



International Human Rights Council

Conseil International des droits l'homme

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(Special Envoy to UNOG)

Organization in Special Status with Economic and Social Council of United Nations

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REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS FACED BY CHILDREN OF AFRICAN DESCENDANTS

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INTRODUCTION :

Children's rights include the right to health, education, family life, play and recreation, an adequate standard of living and to be protected from abuse and harm. Children's rights cover their developmental and age-appropriate needs that change over time as a child grows up.

The full list of rights for children and young people under the age of 18 is set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most accepted standard on children's rights in the world. The rights of the child are specific rights to protect all young people under 18. Children are entitled to these rights to protect their more vulnerable position in society and to give their position special attention. A person younger than 18 years old is protected by human rights and children's rights.

There are four general principles that underpin all children's rights: these includes

Non-discrimination: It means that all children have the same right to develop their potential in all situations and at all times. For example, every child should have equal access to education regardless of the child's gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, parentage, sexual orientation or other status

The best interests of the child must be "a primary consideration" in all actions and decisions concerning a child, and must be used to resolve conflicts between different rights. For example, when making national budgetary decisions affecting children, Government must consider how cuts will impact on the best interests of the child

The right to survival and development underscores the vital importance of ensuring access to basic services and to equality of opportunity for children to achieve their full development. For example, a child with a disability should have effective access to education and health care to achieve their full potential

The views of the child: It means that the voice of the child must be heard and respected in all matters concerning his or her rights. For example, those in power should consult with children before making decisions that will affect them.

THEMATIC AREAS OF CHILDREN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

1. HEALTH: The health rights of the children of African descent are grossly violated. This is due to the following factors

- Malnutrition:** African children face gross malnutrition because of the underlining factor if poverty.
- Inadequate medical facilities,** proportion of the number of medical personnel to number of African children, inadequate drug to reduce infant diseases and mortalities and a host of others.
- Religious fanaticism:** Some religion forced child to early rise to go out in residing and obtaining religious teaching under harsh weather conditions without proper cover to their bodies to prevent excessive cold, Thus many contact cough and fever
- Cultural beliefs and customs.** This category are forced to child labour to hawking on the streets, business envisions and market for means of lively good. Such are vulnerable to all manner of communicable diseases.



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2. EDUCATION: Africa is impoverished by wealth. Many children of African descent are drop out of school before the age of 18. The mass endowment of resources has no much impact to support early child education due to several reasons

- a) Poverty
- b) Education fees
- c) Family issues
- d) Customs affect girl child education among others

3. Family: there are social challenges in some African homes that affect the development of children. Most of the Cultural Identity Representation, visibility, participation: The cultural identity of children of African descent is a major problem affecting the human rights. Most cultures across Africa sees African children as people with nothing to contribute to the society other than been made to be subservient with little or no measure of discretion. Children of African descent can be bullied in respect to culture, they are made to work like adults, fend for themselves and are subjected to tough situations like adults. Children of African descent represent poverty, diseases, illiteracy, bullying, and many more. children of African descent are not visible because there are not opportunities and platforms to express their hidden potentials and talents. For participation in the affairs of the society, children of African descent are grossly neglected and abandoned in the making of government policies and programmes particularly on the issues concerning their wellbeing. All these violates the expression of their human rights. victims are connected to family breakdown and separation. Some single parenting could not bear economic strait and thus affects children rights to development in all sphere of life.

4. Cultural Identity Representation, visibility, participation: The cultural identity of children of African descent is a major problem affecting the human rights. Most cultures across Africa sees African children as people with nothing to contribute to the society other than been made to be subservient with little or no measure of discretion. Children of African descent can be bullied in respect to culture, they are made to work like adults, fend for themselves and are subjected to tough situations like adults. Children of African descent represent poverty, diseases, illiteracy, bullying, and many more. children of African descent are not visible because there are not opportunities and platforms to express their hidden potentials and talents. For participation in the affairs of the society, children of African descent are grossly neglected and abandoned in the making of government policies and programmes particularly on the issues concerning their wellbeing. All these violates the expression of their human rights.

5. CITIZENSHIP AND RESIDENCE STATUS: The citizenship and residence status of children of African descent could be said to be natural when he or she is born, according to UNRC resolution 43/1 on issues of racial dismantling and equality. However their are infringed because they do not have alternative to where to belong even if they choose to because we see them as children and subservient to the parents and the government. African children are confined within where they are born, where their parents are or where the society has patterned them to be even against their choices and wishes which goes contrary to their human rights. Children of African descent do not have a say in where they want to belong or live, an infringement if their rights.



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6. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, INTERVENTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES: The administration of Africa's justice system has an incredible upsurge in the abuse of rights of African children in the sense that underage detention by law enforcement officials and imprisonment of children which against African justice system remains evident and unchecked. Many African children are imprisoned with gross impunity violating their rights of exemption from criminal justice proceedings in courts, unfair treatment by law enforcement officials and harsh judgement from adjudicating officials of governments. In the aspect of Immigration, most immigration authorities do not treat with law and fairness they way they intercept illegal immigrant and emigrant children as a result of child trafficking most of them are not detained in facilities that will not protect their health as minors and are not given needed orientation and education to information them properly on such kind of offences and crimes. They are mostly beaten and bartered on interception which is a gross infringement of the UN charter on rights of minors.

7. TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN OF AFRICAN DESCENT: Trafficking of African children of African descent for sex merchandise, modern slavery, Ritual purposes, and of latest human organ harvest has become a daily occurrence in Africa. Its as a result of lack of protection for African children descent. The governments in Africa have failed abysmally on giving protection to the children of African descent. African governments do not give the needed attention to children at homes, schools, public places, and most importantly do not punish child traffic offenders hence they are culprits in the offence due to bad governance

8. Children of African descent with chronic illness face almost the same human rights abuses as the special needs children but most times, these children with chronic diseases are left to die because drugs and medical services for these category of children are not within reach owing to few or no medical expertise, unaffordable medical bills and drugs it is sometimes difficult also, few or no medical facilities and equipment are challenged among others.

9. THE STATUS OF CHILDREN OF AFRICAN DESCENT: It is apparent to note that status of children of African descent is very much the same across the continent and below are a few: a.
Children of African descent are highly malnourished.

b. Children of African descent face sexual abuse.

c. Children of African descend do not have health care service within reach.

d.

Majority of children of African descent are out of school.

e. Children of African descent do not have contributions to formation of public opinions

f. Children of African descent are grossly abused by law enforcement officials.

g. Children of African descent face abuse of child labour , war, forced labour and forced marriages illegal trafficking.

h. Some cultures and customs in contemporary Africa still abuse the rights of children.

These and many more the status of children of African descent.



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THE WELL- BEING AND EXPERIENCE OF CHILDREN OF AFRICAN DESCENT: The well- being of the children of African descent is that of the one's not properly catered for because they are grossly neglected and their rights trampled without caution. From the family level to society level and government level no plan is implemented to ensure the rights of children are properly secured. The legislation and mechanisms to checkmate abuses and punishment or penalties are undermined.

The experience of the children of African descent is that of poverty, hunger, disease, neglect, and other contemporary forms of modern slavery.

THE CHILDREN OF AFRICAN DESCENT NEEDS:

1. Self esteem and confidence and support through proper and quality education
2. Restoration of self confidence through advocacy and awareness creation
3. Education infrastructure support funding
4. Legislation and compliance to child rights abuses by law enforcement
5. Legislation for Healthcare insurance cover and service delivery
6. Human rights mechanisms to check mate child rights violations