



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

August 18, 2014

International Juvenile Justice Observatory

Documentation Center

Brussels, Belgium

Dear IJJO,

I am writing to recommend the recently completed thesis of Dr. Ashley Shearar (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand) for publication on your website. The thesis documents the processes of juvenile justice policy reform that were undertaken in New Zealand and South Africa in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, including the influence of both restorative justice principles (reflecting international discourse) and indigenous cultural perspectives. The thesis weaves the two countries' stories together brilliantly and offers multiple insights into both the theory and practice of juvenile justice as they reflect historical and cultural contexts. I am confident that your membership and the visitors to your website would find Dr. Shearar's analysis highly relevant. Her thesis advances our understanding of juvenile justice policy reform not only in the countries studied, but internationally as well. In addition, the thesis is very clearly written, with no unnecessary jargon, and logically organized, which makes it accessible to readers from different areas of expertise within the fields of juvenile justice specifically and social justice and human rights policy more generally.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions about Dr. Shearar's work. It is a pleasure to provide my highest recommendation for this thesis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Baehler".

Karen Baehler, PhD

Scholar in Residence