRIN's working languages are English, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish, with additional materials available in Chinese, Japanese, Persian and Portuguese.

Sometimes we translate in-house, for other pieces we rely on a dedicated team of volunteer translators and for longer reports we work with professional translators. For our Spanish services this year, we have had an agreement with the translation departments of two universities in Spain - Salamanca and Alcalá - which have assisted us both with translations and proofreading.

As an information hub, it would be discriminatory and contrary to our core values to publish information in just one language.

Events

CRIN continued its coverage of events related to children's rights across the globe in 2013 and 2014. This is intended primarily as an advocacy calendar and includes opportunities for participating in UN events, but also publicises conferences, workshops and academic courses, all of which are listed in our Events page, and advertised in the English CRINmail. Visit our Events page: <https://www.crin.org/en/home/events-calendar>

Special features

Jargon of the Week

In 2014, CRIN continued developing its A to Z of Child Rights Jargon, which seeks to promote the use of clear language among child rights advocates. It identifies examples of NGO, UN or other institutional jargon, for which we suggest plain English alternatives. New additions to the list appear in the Jargon of the Week feature in the English CRINmail. Our A to Z of Child Rights Jargon guide can be found at:

<https://www.crin.org/en/guides/communications/media-toolkit/ngo-communications/z-child-rights-jargon>

Leak of the Week

Another feature of the English CRINmail is the Leak of the Week, in which we reflect on the latest absurd news, proposals and allegations by States around the world.

Social networking

CRIN continues to engage with social networks to help spread the word about children's rights and expand the reach of our work and advocacy in general. On our Facebook page, we post leading news stories on children's rights issues, which regularly host comments and sparks debates between our 3,190 Facebook friends. Our Twitter account is also updated regularly with news stories, publications and statements, and currently has 5,633 followers.

Connect to CRIN through Facebook on:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Child-Rights-International-Network/263654037040618>

Our twitter page can be found at: www.twitter.com/crinwire and you can follow us @crinwire.



CHAPTER 5

ETHICAL WORK PRACTICES



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CRIN STRIVES TO WORK IN A WAY THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR ETHICAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES. WE RECOGNISE THAT OUR OPERATIONS HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. AS OUR WORK IS CENTRED AROUND BRINGING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOCIETY, IN COMMUNITIES, IN GROUPS AND IN INDIVIDUALS, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT IN AN ETHICAL WAY AND BE MINDFUL OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

CRIN follows the practices set out below to promote transparency, accountability, open communication and respect for the environment in how we work.

1. Ethical financial management

CRIN is committed to working with financial companies that are ethically driven. We work with:

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank: The Charities Aid Foundation is a registered charity that works to create greater value for charities and social enterprise. They do this by transforming the way donations are made and the way charitable funds are managed. CAF Bank focuses exclusively on delivering charity banking services.

The Pension Trust: The Pensions Trust is an occupational pension scheme providing pension arrangements solely for employees of organisations involved in social, educational, charitable, voluntary and not-for-profit sectors. The Pensions Trust is a not-for-profit organisation and is not an insurance company.

The Co-Operative Bank: Part of the Co-Operative group, the UK's largest consumer co-operative, the Co-Operative Bank promotes ethical investment and business practices. The bank adheres to a strict code of conduct regarding which customers it will accept and which enterprises it will invest in, while promoting sustainability in the social, ethical and environmental aspects of its work.

2. Information technology

CRIN strives to use environmentally friendly technologies in all our work.

Environmentally friendly web services:

CRIN uses environmentally friendly IT solutions to reduce the environmental impact of our work. Our website and file server are hosted by the cloud-computing services company GreenQloud, which is based in Iceland. GreenQloud is entirely powered by hydropower and geothermal energy, not energy credits or carbon offsetting.

Open Source: CRIN operates an Open Source Office, with most of our computers running Ubuntu OS instead of the more common Microsoft Windows. The term "open source" refers to software that can be freely redistributed, analysed and modified by anyone, and that is developed in an open and collaborative environment. Using Open Source software wherever possible is not only in line with our belief in making information freely available but also helps promote low cost alternatives to expensive and exclusionary proprietary software licences. We also use Open Source applications wherever possible, for instance, using a Drupal content management system for our website and preferring Jitsi as an alternative to Skype.

3. Publications

CRIN believes that information is a powerful tool for realising children's rights and that this should not be impeded by restrictive or coercive copyright or licensing.

Copyrights: Alongside our support for Open Source software, CRIN has adopted Creative Commons licensing for all our publications. Creative Commons licenses enable authors to publish their content more easily, to have a greater level of control over their distribution and to give others the opportunity to use their works in more creative ways than the traditional "all rights reserved" approach to copyright protection. Creative Commons licensing allows CRIN to ensure that we are credited for the work we have done while guaranteeing free access to our information and encouraging others to build on and develop our materials in creative ways.

4. Green policy

CRIN endeavours to contract services that have a green policy or that are eco-friendly.

Green Stationery Supplies: CRIN purchases recycled stationery supplies. One of CRIN's suppliers is The Green Stationery Company.

Printing: CRIN encourages staff to minimise printing by using recycled paper, double sided printing, reusing old paper and envelopes. We do not produce mass print-runs of our publications - instead, we distribute hard copies selectively and usually only to those who would not be able to access them easily via the internet.

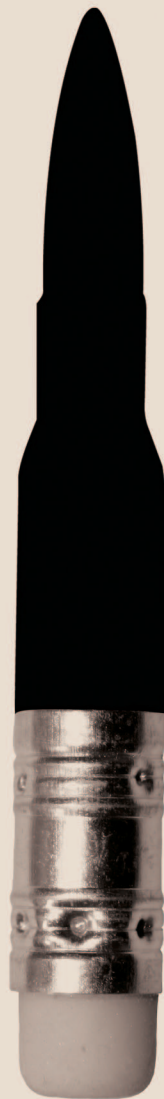
Energy: In addition to using Green web services, the CRIN office is powered by Green Electricity. We also attempt to minimise unnecessary energy consumption as much as possible by, for instance, ensuring computers are switched off and resisting the use of air conditioning in our office.

5. Internships

We believe in supporting interns to develop their skills, but not in exploiting people to undertake core work over the same hours as employees without pay. For this reason, we endeavour to develop internship programmes through universities based on mutual benefit, for instance by offering both office-based and remote internships. We also offer minimal financial support, but are working towards a paid internship scheme. We are currently recruiting for a pilot scheme of this kind.



information is a powerful tool for
realising children's rights





CHAPTER 6

WHO WE ARE

CRIN is fundamentally about children's rights, less about the individuals. But we need people to make this happen. CRIN has a core team of staff, some based in London, others elsewhere.

We are governed by a Board called the CRIN Council. Importantly, much of our work would not happen without the many people who contribute their time and expertise for free.

The Staff

Veronica Yates, *Director*

Jenny Thomas, *Policy Adviser*

Sabine Saliba, *Programme Manager*

Gillian Harrow, *Organisational Development Manager*

Andrew Stylianou, *Finance and Administrative Officer*

Victor Sande-Aneiros, *Policy Officer*

Leo Ratledge, *Research and Policy Officer*

Meagan Lee, *Legal Researcher*

Johanna Hortolani, *Legal Researcher*

Denitsa Mladenova, *Legal Research Assistant*

Vanessa Stevens-Downie, *Communications and Advocacy Officer (until July 2014)*

Alia Masood, *Communications and Outreach Officer*

Jonas Deitert, *Communications Officer*

Edward Parsons, *Operations Coordinator (until January 2014)*

Ed Renshaw, *UN Researcher (until October 2013)*

Anita Parmar, *Web Editor (November 2013 - March 2014)*

Regional People

Middle East and North Africa

Nasser Atallah, *Regional Coordinator*

Suha Ziyada, *Programme Officer*

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Larisa Abrickaja, *Regional Coordinator*

Selbi Durdyeva, *Part-time Researcher*

French Speaking Countries

Louise de Brisson, *Coordinator*

Spanish Speaking Countries

Jesica Sotelo, *Communications Officer*

Ara Yoo, *Communications Officer (until April 2014)*

China

Michael Zhang, *Researcher (until October 2013)*

Artist

Miriam Sugranyes Coco

Consultants

Simon Flacks

Patrick Geary

CRIN is also very lucky to benefit from the work of numerous interns from around the world who contribute their time for free; they include:

Interns

Sana Ahmad, *Communications*
Giorgi Chitidze, *Legal Research*
Henrique de Souza, *Legal Research*
Sarah La Hoz, *Legal Research*
Ketevani Kukava, *Legal Research*
Lucy Millgate, *UN Research*
Kalina Ninova, *UN Research*
Caroline Ott, *UN Research*
Dhevy Sivaprakasam, *UN Research*
Tom Stevens-Downie, *UN Research*

Special thanks

A very special thanks is due to all the staff at Encription for their tireless assistance in supporting us with security for our website.

Board of Trustees

CRIN is governed by a board of trustees called the CRIN COUNCIL. Trustees serve in their personal capacity. They are:

Peter Newell, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children – *Chair*

Mike Annison, Christian Aid – *Treasurer*

Gema Vicente, Independent Consultant – *Secretary*

Elda Moreno, Council of Europe

Sebastian Kohn, Open Society Initiative

Knut Haanes, Deputy Ombudsman, Norway

Eva Geidenmark, Save the Children Sweden

Bill Bell, Save the Children UK

Donors

CRIN's work would not happen without the generous financial support from The Sigrid Rausing Trust, The European Union, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Oak Foundation, a Private Donor and Save the Children Sweden.



To sign off, we'll leave you with a flavour of next year's line up:

- An art exhibition telling the story of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child designed to open the viewer's mind to think differently about children and their place in society;
- The completion of reports on children's access to justice in every country in the world as well as a report on what this would look like in a utopian state. Out of this work, we will develop a global ranking;
- A global report examining the possibility of life imprisonment and lengthy sentences, which will feed into our campaign against inhuman sentencing and for a rights focused juvenile justice system;
- More legal advocacy workshops, with an event already planned in East Africa;
- A database of case studies written in plain English to accompany our case law summaries and advocacy guides;
- An analysis of the full range of children's rights violations raised by UN treaty bodies, both in their recommendations and general comments. The aim is to highlight gaps for advocacy.

Stay up to date at: www.crin.org

