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

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE
You have the right to food, clean water, medical care and the right to privacy when consulting an adult about any health problem. 7 out of 10 children in Nigeria have water from improved water sources. Only 3 out of 10 children have access to adequate sanitation facilities. 380,000 children live with HIV/AIDS. 1.6 million are AIDS orphans.

PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE
You have the right to protection against all forms of violence, including neglect, maltreatment and abuse. Only 58 countries have forbidden all forms of corporal punishment for children. Nigeria has not, and many schools still allow caning. In addition, police violence against youth is rampant.

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. An estimated 11.6 million children (1 out of 4 children aged 5-14) in Nigeria 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!