



JOINING FORCES ALLIANCE ZAMBIA

Submission for the Fourth Universal Periodic Review of Zambia before the United Nations Human Rights Council

On behalf of

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Background of the Joining Forces Alliance Zambia

Joining Forces Alliance is an alliance of the six largest organisations working to improve children's lives: ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International. In Zambia, the Alliance has been working on joint initiatives and advocacy since 2017.

This report is specific to the rights of children in Zambia. It is based on the analysis of the follow up on implementation of child rights related recommendations that Zambia accepted in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This submission includes perspectives and consultations with children¹ by members of the Joining Forces Alliance and other reports on the situation of children. Joining Forces alliance member's report highlights main child rights issues of concerns in Zambia, suggestions and recommendations. The report includes an assessment of and comments on the status of implementation of recommendations and developments since the last review based on focused groups discussions with children and other stakeholders held between January and June 2022.

Member organisations; Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International

The report has been compiled and submitted by the Joining Forces Alliance, an alliance of child focused international nongovernmental organizations that collaborate to advocate for children's rights globally and in Zambia.

The report addresses main concerns and priorities, which the Joining Forces Alliance, would like the review of Zambia in the fourth cycle of the United Nations Human Rights Council to focus on. Any other child rights issues not specifically addressed in this report can be contacted through Joining Forces Secretariat in Zambia - Child Fund through pchama@childfund.org and mary.chavula@savethechildren.org

¹ Childrens voice on Zambias UPR by World Vision Zambia <https://youtu.be/YvTU8R8FrR8>

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A. Status of measures taken and progress achieved by Zambia towards implementing the recommendations from the third (3) periodic cycle

1. The Alliance commends the Government of Zambia for the progress made towards enactment of the Children's Code Bill, which was introduced on the floor of Parliament for debate to ultimately ensure progressive provisions, and expansion of child right is achieved in Zambia.
2. Zambia received 183 recommendations, which it supported during its 3rd UPR Cycle², 64 were expressly specific to children's rights and 31 related to children such as rights of migrants, minorities, vulnerable, rural, persons deprived of liberty, health and education budgets. A review of the implementation on progress by Joining Forces revealed that most of supported recommendations have only been partially implemented.
3. Joining Forces Alliance in Zambia remains concerned with little progress towards child rights in respect to the children's rights and business, sexual abuse and gender-based violence, resource allocation to child sensitive sectors; social services, education, administration of child justice and child safeguarding.

B. International Obligations and Ratification of Children's Rights

Status – Partially Implemented

4 The government accepted and committed to ratifying the three Optional Protocols to the UNCRC during the last cycle. In April 2022, the Ministry responsible for children, organised meetings with various stakeholders including civil society organisations on the ratification of the UN CRC Optional Protocols including on the Optional Protocol on Individual Complaints Mechanisms. Members of the Joining Forces Alliance have also held a number of advocacy dialogue with government to push for progress towards the ratification in 2020 and 2021.

5. The Alliance notes that there have been some initiatives towards the ratification process as part of internal processes towards obtaining Cabinet Approval, although these are yet to be completed.

Recommendations

6. State party ensure the realization of children's rights in accordance with the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. We recommend that the government expedite the internal process of seeking cabinet and Parliament approval and ensure the development of plans of actions for the implementation and reporting.

² <https://uprdoc.ohchr.org>

C. Coordination

Status – Partial Implementation

7. During the previous UPR cycle, Morocco (para 129.17) and Portugal (para129.18).³ recommended that Zambia strengthens coordination for matters that relate to children’s welfare. The Joining Forces Alliance commends the government of Zambia on the progress towards having one government department providing oversight for child welfare coordination.

8. Despite, this progress towards coordination of the children rights /sectors; there remains challenges of staffing and funding to achieve effective coordination. Due to the structure of the coordinating Ministry, there is lack of human resources at district level to strengthen coordination and linkages with provincial and national structures. Even where present at provincial and national levels, the staff is too lean to execute the child rights mandate effectively.

9. The coordinating structure that has been put in place is only at national level through the National Coordinating Committee for Children and is not adequately funded by the government. There is no legislation to guide the existence and activities of the District Child Protection Committees.

Recommendations

10. The Alliance notes that Zambia continues to make process towards strengthening the National Coordinating Committees for Children and the District Child Protection Committees to ensure the effective coordination of programmes and projects for children.

11. The Alliance recommends that Zambia provide the National Coordinating Committees for Children and the District Child Protection Committees with the necessary human, technical and financial resources, in order to coordinate all activities relating to the implementation of the child rights at the cross-sectoral, national, and district levels.

D. Resource and budget Allocation

Status – Partial Implementation

12. Since the previous cycle Zambia has not fully adhered to the principle of progressive realization of child rights as far as budgeting for children’s rights such as education, health and social services, in order to meet the African thresholds on health and education, respectively set in the Abuja and Dakar Declarations. Resource allocations to child related programmes and project has been on a downward trend since between 2017 and 2021, except for social protection which registered an increase in 2021(ZIPAR)³, according to Analytical Brief on the Social Sector Budget 2022.

13. The Alliance further welcomes the free education policy, which has allowed more children back into school in 2022 providing more children with education opportunities.

Recommendations

14. The government of Zambia needs to prioritise the child related sectors. For example, increased education sector allocation to meet the demands of free education policy, by ensuring that that there is

³ <https://www.zipar.org.zm/download/analytical-brief-of-social-sector-budget-2022/>

adequate numbers of teacher recruitment after the planned mass recruitment in 2022, to also ensure progressive annual increment in teachers to reduce on teacher- pupil ratio, which now estimated at an average 50 pupils:1 teacher. There is also need to support the increased numbers of children coming back in schools with corresponding materials supplies, equipment and infrastructure expansion.

15. Further, raise awareness on allocation of child related sectors within the increased Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to strengthen local level accountability and children's structures and platforms participation to provide input in the development of plans, implementation and budget tracking of CDF, including civil society participation. There is need to provide simplified guidelines to ensure children and citizens are able to access the funds for social services.

E. Independent monitoring

Status – Partially Implemented

16. Over the last 4 years, the role of the Commissioner for children has not been visible to discharge the capacity to effectively receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-sensitive and child-friendly manner.

Recommendations

17. The Alliance recommends that among the newly appointed Commissioners under the Human Rights Commission (HRC), the government of Zambia should enhance the role for the Independent Commissioner for children under the Human Rights Commission to address the visibility and advance children's human rights.

18. The Alliance further recommends that the government of Zambia strengthen the Human Rights Commission by providing it with adequate human, financial and technical resources to be able to effectively and independently discharge its mandate, including its capacity to effectively receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-sensitive and child-friendly manner.

F. Dissemination, awareness raising and training

Status – Partially Implemented

19. The Joining Forces Alliance notes the progress made towards including child rights in the curriculum including at tertiary level in order to increase knowledge and awareness among citizens.

20. The Alliance is alive to the progress towards the development of the National Child Safeguarding and Participation Frameworks and sector specific supporting guidelines. However, the practice and knowledge levels remains an area of concern. For example, there are no consistencies in awareness raising on child rights to address the conflict and resistance by some parents/care givers, religious and traditional stakeholders to promote the rights of the child based on feedback from children consulted by Joining Forces Alliances as part of input in this stakeholders report.

21. With the onset of digital media, there is a growing trend to share children's audio and visual images without due regard for the best interest of the child and children's rights to privacy, which Joining Forces Alliance has issued public statements speaking against the practice. Joining Forces issued Press

statements including in ,⁴ in October 2021, on the need to ensure the internet remains safe for children.

22. Further, although the mechanisms are in place to deal with violators of child rights, there is limited awareness of the mechanisms in place by the law enforcers leading to poor follow-up on offenders to counter these practices.

Recommendation

23. The Alliance recommends that the Government of Zambia makes it a priority to ensure that all professionals working with and for children, in particular the judiciary, social workers, law enforcement officials, health-care personnel, teachers, immigration and staff working in all forms of alternative care, receive mandatory training on children’s rights and child safeguarding to guarantee the protection and promotion of child rights.

G. Children’s rights and the business sector

Status – Not Implemented

24. During the previous UPR cycle, Kenya made recommendation on business and human rights in Zambia. Since this recommendation, Zambia has not developed the implementation strategy action for Business and Human Rights and this has further affected accountability of businesses towards respect for child rights in particular and human rights in general.

25. There has been a growing trend of children involvement in artisan mining and mining and agriculture value chains. For example, growing trend of child labour in the mining value chains including in Sand mining (in Chongwe and Chibombo), gold mining (in Chisamba and Mumbwa) and Manganese (Luapula and Central Provinces).

25. The continuous exposure of children in Kabwe to high levels of toxic lead in soil and air (dust) through access to the Old Mine and mining waste remains an area of concern, due to Small-scale mining at the former Kabwe mine that poses further risks to lead exposure.

Recommendation

26. The Government of Zambia need to prioritise, introduce and enforce child safeguarding and protection policies for businesses to ensure the safety of children and to deter businesses and their employees and their value chains from violating child rights.

27. Take further measures to protect human rights and the environment in mining areas and establish a regulatory framework for mining companies in order to ensure that their activities do not harm the environment and children.

28. The Alliance further recommends that the Government of Zambia revoke business licences for erring businesses. Government is therefore encouraged to review legislation to compel businesses to develop and enforce child safeguarding policies including making it a requirement within new businesses registration processes.

⁴ JFA Press statements <https://zambia.savethechildren.net/news/joining-forces-press-statement-we-must-do-more-protect-children-sexual-gender-based-violence>

29. Further, the Alliance recommends that the Government of Zambia take expeditious step to develop a National Action Plan on business and human rights and implement it together with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

H. Implementing of General principles - i. Non-discrimination

Status – Partial Implemented

30. The Alliance commends the Government of Zambia for the efforts made to ensure inclusion of children living with disabilities in various sectors such as under the Ministry of Education, where there has been notable improvement in the inclusion of children with different disabilities in schools to access education however, most public schools lack disability friendly infrastructure such as assistive devices, rails, disability friendly sanitary facilities.

Recommendations

31. However, we recommend government to support disability friendly infrastructure in all schools and public places and this should include assistive devices, rails and disability friendly sanitary facilities.

32. The Alliance further recommends that government raises more awareness on the acceptance of children with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS, children with no legal identity, children with albinism, migrant and unaccompanied children at community level as discrimination and stigmatization is still rampant.

33. The Alliance further recommends that government should systematically undertake awareness raising and education on the issues of discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against children in marginalised and disadvantaged situations such as children without parental care, children with disabilities and children in street situations that usually face discrimination from many service providers when accessing help.

ii Respect for the views of the child – Child Participation

Status – Partially implemented

34. During the last UPR cycle; Slovakia (para 129.79) recommended to Zambia to include child participation in formal consultative processes that require citizens' contributions. In 2022 Zambia started a process of developing a framework of child participation in all settings including at household level. According the Young Voices Survey ⁵(2020), more than 70% interviewed in the survey felt their views are not given due weight or taken seriously and that there are few decision-making spaces at district and provincial level for children's participation.

35. Further, other focused group discussions with over 200 children by members of the Joining of the Forces Alliances, who consulted children between April and June 2022 to get input and their perspectives on the implementation of the 3rd Cycle recommendation, noted that structures such the ward development committees, district development Coordinating committees, provincial, emergency response committee and other structures still have little or no space for children.

⁵ resourcecenter.savethechildren.net

36. The Joining Alliance commends the government on the progress and commitment towards developing a Framework for Child Participation and sector specific guidelines and on the inclusion of the provision to mainstream child participation through operational procedures in the final draft of Children's Code.

Recommendations

37. The JFA encourages the Government of Zambia to ensure adequate resources to ensure the implementation of guidelines on child participation. Strengthen governance structures in schools such as schools councils, child rights clubs including in school management boards. Institutionalise Child and Youth Parliament and ensure that it is provided with a meaningful mandate and adequate human, technical and financial resources, in order to facilitate children's effective engagement with national legislative processes on issues that affect them.

38. The Alliance further recommends that children be included in the decision making spaces at ward, district and provincial level such as the Ward development committees, District development coordinating committees and the Provincial development Coordinating committees as this inclusion would enable them contribute meaningfully to issues that affect them.

39. Ensure that the draft Children's Code Bill provisions on child participation in all settings and decisions regarding children, particularly in judicial and administrative procedures, at schools, communities, alternative care facilities and at home are operationalised. Further, Zambia should put deliberate effort to ensure child participation is mainstreamed as an obligation for all state and non-state actors directly interacting with children as part of their statutes/policies as well as reinforce measures to ensure that professionals working with and for children, systematically receive appropriate training on hearing and taking into account children's views in all decisions affecting them.

40. JFA further recommends that the government includes age appropriate comprehensive Sexual Education in the school curriculum as a taught subject rather than embedding it in various subjects.

I. Implementation of International Child Rights Obligations - Civil rights and freedom

1. Corporal punishment

Status – Partially Implemented

41. From the discussions with children in preparation for their input in this UPR submission, Joining Forces alliance members noted that children are still exposed to corporal punishment within the school setting especially in rural areas despite it being abolished through the enactment of the 2011 Education Act. This was also highlighted in the Save the Children's Young Voices Survey in 2020⁶. Joining Forces Alliance welcomes the government of Zambia commitment to ban corporal in all settings in the draft Children Code Bill.

⁶ Young Voices Survey Zambia resourcecenter.savethechildren.net

Recommendations

42. Joining Forces Alliance recommends that the Government of Zambia explicitly prohibit by law all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment, in all settings, including in the family, through the Children's Code Bill.

43. The Alliance further recommends the promotion of positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child rearing and discipline and continue awareness-raising campaigns on positive parenting targeting parents/caregivers, professionals working with and for children to promote attitudinal change, within the family and the community, with regard to corporal punishment.

2. Violence, including sexual abuse and gender-based violence

Status – Partially Implemented

44. The Joining forces Alliance commends the government of Zambia on the progress made toward ending violence against children, including sexually and gender violence. Zambia has a National Prevention and Response Plan to Violence against Children 2021-2025.

45. However, inadequate support and funding for the Victim Support Unit and One-Stop - Centres and weak implementation of the protocols, referral mechanisms and guidelines for the protection of child victims or witnesses of violence and limited financial support for the Childline service remains a challenge⁷. 51. According to the Joining Forces Alliance, media statement on the statistics from March 2021⁸, Zambia recorded 2545 child defilement cases, of these 2539 female and 6 male child victims. Zambia has also recorded an increase incidence of attacks on children with albinism.

Recommendations

46. The Joining Forces Alliance recommends that Zambia implement the planned expansion of Fast Track Courts for addressing cases of sexual and gender-based violence of children with the establishment of the specialised desks under the Child and Victim Support Unit and One-Stop Centres, to deal with issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse and child protection.

47. Increase funding to the Zambia Police Victim Support Units and strengthen coordination of districts and community response systems and ensure case management and referral. Further, strengthen measures to eradicate all forms of violence against children, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and violence against children with albinism.

48. The Alliance further recommends that the Government of Zambia ensures that all cases of violence against children are promptly reported, investigated and prosecuted, including sexual abuse within the child's circle of trust, applying a child-friendly to avoid the re-traumatization of children who are victims of such abuse; and that appropriate remedies, treatment and support are provided to child survivors.

⁷ Ending Child Marriage in Zambia – World Vision Zambia <https://worldvision.co.zm>

⁸ Joining Forces media statement - <https://onelovezambia.com/childfund-and-the-joining-forces-alliance-in-zambia-honours-international-day-of-the-girl-child/>

3. Harmful practices

Status – Partially Implemented

49. In the previous cycle, United Kingdom of Great Britain (para 129.81), Slovakia (para 131.88), Spain (para 129.30), Slovenia (para 131.92) and Northern Ireland (para 129.79), Argentina (para 131.99) and Sierra Leone (para 131.90) recommended that Zambia takes all necessary measures to accelerate country-wide implementation programmes to end child marriage, set a minimum age for marriage under customary law, to be in line with the legal age of marriage determined by statutory law; prevent and investigate cases of forced marriage. According to the technical brief 2021⁹, covering World Vision operational areas, child marriage incidences remain high in Zambia, with a high rate of forced early child marriages and harmful traditional practices.

50. The Alliance commends the government on the progress made towards the Children’s code bill, the re-entry policy and the Education Act, which discourages harmful traditional practices such as child marriages. The initiative of the inclusion of traditional leaders to champion the fight against child marriages has also yielded positive results.

Recommendations

51. The Alliance further recommends the government of Zambia should mandatory include all chiefs as champions in the fight against child marriages to build on successes from some regions in Zambia.

52. Further support the creation of one-stop centres in all chiefdoms to facilitate easy access to reporting, medical services and paralegal support for victims of child marriages. Ensure adequate funding, human and technical resources strengthen awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on the harmful effects of child marriage on the physical and mental health and well-being of girls, targeting households, local authorities, traditional leaders and judges and prosecutors.

53. The Alliance also recommends the increased funding towards programs that support the girl child such as the GEWEL project to cater for girls at risk of child and early marriages.

54. It is further recommends that the government further promote positive masculinity by including boys in education and empowerment programs to enable them be informed as allies and champions against harmful traditional practices. In addition, there is need for government to create support services for children who have been victims of harmful traditional practices as these find it difficult to re integrate into the community and end up returning to marriages.

4. Family environment and alternative care

Status – Partially implemented

55. The JFA commends the Government of Zambia for the progress of enacting of the Social Workers Association of Zambia Act of 2022 and the increase in coverage and value of the social protections programmes such as the cash transfer, which have provide cushions for children and families at risks, to avoid unnecessary family separation due to poverty. In terms of adoption, the enactment of the

⁹ Technical brief 2021

https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Issue%205_Technical%20Brief_ECM_16.08.2021.pdf

Children's Code Bill will domesticate the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption and the domestication of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Recommendations

56. Maintain a database of social workers, increase funding to ensure adequate number of social workers are recruited to fill the gap of social workers to community ratios, in order to improve child protection and safeguarding, child care management, and administration of child justice and case management.

57. The alliance further recommends that the government increases funding and supports the social work workforce to ensure the safety of children in alternative care facilities. There is there need for government to invest in this work force to ensure that children are well taken care of thereby improving child to social worker ratios

58. The alliance further recommends that routine monitoring of alternative care facilities is conducted to ensure that children's rights are not violated and that child alternative care guild lines are well adhered to. The alliance further recommends that there be an Existing legislation to protect children's rights to access information in their files, make contact with their birth families and check on their identity issues.

5. Children deprived of a family environment

Status – Partially Implemented

59. We note the progress made with the launch of the Advocacy and Communication Strategy for Promotion of Family Based Care for Children in 2019, the adoption of the Alternative Care and Reintegration Guidelines in 2017 and the enhancement of the case management system for alternative care.

60. The Joining forces alliance notes with pleasure the progress made with the launch of the Advocacy and Communication Strategy for Promotion of Family Based Care for Children in 2019, the adoption of the Alternative Care and Reintegration Guidelines in 2017 and the enhancement of the case management system for alternative care.

61. The Zambian government recognizes that Family is the best environment where a child should grow up and that Institutional care is the measure of last resort for a child in need of parental care.

Recommendations

62. Ensure that policies and practices are guided by the principle that poverty should never be the sole justification for removing a child from parental care, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing a child's social reintegration. Phase out institutionalization, adopt, immediately, a strategy and action plan for deinstitutionalization, supported by adequate human, technical and financial resources for its implementation, and includes comprehensive transformation care and protection systems.

63. Develop and provide adequate resources for a robust family-based and community-based care system for children who cannot stay with their families, including by allocating sufficient financial

resources for kinship and foster care as well as ensuring regular monitor and review placement in alternative care, and facilitate the reunification of children with their families.

63. The government should be more proactive and allocate more funding to the reuniting of children who are separated from their families or be placed in other permanent family based care.

6. Children with disabilities

Current status – Partial implemented

64. During the last UPR cycle;Yemen (para 129.88), Madagascar (para 131.51), Maldives (para131.101) and Egypt (para 129.85)¹⁴ recommended that Zambia updates the national legal framework in order to harmonize it and ensure it is consistent with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.The JFA is concerned the number children living with disability not able to benefit from progressive policies and programs. Comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities.

Recommendations

65. Fully implement the Inclusive Education Guidelines in all schools, ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres, guaranteeing that schools and ECE centres are equipped with trained teachers, accessible infrastructure and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities.

66. Undertake awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of, and prejudice against, children with disabilities and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights-holders. Strengthen measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes, specialised health care and age-appropriate rehabilitation, particularly in rural areas.

7. Education, leisure and cultural activities

Status – Partially Implemented

67. During the previous UPR cycle Pakistan, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, State of Palestine and Central African Republic requested Zambia to broaden its access to education, improve the quality of education, increase allocations to the sector to allow for all the necessary reforms to improve the entire education system. Slovakia asked Zambia to set the minimum age for leaving school, which would provide incentives for addressing early marriage and child labour.

68.Joining Forces Alliance commends the government for the progress in the education sector through its rolling out of the Free Education Policy that guarantees free primary and secondary education. In addition, there has been a 300 percent increase in the disbursement of school grants for primary schools and the expansion of early childhood development through the low-cost community centres and the provision of funds for bursary support to vulnerable children for secondary school boarding facility fees.

69. However, the challenge of high drop-out rates for girls, due to teenage pregnancy, child marriage, discriminatory traditional, cultural practices, and poverty persists. In addition, the problem of limited infrastructure in rural areas affects quality of education and low level of basic literacy and numeracy skills. The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the access education, particularly for girls is

highlighted in the Rapid Gender Assessment¹⁰ further compounds to the challenges of education in Zambia.

Recommendations

70. Strengthen support and assistance to pregnant teenagers and adolescent mothers to continue their education in mainstream schools, including by overcoming discriminatory traditional attitudes impeding girls' education.

71. Ensure the professional development of teachers and ensuring that schools are fully and safely accessible to all and equipped with adequate infrastructure and educational technologies. Ensure that children have accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective reporting channels for such violations and that they do not face reprisals for reporting the abuse.

72. Ensure recovery from setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen new methods of learning by providing better IT infrastructure in schools¹¹ as recommended in the report by World Vision. Expand access to age-appropriate, quality, affordable and inclusive early childhood education in order to meet the demand, and strengthen the use of qualified and licenced community-based volunteers for early childhood development.

8. Administration of child justice

Status: Partially Implemented

73. During the last cycle, Slovenia's (para 131.64) recommendation for Zambia to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and provide adequate protection of child victims and witnesses of crime during trial has been included in the Children Code of 2022, which has raised to the age to 14 years. However, the Alliance notes that the enactment of legislation for the Children's Courts/Family Court, the adoption of the Legal Aid Act No.1 of 2021 and the development and piloting of the National Diversion Programme in 2018 remains low.

74. Non-judicial measures, such as diversion, mediation and counselling not being sufficiently used in practice.

75. Children in some circumstances being still detained with adults.

Recommendations

76. The alliance recommends that specialized Children's Courts/Family Court be operationalized and that the Family Division should have the human, financial and technical resources to operate. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is still set at 8 years, the alliance recommends the children's Code Bill, which proposes raising it to 14 years be enacted

78. The alliance further recommends that the government should allocate resources towards establishment of separate holding cells in all police stations for juveniles who come in conflict with the law because children detained in the same cells with adults exposes them to a lot of abuse and torture.

¹⁰ Rapid Gender Assessment Zambia 2020 resourcecenter.savethechildren.net

¹¹ <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/covid-19-aftershocks-access-denied>

79. The Joining Forces Alliances recommends that the State party ensure that children living with incarcerated caregivers, have access to adequate early childhood education, nutrition, health services and the right to play, that they are regularly visited by social workers, and that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all decisions taken, including sentencing, and alternatives to incarceration should be considered.

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