

Pledge by Zambia

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
on 6 December 1991



Pledges

1. Finalise the drafting of the Children's Code Bill, which is aimed at harmonising all pieces of legislation affecting the wellbeing of children and ensures domestication of international treaties, conventions and standards, which Zambia has ratified.
2. Strengthen efforts aimed at creating awareness among traditional, civil and faith leaders and parliamentarians on the drivers of Violence Against Children (VAC), prevention of VAC, the laws and policies protecting children in Zambia and advocate for stronger enforcements of these laws and policies.
3. Continue engaging with traditional and faith leaders and build their knowledge and understanding on the root causes of VAC and the effects of child marriage and initiation ceremonies on children; particularly girls.
4. Strengthen the implementation of programmes targeting children and adolescents and young people (in and out of school) on comprehensive sexuality education and promoting gender equality.
5. Continue engaging traditional counsellors to revise the curriculum on initiation rites for girls and boys and to include information on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.
6. Increase awareness among children and adolescents, parents/caregivers, church and traditional leaders, private sector partners and other community members about the available services, such as a Child Helpline.
7. Strengthen and initiate children and youth clubs in and out of school, which aim at promoting child rights, child participation, non-violent behaviours, prevention and response to VAC.

PLEDGE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

The Government of the Republic of Zambia prioritises the wellbeing of all children in the country. Despite strong political and policy commitments towards the promotion and protection of children's rights, Zambia continues to face challenges in protecting its children especially against violence. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Zambia pledges to step up its efforts to end violence against children through various and concerted efforts which include the following:

- a) Continuous review of legislation pertaining to children. In this regard, Government has finalised the drafting of the Children's Code Bill which is aimed at harmonising all pieces of legislation affecting the wellbeing of children. Once enacted, the Children's Code Bill will also ensure domestication of international treaties, conventions and standards which Zambia has ratified;
- b) Strengthen efforts aimed at creating awareness among traditional, civic and faith leaders and parliamentarians on the drivers of Violence Against Children (VAC), prevention of VAC, the laws and policies protecting children in Zambia and advocate for stronger enforcements of these laws and policies;
- c) Continue engaging traditional and faith leaders and build their knowledge and understanding on the root causes of VAC, the effects of child marriage and initiation ceremonies on children; particularly girls;
- d) Continue and strengthen the implementation of programmes targeting children and adolescents and young people (in and out of school) on comprehensive sexuality education and promoting gender equality, girl empowerment, leadership, participation, school attendance, problem-solving, self-defence and the reshaping of norms surrounding masculinity for boys;
- e) Continue engaging traditional counsellors to revise their curriculum on initiation rites for girls and boys and to include information on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR);
- f) Increase sensitisation and knowledge of children and adolescents, parents/caregivers, church and traditional leaders, private sector partners and other community members about the available services, such as Child Helpline, to minimise barriers to service-seeking; and

g) Strengthen and initiate children and youth clubs in an out of school which aim at promoting child rights, child participation, non-violent behaviour, prevention and response to VAC.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia recognises that various stakeholders have different comparative advantages in addressing the needs of children. To this end, Government will strengthen its collaboration with cooperating partners, Civil Society Organisation; Faith Based Organisation and community leadership.