



Save the Children

**United Nations Human Rights Council
21th Session
10 – 28 September 2012
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports**

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Madame President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children and Lawyers for Human Rights welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of South Africa, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the South African government's efforts to protect children's rights with regards to health, malnutrition, access to services, passing of legislation, such as the South African Schools Act 1996, the Abolishment of Corporal Punishment Act 1997, Children's Act 2005, Child Justice Act 2008, and the Maternal, Child and Women's Health Strategy. Implementation of the tabled recommendations, including allocation of sufficient resources to doing so, will have a significant impact on children's lives in South Africa.

However, Save the Children and Lawyers for Human Rights also recognizes that there are other decisions which the Government must take to secure the well-being of its children.

1. Violence against women and children

Recommendations 124.53 and 124.62 call on the South African Government to take measures to improve the security of citizens and enhance the protection of particularly vulnerable groups such as women and children, including through stronger mechanisms to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and provide redress to victims.

We call on the Government to take measures and develop comprehensive strategies to end violence against women and children. We encourage the Government to continue extensively training personnel in the Justice Administrative Structures including Social Workers, Police Officers, Magistrates and Advocates on the prevention of women and children abused; by putting in place more coordinated programmes that reduce violence against women and children.

2. Corporal punishment

Recommendation 124.88 calls on the Government to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, as well as in public institutions such as schools and prisons.

We call on the Government to take steps for the prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment in all settings.

3. Provision of basic and quality education

Recommendations 124.142 and 124.145 call on the Government to the strength educational strategies to ensure that all children enrol in school and maintain its commitment to improve the quality of education.

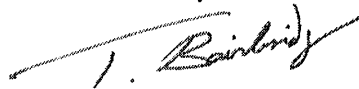
We call upon the Government to take this commitment seriously and to put in place measures that ensure basic and quality education for all. We encourage government to provide adequate and timely resources, appoint good leadership in schools and finally to train enough qualified teachers in all state schools.

Birth registration

Recommendation 124.151 calls on the Government to ensure that all children are issued with a birth certificate in order to access various social services, with particular focus on children of migrants

We call on the Government to put in place child-friendly measures to ensure all children, especially minority groups, migrants and orphans are registered.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bainbridge', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tim Bainbridge
Regional Director – Southern Africa