

LEGAL RIGHTS - JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND CHILDREN

II. GENERAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ICCPR General Comment 13 (Twenty-first session, 1984): Article 14: Equality Before the Courts and the Right to a Fair and Public Hearing by an Independent Court Established by Law, A/39/40 (1984) 143 at para. 16.

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16. Article 14, paragraph 4, provides that in the case of juvenile persons, the procedure shall be such as will take account of their age and the desirability of promoting their rehabilitation. Not many reports have furnished sufficient information concerning such relevant matters as the minimum age at which a juvenile may be charged with a criminal offence, the maximum age at which a person is still considered to be a juvenile, the existence of special courts and procedures, the laws governing procedures against juveniles and how all these special arrangements for juveniles take account of "the desirability of promoting their rehabilitation". Juveniles are to enjoy at least the same guarantees and protection as are accorded to adults under article 14.

- ICCPR General Comment 28 (Sixty-eighth session, 2000): Article 3: Equality of Rights Between Men and Women, A/55/40 vol. I (2000) 133 at para 15.

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15. As regards articles 7 and 10, States parties must provide all information relevant to ensuring that the rights of persons deprived of their liberty are protected on equal terms for men and women. In particular, States parties should report on whether men and women are separated in prisons and whether women are guarded only by female guards. States parties should also report about compliance with the rule that accused juvenile females shall be separated from adults and on any difference in treatment between male and female persons deprived of liberty, such as access to rehabilitation and education programmes and to conjugal and family visits. Pregnant women who are deprived of their liberty should receive humane treatment and respect for their inherent dignity at all times, and in particular during the birth and while caring for their newborn children; States parties should report on facilities to ensure this and on medical and health care for such mothers and their babies.

- CRC General Comment 3 (Thirty-second session, 2003): HIV/AIDS and the Rights of the Child, A/59/41 (2004) 89 at para. 30.

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30. The vulnerability of children to HIV/AIDS resulting from political, economic, social,

LEGAL RIGHTS - JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND CHILDREN

cultural and other factors determines the likelihood of their being left with insufficient support to cope with the impact of HIV/AIDS on their families and communities, exposed to the risk of infection, subjected to inappropriate research, or deprived of access to treatment, care and support if and when HIV infection sets in. Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS is most acute for children living in refugee and internally displaced persons camps, children in detention, children living in institutions, as well as children living in extreme poverty, children living in situations of armed conflict, child soldiers, economically and sexually exploited children, and disabled, migrant, minority, indigenous, and street children. However, all children can be rendered vulnerable by the particular circumstances of their lives. Even in times of severe resource constraints, the Committee wishes to note that the rights of vulnerable members of society must be protected and that many measures can be pursued with minimum resource implications. Reducing vulnerability to HIV/AIDS requires first and foremost that children, their families and communities be empowered to make informed choices about decisions, practices or policies affecting them in relation to HIV/AIDS.

- CERD General recommendation XXXI (Sixty-seventh session, 2005): The Prevention of Racial Discrimination in the Administration and Functioning of the Criminal Justice System, A/60/18 (2005) 98 at preamble. For text of General Recommendation, see **EQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION - RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**.
- ICCPR General Comment 9 (Sixteenth session, 1982): Article 10: Humane Treatment of Persons Deprived of Liberty, A/37/40 (1982) 96 at paras. 2 and 3. For text of General Comment, see **HUMAN DIGNITY**.
- ICCPR General Comment 17 (Thirty-fifth session, 1989): Article 24: Rights of the Child A/44/40 (1989) 173 at para. 4. For text of General Comment, see **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS-GENERAL**.
- ICCPR General Comment 21 (Forty-fourth session, 1992): Article 10: Replaces General Comment 9 Concerning Humane Treatment of Persons Deprived of Liberty, A/47/40 (1992) 195 at paras. 8 and 13. For text of General Comment, see **HUMAN DIGNITY**.
- CRC General Comment 2 (Thirty-first session, 2002): The Role of Independent National Human Rights Institutions in the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child, A/59/41 (2004) 82 at paras. 5, 13-15 and 19(p)-(s). For text of General Comment, see

LEGAL RIGHTS - JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS - GENERAL.

- CRC General Comment 6 (Thirty-ninth session, 2005): Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their Country of Origin, A/61/41 (2005) 15 at paras. 3, 56, 57 and 61-63. For text of General Comment, see **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS - GENERAL.**