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LRRDC HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION SERIES

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



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Legal Research & Resource Development Centre
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EDWIN MADUNAGU

CONVENTION ON THE

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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Preface

The worldwide effort in creating Human Rights awareness through education, both formal and informal, requires constant and diverse approaches towards the attainment of the ultimate goal - the knowledge and appreciation of fundamental human rights as declared by the instruments of the United Nations, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and various constitutional provisions of African States.

Our Centre is fully committed to the promotion of Human Rights through Education. This, has led to the preparation of these pamphlets in the Human Rights Education Series, as our contribution towards the realisation of the main objectives of the Decade for Human Rights Education, as well as the various provisions in Human Rights declarations.

It is our hope that through this medium we will help increase the level of awareness of the Human Rights declarations and the human rights provisions which exist for the benefit of all people without discrimination.

In furtherance of our objectives we have begun to translate these pamphlets into some of the major Nigerian Languages, so as to reach a vast number of the population who are not versed in the English language.

Titles in the Series include:

(i) Marriage
(ii) Divorce and Separation
(iii) Bail
(iv) Arrest
(v) Search
(vi) African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
(vii) Maintenance and Custody of children
(viii) Landlord and Tenancy
(ix) Rape
(x) The Court System in Nigeria
(xi) CEDAW
(xii) Inheritance
(xiii) Will

This effort should not be seen as an end in itself. At best, these pamphlets are merely part of a continuing process for creating awareness of Human Rights principles.

If you are in need of any form of advice or assistance in relation to the issues covered by the pamphlet, please contact us at our Centre.

We wish you a very happy reading

Ayo Atsenuwa
Acting Executive Director

Foreword.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the 20th November, 1989. It signalled the international community's acceptance of a statement of children's rights and tells what basic rights children have in order to live, be protected, develop and participate in there community.

As an international human rights document, it has considerable merits. It is the most complete statement of children's rights ever made.

Countries which have agreed to and signed the Convention should try and harness its progressive potentials. Once a state accepts to accede to the Convention, the state must work as hard as possible to guarantee these rights for children.

In the space of a little more than two years it had (as at 1 January 1992) it had been ratified by 107 states and signed by another 35 states as a result of which it came into force as an international legal document. No treaty instrument, particularly in the human rights field has been ratified by so many states in such a short period of time. By 1st February, 1996 the Convention had been ratified by no less than 187 states.

DUTIES AND RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE CONVENTION.

Article 1:

The Convention views a child as every human being below the age of eighteen years, unless a particuar law that has to do with the child says a different thing.



Article 2:

States which have signed the Convention must make sure the rights contained in the Convention are respected without any kind of discrimination. It does not matter where the children live, what colour they are,whether they are girls or boys and whether their parents are married or not. Children from all races deserve equal treatment, equal opportunities and basic human rights.





