The Children’s Rights Framework

January 31, 2013

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

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Key International Treaties

1948
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1959
Declaration of the Rights of the Child

1966
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights/International
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

1973
ILO Minimum Age Convention
1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Right to protection from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation
- Right to birth registration, nationality
- Right to education
- No death penalty for crimes before age 18
- Protections for children in the justice system
Convention on the Rights of the Child (cont.)

- Right to express own views and be heard
- Freedom of expression, religion, association
- Right to information, to privacy
- Alternative care if separated from family
- Rights of children with disabilities
- Right to health, social security
- Right to rest, leisure, play
Convention on the Rights of the Child (cont.)

- Protection from sexual exploitation, illicit drugs, torture, impact of armed conflict
- No military recruitment before age 15
- Rehabilitation in cases of neglect, exploitation, abuse, armed conflicts
Convention on the Rights of the Child (cont.)

- Most widely ratified treaty in history
- 193 states parties
- Outliers: United States, Somalia, South Sudan
- Review mechanism: UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
2000
Optional Protocols to the CRC

• Involvement of children in armed conflict (child soldiers)
• Sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution
1999
Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention

Prohibits:
• All forms of slavery or slave-like practices
• Child prostitution and child pornography
• Use of children for illicit activities
• Work likely to harm the health, safety, morals of children
Impact of the Child Rights Framework

- Domestic legislation to implement children’s rights
- National action plans to end child labor
- Creation of juvenile justice systems
- National institutions for children
- International enforcement mechanisms
- Shift in thinking