

The role of Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children in Law Reform

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Global Study on Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children (IHRICs)

- Innocenti Research Centre, within UNICEF's Office of Research
- Generating knowledge to inform/influence policies for child rights
- Global Study on IHRICs: Identifying conditions of effectiveness
 - Overview of IHRICs across regions
 - Analysis of main role and characteristics
 - Review of practical considerations for effective functioning



Identifying gaps

- Individual complaints
- Research and analysis
- Echoing information received from civil society
- Follow-up to CRC Committee COBs
- Implementation of international standards

Advising on content

- Review of draft legislation
- Holistic approach
- Law reform indirectly related to children's rights
- Compliance with international standards

Mobilizing for law reform

- Issuing recommendations in reports esp. annual reports
- Advocating with government and parliament
- Mobilizing civil society
- Communicating in media
- Resorting to courts incl. regional/international

Monitoring implementation

- Monitoring role
- Follow-up on measures for law implementation
- Support to creation of relevant institutional mechanisms
- Alternative report to CRC Committee
- Research and analysis

Strengths

- Focus on best interests of the child
- Position in the system
- Access to decision-makers and parliamentarians
- Contact with society (organizations, individuals)
- Ability to go beyond legal reform per se

Challenges

- Position in the system
- Lack of follow-up on recommendations
- Lack of resources to address the full range of law reform
- Attributing success

Recommendations

- Clarification of role/public awareness
- Being heard
- Being requested to advise
- Adequate human and financial resources
- Adequate mandate

THANK YOU