

BACKGROUND

The Institute for the Study of Public Violence was founded in 1993 as the research arm of the Goldstone Commission of Inquiry.

Since November 1993, the institute has offered human rights training courses to governmental and non-governmental organizations. These courses vary from one day seminars and conferences to intensive longer courses

When the commission came to an end in 1994 the ISPV changed its name to the Human Rights Institute of South Africa.

VISION

HURISA envisages a society in which all people are aware of their human rights, how their human rights can be realized and how redress mechanisms can be accessed.

MISSION

The Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA) is an NGO which offers professional services towards the promotion of a human rights culture, peace and democracy.

HURISA's staff is committed to providing training in human rights, to disseminating human rights information and to conducting research and advocacy.

HURISA works with civil society organizations, government departments and special target groups in South Africa and on the continent.

TRAINING COURSES

The objective is to train trainers to effect a cascade in transferring training skills.

ACTIVITIES

1. Human Rights Theories and Practices

National, regional and international systems for the protection of human rights.

2. Human Rights Information and Documentation Handling

The value of human rights documentation and international systems of documenting human rights violation.

3. Socio-Economic Rights

The implementation of Socio-Economic Rights through the delivery of services.

4. Women's Rights

Legislation and human rights instruments which can be used to advance women's rights

5. Children's Rights

Human rights instruments which advance children's rights

6. Human Rights Seminars and workshops

Seminars and workshops that highlight current issues of concern to human rights workers and activists.

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICA



Children's Rights Training Project

What are Children's Rights?

Children's rights are those rights which are aimed at protecting all children up to the age of 18 years. These include the right to:

- A name and nationality from birth.
- A family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment.
- Basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services.
- Protection from exploitative labor practices which are inappropriate for a person of that child's age or place at risk the child's well being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or physical or social development.
- Protection against detention except as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, separate from detained persons over the age of 18 years: and to be afforded legal representation at state expense.
- The convention on the Rights of the Child.

- The African charter on the Rights and welfare of the child.
- Section 28 in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

These international, regional and national instruments cover the following important aspects of the children:

- Definition of a child.
- Equity among the children.
- Children's rights to an adequate standard of living.
- The right to social security.
- The right to housing.
- The right to water and sanitation.
- The right to adequate food.
- The right to the highest attainable standard of health
- Children and AIDS.
- Children's rights to early childhood development
- Access to education.
- The right to parental or family care
- The right to alternative care in the absence of family care

- The right to be protected from all forms of violence.
- The right to special protection when in conflict with the law.
- The right to special protection in situations of exploitation.
- The right to birth registration.
- The right to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment.

The Republic of South Africa has ratified the international and regional instruments and has developed domestic legal mechanisms in order to ensure the realization, protection and promotion of children's rights. The following laws have been developed:

- The children's Act No. 38 of 2005, as amended.
- The Sexual Offences Act No. 32 of 2007
- The Child justice Act No. 75 of 2008.

South Africa is in a process of developing a specific legislation which will deal with prevalent situations of human trafficking as it also affects children by and large.

Please contact the Child Line Help Line to report any abuse of children:

0800 055 555