

## The Effectiveness of International Organizations on Child Rights Protection focusing on Save the Children, Hargeisa Somaliland

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**ABSTRACT:** Most Somaliland children face child rights violations due to silence of the law. International organisations and Save the Children in particular are trying to make outstanding efforts that are complicated by courts whose principles are compromised by bribery from victimisers. Children's voices are shuttered by the power of superior family members that connive with the judges to undermine the professional law enforcement design. As a result, impunity becomes a normal and a socially acceptable vice treated with politeness. A qualitative research design was applied in which in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions as well as participant observations were used to strike deeper conversations with children and other community members as well as Save the Children and other International Agencies and Government Staff in Hargeisa. Emotions from the community children as well as the structural gaps revealed by secondary sources indicate complications surrounding child protection enforcement in Hargeisa and Somaliland generally. International organisations operating in Somaliland do not seem to be working very closely with Government officials in observing the principle to protect children generally. The main argument in this research paper is that child rights protection effectiveness need to be treated with radical interventions characterised by high level of transparency and accountability in areas of human rights protection.

**Keywords:** effectiveness, international, organisations, child, rights, protection, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Article 6 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of a Child requires states parties to recognize the inherent right to every child (CRC, 1989). However, many children around the world are denied their human rights. In fact, previous scholarly work reveals that "the realization of child rights is at a crossroads" (Harper et al., 2010). Child rights violations are not uncommon in developing countries. Hargeisa in Somaliland is case among many where child rights require radically local and international interventions. There is no single week that concludes without hearing the problems that children are denied educations, forced into child labour, physical and psychological abuse, neglected and exploited in Somaliland. More of children are without appropriate care due to violence and abuse, poverty and regional conflict. There are also huge cases of children who work to feed their family. You cannot walk every corner of Hargeisa city without meeting desperate begging kids in organized groups or sad-looking children in their 10s or below the age of 15.

The global discourse of child rights featuring in various international and influential bodies is not new. It has been going on since the 1990s and by 2013, the actors were numbering more than 200 in 70 countries (UNICEF, 2013). With more countries adopting the Child rights convention, other child rights activists may have emerged to meet the sustainable development goals of 2030 (see, Elder et al., 2017). Each of the parties values independence without external influence in the promotion of human rights for children. According to (UNICEF, 2013), "independence is the defining feature of human rights institutions for children." Actors consider it a legal obligation to defend child rights across the globe. An international corporation in France exhibit a good example. A French alliance of NGOs including: "Apprentisd'Auteuil, Asmae Association Soeur Emmanuelle, La chaîne de l'espoir, ECPAT France, Un Enfant par la Main, Plan International France, Secours Islamique France, SolidaritéLaïque, SOS Villages d'Enfants France and Vision du Monde France" (GroupeEnFrance, 2015 cited in Coordination Humanitaire et Développement- CHD, 2017) met in 2014 to

promote respect for human rights in international policies. It is very likely that Human Rights Violations of any kind are not limited to a geographical location.

Child Rights Violations were also cited in the Asian countries. For instance, a coordinated effort of various Asian countries such as; “Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and South Asia” (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre – IRC cited in UNICEF, 2008) have been responsible for preventing and responding to child trafficking and to ensure that children are safe. Save the Children International is also among the many International Agencies that prioritize the agenda for child rights’ safety. Operating in over in 29 countries with operational programs in more than 120 by 2011, Save the Children leads among the independent child rights organisation (Lansdown, 2011). Despite the existing international efforts, the phenomenon of child rights seems to have been understudied. For instance, it has been stated that ... “millions of children are not counted in official data and statistics and do not appear in the States’ reporting on the SDGs implementation” (Open letter to the UN, 2017 cited in CHD, 2017). A related experience was documented in Latin America and the Caribbean where the number of the existing Child Rights protection Legal Frameworks are applied selectively to some local realities (Martinez, 2014). The existence of impunity combined with high levels of corruption in most countries might mean the possibility of disproportionate child rights denial.

The principle that all human beings are born with indivisible, inherent, inalienable and universal rights (Fisher, 1999-2015) may be viewed as a dream in Sub-Saharan African countries. Grave violations are not uncommon against innocent children in the East, West, North and South of the African continent. Echoed in many international documents, it is not clear whether child afflictions such as; “infant mortality, deficient health care and limited opportunities for basic education, as well as alarming accounts of child exploitation, prostitution, child labour and victims of armed conflict” (United Nations, 2000) among others are yet to be universally prevented. To be effective in addressing the matter might require a very dedicated sacrifice of the host human rights institutions, but this possibility may largely be non-existent. Lansdown also expresses worries that “the child’s right to be heard is, as yet, far from being fulfilled for the majority of children around the world” (2011).

As earlier articulated, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) prioritizes global children’s rights to freedom of expression, association, thought, conscious and religion alongside protection against abuse and violence, quality health, education among others (1989). On the other hand, Nankunda’s and Thomas’s study on ‘The Role of Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children (IHRICs) in Africa in Raising Awareness about Children’s Rights among Children’ discovered that “majority of children in the global south and Africa in particular remain disadvantaged, vulnerable and unable to access children’s rights” (2016). Recognised as an African born woman, Ofofiele revealed she hails from a culture that prefers males to female children where the latter are exposed to the worst forms of abuse (2010). Her experience is not unfamiliar to global citizens because history repeats itself as this tragedy could be worsened by bad governance among most African countries. The international and regional headlines visible on Television expose vices or violations against children. This means that there could be a huge imbalance between African Union’s mandate of promoting and implementing regional and national policies related to young people’s rights (2015) and the African traditional status quo. While AU works with UNCRC to promote and implement a moral obligation or charitable approach to African children’s wellbeing, the latter has been tainted with insufficient image and disability to achieving child rights reality (Save the Children, 2014).

Reporting for ‘Save the Children’ on African Arid regions such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, (Gardner, 2017) stated that “Children face risks around exploitation, abuse, marginalization and exclusion and the protection of children and young people needs to be a key consideration ... due to high level of poverty, poor access to services, insecurity” among others. Like most other countries in Africa, Kenya’s children are traditionally denied the knowledge that they are entitled to protection from violence while the Human Rights Protection mechanisms are systematically hidden from them. To make matters worse, the Kenyan Laws deny the citizenship right to children born outside Kenya to Kenyan mother and non-Kenyan fathers except if they apply for it. Such laws recognize citizenship of only children whose fathers are Kenyans irrespective of where they were born (see, Palmqvist, 2006). Selective laws on children automatically multiply the likelihood of their abuse, discrimination in enforcing best practices and impunity.

The huge presence of international human rights organizations including ‘Save the Children’ in Somalia could be motivated by; internal, external and natural disaster displacement induced complexities. For instance, the recent drought displaced “21 million people internally, registered 870,895 Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region on top of 313,255 in Kenya, 249,903 in Ethiopia, 256,269 in Yemen, 36,245 in Uganda, 13077 in Djibouti and 2,246 in Eritrea” (UNHCR, 2017 cited in IOM, 2018-2020 Report). Forced return of Somalis from the Kingdom of Saud Arabia (KSA) is said to have been serious since 2015 (IOM, 2018-2020 Report). Displacements of this nature do not exclude children child rights violations in one way or another. Unprecedented humanitarian crisis visibly becomes a multifaceted one. The Human rights violators could be

exploiting these children's and other migrants' disadvantaged inferiority experience to deny them their universal entitlements.

Somaliland has enjoyed relative peace in the last two decades although most of its children are not immune to human rights violations. Child marriage, child labour, denial of education and health services among others are not uncommon throughout this De-facto Republic. Issues of children violations are less studied and are under-researched in Somaliland. International Labour Organization-ILO identified cynical situations on issues of children in Somaliland. For instance, most underage Somali children are believed to have the responsibility to support the family and, be a source of income to support themselves and their families (2012). Such a belief could be linked to the increasing numbers of urban street children in Hargeisa city. There may be no doubt that such children go through unspeakable psychologically and physically harmful encounters in the hands of desperate adults.

According to (UNICEF, 2016), child protection is inadequate in Somaliland because of absence of legal or policy framework that controls for the rights of the children. Save the Children's interventions efforts to promote and defend child rights are limited to their own means but are undermined by silence of the law. As a result, many children in Hargeisa are denied their rights without cause and continues to suffer without hope of the future. The child rights violators are not punished by the governments due to impurity and corruption. This increases human security risks. Absence of an institutional framework and corruption multiplies vulnerable state of children. While the child rights convention emphasize the prevention and punishing of all child rights violations, impunity is not uncommon. Such violations are worsened by the influence of the clan which calls for negotiation between the violator and the victim families to agree outside the courts on the possibility of denying the victim the right to fair hearing in the court of law. Children's voices are ignored even in the most pressing challenges that affect them.

This research intends to analyze the child rights violations in Somaliland, assess the Save the Children efforts to defend child rights, explain the latter's challenges and suggest possible child rights best practices that could restore or preserve the rights of children in the country.

The general objective of this study was investigate the effectiveness of international organizations on child right protection in Hargeisa Somaliland. Specifically, it was aimed to: identify the basic needs of children in Hargeisa; analyze the international efforts regarding child right protections in Hargeisa; describe common child rights violations; evaluate the child right interventions by the save the children and determine the best practices that could be applied to address child rights violations in the country.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study Area

The study was conducted in Hargeisa District. Four villages (anonymous) in four kilometer distance from Hargeisa city center were visited in the North, South, East and West of Hargeisa City. Four focus groups involving women, men and children were mobilized and engaged in the child rights conversation. The in-depth interview participants and key informants were also accessible while strategic observations made in the study area. These villages were targeted because of rampant child rights violations echoed at family, community and district levels.

### Research Context

Conducting any study on children is a very sensitive issue in Hargeisa. While it may be easy for elders and clan leaders as well as local chiefs in this region, it can be challenging when the study is conducted by students and black people from other African countries. In addition, international agencies depending on which country they originate, may be or not welcome to interact with children in the community. The existing insecurity perceived to be caused by foreigners and some local people due to clan differences could have affected the study if any researcher belongs to a sensitive clan. Locally, parents think that interaction with other people who are not their parents or close relatives could influence their children to adapting bad behaviors or lead them to being kidnapped for selfish reasons. Upon this background, most parents restricted their children from participating in the study.

### Research Design

This section discusses the method and techniques that were used for data gathering from field. Qualitative design was applied during data collection to discuss the experiences and stories of the few children, international agencies, government staff and some community members who were comfortable with the objectives of the study. In-depth interviews, observations, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were used to capture various pieces of information from the research participants.

### Sample Size and Techniques

A total of 49 participants were accessible to participate in the study. These included 20 children, 14 community members, 6 government officials, 6 Save the Children Key informants and three other staff from other international organizations. Convenient sampling was used to determine the research participants. According to some sources, convenient sampling is defined as "...nonrandom sampling where members of the target population that meet certain practical criteria, such as easy accessibility, geographical proximity, availability at a given time, or the willingness to participate are included for the purpose of the study" (Dornyei 2007 cited in Etikan et al., 2016). Although some scholars like Marshall challenges this technique that it "may result in poor quality data and lacks intellectual credibility" (1996), a supplementary sampling technique can be necessary to reverse this challenge. For instance, Tongco stated that "purposive sampling technique, also called judgment sampling, is the deliberate choice of an informant due to the qualities the informant possesses. It is a non-random technique that does not need underlying theories or a set number of informants" (2007). While it may be true that purposive sampling may be biased by some people as it is hardly easy to identify key informants; some scholars strongly recommend its ability to "provide researchers with the justification to make generalizations from the sample that is being studied, whether such generalizations are theoretical, analytic and logical in nature" (Sharma, 2017). Such a data collection technique was applied to supplement the conveniently sampled data collection method that is deemed unreliable. Purposive sampling was very helpful during the conversations with human rights activists in international agencies, government officials and a community representative. The children and parents who were accessible revealed more sensitive child rights experiences that they could be generalized to most of the children in Hargeisa and other regions of Somaliland.

### Data Collection Methods

#### In-depth Interviews

Interviews can be defined as a process by asking participant questions in a one-on-one or small group setting (Driscoll, 2011). An in-depth interview enabled us to gather detailed experiences of 8 children where two were selected from each village. By the virtue of the fact that one of us (researchers) was a Somali, it made it possible for her to translate the research tools from English to Somali language. This enabled us to access very rich firsthand information from children and some members of the community.

#### Key Informant Interviewing

Key Informant Interviews were directed to mostly to government and local elders and international organization staff. We were influenced by various scholars like Patton who provided the major purpose of key informant interview as "is to allow us to enter into the other person's perspective" Patton 2002 cited in Kun et al., 2013). We purposely sampled six government officials, six Save the Children staff, three staff from other International Agencies (anonymous) and one community representative to share their deeper experiences with child rights promotion in Somaliland. We approached them because of their expertise in human rights issues and familiarity with the Somaliland context that is requisite to appropriate decision-making and implementation. Evidence suggests that:

"The atmosphere in these interviews is informal, resembling a conversation among acquaintances. The interviewer subtly probes informants to elicit more information and takes elaborate notes, which are developed later.... interviews are excellent for documenting people's reasons for their behaviour and people's understandings or misunderstanding of issues" (Kumar, 1989).

For example, smartly drafted key informant interviews unveiled local and international attitudes toward human rights promotion and violations that affect children and the rest of the community members.

#### Focus Group Discussion

Mishra (2016) defines a focus group as "a type of in-depth interview accomplished in a group, whose meetings present characteristics defined with respect to the proposal, size, composition, and interview procedures." Two Focus Group Discussions was conducted comprising of 12 children (divided into two) and 14 community members (7 women and 7 men) between the age of 6 and 13 and 23 to 45 respectively. The geographical location of the focus groups was the four villages already mentioned in the North, South, East and West of Hargeisa City, particularly in the slum areas. Morgan uses a 'rule of the thumb' recommending that focus groups should comprise of "homogeneous strangers as participants, rely on a relatively structured interview with high moderator involvement, have 6 to 10 participants per group ..." (2013). Mobilizing children from different families and community members from four slum villages of Hargeisa was a realistic fit to the recommended number of group participants and group category. For children, it looked like a competition as they were sharing their own experiences, most of them sharing how they or their friends are/ were mistreated and abused by men and women or boys and girls they knew or did not know in the same community.

### Participants Observation

Interviews and observations go hand in hand. The facial outlook of the children and the men and women we engaged into conversation sometimes appeared so sad that they expressed the pain surrounding children's rights violations in Hargeisa. Observations are a systematic description of events, behaviors and artifacts in the social setting chosen for study (Kawulich, 2005). Most of the kids that we interviewed did not know their rights and had injuries on their hands and body. One of the children emotionally said "my step mother burned me with fire because I forgot to fetch water of the goats." Some of the international organizations welcomed us but were not comfortable to share detailed information. It was most likely they were trying to hide major insufficiencies in their efforts to promote children's rights in Hargeisa and Somaliland generally.

## III. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

### Introduction

This section involves the presentation and discussion of primary data that was gathered from the children whose rights are violated; men and women community members, government officials as well as Save the Children staff and other international organizations (anonymous). It outlines the research findings and discussion. It ends with a conclusion and policy recommendations.

### Research Findings

- i. Most of the children were found to be living outside the rule of law in Hargeisa and Somaliland generally.
- ii. Absence of independent media was cited to be impeding successful human rights practice.
- iii. This research found that there is no good relation between parents and their children which makes it impossible to take care of the children rights.
- iv. It was also disclosed that the government of Somaliland does not have enough funds to spread child rights awareness.
- v. Government responsibility to protect the basic rights of orphaned children and other children was non-existent according to most of the research participants.
- vi. The study unveiled that international organizations' efforts to address injustice are complicated by a corrupted court of law.
- vii. Impunity was also said to be high by the children who participated in the study.
- viii. While all parents are supposed to share responsibility of providing parental care to their children, the study found that Somali fathers neglect leave it to the mothers only.
- ix. It was found that some community members blame government for their failure promote child rights protection as the latter and international human rights organizations blame each other for possible insufficiencies in child rights protection.
- x. Most of the children in Somali communities suffer from inferiority complex that prevents them from reporting child rights violation.

### Child definition in the Islamic Somaliland

What is a right and what is not a right is always perceived in the Islamic religion lens by Somalis. The operations of Human Rights Organizations are likely to be conflicting/ contradicting with human rights norms and standards due to their conflicting way of defining children. For example, while a child is defined by International organizations as any human being below the age of 18, Islamic religion defines a child as that person not exceeding the age of 15. This dichotomous definitions of children between the two important institutions could explain the impossibility of effectiveness by any Human Rights Organizations to defend child rights in Somaliland.

### Children Knowledge of Human Rights in Hargeisa

Children in any country of the world have the right to know their rights (UN CRC, 1989). This is not business as usual in the context of Somaliland and Hargeisa in particular. Most of the children who participated in the study acknowledged that they did not know what rights are or whether they are supposed to have rights. There were some children who expressed their sadness regarding how badly they are abused by most people in their own community. "I was going to fetch water for the goats when I met two men and they beat me up and called me bad names. When I ran away, they followed while throwing stones at me. Such bad acts have been going on to many children that I know in different locations of Hargeisa city." Three boys who were interviewed agreed on this inhuman treatment. Violations of this kind are a social danger that destroys the minds of millions of Somali children. The danger of not knowing one's human rights puts children at a very risky state. They are vulnerable to child rights violations of any kind.

### **Community Perception to Child Rights Law in Hargeisa**

Most of the community members in Hargeisa perceive the existence of law enforcement institutions as unrealistic in addressing most of the human rights violations affecting children among others. When women and men were together in the focus groups, they reacted on the imbalances surrounding the rule of law in Hargeisa Courts of Law. We observed their emotional body language as they described how children's voices are shut down by elderly men involving superior family members. Most of the women recalled recent cases where around an anonymous number of children reported their abusers to the court but the latter resolved that the family of the victims and those of the victimizers sit down and agree on a friendly solution. Some of the sad-looking children requested to talk to one of us (Somali female researcher) separately. They said, "... we feared to talk in the group because other children might tell our secrets to other people and they begin haunting us because in our community, if you report a criminal, you may not see tomorrow ...." Safety concerns of this nature can be felt by any human being. We become conscience when we are confronted by risky phenomena that directly affect our lives. Such a vice is not limited to Somaliland. Statistical evidence states that "more than 1 million children worldwide are living in detention as a result of being in conflict with the law" (Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNICEF, 2004). Listening to such unsafe children may not live one without a tear in the innocent eyes. The children stories combined with the community worries may require the concept of human rights a lot of compromising public and private institutions to get involved in spearheading the responsibility to protect the children and any other community members' rights.

### **Common Child Rights Violations in Hargeisa**

Very unspeakable child rights violation worry the community and the children themselves. The woman representative who was engaged as a key informant shared her human rights experience in Hargeisa. She told us that "many children of female identity are raped by young boys and old men. It is a crime that have never contained. The victims fear the stigma associated with reporting the victimizer as well as the high likelihood of being stigmatized for loss of dignity." A lot of parents just keep silent over the tragedies their children go through but take their children to hospitals for medical treatment without following up on the criminal. While male children may have the confidence to report any violators, it is not common with girls. Most of the women in the Focus Group Discussions shared related experiences and were wondering how this kind of stigma can be controlled in Hargeisa community.

Denial of education was also another child rights violation that was shared by the children themselves. A 10 year old child blamed his own father for refusing to take him to school while he spends too much money on eating khat.

"My father comes very late home every night with much chat and I think it costs a lot of money because I see a lot of men giving dollars to our neighbor who sells khat but when my mother asked him when I will be going to school, he shouted at her. Even when I was playing with my friends I saw other men eating those leaves. They must be buying it from him," one of the children in the focus group explained as his colleagues nodded their heads. It appears Khat has become an addiction to men as it could be making them superior as they consume it. One could wonder why chewing khat is more prioritized by the heads of the family at the expense of their own children's rights to basic rights.

### **How Save the Children addresses Human Rights Challenge**

The catastrophic wars no longer exist in Somaliland and she has witnessed the attainment of a democratic government for more than two decades. The Somalia ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child on 20th January, 2015 (UNICEF, 2016) motivated Save the Children to recognize, spread awareness, preserve and promote child rights in this country. Since Somaliland is not yet recognized by the International Community, its children are uneasily dependent on South Somalia due to their sour historical political relations. Save the Children works to safeguard children's well-being in Somaliland and across the world. Working with institutions of government, local and other international organizations, more efforts are being made to ensure children regain their plight. It is not easy to work with a Somali context of human rights defense though. It appears that International Agencies working in Somaliland are less cooperative in holding the responsibility to mitigate child rights violations. A local government staff (anonymous) said that the former always shift much blame to government officials for impunities surrounding child rights violations and sarcastically asking whether child-focused organizations like UNICEF and Save the Children are making genuine interventions on this matter. It is not uncommon for human beings to blame each other for possible insufficiencies affecting them. For either party, there may not be tangible achievements regarding the obligation to protect children. However, it is also likely that both parties are struggling to effectively address human rights in Somaliland.

### Government and International Interventions in Hargeisa

A good number of international organizations were said to be playing a significant role in promoting and advocating for the propagation of human rights. In particular, child rights were said to be a priority in most of the international and regional discourse. UNICEF, UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children are some of the international organizations actively involved in safeguarding the universal human right across the Horn of Africa including; in Somaliland as was revealed by some men who participated in the study. Although there have been local blame that these organizations may not be fully impacting the community with human rights safety, their absence of the latter would ignite into multiple desperate criminality.

We met some of the UNICEF and UNHCR staff at Save the Children Head Office and they were comfortable to join an informal conversation at their convenience. There was a shared view from both Save the Children and their guests that the rights of most children are neglected without justice in Hargeisa. A staff at Save the Children also stated that “child rights awareness would have been possible in Somaliland and particularly Hargeisa if the national government was exposed the funding local or regional bodies.” The other one also added that “Somaliland government restricts independent media houses that could be checking National Media gaps in line with human rights practice. We are trying to implement the child rights frameworks with huge difficulty.” Limited national budget has the power to limit various activities’ implementation alongside matters that may not be highly prioritized. Children’s voices would be widespread if there was a genuinely supportive media house that performs its journalism duties without state interference. It is hard to tell whether the best practices affecting children are implemented by international agencies or the host government in Hargeisa.

### Corruption and its effects on Children’s rights in Somaliland

Most of the participants cited public service corruption as a major impediment to child protection. According to (Khaire et al., 2017), “Corruption represents one of the greatest impediments to economic development, security... and rule of law, and remains a significant grievance amongst Somalis.” Corrupt tendencies undermine the principles of accountability and transparency. One of the community members revealed that corruption is much institutionalized. Child rights observation and protection could be under threat in Somaliland. Most of the women participants were worried of their long lived experience living with some human rights violators who do not spend a night or two behind bars and going unpunished due to the power of bribery. When these women were asked how they respond to such grave human rights challenges, most of them said that their silence was/is more secure than going against powerful authorities of governments that are rarely ready to defend their children. For any best practices to make sense in any children environment, a fight against corruption must be part of the public and private sector action plans.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Children rights are human rights. As such, they must be treated with dignity. The literature from the existing secondly sources correlates with the primary experiences of the Hargeisa children and the rest of the community. Policy documents unveil the existing gap regarding the promotion and protection of child safety in Somaliland and around the world. While more efforts have been made to ensure children enjoy inalienable rights that they were born with, the cries of the community and the children themselves seem to be ignored by an actively corrupted rule of law.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

After such an interesting engagement with all the study participants, we propose that certain radical interventions need to be made in order to safeguard the children’s well-being in Hargeisa and the entire republic of Somaliland. For instance,

- a) Rule of law needs to depart from silence to independent action without interference of the clan or influential families. Judges could be held accountable by the communities and the government they serve.
- b) International community need to engage with religious and clan leaders in Somaliland to re-define who a child should be in order to avoid conflicting child rights enforcement frameworks. However, this action point might take longer to be achieved.
- c) Spreading awareness of child rights to the children in the community. This could be done through community outreach by international and local Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) working as a team.
- d) Designing child rights subjects in all Somaliland school levels from primary to university and other tertiary levels. Children in and outside schools must know their rights and be empowered report any violators without fear or favour.
- e) Encouraging Civil Society Organizations (CBOs) to engage in door-o-door community visits and interact with children for the purposes of familiarizing them with universal human rights.

- f) Call for community policing engagement. The community could work with police in identifying and reporting any child rights abuse to the latter for the victimizers to face the law. Every child or community member should be told that ‘no human being is above the law.’
- g) Engagement of International media on human rights best practice. International Agencies would not only document human rights context but would go ahead to engage in international discourses over local inhuman practices affecting the children.
- h) The principles of accountability and transparency need to be taken seriously. This would require the involvement of donors. The latter could emphasize that government and private sector seek freedom of independent media in exposing child violations and advocating for child well-being before international funding is prioritized.
- i) Punishing impunity and all those civil servants who take bribes to manipulate the law; and set law breakers free, should be emphasized and strict action taken by National Government.
- j) A government seeking for International recognition could also be held accountable on matters of child protection and other international frameworks on universal rights in ways that value sovereign protection. The power of international actors could demand that child protection (through international treaties) to be at the fore front of international collaboration.

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