Annex

The Early Childhood Development Center offers the following recommendations to the 58th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion.

1. A UN-funded system of residential homes nationwide, complete with medical facilities and daytime kindergarten programs
2. Provisions in jail for nutrition and health considerations for the children too young to live outside the jail
3. Fact-finding missions to verify numbers of incarcerated children, circumstances for their parents’ imprisonment, prison conditions, and non-governmental organizations already operating on the ground
4. Village-based classes focused on eradicating the social stigma surrounding incarceration and children of incarcerated parents
5. Rehabilitation programs for prisoners post-incarceration

First, we promote the establishment of a UN-funded system of residential homes spanning across the nation of Nepal, housing between 40 and 50 children in each home. Modeled off our residential home in Kathmandu, each facility would be complete with basic medical supplies, a library, and bedrooms. Each residential home would also have a daytime kindergarten program where the staff members would work with the children ages 5 and under during the day while the older kids attend school. This consolidates our efforts under one roof while providing services to children of all ages.

Secondly, we advise that greater international attention be paid to the conditions children are living in while inside the jails. While it may be beneficial to allow very young children to remain with their mothers until age 6, their basic nutritional, medical, and developmental needs should be met. They should be given adequate food rations no matter the circumstances of their imprisonment, warm blankets in the wintertime, regular health check-ups, clean and sanitary living quarters, and protection from harmful behaviors of other inmates.

Thirdly, we recommend fact-finding missions to verify the numbers of children still living with incarcerated parents in Nepal, the conditions in which they are living, how many have been subjected to rape and abuse, how many are at risk of child labor or trafficking, and the circumstances of their parents’ imprisonment. It would also be beneficial to learn which operations are already on the ground in Nepal rescuing these imprisoned children so aid organizations can consolidate efforts towards making our funding and our facilities reach the most children as effectively as possible.

Our fourth recommendation is for village-based classes focused on eradicating the social stigma surrounding incarceration and children of incarcerated parents, thus making it easier for these families to reintegrate into their communities and rebuild their lives. With this social acceptance and understanding, many former inmates and their dependents will not lapse back into the cycle of crime and incarceration.

The last recommendation we offer is a system of rehabilitation programs, whether connected to the residential homes or unaffiliated, to assist former inmates in becoming productive, responsible members of society after being released from prison. This will also help them reintegrate and avoid repeated incarcerations, creating a more stable family situation for the children.