



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Child Abuse & Neglect



Introduction

Twenty years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Achievements in and challenges for child protection implementation, measurement and evaluation around the world

Keywords:

Convention on the Rights of the Child
Children's rights
Child protection
Child maltreatment
Child welfare

To begin, best wishes for a year filled with peace, justice and well-being for all. This Special Issue on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Child Protection is Part II, following from the November 2009 *Child Abuse & Neglect* Special CRC Anniversary Issue Part I. The first issue focused on progress which had been made 20 years after CRC adoption, in child maltreatment data collection, national surveillance systems and research on violence against children. These experiences and initiatives have been recognized as advancing the rights and protection of children internationally.

The Guest Editors are especially pleased to start off the 2010 year for *Child Abuse & Neglect* readers with a continuing focus on the importance of advancing children's rights toward stronger protection of all children from all forms of violence, with a special emphasis on child maltreatment research and data collection, but expanded to include perspectives on legal, judicial, systems, as well as socioeconomic and political issues impacting the effective implementation of children's rights and protection.

This issue reminds us that, while the Convention was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the 20th of November 1989, and became enforceable from September 2 of 1990, there is still much to be done throughout the world in 2010 to effectively protect children from violence and maltreatment. Insights are shared into the situation of violence against children in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Middle East, recognizing both significant child protection developments, and the challenging barriers facing professionals in this field. As noted in the last issue, the CRC is the only international human rights treaty that has near universal ratification, with the exception of only Somalia and the USA, although there currently appears to be some movement in each nation to advance towards ratification.

Once again we have invited authors from around the world, seeking to bridge the gap between theory and practice by sharing their empirical and qualitative research in the field of child maltreatment with the international community. Our goal continues to be to increase the exchange of knowledge, experience and dialogue on child protection practice which is enhanced by the effective leveraging of children's rights.

This issue begins with an invited Commentary which introduces significant progress for children's rights in courts throughout Latin America, entitled "20 AÑOS DESPUES DE LA CONVENCION DE LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO: Su Incorporacion en las Constituciones de America Latina y la Jurisprudencia de los Tribunales Constitucionales" (20 Years Since the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Its incorporation into Latin American National Constitutions and the Jurisprudence of Constitutional Tribunals) by Alejandro Morlachetti, an expert consultant to the United Nations. The Commentary reports on successful legal advances in child protection made possible since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). According to Morlachetti, CRC ratification has been followed by a process of incorporation—complete or incomplete—of the Convention into national law. Almost all Latin American countries have undertaken legislative and constitutional reforms, which have consistently given the CRC preeminence over internal law (for example, the Constitutions of Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Venezuela, among others). These reforms have opened the door to enable jurisprudence to inter-

pret international human rights treaties as having constitutional status in many countries and further, to be immediately applicable without the necessity of States Parties to the CRC first implementing legislation or additional regulations. This commentary highlights the role that international and comparative law should play in domestic constitutional interpretation as an effort to enforce the CRC and guarantee the full enjoyment of their rights to all children. This Commentary is published in Spanish here and available in English at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/issue/5847-2009-999669988-1554191>.

However, a second invited Commentary, entitled “Persistent Socioeconomic and Political Dilemmas to the Implementation of the 1989 United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child in sub-Saharan Africa,” contributed by Dr. Mulyae Mulinge, points out the serious barriers to child protection in many African countries. Similar situations exist in many countries world-wide. Dr. Mulinge published a first Commentary on the challenges of implementing children’s rights and protections in sub-Saharan Africa nearly 8 years ago, in 2002. Upon our invitation, Mulinge reviewed the current status of the socioeconomic and political impediments studied in 2002, finding that there have not been major improvements in the well-being of children in Africa since that time. Neither the adoption of supportive continental and regional protocols, nor the passing of supportive legislation and policies by governments have succeeded in actually effecting improved child protection and well-being. Further, Mulinge reports that the major socioeconomic and political conditions prohibiting progress for children in 2002, particularly poverty, rampant corruption, HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts and wars, and failure to enforce existing legislation, continue to stand in the way of the realization of children’s rights across most of Africa. Mulinge concludes that African governments must acknowledge and address the specific socioeconomic and political conditions which undermine the protection of the rights of the child. He challenges them to enforce existing legislation, to eradicate poverty and corruption, to control HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts and wars, and to raise public awareness about children’s rights.

In “Analysis of maltreatment experiences of children in protective care in South Korea” by Dr. Yanghee Lee and So-Young Ju, the researchers explored the extent of family maltreatment experiences of children in protective care in South Korea to better understand how maltreated children coped with such experiences. The findings revealed that experiences of physical abuse very often also involved emotional abuse, and that most offenders were biological parents, mainly in poverty and with alcohol abuse problems. Further, the study identified the majority of children in protective care as being preschoolers and examined the effects of abuse and subsequent lack of contact with their family on these children. The study recommends increased community support of victims of child maltreatment for their full recovery and more comprehensive approaches to treatment and services. These recommendations are aligned with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recommendations for prevention of violence and intervention care services (Article 19) and full rehabilitation of the child (Article 39).

Promising progress was charted in the article “Child Abuse and Neglect in Saudi Arabia: Journey of Recognition to Implementation of National Prevention Strategies” by Drs Majid Al Eissa and Maha Almuneef, of the National Family Safety Council in Saudi Arabia. Their research was based on a retrospective collection of child abuse and neglect data on children evaluated by the King Abdulaziz Medical City Hospital SCAN team from 2000 to 2008. They studied the increase in and characteristics of reports during that period, in the context of observing the recent development of a system of intervention for the hospital-based child protection center, aligned with UN CRC Article 19. Study findings revealed that the total number of cases increased 10-fold during the 8-year period, and further, that while the increase was largely in physical abuse in the first stage of systems development, that the predominant increase in cases became those of neglect during the latter years of the study. The researchers attributed the increase in reporting generally, and the improvement in child abuse and neglect discernment and reporting to the increase of recognition of CAN within the child protection center as well as the successful adoption of a system of intervention, in conjunction with the establishment of mandatory reporting and data collection procedures. Anticipating a continuing increase in CAN reporting, the researchers also projected an increased need for the development and improvement of multi-sectoral services for the abuse victims in their country. This article charts a common course of development in many countries recently implementing CAN reporting systems, professional training and data collection to further inform child protection policy and practice. The article:

رَبِّةُ الْعَمَلِ الْمَمْلُوكَةِ فِي فِئَةِ الْإِهْلَالِ مَعَامَلَةٌ إِسَاءَةٌ

:السعودية

الوطنية الوقائية استراتيجيات تطبيقيه وحدتي المعرفة بين الرحلة

is available in Arabic at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/issue/5847-2009-999669988-1554191>.

An innovative approach to measuring CRC-mandated child protection and well-being progress was presented in the article “Monitoring the commitment and child-friendliness of governments: A new approach from Africa” by Assefa Bequele and colleagues. While States Parties to the UN CRC are required to demonstrate ongoing progress in their implementation of CRC requirements, the CRC Committee depends on reports and information provided to them or gathered in-country. Currently there doesn’t exist, because of challenges for information collection in many areas of child rights and protection and the lack of standards or even guidelines for performance in many areas of protecting children from violence, a single external and systematic approach for monitoring, evaluating and actually measuring progress being made by States Parties. However, the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) has established a methodology which monitors government performance and compliance in several specific areas with the goal of scoring and ranking each of the 52 African governments in terms of their level

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/345092>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/345092>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)