

Child Rights in the Caribbean:

An annotated bibliography of online resources

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Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a binding international treaty which derives from *the Universal Declaration on Human Rights*. Ratifying the treaty means we have declared to the world, and have agreed to comply with the special rights. For one, there is the basic right to survival; it is a basic and fundamental right every human being ought to enjoy. We are also obligated to ensure that our children are allowed to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually to the fullest, so that they are able to participate meaningfully in the world we leave behind for them. We are also mandated to protect them from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation. The Convention also calls on signatory countries to ensure the conditions are there for children to participate fully in family, cultural and social life; pointing to four core principles:

- Non-discrimination;
- Best interests of the child;
- The right to life, survival and development;
- Respect for the views of the child.

Keywords

Child rights, Child rights—Caribbean, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Newspaper Articles

Caribbean child brides worry UNFPA. Agency says leaders must address human rights violation by Nadine Wilson, Observer staff reporter. The Jamaican Observer | Monday, December 30, 2013
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Caribbean-child-brides-worry-UNFPA_15709117

Approximately 29 per cent of girls in the Caribbean were married before their 18th birthday, resulting in what representatives from the *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* feel is a human rights violation that needs to be urgently addressed by regional leaders. According to

the UNFPA 2013 report, titled '[Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the challenge of adolescent pregnancy](#)', the Caribbean ranks second only to continental Africa in the number of adolescent girls being pregnant under 18 years old annually.

Region alarmed at increased violence against children. CANA News Online | September 07, 2012

<http://cananewsonline.com/features/80884-cmcfeature-caribbean-rights-region-alarmed-at-increased-violence-against-children.html>

A CARICOM Secretariat statement issued notes there is growing concern about the alarming levels of violence against young children. The [2006 United Nations study on Violence against Children](#) is arguably the most telling piece of empirical exposé on the magnitude of the problem, especially in the Caribbean. Its findings point to the disturbing fact that violence does not discriminate between rich and poor nations, but infiltrates all societies within which children grow up. Sadly, the report notes that violence is part of the economic, cultural and societal norms that make up many children's environment.

CDA Wants Law to Offer More Protection for Street Children. The Gleaner | Wednesday February 12, 2014.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140212/lead/lead91.html>

The *Child Development Agency (CDA)*, along with several stakeholders is moving to make changes to the *Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA)* to include, how street children are treated. The act itself presents two separate sections: one which identifies a child as homeless, wandering on the streets and in need of care and protection, and another section that makes it an offence to have a child soliciting and begging.

Child Rights Concerns In Grenada The Gleaner | Wednesday February 3, 2010

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/latest/article.php?id=16577>

Grenadian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) advocating for the rights of children. In a report presented to the *United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child*, the

NGOs said much work has to be done in the areas of legislative implementation and the collection of data on child rights issues. A family court and a Juvenile Correction Centre are among developments these groups want to see put in place. The NGOs credit the government with making strides in the area of ensuring that children have access to education and health care.

Children have rights too by Sushania Pryce Observer TEENage Writer Glenmuir High. Observer | Tuesday, May 11, 2010

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Children-have-rights-too_7595475

All around the world and in Jamaica we see many children dying, abandoned and being abused- physically or emotionally. The *United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF)* is an organisation devoted to the welfare of children and co-operates with the *World Health Organisation* in immunisation programmes. It has come up with some basic rights of a child - Children have rights as human beings and also need special care and protection. Children have the right to life, survival and development and respect for their views. They have the right to an education and a standard of living adequate for his/her physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. They should be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Children's Rights Improving The Gleaner Monday | April 30, 2012

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120430/lead/lead92.html>

There is a shift in attitude from children being the deviant troublesome, to the child with rights and, more importantly, life. By 1991, the ratification of *The Convention of the Rights of the Child* new approach towards children aimed at prevention and improving the quality of life of children

Commentary: The Jamaican government's brutish response to child rights advocates

by Rodje Malcolm. Caribbean News Today | July 25, 2013

<http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Commentary%3A-The-Jamaican-government's-brutish-response-to-child-rights-advocates-16973.html>

The Jamaican government, drowning in a sea of platitudes and promises, has attempted to respond to Jamaicans advocating for an end to the violation of child rights. In a bout of rage and hysteria, government ministers responded to an online petition by human rights group *Jamaicans for Justice (JJJ)* to stop the abuse and neglect of children in state care.

Courts Too Lenient With Sex Offenders - Children's-Rights Body. The Gleaner |
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20100421/lead/lead8.html>

The courts have been accused by children's-rights advocates of being lenient to child sex offenders. The group has also chastised the Government for dragging its feet on legislation which could protect the vulnerable.

EU commends PM for efforts in promoting children's rights. The Jamaica Observer |
Monday, March 17, 2014

<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/EU-commends-PM-for-efforts-in-promoting-children-s-rights>

Head of Delegation for the European Union, Ambassador Paola Amadei, has congratulated Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller for Jamaica's effort in reducing the population of juveniles in State care. During the discussions Ambassador Amadei commended Simpson Miller for consistently promoting children's rights in the national and international fora, and also for her leadership on the projects aimed at the reduction of juveniles in State care.

Jamaica Lagging Behind On Child Rights The Gleaner, Saturday | April 28, 2012

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120428/news/news2.html>

The *United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF)* resident representative, Robert Fuderich, has given Jamaica a less-than-impressive grade for efforts made to satisfy the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. He said while the country has employed strategies

to help children, there are still too many violations preventing the nation from progressing. Fuderich said the country deserves as low as a 'C' for its efforts in putting things in place, and a 'D' for the actual results.

Jeopardising Childhood Rights - More Needs to Be Done To Celebrate Our Children.” The Gleaner. Thursday | May 3, 2012

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120503/news/news2.html>

The most underfunded aspect of education, the early-childhood sector faces severe challenges in learning resources, the number of trained teachers and, in some cases, infrastructure. The Government's unwillingness to provide publicly funded tuition at the pre-primary level is a violation of every child's constitutional right. If the nation does not provide its children with the best possible start, the nation is limiting the potential of these children, and thus jeopardising the fulfilment of all rights throughout childhood.

Misplaced Values On Children's Rights. The Gleaner Tuesday | April 30, 2013

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20130430/letters/letters1.html>

A child who has been charged with a crime - even a non-violent one - can find himself incarcerated at *Metcalf Street Juvenile Remand Centre* for months, even a year, awaiting a trial. For these children, 'innocent until proven guilty' means nothing. Our society and our leaders are quite content to have them experience the same circumstances that would face them if they were convicted of something. They are, after all, only 'bad pickney'.

Securing Children's Rights. The Gleaner. Monday | September 17, 2012

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120917/flair/flair93.html>

All adults in Jamaica have a responsibility to safeguard the best interest of children, but the Child Care and Protection Act is directly applicable to parents, teachers, day-care centre workers, doctors, nurses, guidance counsellors and other persons who work with children.

There are three main objectives:

- To make sure that adults consider the views and best interests of children.

- To put in place new organisations to monitor the care and protection of children and to provide special help to children who are in need of care and protection.
- To make sure that all children are protected from abuse or neglect.

UN report raps Gov't for child rights abuse. The Jamaica Gleaner. Tuesday | June 17, 2003

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20030617/lead/lead2.html>

The *United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child* released a negative report about the state of children in Jamaica. The plight of street children and the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, including street children are among key concerns listed in the Committee's report. The report noted that progress was made in children's rights and in certain mechanisms, but there are still concerns about the overall violent environment in which Jamaican children are living.

Unacknowledged children given right to name fathers Dutch Caribbean Legal Portal | September 28, 2011

<http://www.dutchcaribbeanlegalportal.com/constitutional-news/1586-unacknowledged-children-given-right-to-name-fathers>

A child born out of wedlock who does not have a father named on his or her birth certificate now has the right to list the father's name.

Website for child-rights organisation The Gleaner, Wednesday | February 10, 2010

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20100210/news/news2.html>

The Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) has launched its website www.ocajamaica.com which will serve as an additional public-education and advocacy tool. The website will become an authoritative source for anyone who parents, or provides care for children, works for and with children, and who is concerned about the welfare of children.

Internet Articles

Caribbean Countries Yet To Ratify Convention Allowing Children To Complain Directly To UN About Human Rights Abuses in International News April 15, 2014

<http://pridenews.ca/2014/04/15/caribbean-countries-yet-to-ratify-convention-allowing-children-to-complain-directly-to-un-about-human-rights-abuses/>

No *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)* country has yet ratified an agreement allowing children the right to complain directly to the *United Nations* about alleged violations of their rights. The UN said the *Optional Protocol* will enable children and their representatives to submit complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about specific violations of their rights under the Convention, as well as under its other two Optional Protocols (on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution). But children can only complain if their government has ratified the new Optional Protocol, and if they have exhausted all legal avenues in their own country

Child Rights: Convention on the Rights of the Child

http://www.unicef.org/barbados/children_23539.htm

The Convention defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger. The Convention applies to all children, whatever their race, religion or abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from. It doesn't matter where children live, what language they speak, what their parents do, whether they are boys or girls, what their culture is, whether they have a disability or whether they are rich or poor. Governments have a responsibility to take all available measures to make sure children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. When countries ratify the Convention, they agree to review their laws relating to children. This involves assessing their social services, legal, health and educational systems, as well as levels of funding for these services.

Children's Rights in Jamaica

http://digjamaica.com/childrens_rights

November 20 is the *United Nations' (UN) Universal Children's Day*. The day was established in 1954 to promote awareness among children of their rights. Since 1990, Universal Children's

Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Jamaica is a signatory to Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF puts children rights at center of development in Belize

<http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/59860>

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is at the forefront of issues affecting children and adolescents. The situation of children and women were analysed by UNICEF to determine the challenges and progress made since the United Nations adopted the convention on the rights of the child.

Technical and Policy Documents

Advancing Children's Rights in Jamaica - Report on Legislative Reform Initiative

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/LRI_Report.pdf

The study was conducted by UNICEF in Jamaica to assess the impact of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on legislative reform. Particular attention was paid to the linkages between legislative reform and social policies.

Committee on the Rights of the Child. Fourteenth Session. Pre-Sessional Working Group. 14-18 October 1996. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

http://www.law.yale.edu/rcw/rcw/jurisdictions/caribbean/cuba/crc_issues_cuba_1996.htm

The report highlights a list of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the child rights report of Cuba.

Legislative Reform Related To The Convention On The Rights Of The Child In Diverse Legal Systemsnational Case Studies: Armenia, Barbados And Ghana. Legislative Reform Initiative Paper Series. Division of Policy and Practice, March 2008

[http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Formatted - Legislative Reform.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Formatted_-_Legislative_Reform.pdf)

As part of its continuing efforts to fulfil its mandate under the Convention and promote a human rights-based approach to development, UNICEF began a Legislative Reform Initiative in 2003. The studies contained in this Working Paper are one result of this Initiative. They contain an analysis of CRC implementation in four countries with different legal systems—Armenia, Jordan, Ghana and Barbados.

Promoting Child Rights Through Research: Selected Proceedings of the Caribbean Child Research Conference 2006

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/Pages_from_Promoting_Child_Rights2.pdf

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI) through the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), and in association with the Early Childhood Commission (ECC), the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA), the Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child (JCRC), the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY), hosted the first Caribbean Child Research Conference in Jamaica in 2006 under the theme “Promoting child rights through research”.

This conference covered a range of child-related issues. It aimed to share research findings and issues related to children, to strengthen the network of researchers on children’s issues, and to encourage research.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Non-Governmental Organisations Written Submission Under Article 45 (A) of the Convention: Jamaica

Prepared and submitted by: The Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child

http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/Jamaica_ngo_report.pdf

This report is, a direct response to the Jamaican government's "*Report to the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1998*". In submitting this report, the *Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child* focuses on the points raised in each section of the government's report.

Booklets

Children in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Child Rights - The Unfinished Agenda

[http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Child_Rights - The Unfinished Agenda.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Child_Rights_-_The_Unfinished_Agenda.pdf)

This booklet presents information on the key socio-economic situation and main issues as it concerns children rights in each of the *10 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* covered by the UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean within its Multi-Country Programme. The 10 SIDS are characterised by notable political stability with open and competitive democratic systems; medium to high per capita incomes and medium to high rankings on the Human Development Index. Despite the major progress made, the states are in a region which is classified as one of the most unequal in the world as they grapple with high public debts, import dependency and rising violence and crime. They are also being impacted by the global economic recession and increasing food and energy prices which are pushing vulnerable, poor and at-risk (up to 50% of the population in some countries) into poverty.

First Call for Children: World Declaration and plan of action from the World Summit for Children. Convention on the rights of the child. United Nations Children's Fund, USA

http://www.unicef.org/about/history/files/WSC_declaration_first_call_for_children.pdf

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/others/FIRST_CALL_FOR_CHILDREN.pdf

The *United Nations World Summit for Children* was held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 29–30 September 1990. The summit had the then-largest-ever gathering of heads of state and government to commit to a set of goals to improve the well-being of children worldwide by the year 2000.

The main result of the World Summit was the joint signing of a [*World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children*](#) and a Plan of Action comprising a detailed set of child-related human development goals for the year 2000. The World Summit set the stage for a decade of high level commitment on issues concerning children around the world and it set the stage for a series of UN conferences throughout the 1990s on population, environment, food, human rights, social development and women's rights.

Rights and Responsibilities - A Guide for Parents

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/resources_2899.htm

A booklet which explains the essence of the rights of the child as outlined in the [*UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*](#) and which provides parents and guardians with useful tips to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Booklets (children's version)

Act Right, Treat me Right! Child Care and Protection Act 2004. A guide for children 7-12 years. Produced by the Child Development Agency, with technical and financial support from the United Nations Children's Fund, Country Office for Jamaica.

http://cfwelfareja.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/ccpa_childrens_version.pdf

The Act Right, Treat Me Right guide to CCPA notes that the family is the best place for raising children. The guide also notes that:

- * Both parents are responsible for their children, even if they do not live together;
- * Parents have the biggest duty to protect children;
- * Parents have the biggest duty to provide their children with the basic things they need; and
- * Parents must not harm or abuse their children.

Protecting Myself by Carol Samuels, Tania Chambers. Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child, 2005

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/Protecting_myself_7-9.pdf

Story and activity booklet for children on how they can take action to protect themselves in different settings - home, school, during play, on the streets, in the community.

Leaflets

Committee on the Rights of the Child Fortieth Session Geneva, 12-30 September 2005

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/GeneralComment7Rev1.pdf>

This general comment arises out of the Committee's experiences of reviewing States parties' reports. In many cases, very little information has been offered about early childhood, with comments limited mainly to child mortality, birth registration and health care. The Committee felt the need for a discussion on the broader implications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for young children. Accordingly, in 2004, the Committee devoted its day of general discussion to the theme "*Implementing child rights in early childhood*". This resulted in a set of recommendations, as well as the decision to prepare a general comment on this important topic. Through this general comment, the Committee wishes to encourage recognition that young children are holders of all rights enshrined in the Convention and that early childhood is a critical period for the realization of these rights. The Committee's working definition of "early childhood" is all young children: at birth and throughout infancy; during the preschool years; as well as during the transition to school.

Situation Analysis on Excluded Children in Jamaica Update 2006, UNICEF Jamaica

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/situation_analysis.pdf

Jamaica has made impressive strides to provide most of its children with access to health, nutrition, education and social welfare. Overall, the country is on a good track to achieve the [Millennium Development Goals](#). Yet, even if all of these are met, out of the 977,000 Jamaican children under the age of 18 (37% of the population), thousands of these will be left out. These are the most in need: the poorest, the most vulnerable, and the abused. They are currently beyond the reach of research, government programmes, and budgets. Their

rights to birth registration, safe and protective environments, family care and love, quality education, life skills, and opportunity to participation are denied or violated.

In this document, children are considered excluded if they do not benefit from an environment that protects them from violence, abuse, exploitation, or if they are unable to access and benefit from, quality essential services, information and goods in a way that threatens their ability to participate fully in society during their childhood and in the future. Children may be excluded by their family, institutions, the community, the government, services, civil society, the media, the private sector and other children. This report describes the manifestations of exclusion in Jamaica, analyses factors, identifies current and potential responses and provides recommendations for improvement.

Books

Child Protection in Barbados: The need for a National Reporting Protocol

http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_unicefeco_national_protocol_Barbados.pdf

Barbados, like all of the other States in the Caribbean region has committed itself to protecting the rights of children through ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (C R C). Integral to this collection of rights are those geared at the protection of children who are abused, neglected or at risk of harm. Many of the positive developments have come in the form of legislative enactments or legislative reform geared at affording more care and protection provision to children at risk of harm. Despite these legislative interventions, authorities in Barbados readily acknowledge that the child protection mandate of the State still has scope for significant improvement.

Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean : Perceptions of, Attitudes to, and Opinion on Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean

Adele D. Jones and Ena Trotman Jemmott (Consultants)

http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Child_Sexual_Abuse_Publication.pdf

This study aimed to understand how Caribbean people perceive the problem of child sexual abuse: what behaviours and social conditions contribute to it: what is the impact of child

sexual abuse on those most affected and what views are held about the forms of action that might be needed to prevent it and to heal those affected.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child: 15 years later – The Caribbean

<http://www.unicef.cu/sites/default/files/La%20CDN%20quince%20a%C3%B1os%20despu%C3%A9s%20-%20el%20Caribe.pdf>

During the last fifteen years, the countries in the Caribbean have advanced significantly in recognizing the human rights of children as well as in the effective improvement of their life condition. Important aspects related to the protection of the rights of children have been incorporated into their Constitutions, Civil Codes and Family Laws.

Early Childhood in the Caribbean by Christine Barrow with Martin Ince, Bernard van Leer Foundation, April 2008. Working papers in Early Childhood Development

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED522741.pdf>

This report looks at the development and socialisation of children under 5 years of age in two Caribbean countries, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica.

The Evolving Capacities of the Child: Innocenti Insight 11

<http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/evolving-eng.pdf>

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* introduces for the first time in an international human rights treaty, the concept of the ‘evolving capacities’ of the child. This principle has been described as a new principle of interpretation in international law, recognising that, as children acquire enhanced competencies, there is a diminishing need for protection and a greater capacity to take responsibility for decisions affecting their lives. The Convention allows for the recognition that children in different environments and cultures, and faced with diverse life experiences, will acquire competencies at different ages. Action is needed in law, policy and practice so that the contributions children make and the capacities they hold

are acknowledged. The purpose of the study is to open the discussion and promote debate to achieve a better understanding of how children can be protected, in accordance with their evolving capacities, and also provided with opportunities to participate in the fulfillment of their rights.

A Guide to General Comment 7:‘Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Children’s Fund and Bernard van Leer Foundation, 2006.

http://www.unicef.org/spanish/earlychildhood/files/Guide_to_GC7.pdf

The monograph presents numerous documents and papers outlining current expert opinion on the meaning of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with special emphasis on the rights of young children.

Laying the Foundations for Children's Rights Innocenti Insight 10. *An Independent Study of some Key Legal and Institutional Aspects of the Impact of the Convention on the Rights of the Child* by Philip Alston and John Tobinb with the assistance of Mac Darrow. UNICEF 2005

http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ii_layingthefoundations.pdf

This study provides a critical and constructive analysis of how far the international community and individual states have come in their efforts to establish the normative, legal, and institutional frameworks which are essential if the aspirations of the Convention are to be translated into reality. Within this context the study seeks to achieve three objectives: (1) to draw up a balance sheet of some of the Convention’s achievements and shortcomings in terms of laying the foundations for an effective Convention-based regime; (2) to provide a balanced perspective on the Convention’s importance within the overall range of endeavours to improve the well-being of children in the world; and (3) to expose and examine some of the dilemmas and complexities which arise in efforts to promote and give effect to the Convention.

Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection Number 8, September 2009

http://www.childinfo.org/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN.pdf

The concept of a protective environment has evolved simultaneously with the child rights movement that achieved the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 and its nearly universal ratification to date. The term ‘*children in especially difficult circumstances*’ – used during the mid to late 1980s and 1990s – drew on programme experiences with children living and working on the streets of Latin America and elsewhere, and it soon expanded to include children in armed conflict and child victims of abuse and neglect. In almost every area, it was clear that data were inadequate to quantify and qualify the nature and extent of the violations of child rights.

Sexual Violence against Children in the Caribbean: Report 2012. Glenford Howe PhD.

Prepared for UNICEF by Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Office

http://www.unicef.org/barbados/ECAO_Sexual_Violence_againstChildren_in_the_Caribbean.pdf

For decades the global community has been aware that violence against children, including sexual abuse, was a significant but under-acknowledged scourge on humanity. As such various governments have sought in their own way to give some attention to addressing the problem. Indeed, the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by the vast majority of countries (140 countries) globally is in part a manifestation of this concern or recognition of the need to protect children from all ills, including violence.

The Status of Child Protection in St. Kitts/Nevis: The need for a National Reporting Protocol

http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_unicefeco_child_protection_Skn.pdf

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis was among the first countries in the region to sign and ratify the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Since its ratification on July 24th,

1990, some gains have been made in ensuring that national laws, policies and practices conform to the intent of the convention. Despite the positive efforts, authorities in St. Kitts/Nevis readily acknowledge that the child protection mandate required of the State has not been adequately met. Identification of the weaknesses and the implementation of corrective measures are critical to the advancement of St. Kitts/Nevis commitment to making good on its national and international child protection obligations. UNICEF's support to the government of St. Kitts/Nevis in the creation of a child abuse protocol is geared at taking those very necessary next steps in identifying and correcting some of the inadequacies in the current systemic responses to child abuse. Although, a child abuse protocol will not, on its own, solve all of the present challenges, it is certainly an efficient means by which deficiencies in the system can be identified and corrected.

Videos

Caribbean youths support child rights through sport

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4vv5a_caribbean-youths-support-child-righ_news

UNICEF correspondent Natacha Ikoli reports on the role of sport and play in reinforcing vital messages about HIV/AIDS to Guyanese youths.

Jamaicans march for child rights

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/videos/video.php?id=430>

Help JA Children, a youth advocate group staged a march on May 1, 2012 to raise the profile of children's rights in Jamaica.

The Rights of the Child PSA PARTS I & II - Panos Caribbean's St. Lucia Youth Journalism Group

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV758FPz_6E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2NiD3lslaw>

Young people from St. Lucia speak out about the rights of children and young people. The programme targeted 20 youth aged 12 to 16 in S. Lucia who are marginalised or vulnerable, but possess strong leadership and communication skills.

Youth journalists use video to urge action on child rights in the Caribbean

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4vgax_youth-journalists-use-video-to-urge_news

UNICEF correspondent Natacha Ikoli reports on youth input at the *Council for Human and Social Development* meeting in Guyana.

Street Boys of Jamaica - Part I - Risk Factors of Street Boys in Kingston, Jamaica for HIV/AIDS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfuAGcw6RQs>

Children/young people have rights! The rights to speak about issues that concern them and affect them and they have the right to be listened to, and have those issues addressed.

UNICEF - No Fixed Place: Migrant Children and Education (pt. I)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVNtkGrk5KQ>

This video profiles children and young adults who have migrated from French, Spanish and Creole speaking countries to various parts of the Caribbean, discussing the discrimination and challenges that they face within the education systems (Caribbean, 2009).

UNICEF: Unfinished Agenda for Children in the Eastern Caribbean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sERnkD4-kRU>

Beyond the picturesque beauty of the Eastern Caribbean, there remains an Unfinished Agenda for Children that must be addressed to ensure that the development and rights of children are taken into consideration in schools, in national policies and legislation, and in the behaviour and the attitudes of people. This video describes areas of concern for child rights in the region, including early childhood development, life skills education, HIV/AIDS, adolescent participation, child sexual abuse, child protection, migration, and particular vulnerability to natural disasters. (2009)

Acts

Antigua and Barbuda

Childcare and Protection Act, 2003

http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/National%20Legislation/Childprotact_2003.pdf

Sexual Offenses Act, 1995

<http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/National%20Legislation/SexualOffencesAct.pdf>

Barbados

Barbados Protection of Children Act, 1991

http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/National%20Legislation/ProtectionChildren_1991.pdf

Domestic Violence (protection orders) Act, 1993

http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/National%20Legislation/DomesticViolence_1993.pdf

Minors Act, 1985

<http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/National%20Legislation/MinorsAct.pdf>

Jamaica

Child Care and Protection Act 2004

http://www.cda.gov.jm/sites/default/files/Resources/Child_Care_and_Protection_Act_2004_0.pdf

<http://www.ecc.gov.jm/Downloads/Child-Laws/Child%20Care%20&%20Protection%20Act%20-%202004.pdf>

<http://www.welcome.oca.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Child-Care-and-Protection-Act.pdf>

The Sex Offenders Act 2009

http://issuu.com/digjamaica/docs/341_the_sexual_offences_act_2009/1?e=0

Courses

CCDC'S Child Rights Education Project

<http://www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc/ccdc%E2%80%99s-child-rights-education-project>

The 40-hour Child Rights and Responsibilities course aims to bridge the gap between child rights theory and practice by helping to increase learners' understanding of children's rights within personal, local, national, regional and international contexts. It goes beyond sensitising learners to the rights of the child, and it presents critical knowledge, tools and techniques to course participants who are required to effectively uphold and advocate child rights.

Graduate Course on Social Investment for Children opens at Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/promoting_child_rights_5971.htm

This course seeks to examine the critical social issues and social policy challenges in relation to children. The dimensions and causes of child vulnerability within several theoretical frameworks and current policies and programmes to reduce vulnerability of children.

Brochure

The European Union & Children's Rights in the Eastern Caribbean; Celebrating 20

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/barbados/documents/eu_barbados/child_rights_brochure_final_en.pdf

The EU is guided by the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, the most widely ratified human rights instrument in history, in the formulation and implementation of its external policy on the subject.