

HOW ARE ZIMBABWE'S CHILDREN?

Zimbabwe has ratified (pledged to follow) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that Zimbabwe must respect the rights of the child and listen to what children have to say. Are the rights of the child respected in Zimbabwe? You and other children in Zimbabwe are the experts.



7.5 MILLION CHILDREN

15.6 million people live in Zimbabwe. More than 7.5 million are children, and 2.5 million of the children are under five years old.



NAME AND NATIONALITY

From the day you are born you have the right to have a name and to be registered as a citizen in your country. 539,000 children are born every year in Zimbabwe. 7 out of 10 of them are never registered. There is no documented proof that they exist!



SURVIVE AND GROW

You have the right to life. Zimbabwe must do all it can to allow children to survive and develop. More than 1 out of 13 children in Zimbabwe (38,000 every year) dies before the age of 5, usually

due to causes that could have been prevented. The number of children who die has decreased but is still high.



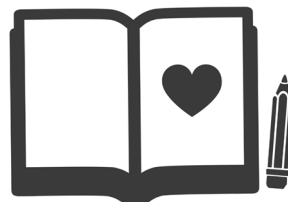
HEALTH

You have the right to food, clean water, medical care and the right to privacy when consulting an adult about any health problem. Almost 8 of 10 children in Zimbabwe have water from improved water sources. Only 4 out of 10 children can use adequate sanitation facilities. 150,000 children live with HIV/AIDS. 570,000 are AIDS orphans.



A HOME, CLOTHING, FOOD AND SECURITY

You have the right to a home, food, clothing, education, health care and security. A large number of children in Zimbabwe live in extreme poverty with less than 1.90 US-dollar a day to live on.



EDUCATION

You have the right to go to school. Primary and secondary schools should be free for everyone. Almost 9 out of 10 children in Zimbabwe go to school, but a large number of them leave school too early.



PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

You have the right to protection against all forms of violence, including neglect, maltreatment and abuse. Only 53 countries have forbidden all forms of corporal punishment for children. Zimbabwe has not. Many schools still allow caning.



HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

You have the right to be protected against both economic exploitation and work that is hazardous to your health or which prevents you from going to school. All work is prohibited for children under 12. Some children are forced into the worst forms of child labour, such as being debt slaves, child soldiers or used for commercial sexual exploitation. A large number of children in Zimbabwe have to work.



YOUR VOICE MUST BE HEARD

You have the right to say what you think about any issue that affects you. The adults should listen to the child's opinion before they make decisions, which must always be made in the best interest of the child!

