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