

**A PRESENTATION ON
LAWS RELATING TO
CHILDREN 4TH-6TH MAY,
2016 .**

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The Zambia Law Development Commission....

- Is a quasi-government statutory body created under the Zambia Law Development Commission Act Chapter 32 of the Laws of Zambia;
- The primary mandate of the ZLDC is law reform;
- The functions of the Commission as set out in the Act are to:
 - Revise and reform the law in Zambia;
 - Codify unwritten laws in Zambia;
 - Review and consider proposals for law reform referred to the Commission by the Minister of Justice or the members of the public;
 - Hold seminars and conferences on legal issues;
 - Translate any piece of legislation into local languages;

About ZLDC Cont....

- To research and make recommendations on:-
- The socio-political values of the Zambian people that should be incorporated into legislation;
- The anomalies that should be eliminated in the statute book;
- New and more effective methods of administration of the law and the dispensation of justice that should be adopted and legislated;
- New areas of the law that should be developed which are responsive to the changing needs of Zambian society; and
- The removal of archaic pieces of legislation from the statute book.
- The Commission is also mandated to encourage international co-operation in the performance of its functions under this Act; and to do all such things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the functions of the Commission.

The Legal Framework Supporting Child Care

- Zambia is a signatory to 2 key treaties relating to children:
 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - which is the most comprehensive treaty on children's rights covering the 4 principles - best interests of the child, the right to survival and development, the right to participation and to be heard,
 - And the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child - which mirrors most of what is contained in the CRC

Zambia's Legal Framework

- The Amendment Constitution defines a child as a person 18 years or below;
- Young persons are protected from exploitation under the bill of rights;
- Current Legislation Protecting Children:
 - Penal Code - exploitation and related vices (partial domestication of the CRC);
 - Anti Gender Based Violence Act and now the Anti GBV Fast Track Courts;

Potential/pending Legislation

- Children Code Bill which is an attempt to bring all legislation relating to children under one;
- It is also a more comprehensive domestication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Proposed amendments to the Immigration and Deportation Act and to the Anti Human Trafficking Act intended to provide enhanced protection for children on the move have just been completed and will be handed to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the next couple of weeks;
- Finalisation of the Amendments to the Intestate Succession Act have also been revived - the objectives of these are to enhance protection of women (spouses) and children where a spouse/father dies intestate;
- Commencing work on legislation aimed at ending child marriages;