



# Newsletter on Children's rights – Sub-Saharan Africa

August 2020

## [Table of content](#)

Angola – Angola to present experiences on childcare in Covid-19 times .....	1
Ghana – National Education Campaign Coalition urges GES to enforce ban on political activities in schools .....	2
Global – Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Education in Africa .....	2
Global – La polio officiellement éradiquée du continent africain, selon l'OMS .....	2
Global – How South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe measure up on child offenders .....	2
Kenya – les élèves et le système éducatif paient le prix fort face au Covid .....	3
Nigeria – Supreme Court's decision on female inheritance divides Igbo .....	3
République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) – Une rentrée des classes dans le respect des gestes barrières.....	3
Somalia – UN rights chief urges Somali lawmakers to reject bill legitimizing child marriage .....	3
South Africa – Moral panic over human trafficking is hurting children, says report.....	4
South Sudan – 1.3M South Sudan kids malnourished .....	4
Tanzania – Tanzanian Women Fight to Stop Genital Mutilation and Cycles of Suffering .....	4
Uganda – Intersex Children in Uganda Face Rejection, Violence .....	4
Zimbabwe – It's now illegal for Zimbabwe schools to expel pregnant girls .....	5

## **Angola – Angola to present experiences on childcare in Covid-19 times**

31<sup>st</sup> August - Angola will present its experiences in the childcare in the fight against Covid-19 in a forthcoming session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the government announced. According to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the event begins on Monday and will run until September 8, via videoconference due to the epidemic threat.

Prensa Latina – [Full article](#)



## **Ghana – National Education Campaign Coalition urges GES to enforce ban on political activities in schools**

10<sup>th</sup> August - The Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) has urged the Ghana Education Service (GES) to enforce its ban on political activities in first and second cycle schools in to protect the children from unhealthy political activities.

Modern Ghana – [Full article](#)

## **Global – Impact of Covid-19 on Children’s Education in Africa**

26<sup>th</sup> August - Between April and August 2020, Human Rights Watch conducted 57 remote interviews with students, parents, teachers, and education officials across Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia to learn about the effects of the pandemic on children’s education. Our research shows that school closures caused by the pandemic exacerbated previously existing inequalities, and that children who were already most at risk of being excluded from a quality education have been most affected.

Human Rights Watch – [Full article](#)

## **Global – La polio officiellement éradiquée du continent africain, selon l’OMS**

25 août - Le poliovirus sauvage (PVS), l’agent pathogène responsable de la poliomyélite, a été mardi 25 août officiellement déclaré « éradiqué » du continent africain par l’Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), après quatre années consécutives sans cas déclaré et des efforts importants de vaccination des enfants. « Aujourd’hui, les membres de la commission de certification pour la région Afrique [l’ARCC, un organisme de certification de l’OMS] déclarent que la transmission du poliovirus sauvage a été interrompue » en Afrique, a affirmé sa présidente, la docteure Rose Leke.

Le Monde – [Article complet](#)

## **Global – How South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe measure up on child offenders**

8<sup>th</sup> August - Around the world, hundreds of thousands of children are not free. They are deprived of their liberty in settings such as migration holding camps and criminal justice processes. According to the United Nations (UN) Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, there are about 410,000 children detained in the criminal justice system every year, globally. This number excludes those in police custody. In some countries, such as Zimbabwe, information about the number of children in police custody is not easily available.



New Zimbabwe – [Full article](#)

## Kenya – les élèves et le système éducatif paient le prix fort face au Covid

19 août - Nairobi (AFP) - "Je ne me sens pas bien, car le +corona+ a tout détruit et nous ne pouvons pas aller à l'école": Bella Achieng Otieno, 15 ans, fait partie de cette génération de jeunes Kényans sacrifiés sur l'autel du Covid-19 par la décision du gouvernement de fermer les écoles jusqu'en janvier 2021.

Le Nouvel Obs - [Article complet](#)

## Nigeria – Supreme Court's decision on female inheritance divides Igbo

26<sup>th</sup> August - ENUGU—The Supreme Court in a landmark decision, has upheld the right of a female child to inherit properties of her father. By this decision, the apex court has voided the Igbo age-long law and custom which forbid a female child from inheriting her late father's estate.

Vanguard News Nigeria – [Full article](#)

## République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) – Une rentrée des classes dans le respect des gestes barrières

28 août - Après avoir passé près de 5 mois à la maison, les élèves finalistes ont repris le chemin de l'école. Masque sur le visage, c'est avec enthousiasme que Bénédicte a pris le chemin du collège où de nouvelles mesures sont en place pour assurer la sécurité des élèves et des personnels.

UNICEF – [Article complet](#)

## Somalia – UN rights chief urges Somali lawmakers to reject bill legitimizing child marriage

12<sup>th</sup> August – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said Monday that the draft legislation introduced by parliamentarians in Somalia must not be enacted as it violates international human rights norms, including legitimizing child marriage. "This new draft legislation would represent a serious step backward for the rights of victims of sexual violence in Somalia, in particular women and girls," says the statement. She further warned that the passing of this bill would send "a worrying signal to other States in the region."

Jurist – [Full article](#)



## **South Africa – Moral panic over human trafficking is hurting children, says report**

27<sup>th</sup> August – A recently published report suggests that incidents of “child trafficking” in South Africa are exaggerated and that migrant children are bearing the brunt of this “myth”. (...) It was commissioned by the Centre “out of a concern that the moral panic around child trafficking in South Africa is used to discourage cross-border migration and impinge on people’s rights”. Also, the report says, there were concerns that state officials, who deal with undocumented migrant children, are using child trafficking measures “to justify practices that violate the rights of children”.

Ground up – [Full article](#)

## **South Sudan – 1.3M South Sudan kids malnourished**

2<sup>nd</sup> August – JUBA: The United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) said nearly 1.3 million children aged five years and younger were at risk of acute malnutrition in South Sudan. According to Unicef, the high number of malnourished children can be reduced through exclusive breastfeeding for six months, alongside introduction of energy and nutrient-dense complementary feeding programs.

The Manila Times – [Full article](#)

## **Tanzania – Tanzanian Women Fight to Stop Genital Mutilation and Cycles of Suffering**

20<sup>th</sup> August – Girls in the rural areas of Tanzania are often trapped in a cycle that includes female genital mutilation, forced marriage and teen pregnancy. Women in the country are now fighting to free the next generation from the suffering and oppression.

Spiegel International – [Full article](#)

## **Uganda – Intersex Children in Uganda Face Rejection, Violence**

23<sup>rd</sup> August - Babies of ambiguous gender are generally treated with disdain by Ugandan society – and even their own family members, who often refuse to give the children a name. Some intersex children are killed as infants, according to the report. Others are abandoned or dumped in pits. Those who survive are often raised in secrecy and isolation. And as teenagers, some are forced to leave school or end up on the streets.

Global press journal – [Full article](#)



BUREAU  
INTERNATIONAL  
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL  
BUREAU  
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA  
INTERNACIONAL DE  
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

## Zimbabwe – It's now illegal for Zimbabwe schools to expel pregnant girls

25<sup>th</sup> August – Zimbabwe has made it illegal for schools to expel pupils who get pregnant, a measure women's rights campaigners said would help tackle gender inequality in the classroom and stop many girls from dropping out of school.

Reuters News Agency – [Full article](#)