



Defence for Children International (DCI) is an independent non-governmental organisation that has been promoting and protecting children's rights on a global, regional, national and local level for 30 years.

DCI is represented through its national sections and associated members in 40 countries worldwide. Its International Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The DCI movement was founded in 1979, the International Year of the Child, at a time when few international structures were dedicated to a rights-based approach in addressing the many challenges facing the world's children.

DCI was at the forefront in the drafting process and international lobby for the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its work continues to be embedded in these fundamental principles.

This year in 2009, DCI celebrates its 30th anniversary: a birthday it shares with the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This highlights DCI's historical role as a leading advocate for the adoption of the Convention and one of the first organisations to work from the concept of children's human rights.