

AFRICAN WOMEN CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

Paper Presentation and Recommendation to

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 58th Session
Day of General Discussion , Friday, 30 September 2011
Topic: Children of Incarcerated

Team B. Discussion Group



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BACKGROUND

We at African Women Corrections Association are delighted to be amongst Interested bodies that advocated this UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2011 Day of General Discussion on the subject of Children of Incarcerated Parents

Prior to this occasion, on 28th September 2010, we collaborated with Salford University Centre for Prisons Studies, Manchester, United Kingdom in organizing a successful ‘ Mothers with Babies in Prisons Conference’¹

In a Paper I presented titled: Consolidating International Standard Rules for Mothers with Babies in Prisons² I mentioned some of the challenges of Prison Administrations, particularly in Africa on this issue as, dilemma of female inmates discovering they are pregnant without knowing prior to imprisonment, lack of pregnancy test, no maternal care, absence of special feeding dietary, no babycare/nurse, no conducive mother with Babies unit in some prisons. I even mentioned possible sexual abuses on these little ones and psychological trauma of a disciplined prison environment³

1,2 and 3 http://www.sucps.salford.ac.uk/page/Conference_Presentations or
<http://www.sucps.salford.ac.uk/cms/resources/uploads/File/CONSOLIDATING>

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Article 9 of the Childs Rights Act, is good, procedural rules for the right of Babies and Children staying with their Mothers in Prisons. Whilst Rules 48-52 of the 70 , United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non –Custodial Measures for the Treatment of Women Offenders, adopted by the Commission on crime prevention and criminal justice at its Eighteenth session in Vienna, 16-24 April 2009 is more substantive and comprehensive.

Both enactments should be consolidated, harmonised, publicised and prison administrations be encouraged in implementation.
2. Prison authorities should be compelled to have standard medical units or complex, manned with qualified Medics and compulsorily conduct Pregnancies test before admitting Female inmates into custody. special diet particularly for breast feeding Mothers so that they can generate healthy milk for their suckling Babies should be provided.
3. Mothers with Babies, infant friendly units should have standard, well equipped, Day care, Nursery Schools with playground. Open to relatives, visitors and constant outings organized for these little ones
4. Prison Officials in Women Prisons, particularly Mothers with Babies, infants units should be appropriately trained. As much as possible they should avoid harsh, loud, disciplinary actions on such inmates in the presence of these, sensitive little ones. I think, Prison Official and maybe inmates therein should not be on uniform, rather they should all dressed in mufti or normal clothing.
- 5 There is the need to establish an International Working Advisory Group on Mothers with Babies in Prisons to update, interact on challenges on development of this issue.