



UNESCO house - Paris

WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

28-30 MAY 2018

STRENGTHENING JUSTICE SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN

**THE NEED FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR CHILDREN IN
CONFLICT WITH THE LAW: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE**

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1) Introduction

1.1 Definition of a child in conflict with the law

1.2 A brief look at the provision of Article 40 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child pertaining to legal representation of children in conflict with the law

2) Outlining the right to legal representation for children in conflict with the law

2.1 International and regional framework on the right to legal representation for children in conflict with the law

2.1.1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

2.1.2 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

2.1.3 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

2.1.4 The Lilongwe Declaration on Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa

2.2 The rights of children in conflict with the law as provided for in various domestic statutes

2.2.1 A comparative study on the legal provisions aimed at protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law in Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria and whether the provisions have sufficiently protected children in conflict with the law.

2.3 The need for the courts to realise that children have a right to legal representation, even at the state's expense

2.4 Realising the right to legal representation for children in conflict with the law; the need to adopt legal aid.

3) Conclusion

Enact legislation that would introduce cost effective legal aid system that meets the needs of children in conflict with the law.