

**Justice for Children  
through  
Independent Human Rights Institutions**



*A Project by*  
**Centre for Child and the Law,**  
National Law School of India University, Bangalore

*Supported by*  
**UNICEF India Country Office**

## **About Centre for Child and the Law**

The Centre for Child and the Law of the National Law School of India is a specialized research centre working in the area of child rights for the past fourteen years. The main thrust of the Centre is on Juvenile Justice, Universalisation of Quality Equitable School Education and Child Labour. The Centre engages in direct field intervention, research as well as teaching in order to impact policy, law and practice on issues concerning children. The mission of the Centre is to institutionalize a culture of respect for child rights in India.

The Centre has recently started a new project on **Justice to Children through Independent Human Rights Institutions** in partnership with the UNICEF India Country Office. This two year project would work closely with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the state Commissions on Protection of Children's Rights, various Independent Human Rights Institutions, the central and state governments, judicial and quasi-judicial bodies and non-governmental organizations. With the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, 2009 coming into force from 1 April 2010, the work with the Children's Commissions becomes all the more significant.

This document provides a brief summary of the activities planned under this project.

## **About the Project**

### ***Objective***

The overall objective of the programme is to ensure that children's rights are effectively monitored and complaints of child rights violations are effectively addressed.

### ***Aims***

The project specifically aims to do the following:

1. Ensure that children's commissions function effectively at the national and state level
2. Enable an effective interface between various independent human rights institutions, judiciary, quasi-judicial and statutory bodies for children.
3. Build knowledge and skills among stakeholders, i.e. NGOs, networks and children so that they can access these institutions in case of child rights violations.

### **Activities**

The specific activities envisaged are as under:

#### ***Establishment and strengthening of children's commissions***

- Research on the Commissions for Protection of Children's Rights Act, 2005, delegated legislation and international standards so as to suggest provisions for the state rules

- Support the state governments to formulate rules and establish commissions in a transparent and democratic manner
- Conduct a two-day national consultation with existing children's commissions, state governments and central government to discuss the state rules and status of children's commission
- Research on Children's Court as prescribed under the Commissions for Protection of Children's Rights Act, 2005 and suggest measures to be undertaken in this regard
- Conduct a National Judicial Colloquium to discuss steps needed to establish children's courts in the country
- Research on monitoring of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and publication of a manual on the same
- Conduct a national consultation to discuss the role of commissions and local education authorities in implementing the right to education
- Provide online socio-legal technical research support to the commissions on handling child rights violations so that they can effectively fulfill their mandate
- Publication of a manual for children's commission on their powers, functions and role

***Effective interface between various independent human rights institutions, children's commission and quasi-judicial bodies***

- Research on legislation establishing various independent human rights institutions and examining interface among these and the children's commissions
- Conduct a national inter-commission dialogue to enable effective addressal of child rights violations
- Publication of a manual for quasi-judicial bodies like Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards on interface with children's commissions

***Building knowledge and skills among stakeholders so that they can access children's commissions***

- Publish legal literacy material for accessing children's commissions and other legal measures for addressing child rights violations
- Conduct training programmes for NGOs to provide knowledge and skills on filing complaints, collecting facts, organizing public hearings etc.
- Publish legal literacy material for children and disseminate it through human rights education programmes in schools
- Conduct Round Tables with stakeholders and children's commissions
- Conduct meetings with the stakeholders and build their participation in framing of state rules
- Provide online socio-legal technical legal support to stakeholders on how to access and effectively address child rights violations through children's commissions and various independent human rights institutions
- Advocacy and lobbying with political leaders, UN Committee on Rights of the Child and other bodies

## **Collaboration**

The project seeks to collaborate with the following bodies in order to achieve its objective.

- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India
- Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India
- State Governments (intensive work in eight identified states)
- National Judicial Academy
- Law Commission of India
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights
- Independent Human Rights Institutions at central and state level (National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Chief Commissioner for Disabilities and their state/regional counterparts)
- Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards
- Non-governmental organizations, networks and alliances, donor agencies working on child rights
- Bodies and agencies working on human rights education in schools

## **Advisory Board**

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Rajendra Babu, *Former Chief Justice of India & Former Chairperson, NHRC*

Ms. Geetha Ramseshan, *Practicing Lawyer*

Prof. Seetharamam Kakarala, *Director, CSCS*

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