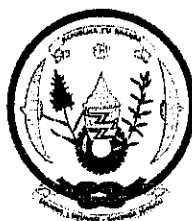


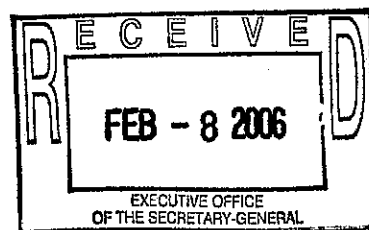


REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



**Minister in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of
Family Promotion and Gender**

**ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
RELATED TO THE UN SECRETARY
GENERAL'S STUDY ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN**



October, 2005

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRWC	: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CRC	: UN Convention on the Rights of the Children
FACT	: Forum for Activists Against Torture
FFRP	: Forum For Rwanda Women Parliamentarians
HIV/AIDS	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	: International Labour Organisation
IRC	: International Rescue Committee
KURET	: Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia Together
LRPCV	: Law N° 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence
MIGEPROF	: Ministry in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family Promotion and Gender
MINALOC	: Ministry of Local Government, Community Development and Social Affairs
MINISANTE	: Ministry of Health
NCHR	: National Commission for Human Rights
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
OVC	: Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
UN	: United Nations
UNICEF	: United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	: United Nations Development Fund for Women

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	ii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. GOVERNMENT QUESTIONNAIRE	2
2.1. Legal Framework.....	2
2.2. Institutional Framework and Resources to Address Violence against Children	21
2.3. Role of Civil Society in Addressing Violence against Children	24
2.4. Children as Actors in Addressing Violence.....	25
2.5. Policies and Programmes to Address Violence against Children.....	27
2.6. Data Collection, Analysis and Research.....	29
2.7. Awareness, Advocacy and Training	31
CONCLUSION	33
ANNEX	34

1. INTRODUCTION

After its Independence gained on 1 July 1962, Rwanda immediately joined the entente of nations by adhering to the Charter of the United Nations on 18 September 1962.

By this membership, Rwanda resolved to declare its faith in the human fundamental rights, in human dignity and value, as stated in the preamble of the Charter.

In this development, Rwanda is signatory of almost all the international instruments that protect human rights.

Even though the rights of the child are included in human rights in general, there are special conventions protecting the rights of the child such as the Convention on Children's Rights that was ratified by Rwanda on 19 September 1990.

Rwanda is strongly committed to protecting the rights of children whose estimated number, according to General Census of the Population and Housing of August 2002, is 4.223.526 out of a total population of 8.128.553, i.e. 52 %. Among those children, 30% are orphans.

This commitment of the Government of Rwanda to protect children's rights can be seen through various political, institutional and legal measures taken within this framework and which will be developed in the answers to the questionnaire.

Nevertheless, it is needed to specify in passing that Rwanda has been concerned with violence against children and this is translated by the establishment of a special law, Law n° 27 /2001 of 28/04/2001 on rights and protection of the child against violence.

Rwanda therefore hails the highly laudable initiative of the UN which, by the resolution 57/190 of the General Assembly, requested the UN Secretary General to carry out a thorough study on the issue of violence against children.

Through the answers to the questionnaire, Rwanda hopes to bring its contribution to the study which, as highlighted by Committee on the Rights of the Child, should lead to the 'formulation of strategies aimed to prevent all forms of violence against children and fight against them efficiently ...'

The government of Rwanda ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 19 September 1990. Besides, Rwanda ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

For the implementation of these international instruments, the people of Rwanda made their own the principles included therein by enshrining them in the Constitution (Articles 27 and 28).

Furthermore, Law N° 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence (LRPCV) was established on 28 April 2001.

It is a special law which establishes the rights of the child and, to protect those rights, enacts specific penalties against people found guilty of having violated them.

Just before the promulgation of the LRPCV, punishing acts of violating the rights of the child was done by referring to the Penal Code.

As most of other national laws, the LRPCV is also under review for it to be in line with the Constitution of 4 June 2003 and more efficient and effective concerning the protection of the rights of the child.

Other internal instruments include provisions on the protection of the rights of the child, namely:

- Law N° 42/1988 of 27 October 1988 establishing the Preliminary Title and the First Book of the Civil Code;
- Law N° 22/99 of 12/11/1999 to supplement Book I of the Civil Code and to institute Part Five regarding matrimonial regimes, liberalities and successions;
- Law N° 51/2001 of 30/12/2001 establishing the Labour Code.

Table 2: National Laws and Provisions on Child Protection

Name	Relevant articles	Year of Adoption/review
The Constitution	Article 28	June 2003
Law N° 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence (LRPCV)	Articles 33-50	April, 2001
Penal Code	Article 386 and 387	1998(draft review available)
Civil code, First Book		1989
Law N° 22/1999		1999
Labour Code		2001
Law N° 41/2004 establishing the Code of Criminal Procedure	Articles 184, 185, 186	July, 2004

As regards cases concerning violence against children in which courts or tribunals have referred to international or regional human rights standards, Rwandan courts account for their decisions basing on the internal law informed by the Constitution.

However, the reference to international or regional standards pervades indirectly, but clearly, through the fact that in the preamble of the Constitution, the People of Rwanda reaffirm their commitment to the principles of Human Rights as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations of 26 June 1945.

The preamble of the Constitution sets forth other texts which lay down the principles of human rights, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 September 1989.

Since all jurisdictional decisions refer to the Constitution, there is reason to assert without any mistake that through it, they also refer to international or regional standards contained in the instruments to which Rwanda has adhered.

International treaties or agreements have a pride of place in the Constitution compared to organic and ordinary laws.

Legal provisions on violence against children

2. Describe how forms of violence against children are addressed in your country's constitution, legislation and subsidiary legislation, and, where appropriate, customary law.

Article 10 of the Constitution sets out the principle that the human person is sacred and inviolable. This provision does not make any distinction based on age.

It is therefore needless to say that children fully enjoy the protection against violence enshrined in the Constitution.

This protection appears under articles of the Title II on fundamental human rights and the rights and duties of the citizen.

In addition to Article 10 above, the following can be mentioned:

- Article 11 that sets out that all Rwandans are born and remain free and equal in rights and duties and its second paragraph prohibits any form of discrimination.

It should be noted that the term 'inter alia' in this paragraph means that the list is not exhaustive. Discrimination based on age is also prohibited and punished by law.

- Article 12 the terms of which are extremely clear as regards the prohibition of violence reads as follows:

Every person has the right to life. No person shall be arbitrarily deprived of life.

- Article 13 that deals with the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, specifying that they do not have a period of limitation.
- Article 15 that sets out principle of every person's right to physical and mental integrity and prohibits torture, physical abuse or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
Besides, this Article sets out that no one shall be subjected to experimentation without his or her informed consent.
- Article 16 that stipulates that all human beings are equal before the law and that they shall enjoy, without any discrimination, equal protection of the law.
- The provisions of the Constitution which prohibit arbitrary interference in the private life of a person, protect his or her honour and good reputation, inviolability of a person's home, confidentiality of correspondence [Article 22] , right to private property [Article 29] , freedom of thought, opinion, conscience, religion, worship [Article 33], freedom of association [Article 35], right to employment [Article 37] , right to education [Article 40], just to name but a few, are also in the sense of protecting the human being in general against all forms of violence and violence against children in particular such as explicitly provided for in Article 28 of the Constitution.

Concerning legislative and statutory texts and as stated above, Law n° 27/2001 is a special law on the rights and protection of the child against violence.

This law is subdivided into 4 parts concerning respectively the rights of the child, the duties of the child, offences against children and their punishment, miscellaneous and final provisions.

The third part which deals exclusively with the definition of offences against children and their punishment comprises 22 articles.

The offences provided for and punished are related to attempt on a child's life, sexual violence and exploitation against a child, inducing a child into sexual activities or into prostitution, exploitation of children, abandonment and exposure of children, as well as premature and forced marriage.

- The Rwandan Penal Code also includes provisions that specifically protect children against violence. This is also the case with articles 358 to 362 concerning indecent assault and rape.

Article 374 provides for aggravating circumstances if prostitution facilities were offered to a minor under 18.

Article 379 provides for and punishes advertising abortive means.

Articles 380 to 387 deal with family desertion, neglect and exploitation of children.

Article 388 provides for an aggravating circumstance if arbitrary abduction and detention are committed against a person under 18.

- The Civil Code, First Book, comprises provisions on kinship and filiation, adoption, guardianship, which are all geared towards promoting and protecting the rights of the child (Articles 296 and following).
- The Labour Code imposes particular conditions for child labour (Articles 63 to 66) and pregnant or nursing mothers' labour (Articles 67 to 70).

In Rwandan culture, a child is considered as the most valuable wealth for the family and society in general. The protection of the child is not only the task of his nuclear family, but also of the community in general.

3. Provide details of any specific legislative provisions on:

- **Prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment;**
- **Protection of children from all forms of violence;**
- **Redress, including compensation, for child victims of violence;**
- **Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children;**
- **Reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of violence.**

A. Prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment

The legal provisions concerning the prevention of all forms of violence have been mentioned in the answers to the previous question, but it is necessary to recall and highlight the following texts and articles:

- The Constitution: articles 10,11,12,13,15,16,22,28,29,33,35,37,40 ;
- Law n° 27/2001 on the rights and protection of the child against violence, including the third part that defines offences against children and their punishment: articles 28 to 50;
- The Penal Code: articles 358 to 362, 374, and 379,380 to 387,388.

B. Protection of children from all forms of violence

In Rwandan legislation, the preoccupation to protect children against all forms of violence appears, as said previously, in various texts. The Constitution deals with fundamental human rights in general, but reserves a particular article to the protection of children, namely the aforementioned Article 28.

The Penal Code also contains repressive provisions against violations of the human rights in general and the rights of the child in particular, but the credit is undoubtedly due to Law n°27/2001 on the rights and protection of the child against violence which is a special law in this area.

However, it is necessary to acknowledge that all these provisions deal mainly with sexual violence. The on-going law reform should take all this into account in order to also address other forms of violence against children.

C. Redress, including compensation, for child victims of violence

The compensation of damages caused during offences falls within civil proceedings.

In Rwandan law, the victim of an offence has several ways to receive compensation. The common way is to take civil action to the penal court to which the offence has been referred.

But the plaintiff can also undertake a direct summons in case of inaction by the Public Prosecutor or take directly his/her action to a competent civil court. It should be specified that the legal majority in Rwanda is 21. Before this age and apart from emancipation, the legal capacity is not yet acquired.

However, children who are victims of violence receive compensation, given the fact that their civil actions are taken by their parents or guardians. Moreover, this practice is very common regarding civil responsibility on automotive vehicles because children are counted among beneficiaries of victims of traffic accidents. They are therefore given compensation a fortiori when they are victims of offences.

D. Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children

As stated above, the Penal Code contains repressive provisions against the perpetrator of offences committed against children. It is the same, and this is a mere reminder, for articles 358 to 362 which provide for penalties against the perpetrator of indecent assault and rape against children.

These articles stipulate furthermore that if rape has caused the death of the person on whom it was committed, the perpetrator will be sentenced to death.

Article 379 punishes advertising of abortive means and articles 380 to 387 provide for penalties against those who abandon their families, neglect or expose children.

But we should once more point out that Law n°27/2001 is the backbone regarding the protection of the rights of the child in Rwanda. As previously specified, this law contains 22 articles focused only the punishment of offences against children.

Among these articles, it is necessary to point out Article 35 which provides for the death penalty when rape committed against a child has caused the death or an incurable disease, Article 45 which provides for the same punishment when the child's neglect caused the death of the latter, articles 47 to 50 the originality of which is to punish the perpetrator and accomplices of forced and premature marriages.

It should be noted that Article 28 provides for an imprisonment of 6 months to 5 years and a fine ranging from twenty to one hundred thousand Rwandan francs, or one of these punishments only, against any person who will have been aware of an offence against a child and will not have reported it to competent authorities.

E. Reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of violence

Regarding the reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of violence, there are some related practices, that is, child victims of sexual violence are immediately treated and free of charge by a doctor and there are some associations with an objective of caring for victims of trauma. However, there are no specific services dealing specifically with support and counselling to child victims of violence.

We have every good reason to strongly hope that with the current law reform and the enactment of a law against violence, this issue will be addressed with as much seriousness as required.

4. Indicate whether any specific legislative provisions address all forms of violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and sexual exploitation against children which take place in:

- The family/ home;
- Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);
- Military schools;
- Institutions including care, residential, health and mental health;
- The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons;

- The neighbourhood, street and the community, including in rural areas;
- The workplace (informal and formal);
- Sports and sporting facilities.

A. Families and Homes:

Article 361 of the Penal Code provides for twice as much as the maximum of punishments when the indecent assault or rape against a child was committed by a relative or a person belonging to the category of those who have authority on her/him. Being a relative of the victim constitutes an aggravating circumstance for the offences concerning prostitution (article 374).

Articles 36, 43, 44, 46 and 50 of Law n°27/2001 provide for severer penalties when the offences of rape (36), neglect of a child (43, 44, 46), forced or premature marriage (50) were committed by relatives or persons in charge of taking care of the child.

B. Schools and pre-school care and education (formal and non-formal, state and private):

Penal Code: article 361

Law n°27/2001: articles 36, 46.

C. Military schools:

Article 19 of Law n°27/2001 prohibits the military service for children under the age of 18. However it should be specified that during the last conflict that Rwanda experienced, and that led to the 1994 genocide, children were enrolled by the belligerents.

There is reason to affirm, without any risk of error, that child soldiers are among children who are affected by armed conflicts. The Government of Rwanda has been very preoccupied with the fate of those children to the extent that this special category is among those included in the National Policy for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children adopted in 2003. Moreover, those children receive special care from the National Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission.

D. Institutions including care, residential, health and mental health:

In pursuance of Article 3 of Law n° 27/2001, a ministerial order governing the organisation and functioning of care centres for orphans and other vulnerable children is under elaboration.

Before the publication of this ministerial order whose elaboration process might take a long time as it is based on a law which, is also under review, the Minister having children's affairs in her attributions has issued a ministerial instruction addressing the same issue. What has been noticed is that the problem of violence against children is addressed within those child care institutions, especially as can be seen in the following articles:

Article 19:

In all its actions for children, the child care centre shall respect fundamental rights and freedoms of the child, namely freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion.

Article 24:

All children fostered in a child care centre shall be treated equally without any distinction, based on their nationality, race, sex, religion or ethnicity.

Article 25:

Within the child care centre, no child can undergo corporeal punishment or degrading or harassing treatment by the authorities of the centre, the employees or her/his peers.

All inhuman treatment against a child shall be punished according to the law in force in that matter.

Without prejudice to penal proceedings, the Minister having children in her/his attributions may impose administrative sanctions to the institution characterised by repeated inhuman treatment, perpetrated against children under its care.

The publication of the Law under review, as well as its enactment decree will further strengthen the protection of children living in childcare centres.

However, worth specifying that as set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 20), placing children in childcare centres is but a temporary solution and of last resort, the slogan being **"one child, one family"**.

E. The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons:

When it happens that children are submitted to a penalty depriving them of their freedom, they are separated from adults in detention facilities.

F. The neighbourhood, street and the community, including in rural areas:

The law related to the protection of children addresses violence in general and violence acts against children are punished, irrespective of the place in which they were committed. Nevertheless, the on-going review shall attempt to address more specifically the forms of violence, while putting in place measures related to imposing adequate sanctions and penalties.

G. The workplace (informal and formal):

The law n° 27/2001, in its Article 18, stipulates that the work performed by the child should not burden him/her to the extent that it compromises his/her education, health or physical development. It is prohibited to employ a child before the age of 14.

H. Sports and sporting facilities:

It is stipulated, in Article 17 of Law n° 27/2001, that a child has the right to rest, enjoyment of sports and of recreational activities. The law review will include sanctions and penalties for sports and recreational management in case a child is abused while exercising his/her rights.

5. Indicate if corporal punishment of children in any setting, including in the family, is explicitly prohibited in your legal system. Provide details of any legal defences available to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family. Provide information on penalties applicable to those who administers administer corporal punishment to children, including the family.

According to Law n° 27/2001, corporal punishment is regarded as physical violence, though there is no explicit provision that punishes corporal punishment. The ministry of Education has a draft law on corporal punishment and other forms of abuse in the school setting.

The Penal Code (articles 318 to 332) punishes voluntary homicide which is not qualified as a murder and voluntary corporeal injuries. These provisions also protect children against corporeal punishments because it is not rare for those who inflict such punishments to be prosecuted by the law.

By the way, there is a case still pending in Butare Province where a teacher who inflicted those corporeal punishments to one of his pupils has been imprisoned temporarily awaiting to be prosecuted.

As to saying that the perpetrators have any means of defence, the answer is no. Rather, their acts may be punished by articles of the aforesaid Penal Code.

6. Provide information on whether the penal code permits corporal punishment and/or capital punishment as a sentence for crimes committed by under 18 year olds.

The Penal Code provides for major penalties which are death, imprisonment, and fine. Special forfeiture, residence ban and residence obligation, placing a person under state care and loss of civil rights are incidental penalties. It is therefore clear that corporeal punishments cannot be inflicted as penal sanctions in Rwanda (*nulla poena sine lege*).

Death penalty is not pronounced against children under 18 because Article 77 of the Penal Code provides for minority excuses according to which when a person aged above 14 and below 18 when the offence was committed had to incur death penalty or life imprisonment, will be sentenced to 20 year imprisonment. The same code forbids the execution of a pregnant mother before delivery.

7. Provide details on whether bullying/hazing and sexual harassment are explicitly addressed by legislation.

Bullying and hazing are not explicitly set forth and punished by the Rwandan legislation. However, if done excessively, they can be punished by the penal law (corporeal injuries, assault and battery, abuse, etc.). Before 1994, Bullying and hazing were a common practice at the National University but such practices have been banished by the Government of National Unity.

Regarding sexual harassment, it is an offence provided for and punished by Law n° 23/2003 of 07/08/2003 to prevent, combat and suppress corruption and related offences. The penalties provided for under Article 21 of this law are a 2 to 5 year imprisonment and a fine ranging from fifty thousand to one million Rwandan francs. It should be noted that this clause stipulates that both imprisonment and fine must be pronounced.

8. Provide information on the way in which harmful or violent traditional practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation, child marriage or honour crimes are addressed in your country.

Article 47 of Law n° 27/2001 prohibits premature marriage (as a form of mental abuse). Forced marriage is punishable by the law, any person who lives or attempts to live with a child aged below eighteen years of age as husband or wife

shall receive a sentence as someone who commits child rape. The Penal Code sets the legal age of marriage at 21 years for both girls and boys. The law reform will attempt to be gender sensitive. Legislation on sexual violence should also, in its drafting, earmark some of the gender issues that are not addressed in other laws.

Female genital mutilation and honour crimes are not known in Rwandan custom, and if ever practiced, they should be addressed referring to criminal law in general (voluntary corporeal injuries).

- 9. Provide information on the applicability of specific provisions to address all forms of violence against children to non-citizens and stateless children, including asylum seekers and displaced children. If specific provisions do not apply to such children, provide details of protection offered to them.**

Article 16 of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 stipulates that all human beings are equal before the law. They shall enjoy, without any discrimination, equal protection of the law.

Article 10 of the same Constitution stipulates that discrimination of whatever kind based on, inter alia, ethnic origin, tribe, clan, colour, sex, region, social origin, religion or faith, opinion, economic status, culture, language, social status, physical or mental disability or any other form of discrimination is prohibited and punishable by law. Article 7 stipulates that dual nationality is permitted.

Moreover, Rwanda is party to the law of 1954 related to refugees since 1979. If not specified, children under this status are protected in accordance with the international conventions to which Rwanda is party.

- 10. Provide information on any difference in the definition of violence and the applicable legal framework according to:**

- The sex or sexual orientation of the victim and/or of the perpetrator;
- The age of the victim and /or of the perpetrator;
- The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including, but not limited to infanticide, sexual violence in marriage, incest and sexual abuse within the family, and physical chastisement.

A. The sex or sexual orientation of the victim and/or of the perpetrator:

In law n° 27 Of 2003, this sex aspect is addressed in the same way. In fact, no sex -based distinction is done between the perpetrators or victims of offences.

B. The age of the victim:

As has previously been specified, the Penal Code contains provisions where the age of the victim constitutes an aggravating circumstance. We can mention for instance Article 388 which states that there will be aggravating circumstances when abduction, arbitrary arrest or detention have been committed against a person aged less than 18.

As to Law n° 27/2001 which, as already specified, constitutes the Rwandan hobby horse in combating violence against children, all offences it provides for and punishes are based on the age of the victim, namely the child, defined in Article 1 as anybody aged below 18 years .

The age of the perpetrator

Article 77 of the Penal Code provides for the minority excuse when the perpetrator or accomplice of a crime or an offence was aged between 14 and 18 when the offence was committed.

Article 184 of the criminal procedure stipulates that a child aged below twelve (12) years cannot be detained in detention facilities meant for criminal suspects. However, on exceptional reasons, a child aged between ten (10) and twelve (12) years, for whom there are reasons to believe that he or she committed an offence, can be detained by the police officer for the purposes of investigation. All the minors have the rights to be represented by a counsellor.

Article 187 of the same law stipulates that, after the hearing procedures, the child/minor is handed over to the parents or guardian or, if necessary, the child is taken to a rehabilitation centre.

C. The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including, but not limited to infanticide, sexual violence in marriage, incest and sexual abuse within the family, and physical chastisement:

Infanticide is provided for by the Rwandan Penal Code in Article 314. It is defined as the murder or assassination committed against a child during the delivery or immediately after. Infanticide is considered a murder or assassination according to circumstances.

It should be noted that the Rwandan Penal Code (article 311) qualifies as murder a homicide committed with an intention to put an end to a person's life and

provides for a life imprisonment against whoever commits that crime. Assassination is a murder committed with premeditation or ambush and it is punished by a death penalty. It is worth noting that parricide is punished also by a death penalty.

It is rather rare that sexual violence between spouses, in Rwanda, as elsewhere in the world, be displayed in broad daylight. This does not mean that it does not exist. Where serious problems arise in the intimate relationships between spouses, these are generally settled within the extended family (do not wash your dirty linen in public). In case the plaintiff, usually the wife, does not find satisfaction to her grievances, she can take action to competent authorities to ask for divorce or legal separation when cohabitation becomes impossible.

Awareness raising campaigns against this form of violence are but carried out at all levels by various stakeholders, namely institutions and associations for the defence of human rights and the woman's rights in particular.

Concerning incest and sexual cruelty within the family, there are rare cases of such practices and the most common are those where fathers or grandfathers rape their daughters or granddaughters. The cases which have been recorded so far have been submitted to judicial proceedings.

As regards chastisement within the family, they are legally punished when they have been done to such a degree that they constitute offences. We can for instance mention the situation where the blows to a person have caused injuries or death.

11. Provide information on any recent comprehensive review of the legal framework to address violence against children.

The new Constitution of June 2003 was amended, the law N° 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence adopted. In 2005, both the penal code and the law N° 27/2001 are under review, and the Ministry of Education is drafting and revising the law on corporal punishment in schools.

12. Provide information on any studies and surveys, which have been undertaken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children.

These initiatives are currently discussed within the civil society and relevant government institutions. The National Police, the Supreme Court and the Prosecutor General's Office provide regular reports on legal loopholes and on ways to improve existing laws. Within the framework of the drafting process of sexual violence related legislation, the necessary amendment of the relevant provisions will be further tackled.

Courts tasked with addressing violence against children

13. Identify those parts of the court structure in your country tasked with addressing violence against children. Indicate if your family or juvenile courts have specific responsibility for this issue.

The law n° 07/2004 determining the organization, functioning of the jurisdiction of the courts provides for juvenile chambers.

Article 74 of this law gives right to children in conflict with law to be tried at provincial level. The administration of juvenile chambers shall ensure appropriate measures for overseeing the support and education given to these children.

Within the internal conduct of courts, judges in charge of juvenile offenders are responsible for ensuring that the interests of the child are considered and for playing a role in all cases involving the child.

Minimum age for sexual activity

14. Provide information on any legislatively defined minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity. Is this age different for girls and boys? Is this age different in respect of heterosexual and homosexual activities?

In Rwanda, according to customary law, sexual activities are legally accepted only within the confines of marriage. Marriage consent age is 21 years. The same principle applies to both girls and boys.

Under the terms of Article 26 of the Constitution, only civil monogamous marriage between a man and a woman is recognized. Therefore homosexual activities are not legally recognised and they are virtually non-existent in Rwanda.

There is no minimum age fixed by the law for valid sexual consent, but it is implied that this age corresponds to the legal majority of 21 years of age when a person is supposed to be able to give her/his consent with discernment.

15. Provide information on the minimum age of marriage for women and men. The age applies the same way to both girls and boys “ 21 years”

The minimum age for marriage is 21 and applied in the same way for both boys and girls.

Sexual exploitation of children

16. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including through prostitution and other unlawful sexual activities. Provide details on means to ensure that child victims of such exploitation are not criminalized. Provide information on legislation or other measures to prohibit all forms of sale or trafficking in children, including by their parents.

Articles 368 to 370 of the Penal Code punish in general exploitation of prostitution, while Article 40 of Law n°27/2001 punishes specifically the sexual exploitation of children.

Child victims of sexual exploitation are not considered as criminals because Law n° 27/2001 is clear. Having defined a child as anybody aged below eighteen years, it puts in the category of offences all sexual practices with a child.

It should be noted that there can be no reference to consent, as the child has not yet acquired a discernment mind that allows her/him to give valid consent. Article 41 of Law n° 27/2001 provides for a 5 year imprisonment to a life imprisonment and a fine ranging from one hundred to five hundred thousand Rwandan francs, for any person who will have abducted, sold or enslaved a child.

Pornography and harmful information

17. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography. In particular, please provide information on any controls on pornography produced and/or disseminated via the Internet.

The prohibition and punishment of the production, possession and dissemination of pornographic materials involving children are provided for in Article 40, paragraph 2 of Law n° 27/2001. The penalties provided for are a five to ten year imprisonment and a fine ranging from two hundred to five hundred Rwandan francs.

Concerning mechanisms of controlling pornographic materials produced and/or disseminated via the Internet, it is worth specifying that the Internet is a tool which is new and less spread countrywide. Therefore, there are no structured control mechanisms to date, but as the Internet is a technology that cannot be overlooked, the current review of the legislative texts should take that issue into account. However, one can note the ban on the projection of pornographic films in public places.

18. Provide information on any legislation or guideline to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, internet, videos, electronic, games etc.

This protection is in general included in the Penal Code as regards the affront to public decency. Article 378 provides for sanctions against any person who exposes, sells or disseminates songs, pamphlets or any other pieces of writing, printed or not, pictures, images, emblems and other objects contrary to decency. The new legal texts will not fail to specify the protection of children.

Reporting obligations relating to violence against children

19. Provide information on legislation, regulations or administrative directives requiring reporting of all forms of violence against and abuse of children in all settings to appropriate bodies. If reporting legislation, regulations or administrative directives exist, please indicate whether all citizens are required to report, or whether the obligation falls on certain professional groups only. Provide details of any sanctions for non-reporting.

As specified above, Article 28 of Law n°27/2001 provides for an imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 5 years and a fine ranging from twenty to one hundred Rwandan francs, or one of those punishments only, to any person who will have been aware of an offence committed against a child and will not have reported it to competent authorities. According to the wording of this article, it is clear that this obligation of reporting does not fall only on some groups but on each and everybody.

Complaints procedures

20. Provide information on any complaints procedures relating to all forms of violence against children perpetrated in:

- The family/ home;
- Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);
- Military schools;
- Institutions, state and private, including care, residential, health and mental health;
- The context of law and public order enforcement, including in detention facilities or prisons;
- The neighbourhood, street and the community, including in rural areas;
- The workplace (informal and formal);
- Sports and sporting facilities.

The complaints procedure is not provided for in terms of violence framework. If violence actions of whatever form are committed against a child, they are taken to relevant authorities, in general the police, and any person having been aware of such acts is required to do so. It is obvious that directly or indirectly injured people are the most concerned as regards making a complaint. The Police or Prosecution can also be aware of the existence of violence acts during their usual mission of crime investigation.

In any case, whether it is a complaint or blatant crime report, the file is investigated and submitted to relevant courts.

21. Indicate whether children or persons acting on their behalf can access these procedures. Indicate whether legal aid is available to facilitate submission of complaints, and the circumstances in which legal aid will be available.

The procedures can be accessed by children and people acting on their behalf. This is clearly set forth under Article 18 of the Constitution: to be informed of the nature and cause of charges, the right to defence are absolute rights at all levels and degrees of procedure in administrative, judicial and all other decision making organs. One can think that this is only related to the defendant, who can of course be a child, but the plaintiff claiming damages has also the right to access the criminal file to substantiate their action.

As regards legal aid for complaints, worth pointing out the initiative of the Bar of Kigali aimed at organising manned services for hearing cases of very poor people, cases that are followed within the framework of legal aid. This manned service schedule is submitted to various institutions, including the Ministry having child issues in its attributions.

Moreover, the lawyers of the same Bar, with the support of the Technical Belgium Cooperation, have opened subsidiary chambers in all provinces to provide legal aid to children and very poor people within judicial institutions.

22. Describe steps, which have been taken to raise awareness of possibilities to submit complaints about violence against children.

Government institutions, through the ministry of Justice, have put in place a task force to take special measures to raise awareness against children. The task force is comprised of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family Promotion and Gender, the National Police, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecution Office, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Education. At the heart of the task force areas of concern there is the improvement of the issues of 'burden of proof', police intervention, and social services such as counselling. Many efforts have been made by the Ministry in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family

Promotion and Gender to coordinate all the activities focused on raising awareness, reporting violence against children.

23. Provide information on any special procedural or evidentiary rules, which may apply in proceedings with respect to violence against children.

There are not any special rules applicable to the procedure or evidence with respect to violence against children. The procedure and evidence instruments are in general included in criminal procedure.

However, it should be pointed out that:

- Legal proceedings related to violence against children have in some measure priority over others. They are swiftly investigated and submitted to courts which hold hearings at the scene of the crime.
- Medical checkups are free and valid when they were established by authorised doctors.

24. Provide information on the usual outcome of complaints of violence against children (e.g. compensation, punishment of perpetrators, perpetrator rehabilitation, and family therapy).

In general, the outcome of legal proceedings is in such a way that people found guilty are punished and victims granted compensation.

The reintegration of people found guilty is carried out on the basis of education offered to them within detention facilities. As regards family therapy (one would also add social therapy); this is handled through various awareness-raising campaigns combating violence against children.

25. Provide information on the usual outcome of legal proceedings in which children and juveniles are found guilty of perpetrating violence (e.g. imprisonment, corporal punishment, community service, perpetrator rehabilitation, family therapy).

Children found guilty of violence acts can be imprisoned when they can be deemed capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. It should be recalled that they would have benefited from the minority excuse provided for under article 77 of the Penal Code.

Moreover, children placed in detention facilities are separated from adults. As stated above, corporal punishment is not provided for as a penalty and whoever administers it can also run the risk of prosecution and join their victim in prison.

As regards public interest work (commonly known as TIG), this has only been designed within the framework of punishing crimes of genocide and crimes

against humanity committed in Rwanda since 1 October 1990 until 31 December 1994 for people who are not included in the first category. It also constitutes a part of the sentence, the other having been served in prison. As to family therapy, it is handled through various awareness-raising campaigns combating violence against children as mentioned above.

2.2. Institutional Framework and Resources to Address Violence against Children

The aim of this section is to establish if your country has an institution coordinating multi-sectorial activities concerning violence against children, which include prevention, protection, redress, reintegration and rehabilitation.

26. Are there any Governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, including at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local level that are currently responsible for addressing violence against children? If YES, identify these authorities, structures and mechanisms and describe how coordination is ensured.

At national level, the Ministry in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family Promotion and Gender (MIGEPROF) is responsible for coordinating multi-sectorial activities aimed at the promotion and protection of children. Problems related to children's welfare are addressed at the level of Provinces, Districts, Sectors and Cells. In the event of reported violence case, these levels work with the National Police to arrest the accused person and take them to the Prosecution Service and thus legal proceedings against them being instituted. MINISANTE is involved in issues regarding health care and treatment of children harmed by violence.

27. Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children? If YES, provide details.

At the Government level, MIGEPROF is responsible for the protection of the child in general and for combating violence against children. The child issue being a cross-cutting issue, several institutions are involved according to their respective attributions and MIGEPROF ensures their coordination.

28. Are specific financial and/or human resources allocated by your country to address violence generally? If YES, indicate the extent of these allocations.

Within the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralised Institutions, there is a budget for social welfare allocated to the problems of vulnerable people on the whole.

For the year 2005, MIGEPROF received from the Government a budget specifically allocated to problems of violence, as well as an amount for assistance of children in trouble. As regards human resources, the Government has put in place within MIGEPROF a Direction in charge of protection of the rights of the child in general. At the decentralised level, there is a Direction in charge of Gender and Social Development with professionals responsible for social affairs.

29. Does your country allocate specific financial and/or human resources to activities to address violence against children? If YES, provide details.

Concerning human resources, at the national level there is a professional responsible for the prevention and combating violence against children has just been appointed through the Ministerial Order N° 28/19 of 10/10/2005 concerning the appointment of Central Administration officials. At the decentralized level, the District will be provided with a Professional in Violence Prevention and Protection of the Rights of the Child as of January 2006 according to the new administrative reform. S/he will be especially responsible for putting in place awareness-raising mechanisms regarding the problems of the rights of the child and violence against minors and children. This will also be applied at the level of the most decentralised institutions.

A budget allocated for the National Programme for Children is included in the state budget. With the collaboration of different partners, a Challenge Fund will be set up in the near future. This Fund will be devoted to funding the best project proposals in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and beneficiaries will not repay received funds.

30. Do international or bilateral donors provide resources to your country for activities to address violence against children? If YES, indicate the extent of these resources and the way in which they are used.

UNICEF, WORLD VISION, SAVE THE CHILDREN, CARE INTERNATIONAL, to mention but a few, provide support to the Government of Rwanda regarding the protection of the rights of the child, including the protection against violence, especially in health, awareness-raising and research sector. A study on violence in school settings initiated by UNICEF is under way.

Within the framework of the Presidential Emergency Program For Aids Relief, actions for the protection of orphans and other vulnerable children in general and HIV/AIDS affected children in particular are carried out throughout the country. This programme is implemented by national and international NGOs.

The KURET Project (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia Together) implemented by World Vision is focussed on the education of orphans and other vulnerable

children, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS and subjected to the worst forms of labour.

A joint five-year Action Plan (Government of Rwanda-UNIFEM) to combat violence against women (including under 18 minors) has just been developed.

The Government of Rwanda benefits from the technical and financial support given by UNICEF and Save the Children in the area of promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

31. Does your country provide any assistance to other countries' efforts to respond to the problem of violence against children? If YES, provide details.

Two months ago, the Government of Rwanda provided humanitarian personnel to assist with human rights issues in the troubled region of Darfur in the South of Sudan. The team is comprised of police officers from the national police trained in child issues. Rwanda's image regarding the protection of human rights in general is highly appreciated. Therefore, the trained personnel will be helpful as regards children protection in Darfur.

32. If your country has a national human rights institution, such as a human rights commission or ombudsman, or a child-specific human rights institution, does it have any role or competence in the area of violence against children, including receiving complaints? If YES, provide details.

Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsman are in place. They are responsible for monitoring reports on human rights violations, including the rights of the child. Rwanda intends to put in place a National Commission for the Child.

33. Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) to address violence against children? If YES, provide details.

The Rwandan Parliamentary structures have special committees addressing especially gender and social welfare issues. These committees assess child issues and provide recommendations to the parliamentary sessions. Moreover, the committees of legal affairs in collaboration with social and gender issues committees participated in drafting and adopting Law N° 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence .

34. Have there been any recent parliamentary initiatives to address violence against children? If YES, please give details.

The Forum For Rwanda Women Parliamentarians (FFRP) has conducted consultative meetings on violence against women and children. UNIFEM has recently developed a five-year Strategic Plan and related draft law is being elaborated by FFRP. In addition, FFRP joins civil society organisations in media-covered marches and campaigns to combat violence, especially violence against children.

2.3. Role of Civil Society in Addressing Violence against Children

The aim of this section is to elicit information on civil society activities relating to violence against children.

35. Describe significant civil society initiatives addressing violence against children in your country, including the types of institutions involved (such as academic institutions, professional associations, women's associations, student associations, community-based groups, faith-based groups, child and youth-led groups, trade unions, employer's organizations, national non-governmental organizations, and the major activities engaged in (including advocacy, awareness raising, research, prevention, rehabilitation and treatment of children harmed by violence, provision of services, provision of resources).

Some institutions such as UNICEF, IRC, FACT, HAGURUKA, WORLD VISION, SAVE THE CHILDREN UK, to mention but a few, in collaboration with MINALOC through decentralised institutions provide preventive services to Rwandan society. Most of these initiatives are supported through national programs such as the Children Cluster coordinated through the Ministry in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family Promotion and Gender. Forthcoming initiatives, including the "Basket Fund" will help support existing resources in developing mechanisms for efficient and effective support to the victims of violence. The faith-based groups have more than ever embarked on a reform through which they have accepted the responsibility to combat violence against children. With this commitment, more assistance for victims is expected to be scaled up. "Given the fact that the congregation involves children, one cannot teach without addressing the issues affecting the nation, especially violence against children" (according to a church minister from Anglican Church).

It should be pointed out that local NGOs such as HAGURUKA provide in particular legal aid to the victims of violence. Other associations such as "Voice of the Children" of the National University of Rwanda, and ADPA, are especially involved in raising public awareness about the prevention of violence against children. **The Children Cluster** will be integrated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

36. Describe the support provided by your Government for these activities and the efforts made to coordinate civil society and government initiatives.

Through The programs such as "KARAME MWANA" (Say yes to children), the Government of Rwanda, following the post conflict period, is making great efforts. Since 2004, there have been organised debates about the coordination of various stakeholders to empower each of them in their respective area and thus enable them to account for what has been done for children. The debates have led to the establishment of a National Children Cluster Steering Committee and all interventions in the rights of the child are currently coordinated by this Committee. Most of bilateral and multilateral NGOs contribute to the state budget through which funds get to civil society initiatives through local government.

Worth pointing out that the support to activities for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child can be seen the highest level, especially in the Office of the President of the Republic. The fact that the President of the Republic, at the end of each year, receives children for wishing them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year is a better example for other institutions and associations working in the protection of the rights of the child.

37. Describe the role played by the media in addressing violence against children.

In Rwanda, media play an important role in addressing violence against children. This is an issue with so much exposure in the medias; broadcast on the National Radio but also on private radios in addition to being discussed in several meetings at the level of decentralised institutions held after community work on each last Saturday of the month. Radios host live coverage whereby citizens around the country call to ask questions related to this issue. On the National TV, there is a programme on the protection of the rights of the child once a week. Media involvement through drama such as "URUNANA" supported by Health Unlimited has also helped address violence against children.

2.4. Children as Actors in Addressing Violence

- * This section is designed to extract information on children's activities to address violence.

38. Provide information on the involvement and consultation of children in designing activities, and in the implementation and monitoring of programmes and policies to address violence against them. Provide details, including ages and other details of the children involved.

Two consultations, a meeting and a summit, with children were conducted in 2004, 2005. Two Rwandan children also participated in the regional consultation meeting on this study in July 2005. In fighting violence against children, consulting children on their opinion about the best practices to address the problem is very crucial. To this end, the recent consultative meeting that has brought together about 150 children to contribute to this study has shown that Rwandan children are aware of their problems. During the National Children's Summit in 2004, recommendations were made and the representatives of children are preparing the second summit to be focused especially on the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations from the first summit. For instance, some of the recommendations from 2004 National Children's Summit have been implemented, especially those regarding the fight against HIV/AIDS.

39. Describe the involvement, if any, of children in designing special procedural or evidentiary rules applying in court proceedings with respect to hearings concerning violence against children. Provide details including ages and other details of the children involved.

The penal procedures are changing as the review of other laws related to violence against children is still under way. The Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the National Youth Council has organised debates to decide, if need be, on children's participation in the drafting of new laws. Involving children in the development of the hearing procedure in particular, with laws related to gender-based violence, would be a better practice to ask for what should be better for the children during the hearing sessions. It is needed to point out that, during the concertation meetings; children nominate their own focal points to represent them in these meetings. These processes, as a new practice, need much support and, thereafter, evaluation will reveal the efficiency and effectiveness of the involvement of children in combating violence against them.

40. Describe the amount and type of resources made available to support children's participation in activities to address violence against children.

The following activities have been supported by the Government, through MIGEPROF in collaboration with MINALOC and the civil society: the National Conference on the Rights of Children (2000), the National Children's Summit (2004), the National Conference on Children's Health and HIV/AIDS (2004), and the National Consultative Meeting on this study. The Government and civil society arranged logistics and facilitated children's participation. More efforts are

needed to keep involving children as much as possible to have a balance in laws, policies and programs.

2.5. Policies and Programmes to Address Violence against Children

A comprehensive policy for dealing with violence against children is one that addresses multiple forms of violence against children, that works across different settings in which violence occurs, and which includes components for prevention, protection, victim medical, psychological, legal and social assistance, victim rehabilitation and reintegration and perpetrator interventions. Such policy is distinguished from specific programmes that address selected sub-types of violence against children or its effects on a specific populations and settings.

41. Does your Government have a comprehensive policy concerning violence against children? If YES, provide details and describe any gender-specific provisions included in the policy.

Rwanda has a comprehensive policy, the "National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC)," and a National Social Protection Policy. All these policies are focused on violence against and ensure protection of their welfare of children in general.

42. Does your Government deliver, or provide direct support for delivery by other agencies, of specific programmes aimed at preventing and responding to violence against children? If YES, please provide available summary reports, or URLs, of these programmes, and indicate, using the table below, which settings and types of violence are addressed by these programmes?

With the support of partners in the protection of the rights of the child, the Government of Rwanda conducts several awareness-raising campaigns to combat violence against children.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Labour, there is a programme designed to avoid the worst forms of child labour. A Strategic Plan for Street Children has just been developed.

The checkmarks below earmark activities supported so far by government agencies and civil society organisations with the support of Government of Rwanda. (V means yes, X means No, N/A means not applicable)

	Physical	Sexual	Psychological	Neglect	HTPs	Other
Family/Home	✓	✓	x	✓	x	X
Schools	✓	✓	x	✓	x	X
Institutions	✓	✓		✓		X
Neighbourhood/ Community	✓		x	✓	x	X
Workplace	x	X	x	✓		X
Law enforcement	✓	✓	x	✓	x	X
Other	✓	✓	x	✓	X	x

43. Does your Government monitor the impact of these policies and programmes directed towards violence against children? If YES, describe the monitoring systems and provide a URL or other reference where the system and outcomes are described in details.

In the annual action plans of the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family Promotion and Gender, there are always included the components of appraisal of the impact of policies and programmes.

Thus, the following activities are planned in the 2005 Annual Action Plan:

- Ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the National Policy for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children,
- Conduct the monitoring and evaluation of the activities of various institutions working in the protection of the rights of the child.

The appraisal of the impact of policies and programmes is also carried out by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) which prepares annual reports. The reports of NGOs involved in human rights also allow to appraise the impact of policies and programmes.

44. Does your Government participate in any internationally coordinated activities concerning violence against children? If YES, please provide details.

The government of Rwanda participates in regional and international initiatives and other activities concerning violence against children, especially by sending a representative to New York or Geneva, when there is a need to adopt new conventions to protect children against violence. The Government of Rwanda submitted the 2004 report on the CRC that was presented to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 21 May 2004. The report on the African

Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child will be available late in December 2005. Finally, a Rwandan delegation was also sent in Johannesburg during the regional consultative meeting on violence against children.

2.6. Data Collection, Analysis and Research

This section aims to provide an overview of information systems and information about violence against children that may be used to inform, plan and monitor policy, legal and programmatic interventions (policies, legislative measures and programmes) concerning violence against children.

45. Over the past five years, have there been any victimization, epidemiological or other population-based surveys of any forms of violence against children in your country? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

MIGEPROF in collaboration with IRC conducted a comprehensive study on violence and provided some data on violence against children.

46. Have there been any small-scale or representative interview studies with parents and children on violent victimisation of children? If so, please give details.

The report of the study MIGEPROF/IRC includes both parents' questionnaire and children's questionnaire on the question of violence.

47. Over the past five years, has your Government conducted or commissioned any scientific research projects on the problem of violence against children? If YES, indicate the subject of this research and where the findings of these projects may be consulted in more detail.

The comprehensive study on domestic violence mentioned above conducted by IRC was commissioned by MIGEPROF. The document is attached.

48. Have studies or surveys been undertaken into the impact of legal measures to address violence against children? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

Within the law reform framework, the Ministry of Justice, the Parliament and other legal institutions, conduct surveys and take them into consideration during the reviewing and drafting process. For example, the burden of proof in violence cases is under review.

49. Does your Government have a system for formal inquiries into all child deaths in which it is known or suspected that violence may have played any part?

Within the National Police, there is a special child unit. The reports of that unit allow to know the child deaths associated with violence.

50. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published describing the statistical profile of the known or suspected violent deaths investigated by the system? If YES, what proportion of all homicide deaths are under the age 18?

This statistical profile can be seen in the reports of the Police child unit. The death rate is also known through the Ministry of Health and the General Public Prosecutor's Office. Nevertheless, because of the lack of appropriate scientific and technological mechanisms, details to establish whether or not the death was caused by violence are not yet known. As the Prosecution Office and the National Police make progress in delivering services, and with better mechanisms for the coordination of service providers, it will be possible to achieve the statistical profile.

51. If reports on the national profile of known and suspected violent deaths are published by your Government, indicate how the data is broken down for the purpose of reporting (check all that apply):

The Police provide information that outlines the following criteria:

Sex	✓
Age	✓
Ethnicity	N/A
Manner of death (homicide, suicide, undetermined)	X
External causes of death (firearm, strangulation, etc.)	✓
Geographical location of incident (address)	✓
Scene of occurrence (home, school, etc.)	✓
Time and date of incident	✓
Victim-perpetrator relationship	✓
Other	✓

52. Provide the total number of reported cases of violence against children in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

1,853 cases were reported and convicted in 2004 (Figures from the National Police).

53. Provide the total number of convictions and reported cases for the various categories of crimes of violence recorded against children in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 (Figures unknown).

In 2004, 1,854 cases were reported, 1,545 cases convicted. These crimes were committed to children 18 years and under (Figures from the National Police).

2.7. Awareness, Advocacy and Training

This section is aimed at gathering information on any awareness-raising, advocacy and training activities relating to violence against children, which may have been conducted by your Government.

54. Over the last five years, has your Government conducted or commissioned any campaigns for raising awareness of and preventing violence against children? If YES, please describe any recent campaigns, including the settings and types of violence that were the subjects of the campaigns and the target audience (public, caregivers, teachers, etc.)

The annual campaign against violence during "Sixteen Days of Activism" is geared towards eliminating domestic violence and violence against women. This campaign was organised by Government Ministries in collaboration with UNIFEM. The national march to combat violence against children was organised and supported by the National Police in collaboration with civil society organisations. Media campaigns including discussions on radio, live TV programmes on violence against children have always been conducted. A call for children to contribute in this study can also be considered as a campaign to eliminate violence against children. Overall, there is a conducive political will for actions designed to denounce violence against children. It should be noted that men, women, professionals, government officials, and service providers are involved in all these initiatives.

55. How the campaign messages and information were disseminated (check all that apply)?

Print media	✓
Radio	✓
Television	✓
Theatre	✓
Schools	✓
Others	✓

56. Over the last five years, has your Government provided, commissioned or sponsored training programmes in the area of violence against children? If YES, indicate which of the following areas the last such training programmes addressed and which provider groups received training (check all that applies).

The Civil Society and Government Institutions have developed and implemented various training programs in the area of violence against children, especially sexual and physical violence. Such training sessions have been mainly focused on issues of sexual violence against children, rape, evidence, burden of proof, and services for victims, especially rehabilitation and compensation.

	Prevention	Protection	Redress	Rehabilitation	Penalties
Medical Professionals (including paediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists and dentists)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public health practitioners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social workers and Psychologists	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teachers and other educators	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Court officials (including judges)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Police	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prison officers	✓	✓	x	X	✓
Juvenile offender's personnel, institutions, parents guardians and other	✓	✓	x	X	✓

CONCLUSION

Through these answers to the questionnaire related to the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children, Rwanda hopes to have depicted the country's image regarding the situation of children in general and the status of violence against children in particular.

As can be seen from the information conveyed in provided answers, Rwanda is strongly committed to combating various forms of violence against children.

Despite the fact that this commitment is hampered by various factors, including the consequences of genocide, poverty, illiteracy, HIV/AIDS and others, impressive progress has been and continues to be achieved in the protection of the rights of the child.

Questions of violence are the daily concern of the national life at all levels and one can hope that with the wave of awareness-raising and various on-going and future measures, violence against children will be eradicated or at least drastically reduced.

It is much more likely that this hope will be achieved in Rwanda because the country has proved to be capable of respecting at the highest level the principle of equality of all citizens regarding the rights and freedoms set forth in the instruments of national and international law.

In this development, the fact that Rwanda has established gender equality and complementarity as one of the principles of good governance and that Rwanda has proved to deserve credit for it in the international community is undoubtedly an added value.

Indeed, in Rwanda, even if it is provided that both parents equally provide for the education of their children, children spend most of their time with their mother.

It therefore means that if steps are taken to promote and protect especially the woman's rights, the rights of the child, including the right to non-violence, are also promoted and protected directly.

Without doubt, the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children will allow Rwanda to learn from the experience of other countries and handle successfully its own fierce combat, but also the international community combat of violence against children.

Rwanda welcomes once again this initiative and declares its readiness to walk hand in hand with other nations in the implementation of strategies designed to combat violence against children that will be devised following this study.

ANNEX

- The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda
- The National Policy for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- IRC Study
- Law N° 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child against Violence
- Criminal Procedure Code