

Kamla Devi VARMAH (Mauritius)

Date and place of birth: 14 March 1960, Mauritius

Working languages: English and French

Current position/function:

- Attorney at law (Bachelor of Laws), attending to cases at the level of the Supreme Court and other courts in Mauritius
- Chairperson of the National Children's Council (a national para-statal body and national forum where both governmental and non-governmental organizations work for the protection, development and welfare of children)
- Part-time Legal Adviser for the Municipal Council of Curepipe, the State Trading Corporation, Mauritius Telecoms Ltd and the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd

Main professional activities:

- Under the National Children's Council Act 2003, one of the key objectives of the National Children's Council is to "promote activities for the welfare of the children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child"
- As per article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the responsibility of the State to protect children from all forms of abuse by parents or others responsible for the care of children, the NCC is presently managing a shelter for women and children in distress. Eighty children inmates are sheltered there
- As per article 42 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, under which the State takes the commitment to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to both children and adults, the NCC is holding a yearly calendar of talks and participatory workshops on the Convention at pre-primary, primary and secondary schools and in the community at large: 38 participatory workshops were held at pre-primary schools: 316 talks were held at primary schools and 226 talks at secondary schools; 46 participatory workshops were held at primary level, and 25 participatory workshops at secondary level
- As per article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on sexual exploitation, NCC has carried out 437 talks which were attended by 5,641 students, 281 teachers and 2,200 children members of Kids and Teens Clubs
- Pursuant to article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that the aim of education is to develop children's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest potential, NCC is managing two Creativity Centres (on the model of Bal Bhawan-Childrens' Centres in India)
- Pursuant to article 15 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on freedom of association and article 31, on leisure, recreation and cultural activities, the NCC is running 24 Kids and Teens Clubs

Educational background:

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of Mauritius

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- I have been fully involved in the introduction and implementation of the Parental Empowerment Programme, the Community Child Protection Programme at district level and the Community Child Watch in several localities of Mauritius
- In September 2006, I attended an International Conference on Preventing, Combating and Trafficking in Women and Children in Commercial Sexual Exploitation in New Delhi, India
- In November 2008, I will attend the Third World Congress of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) in Brazil
- I am presently writing a paper on children's rights

List of most recent publications in the field:

A child-friendly version of the various articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the National Children's Council (in French).