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# WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

28-30 MAY 2018

## STRENGTHENING JUSTICE SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN

Madan Lokur Speech

Challenges and Issues in the Implementation of JJ Standards and the  
role of the judiciary

### ABSTRACT

The judiciary has played a significant role in the resolution of Juvenile Justice issues. A conference of Chief Justices of all the constitutional courts across the country was held in 2006 and it was resolved that Juvenile Justice Committees should be formed in every constitutional court. This was acted upon (including in the Supreme Court) and almost all took up the challenge on the administrative side to improve the living conditions in homes where children accused of an offence as well as children who need care and protection were kept. This was a unique effort by the judiciary in India.

Since then, the judiciary has taken up several challenges and issues concerning children including the constitution of a Social Justice Bench in the Supreme Court. This has given recognition and impetus to the rights of children through judgments requiring the Central Government and State Governments to implement the JJ Act in all sincerity.

More recently, child friendly and vulnerable witness courts have been established in different parts of the country. Fast track courts have also been established to expedite cases pertaining to child sexual abuse. The judiciary has actively involved law students through encouraging child rights centres and encouraged all stakeholders (including the police) to act in harmony and support one another for the benefit of children.

State Level and Regional Level conferences have been organized by the Juvenile Justice Committees from time to time to discuss issues and challenges in the implementation of the JJ laws and child sexual abuse. These conferences have been extremely successful and several



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issues have been ironed out. Nevertheless, a lot still remains to be achieved in the enforcement of the constitutional rights of children.