

JOINT UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW SUBMISSION SWAZILAND

Save the Children Fund leading a coalition of members of civil society.

1. Methodology

This report was compiled by Swaziland civil society organisations coordinated by Save the Children Fund. The following organisations participated in two stakeholders' meetings nationwide: Swaziland Youth in Action (SYA) and Swaziland Youth Empowerment (Luvatsi). The following organisation which deal with issues affecting citizens but are not recognised in terms of Swaziland's laws, were also consulted in the formulation of this report: House of Our Pride (which represents issues of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transsexual and Intersexed (LGBTI) People.

2. Executive Summary

This report is submitted to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review based on Swaziland's obligations under the various international instruments that Swaziland has either ratified or acceded to. It is also based on Swaziland's constitutional provisions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to the last State report under the Convention, as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights also form part of this report.

This report begins by acknowledging the establishment of the National Children's Coordination Unit (NCCU) and the important role it has played in improving children's rights in the country. However, it is underfunded and its mandate is not clear. For example, it assists in the implementation of social welfare programmes, also housed within the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO), but not in education. Social welfare and education of children, however, go hand in hand and there have been numerous implementation problems documented in the press. For example, when schools did not receive payments for the orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs), the Deputy Prime Minister insisted that the teachers union, the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), go through a representative from the Ministry of Education & Training (MOET), rather than coming directly to his Ministry.¹ The NCCU also has an unclear mandate in terms of data collection. Statistics are collected by the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development but it is not clear who is responsible for collecting and storing timely information about children. Of course, timely and accurate statistics are crucial to ensuring children realize their rights.

It is important to briefly highlight the historical background of the Swaziland legal system at this juncture, in order to put this report in the proper perspective. Swaziland operates a dual legal system with Roman-Dutch common law on one side, and Swazi customary law on the other. Swaziland is also a dualist State in relation to international law in that the international instruments that Swaziland signs and ratifies do not automatically become part of domestic law unless enacted into law by parliament. Until 2006, Swaziland operated without a constitution or a Bill of Rights. On 12 April 1973, the then King Sobhuza II through royal decree unilaterally abrogated the Independence Constitution and replaced it with the King's Proclamation to the Nation. This proclamation remained the supreme law of the land for 33 years, until a new constitution was adopted in 2005, and eventually came into force in February 2006.

¹ Welcome Dalmini, 'DPM Rejects Teachers' Petition', *Times of Swaziland*, 11 June 2009, <http://www.times.co.sz/News/8419.html> <last accessed 8 MArch 2010>

3. Children's rights in general

Children are susceptible to violence because they are defenseless. This is much more pronounced in societies heavily steeped in cultural beliefs that a child is to be seen, not heard. Swaziland is one such society, and such perceptions have led to the violation of a broad category of children's rights. Due to Swaziland's dual legal system with modern law and customary law operating side by side, the position of children in society remains one of vulnerability. The best interests of the child thus finds little space in a customary set up that believes children should be seen and not heard. This is much more pronounced at the family level, especially within the family council (*lusendvo*) that determines issues affecting children's welfare at the internal domestic level.

4. Abolition of the status of illegitimacy

The State must be commended for facilitating the inclusion of section 31 of the Constitution, which provides that the common law status of illegitimacy of persons born out of wedlock is abolished. Whilst this is a positive move, the State has not done anything to educate the public on this provision and the implications of not following or respecting it. In customary law and in the larger society, children born out of wedlock are still regarded as illegitimate. This is further exacerbated by the customary practice of requiring that the father of such children should pay a fine to legitimise his children. Until such fine is paid, such children remain illegitimate, with the attendant denigration of status in society. The abolition therefore exists in paper only, and does nothing to improve the social standing of children born out of wedlock.

4.1 Acquisition of citizenship by children

In terms of the Constitution, children can only acquire citizenship from their fathers. Women cannot pass citizenship onto their children, except for cases where the mother is a Swazi citizen and the father a foreigner and the father has denounced the child. This goes against the equality provisions of the Constitution and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to which Swaziland is a party. It also renders Swazi children born of Swazi mothers and foreign fathers stateless. This action violates the CRC provisions.

5. Corporal punishment

Corporal punishment and other forms of inhumane and degrading punishment or treatment are institutionalised. Corporal punishment is not necessarily outlawed by the Constitution. The Constitution prohibits the subjection of children to abuse, torture or cruel inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment subject to lawful and moderate chastisement for purposes of correction. As a result, corporal punishment is widespread, and is meted out by parents, guardians, and teachers. There is no emphasis on positive discipline, and as a result corporal punishment is institutionalised in most schools in Swaziland.

5.1 Maltreatment of students in schools

One school that has a history of using torture and extreme punitive methods is Mhlatane High School in the north of Swaziland. Students interviewed revealed that the use of corporal punishment is institutionalised, and teachers can administer as many strokes as they desire, much against the limit stipulated in the regulations from the Ministry of Education. Students at this school are also subjected to all forms of

inhumane treatment in the name of punishment. The State has known about the torture of students that go on at Mhlatane High School for a long time, but has not done anything to address this violation of fundamental rights.

5.2 Assault of pupils by teachers

The hitting of students by teachers in schools is not limited to strokes of the cane, but includes such methods as a slap with the open hand, kicks and fists. In one case in a school in the south of Swaziland, a young girl was kicked in the groin by her teacher after she refused to lift up her leg during physical education classes. She had told the teacher she cannot lift her leg up because she was wearing nothing underneath. This angered the teacher and earned the girl a kick in the groin. The damage occasioned led to paralysis as the girl walks with difficulty today, and her menstrual cycle was disturbed since then. Although initially protected by the principal and other Ministry of Education officials in Nhlanguano, the teacher was eventually arrested after intervention by the girl's elder sister. The prosecution is still ongoing at the Nhlanguano Magistrates Court.

5.3 State sponsored torture of children

On New Year's Day 2011, State police from the Sithobela and Siphofaneni police stations arrested a young girl of 18 years who was at the time 7 months pregnant. The police had been told to arrest her on suspicion of having committed an abortion some two years earlier. The police were acting on information obtained from her father, who was not staying with her at the time. She was arrested and kept in custody for 29 hours. During the interrogation, she was tortured, had police sit on her visibly bulging stomach and treated inhumanely. During these gruelling 29 hours, the heavily pregnant 18 year old was shuffled between two police stations, that is Sithobela and Siphofaneni, and subject to more torture. No charges were preferred against her. In April 2010, a group of 49 Grade VI pupils were subjected to torture in the hands of police officers over missing money, SZL10 (approximately US\$1.40). The pupils from Malkerns Valley Primary School were ordered to do 200 squats in order to force the culprit to own up to stealing the money. The 200 squats were beyond the ability of children of this age (most of whom were on average 11 years old).² In 2009, president of the political party the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO), Wandile Dlodlu was tortured by police for a period of almost two hours as they sought information on an alleged plot to assassinate top politicians in the country. After this humiliating ordeal, no charges were preferred against him.³ It is worth mentioning here that SWAYOCO is part of the entities that were proscribed by the State under the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008. In a case involving the army, a security guard who was controlling traffic at Matsapha Shopping Complex was brutally assaulted by a bus-load of soldiers after he attempted to direct their vehicle to an appropriate parking spot. He sustained multiple injuries all over his body and dislocated jaw which would require him to seek specialist medical attention from neighbouring South Africa.⁴

In November 2010, an 18-year old Grade VI pupil was tortured by State police from Bhunya Police Station on suspicion that he had killed another person.⁵ As a result the young boy could hardly walk for two weeks,

² Times of Swaziland, *Grade VI children torture in the hands of police*, 21 April 2010.

³ Times of Swaziland 6 September 2009, *Police wanted to kill me, says SWAYOCO president*.

⁴ Times of Swaziland, 21 April 2010, *Soldiers brutally assault Tom Kirk's guard*.

⁵ The Swazi News, 13 November 2010 *Grade VI pupil allegedly tortured by police*, page 11.

during which time he missed school. Police denied ever torturing the boy, but admitted to having 'interviewed' him. The boy stated that he was taken to the police station, where he was made to lie facing upwards on a bench, with his hands tied underneath. His head was then covered with a plastic bag just below the neck. One officer then sat on his chest, and told him to pat the bench when he wanted to speak. He was also physically assaulted, kicked on the ribs, and beaten under the feet. He was later released and no charges were preferred against him. Police spokeswoman, Wendy Hleta was quick to State that the allegations of torture were unfounded. No investigations were launched into this matter.

In January 2008, State police forcibly dispersed students of the University of Swaziland who were demonstrating within the premises. As police unleashed their violence, they forcefully entered nearby homes and assaulted the occupants in an attempt to locate fleeing students.

Children also suffer as a result of State sponsored torture and killings that occur within their families. In most instances, individuals who are tortured are left paralysed and unable to make a living, or are killed. Since most of them are breadwinners, the responsibility then shifts to the children once the parents are rendered invalid or killed. On 12 January 2008, in Mbabane, a member of the State police shot and killed a man who allegedly broke into a store and resisted arrest. Again in March 2008, in Nhlangano, an Umbutfo Swaziland Defense Force (USDF) soldier patrolling the border shot and killed an alleged car smuggler. In a separate incident on April 16, a soldier in Nhlangano shot and killed another suspected car smuggler.⁶

On 8 August 2008, Nick Reilly, the general manager of Mkhaya Private Game Reserve, went to the home of Musa Gamedze, who he then shot and killed; Reilly was accompanied by three plainclothes members of the State police apparatus. Although Gamedze was unarmed and there was no evidence of poaching on his person or at his home, police claimed that Gamedze was wanted in connection with several cases of stock theft and violations of the Game Act; the law permits rangers to shoot and kill poachers if caught in the act. No investigation into the incident has been conducted to date. No known investigation was conducted nor was action taken in the following 2007 security force killings: the April police killing of four suspected thieves; the August police killing of a man suspected of killing a police officer; and the August USDF killing of an alleged car smuggler.⁷

5.2 Maltreatment of human rights defenders

Vocal citizens, human rights defenders, unionists and members of political parties are targeted by the State. Their rights to privacy, dignity and liberty are violated on regular basis. Some of those violated form part of the youth, whilst others are parents and guardians to children, who also get embroiled in these violations orchestrated by the State.

The following people have suffered violations in the past four years:

Human rights defenders and political activists are victimised by the State. There have been a number of raids in the homes and offices of human rights defenders and political activists, under the pretext that they are terrorists. During these raids, victims are ridiculed, and belittled in front of their family members, including their children. Some of those whose homes have been raided include Barnes Dlamini (president

⁶ <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119027.htm> (accessed 27 February 2011).

⁷ As above.

of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions and chairperson of the Swaziland United Democratic Front), Ndlavela Dlamini (of the Ex-Miners Association which sued the State on free primary education), Mario Masuku (president of the political party People's United Democratic Movement), and Musa Hlophe (coordinator of civil society outfit, the Swaziland Coalition of Concerned Civic Organisations).

On 5 June 2010, a house belonging to political activist Alex Langwenya was bombed in the middle of the night. Police were quick to respond and on arrival they took statements. During the recording of the statements, police tried to force the occupants to record that they were not inside the house during the explosion, which the occupants refused to do. The police then forced the occupants of the house to go for a medical check up. The occupants were then kept at the police station for the whole night. They denied them access to family even when their mother came to check on them. They were then subjected to intense interrogation until 1800hrs the following day. To date, the investigations have been inconclusive and there seems to be lack of commitment on the part of the State to locate those responsible for this act.

A number of political activists and human rights defenders have been accused by the State of committing certain offences. Although most are set free on bail, there is no commitment on the part of the State to have their trials concluded. As a result, they remain perpetually with the awaiting trial status. These include Norman Xaba, Mphandlana Shongwe, Mario Masuku, and Thulani Maseko. Other political prisoners remain in custody, and their cases have not been finalised by the State. These include Bheki Dlamini, Sonke Dlamini, and Amos Mbhedzi. Following a string of bombings of government structures in 2005, sixteen individuals were taken into custody and subsequently granted bail after spending three months. Ever since that time, their cases have not heard, and they are today regarded as persons awaiting trial. During interrogation these people were tortured by State police. A report into the inquiry on the allegations of torture was never made public. In February 2008, during a political rally in Msunduzi Location in Mbabane, one person taken by State police on a Friday and released on a Monday without charge. During his stay in custody, he was subjected to various cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. On 21 September 2009, on the day on the release of PUDEMO president Mario Masuku from Matsapha Correctional Facility, officers from this facility unleashed violence on supporters who had come to witness the release of their president. The group of unarmed supporters consisted of both young and old people. The security officers also demanded that journalists stop filming and photographing their actions. They seized cameras and other reporting equipment and verbally abused, threatened and physically assaulted several journalists. No action was taken by the State and no investigations were conducted.

6. Youth Parliament

In 2010, Swaziland embarked on the mission of coming up with a youth parliament, that was to deliberate on issues pertaining to the youth. This was a good move by the State as this exercise was long over due. However, the manner in which the parliament came about was not participatory. The youth representatives from the various constituencies were not elected but rather hand picked from schools only to be selected at *inkhundla* level to represent the constituency. Another factor of the whole exercise was that the parliament was not representative of all the sectors of the youth. The out of school youth, youth in tertiary education, and those already working were ignored when this parliament was set up.

7. The rights of children and youth to participate

There is a need for the State to begin instilling values of democratic processes in students, especially in the election of student representatives in schools. Currently, only tertiary institutions have mechanisms in place for electing their own governing bodies. Students in primary, secondary and high schools have their leadership picked by the administration, which relies on school rules and regulations for such unilateral appointments. However, allowing students to elect their own leaders would instil in these young minds the democratic principles that the country aspires to uphold. This would also be in line with the provisions for the participation of children in decision making as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Swaziland acceded to.

The State has been refusing to recognise a student representative body, the Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS) which seeks to advance the welfare and interests of all students at all levels countrywide. This effectively bars children and youth from participating in decision making processes as well as in the democratic and governance processes. The State not only refuses to recognise SNUS, but has also frustrated efforts by this formation to register under the registration processes offered by the State. The organisation has been trying to register without success since 2006. This also disallows students an opportunity for them to organise and meet. Recently, during a meeting to discuss the impending scholarship policy, the Minister of Labour and Social Security, Magobetane Mamba kicked out a SNUS representative, alleging that he was only willing to meet with students' representative councils from the various tertiary institutions, and not those from that organisation.

8. Orphaned and Vulnerable Children

Swaziland's HIV/AIDS prevalence is very high, and so are the number of deaths in each given year. This factor, coupled with unemployment and poverty has created what have come to be known as Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC). Quite often OVCs become victims of property grabbing by surviving relatives. In most instances, OVC are forced to drop out of school and find employment to sustain themselves and their siblings. Their vulnerability exposes them to exploitation of all kinds, including sexual exploitation.

9. Education

The Constitution of Swaziland, which came into force in February 2006, provides that three years after its coming into force, every Swazi child shall have access to free primary education, beginning with the first grade.⁸ The State did not show commitment to the implementation of this provision and civil society had to engage in litigation to force the State to meet its obligations.⁹ After the court case the State promised to provide mobile classrooms, but these have not been delivered in a systematic manner.

Children who fall under the category OVC have for the past years benefitted from a school fund run by the government. However, in recent years, there have been instances where this fund was abused by those administering it, to the detriment of deserving children. Further, the State often defaults in its payment of school fees for OVC, leading to school principals sending those children home. Their right to education is

⁸ Section 29(6).

⁹ *Swaziland National Ex-Miners Association and Another v the Minister of Education and Others* Civil Case Number 335 of 2009.

thus denied. Furthermore, education beyond primary level is not easily accessible. The State is only funding lower grades at primary school level. The government through its Cabinet has passed a scholarship policy that is limiting resources for tertiary students funded by government. This will be a great draw back on the education of the country's youth. In addition, children are the most affected by the prevalence of HIV/AIDS as they lose parents at a tender age, made to take care for sickly parents and lead households.

10. Children's access to justice

The customary courts, aptly named the Swazi Courts trace their roots from pre-independence Swaziland. At the time they were set up in 1950, the regime then in power wanted to separate the legal determination of issues involving Europeans from those involving indigenous Swazis. As a result, two court systems came up, with the customary courts on the one side, and the civil courts on the other (such as the Magistrates and High Courts). During the colonial era, the determination of which court to use was not only based on one's race or ethnicity, but also on one's outward lifestyle. An individual who led a lifestyle that differed markedly from a typical Swazi lifestyle could not be subjected to the jurisdiction of these customary courts. This dual court structure presupposes that all Swazi citizens are of the same ethnic origin. It thus subjects all members of the Swazi nation (that is citizens) to the authority of these courts, their ethnicity notwithstanding. It thus subjects people who are not ethnically Swazi to a legal regime that does not resonate with their way of life and ethnicities.

The major problem about these courts is that they are presided over by officers who are not qualified in law. This is further compounded by the fact that no legal representation is allowed and that the customary code they apply in not written down. It is largely unknown to the population, save for the few custodians who monitor its violation. A further problematic fact in relation to these courts is that whilst legally it is the chief public prosecutor who ought to determine which cases are sent to which court, over the years a practice has emerged where police officers unilaterally make this determination. This kind of forum shopping is unfair and militates against the rights of the citizen to a fair trial, as police have been known to favour the customary courts for their 'quick' justice. This has an even greater impact on children and youth, whose cases end up being handled by a quasi-judicial organ which is not capacitated on dealing with sensitive and fragile matters dealing with minors. This goes against the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the concept of the best interests of the child.

Swaziland does not have a legal aid scheme. The State is only legally bound to provide counsel where the crime alleged is likely to attract a sentence of capital punishment. As such many indigent accused, including children and youth do not have access to a lawyer. The country also does not have a small claims court, thus making it impossible for citizens to sue for small amounts. The costs of counsel are prohibitive as they often exceed the amount claimed, which would easily be litigated in a small claims court. Except for a Small Claims Courts Bill that the State mooted a few years ago, nothing has been done by the government to alleviate the plight of indigent children, youth and citizens. This impacts negatively on the ability of children to access justice.

Swaziland also does not have specialised maintenance courts with well trained officers to deal with cases where claims are made for the maintenance and welfare of children. There is a need for the establishment

of maintenance courts. Further, there is a need to dispense with the requirement of legal representation in maintenance matters in order to allow the large majority of indigent women whose children are not being maintained to sue for maintenance. Currently Swaziland's criminal justice system subjects offending children to custodial sentences, as well as taking and storing their fingerprints on a criminal database. The inclusion of minors' fingerprints in such a national database blots their criminal records, and

11. Early marriages

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), children attain majority at the age of 18 unless attained earlier in terms of domestic law. However, in accordance to Swazi customary law majority for marital purposes is reached upon puberty. This has resulted in minor girls as young as 13 years to be married under customary law. This effectively shows that there is not enough protection for young girls in the country. Due to the high poverty rate, young women are forcefully married for the payment of the bride price (*lobola*). In September 2010, the Times of Swaziland reported a story of a 15 year old girl who was forced to marry a 60 year old man in exchange for a single room house for her family. Moreover, there is conflict in legislation with respect to the status of majority between statutory law and customary law.¹⁰ As a result, girls as young as 13 and 16 are forcefully married under customary law.¹¹

Most these young girls do not consent to the marriages as they given out by their families under the custom of *kwendzisa*.¹² This is against section 28 of the Constitution which provides that a woman shall not be compelled to undergo or uphold any custom to which she is in conscience opposed. The denial of this right results in what may be referred to as domino effect.¹³ There are other rights that are affected as result of the violation of this right. These rights include the right to education as the child may not be able to attend school once married. The marital responsibilities bestowed on the child once married deny the child opportunity to grow and develop. Article 36 of the CRC provides that a child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation and activities that could harm any aspects of the child's welfare and development.

11.1 Ministerial comments that fuel gender-based violence

The Minister of Sports, Youth and Culture, Hlobisile Ndlovu recently made utterances in parliament to the effect that when women say NO to sexual advances, they actually meant YES. The minister went on to State that when a woman says 'do not touch me', she actually meant, 'please touch me further'. The minister refused to retract such disturbing statements, which have the potential of fuelling further violation of children and young girls.

12. Children's right to religious beliefs

Swaziland is predominantly a Christian nation, but other religions do exist. The Constitution guarantees the rights of children and every other individual to freedom of religion. Despite these constitutional provisions,

¹⁰ The CRC Committee in its recommendation to the State of Swaziland insisted on the harmonisation of the age of majority.

¹¹ See Times of Swaziland, 15 September 2010, *15 year-old girl forced to marry a 60 year-old man*.

¹² This custom entails that the family of the girl identifies a man who is well off in the community and gives their daughter's hand in marriage in exchange for cattle that is paid as bride price.

¹³ This doctrine entails that once one right is denied, a number of other rights are violated.

the State media houses only allow Christian programmes to be aired on radio and television. Marginalised religious groups include the Islamic faith, Baha'i and Mormons. Religious studies in schools are also limited to Christian theology and only Christian clubs are allowed in schools. The Deputy Prime Minister's (DPM) Office must be commended though for positive interventions in cases where dangerous religions which denied children access to medical attention. The DPM's office has over the years intervened in cases where parents refused to take their children to hospital citing religious beliefs.

13. Sexual violation of children

Sexual violation of children occurs on a daily basis in Swaziland. The justice system still lacks proper infrastructure to handle cases involving sexual violation of minors. Apart from a child friendly section of the High Court, Swaziland does not have specialist courts or specially trained personnel to deal with such cases.

In 2009, a group of young girls were kept for sexual purposes at a two-roomed brothel in the informal settlement of Mbhuleni in Matsapha. The illegal activity was reported to the Mbhuleni community police by concerned members of the community who, together with the State police, closed down the site. The owner was only taken in for questioning and later released.

14. Human trafficking

The Human Trafficking Act was passed by parliament in October 2009, after being given an ultimatum by the government of the United States of America. This Act came at the right time for Swaziland as trafficking in children and women was rife both internally and across borders, especially to Johannesburg in South Africa. However, the State still has to engage in civic education for the public to understand what human trafficking is about and how to deal with it. Further, the State still have to open public spaces, such as access to rural communities under chiefs for civil society to conduct civic education. This is made much more imperative because currently civil society, especially those organisation preaching human rights, are blacklisted and denied access to rural communities by chiefs.

15. Swaziland's compliance with recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Swaziland ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in 2006 submitted its initial State report. Consequently a number of recommendations were issued by the Committee and below is an assessment of the State's compliance with those recommendations. The Committee recommended that:

15.1 The State should raise awareness about the Convention and its provisions. The State should further ensure training of teachers, police officers, traditional leaders, on the rights of the child. Further, the State should encourage active, positive and systematic involvement of civil society, including NGOs in the promotion of children's rights. The State of Swaziland has, however, failed to comply with this recommendation. Further, it has blocked civil society from having access to communities to teach them about this Convention and other human rights instruments.

15.2 The State should enact laws aimed at preventing discrimination and align all laws which predate the Constitution. Further the State to pay special attention to the girl child through education campaigns, support, participation and protection. However, the State has failed to enact any laws aimed at addressing children's issues. Further, the State has facilitated the marginalisation

of the girl child through statements issued by its officials, such as that by Minister of Sports, Youth and Culture, Hlobisile Ndlovu that when women say NO to sexual advances, they actually mean YES.

15.3 The State to consider amending the Constitution to do away with the provision on corporal punishment. The State of Swaziland has not done this, and has instead allowed corporal punishment to continue both in schools and in the domestic sphere.

15.4 The State to address through legislative and other means the plight of children with disabilities. The State has not done much in this area, and has also not ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities.

16. Recommendations

Civil society therefore recommends that the State of Swaziland take measures to:

16.1 Take legislative and other measures to abolish the status of illegitimacy under custom and in practice.

16.2 Take legislative and other measures to correct the anomaly of women not being able to transfer citizenship to their children.

16.3 Take legislative and other measures to eliminate corporal punishment in schools, and in society.

16.4 Investigate and prosecute members of the security forces who violate human rights.

16.5 Incorporate human rights education into the police college syllabus, and provide in-service training to those already in service.

16.6 Allow civil society organisations to have access to rural communities under the authority of chiefs for civic education purposes.

16.7 Harmonise the age of majority in the different statutes and customs in order to curb early marriages.

16.8 Ensure that the youth parliament is participatory and involves both in and out of school youth.

16.9 Undertake legislative and other measures to eliminate harmful customary practices.

16.10 Facilitate the registration of student organisations.

16.11 Amend the Game Act of 1991 to remove immunity of game rangers from prosecution and further allow private prosecution.

16.12 Institute commissions of inquiry into all deaths in the hands of the State police, the army, correctional services, and game rangers.