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The Right of the Juvenile to Legal Representation at Pre-trial Stages: An Argument for the Amendment of Ghana's Juvenile Justice Act

Reflection essay

One prominent experience shaped my interest in doing research on children and the law. As a current international LLM student at McGill University who obtained her LLB in Ghana, I was first exposed to the issues related to children and the law in Ghana. In Ghana, I worked at an NGO that focused on development work, juvenile justice and women's and children's rights. During my time with the NGO, I encountered many children, primarily between the ages of 12 and 16, who were lost in Ghana's justice system. These children, from the moment of arrest through to the stages of detention and sometimes trial, had no idea what was happening to and around them. Some children did not know why they were arrested in the first place whilst others did not know what to expect of the various stages in the justice system or what they were entitled to as arrested/detained juveniles. And all the children I encountered did not know that they had the right to legal representation, to someone who would act in their best interest and explain to them what was happening and why. By the time the NGO got involved to assist children in conflict with the law, many of them had already been subjected to wrongful, cruel, and illegal treatment at the hands of authorities in the justice system, specifically the police. I observed that generally Ghana's justice system with its formal and complicated procedures appears to have been designed primarily for adults. This means that children in the justice system, because of their physical and mental immaturity, require more special attention, care and legal protection.

Consequently, I wondered: what does the law in Ghana say about the legal representation of children at pre-trial stages? And the answer I found was: not enough.

Following my observations, this summer I undertook a research project entitled "The Right of the Juvenile to Legal Representation at Pre-trial Stages: An Argument for the Amendment of Ghana's Juvenile Justice Act". I had the privilege of being selected to be part of the "To Look and to Play/Regards et Jeux" project which not only provided me support for my research but also gave me the opportunity to present my work to fellow colleagues with the same research interests.

My paper examines Ghana's Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 with regard to the communication of the right to legal representation of arrested or detained juveniles. I critically assess whether the omission from the Act, of the right of juveniles to be informed of their right to legal representation immediately upon arrest, is in contravention of Ghana's 1992 Constitution and in breach of the country's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In doing this, I discuss the effect of not informing juveniles in Ghana immediately upon arrest of their right to legal representation and the need for the guarantee of this right to juveniles at pre-trial stages. I also attempt to find out why the right to legal representation is not guaranteed for juveniles in the pre-trial stages under Ghana's Juvenile Justice Act. In my

final conclusions, I draw lessons Ghana can learn from other Commonwealth jurisdictions (Canada and South Africa) which guarantee the juvenile's right to legal representation at pre-trial stages.

Although I enjoyed doing the research for my research project, I made a disappointing discovery when I found out how little scholars in Ghana have dedicated to research on juvenile justice. Most of the literature I found on the juvenile justice system in Ghana generally focuses on the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, the impact of colonial and pre-colonial history on the juvenile justice system and the assessment of government policies on juvenile justice and their implementation in the country. I found no publications that specifically examined the right of juveniles in Ghana to legal representation at pre-trial stages. This motivated me even more in my research process because I realised how much I could contribute to the field of juvenile justice generally and specifically in Ghana.

Learning more about the guarantee of legal representation to juveniles in Canada and South Africa was a major highlight in my research process. I found that South Africa has a very comprehensive child justice legal and policy framework which specifically includes children's rights in the Constitution. In Canada I discovered a youth justice framework which includes detailed legal provisions guaranteeing young persons' rights in the criminal justice process. The right to the prompt communication of the right to legal representation at pre-trial stages is specifically guaranteed in both jurisdictions.

An interesting thing I also learnt during the research for my paper is the difference in terminologies used in different jurisdictions when it comes to children in conflict with the law. Whilst Ghana refers to the system as the '*juvenile* justice system' which deals with *juveniles*, Canada's framework is the '*youth* justice system' which covers *youth* in the justice system and South Africa has a '*child* justice system' which establishes a special criminal justice system for *children*. This difference in terminology reflects the distinct cultural and historical peculiarities of the countries which determine the terminology they find appropriate to use for children in conflict with the law.

The issues I found in relation to the guarantee of the prompt communication of the right to legal representation to juveniles are complex. My research was limited in that I only explored the problem from a particular perspective. However, I hope that my work will spark interest in the conversation on juveniles' right to legal representation both in Ghana and globally. I also hope to encourage further research to be done on juveniles' access to legal representation and legal aid as well as alternative ways in which to address the maltreatment of juveniles by the police in Ghana. Personally, I intend to continue undertaking research in the field of children and the law and in the Canadian context I aspire to specifically focus on justice for Indigenous children in conflict with the law.

Annotated Bibliography

LEGISLATION: GHANA

Juvenile Justice Act, 2003, Act 653.

This Act provides a juvenile justice system to protect the rights of juveniles and ensure an appropriate and individualised response to juvenile offenders in Ghana. The Act emphasizes diversion and use of detention as a last resort. It also promotes the consideration of the age of the child and the seriousness of the offence in sentencing and it includes restorative justice approaches such as victim-offender mediation.

LEGISLATION: CANADA

Youth Criminal Justice Act, S.C. 2002, c. 1.

This Act establishes a youth criminal justice system in Canada that takes into account the interests of victims, fosters responsibility and ensures accountability through meaningful consequences and effective rehabilitation and reintegration. The Act prescribes the most serious intervention for the serious crimes and reduces the over-reliance on incarceration for non-violent young persons.

LEGISLATION: SOUTH AFRICA

Child Justice Act 75 Of 2008.

The Child Justice Act establishes a separate criminal justice system for children in conflict with the law in South Africa. The Act aims to prevent children from being exposed to the negative effects of the formal criminal justice system by using procedures more suitable to the needs of children. The Act also recognises the long-term adverse effect of incarceration on children. It therefore only directs incarceration to be used as a measure of last resort and only for the shortest period of time.

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, No 108 of 1996.

South Africa's Constitution contains a justiciable Bill of Rights and specifically constitutionalises children's rights. Under section 28(1)(h) of the Constitution, children have the right to have a legal practitioner in civil proceedings.

JURISPRUDENCE: CANADA

R v. D.B., 2008 SCC 25.

In this case, the Supreme Court of Canada concluded that Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the "principles of fundamental justice" necessitate that juveniles are to be afforded a "presumption of diminished moral blameworthiness". The Court held as unconstitutional a provision of the Youth Criminal Justice Act that created a presumption that the

sentencing scheme applied to adults should also be imposed on young persons who committed serious offenses such as murder and manslaughter.

R. v. L.T.H., 2008 SCC 49.

In this case, the Supreme Court of Canada highlighted the importance of the special protection of juveniles against unacceptable questioning by the police. The court stressed that procedural and evidentiary safeguards available to adults do not adequately protect young persons, who are presumed on account of their age to be more vulnerable than adults to suggestion, pressure and influence in the hands of police interrogators.

JURISPRUDENCE: SOUTH AFRICA

S v. Williams, 1995(3)SA 632(CC).

The cruel and inhuman treatment of child offenders specifically through the imposition of cruel corporal punishment (particularly whipping) was commonplace in South Africa before 1995. In this case, the Constitutional Court of South Africa declared unconstitutional this treatment of children.

JURISPRUDENCE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In re Gault, 387 US 1 (1967).

This landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision held that youth in conflict with the law must be guaranteed the same fair trial rights as adult offenders. These rights include the right to prompt communication of the charges, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, the right against self-incrimination, and the right to counsel.

INTERNATIONAL MATERIAL

Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, UNTS 1577 (entered into force 2 September, 1990).

This international convention is a legally binding instrument that sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child. It also sets out the obligations that state parties have to meet in order to guarantee children's basic rights. These rights include the right to life and development, healthcare, education, expression and protection from violence, abuse or neglect. The Convention has 196 signatories, and one state is yet to ratify it.

SECONDARY MATERIAL: ARTICLES

Ame, Robert Kwame, "The Origins of the Contemporary Juvenile Justice System in Ghana" (2018) 43:4 J Family History 394.

This article traces the origins of the contemporary juvenile justice system in Ghana from the pre-colonial era to the colonial era and finally to the present day. Ame argues that the systems in place during both the colonial and precolonial periods were reflective of a particular perception of children in each era.

Ame, Robert Kwame, "The Rights of Children in Conflict with the Law in Ghana" (2011) 19:2 Intl JCR, 271.

This article examines the rights that Ghana's Juvenile Justice Act 2003 (Act 653) accords to children in conflict with the law. It analyses whether the policies and practices of the current juvenile justice system of Ghana measures up to the standards of the UNCRC. Eventually the article argues that there is a gap between policy and practice.

Ame, Robert Kwame, "Towards a relevant and sustainable juvenile justice system in Ghana" (2019) 15:3 J Global Ethics 250.

This article assesses whether Ghana's Justice for Children Policy (J4CP) is in line with Ghana's goal of achieving an efficient and sustainable juvenile justice system. The paper uses Ghana's socio-cultural context and the SDG standards as the standard of measurement. It concludes that although the J4CP is a good first step in the creation of a relevant juvenile justice system in Ghana, it faces certain challenges which need to be addressed.

Arthur, John A, "Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders in Ghana: Focus on the Social Context of Delinquency" (1996) 24:1-2 J Offender Rehabilitation 23.

This article examines the effect of British colonization on the juvenile justice system in Ghana. It also analyses the sociocultural circumstances of delinquency and the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents in the country in the context of the extended family system. It concludes that the involvement of the extended family in the lives of children in conflict with the law aids in their rehabilitation. However, it also argues that the role of the extended family system has been weakened by formal institutions established during the colonial era.

Asamoah, Juliana MameEfua, "Juvenile Justice Administration in Ghana" (2021) College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University Dissertation.

This paper explores the ways in which implementation of juvenile justice policies in Ghana could be improved. It finds that the main reason for the colossal gap between implementation and policy is a lack of resources within the juvenile justice system.

Bala, Nicholas & Peter J Carrington, "Canada" in Scott H Decker & Nerea Marteache, eds, *International Handbook of Juvenile Justice* (Springer International Publishing, 2016).

This chapter reviews Canada's contemporary juvenile justice system. It examines key provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act and leading precedents on juvenile justice in Canada. It also considers the trends and causes of juvenile crime in Canada and analyzes the most recent statistical data on the sentencing of juveniles and the operations of the youth court in Canada.

Berkheiser, Mary, "The Fiction of Juvenile Right to Counsel: Waiver in Juvenile Courts" (2002) *Scholarly Works* 378.

This article examines the prevalence of the juvenile waiver of right to counsel in the United States. It reviews the historical context in which juvenile right to counsel arose and analyses the landmark *In re Gault* decision. It also discusses the work of developmental psychologists, which reveals that young people have limited decision-making abilities, lack an adequate understanding of their legal rights, and as a result are incapable of exercising an effective waiver.

Boakye, Kofi E & Thomas D Akoensi, "Doing Time: Young People and the Rhetoric of Juvenile Justice in Ghana" in Alexandra Cox & Laura Abrams, eds, *The Palgrave International Handbook of Youth Imprisonment: Palgrave series in prisons and penology* (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021) 77.

This chapter provides an overview of the juvenile justice system in Ghana from the colonial period to present day. It describes the various contemporary processes in the country's juvenile justice system starting from arrest and detention to trial. At each of the stages, the chapter highlights the tensions and contradictions in juvenile justice administration in Ghana, with an emphasis on the treatment of incarcerated young people. It concludes with reflections on how the Ghanaian juvenile justice system can improve its treatment of young offenders.

Boakye, Kofi E, "Correlates and predictors of juvenile delinquency in Ghana" (2013) 37:4 *Intl J Comp & Applied Crim J*.

This paper investigates the correlates and predictors of juvenile delinquency in Ghana. It analyses data from a sample of 264 boys and reveals that individual, family and community factors are related to juvenile delinquency. It also determines that the best predictor of juvenile delinquency is academic difficulties.

Dako-Gyeke, Mavis, Abass Adam & Abigail A Mills, "The Quagmire of Juvenile Delinquency: Perspectives of Inmates and Officers in a Correctional Facility in Accra, Ghana" (2022) 43:2 *Deviant Behavior*.

This paper explores the experiences and perspectives of juvenile offenders and officers on juvenile delinquency in Ghana. Data was collected through interviews with inmates and

officers at a Correctional Facility in Accra. This data showed that parental neglect and abuse; financial constraints; peer influence; and exposure to community social vices influenced delinquent behaviors among the youth. The paper also makes suggestions on how juvenile delinquency can be prevented and controlled in Ghana.

Golo, Harrison Kwame, "The Court and police protection of the rights and welfare of juvenile offenders during arrest, detention and trial in Ghana" (2018) 6:5 Global J Art, Humanities & Social Sciences 48.

This work explores the juvenile justice administration in Ghana within the context of the goals of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It identifies the gap that exists between principles and practice, and also makes a call to the Ghanaian public and government on the need for appropriate treatment of children in conflict with the law in the country.

Kumi, Beatrice Adumea, "A Critical Review of Policy Responses to Juvenile Delinquency in Ghana" (2015) Centre for Social Policy Studies, University of Ghana Dissertation.

This paper assesses the policy responses to juvenile delinquency in Ghana in order to identify gaps in implementation and recommend ways in which the needs of juveniles can be met. The study shows that the juvenile justice system of Ghana has not had any major change since its inception and that the major challenge to the implementation of juvenile justice policies is funding.

Little, Christiaan Bezuidenhout Kevin, "Juvenile Justice in South Africa Challenges and Existing Processes" in Peter C Kratcoski, ed, *Juvenile Justice Administration* (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2012).

This chapter provides an overview of the child justice system in South Africa. Through various case studies rooted in indigenous and African practices, the chapter explores the multicultural basis of south African law and the consequences of democratization on the country's juvenile justice system. It further gives a general synopsis of the youth crime scenario in South Africa and the challenges associated with juvenile delinquency. It also discusses the Child Justice Act and the various principles that underpin the legislation.

Mensa-Bonsu, Henrietta Joy Abena Nyarko, "Ghana" in Scott H Decker & Nerea Marteache, eds, *International Handbook of Juvenile Justice* (Springer International Publishing, 2017) 3.

This chapter examines the juvenile justice system of Ghana. It gives a history of the old juvenile justice system and discusses the trends in juvenile crime as well as the causes of child criminality in Ghana. The chapter also explores the various procedures in the juvenile court as

well as the custodial rules and non-custodial measures for juveniles. It then concludes by giving recommendations on how to strengthen the juvenile justice system in the country.

Nyantakyi, Maame Akua, “Rethinking Juvenile Justice in Ghana: Proposing Practical Measures through a Child Rights Based Approach” (2013) International Institute of Social Studies Research Paper.

This paper examines the international law standards that provide for the special treatment of juveniles to achieve rehabilitation and reintegration. It analyses the ways in which Ghana has not met the juvenile rights standards of international instruments. The article also addresses how Ghana can adopt a child rights-based approach to juvenile justice with a particular focus on diversion.

Skelton, Ann, “Freedom in the Making: Juvenile Justice in South Africa” in Franklin E Zimring, Maximo Langer & David S Tanenhaus, eds, *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective* (New York: New York University Press, 2016).

This chapter explores the historical struggle in South Africa for child and juvenile delinquents’ rights. It also highlights the procedures, aims and objectives of the Child Justice Act of 2008. The discussion is done against the backdrop of South Africa’s harsh realities as a country that deals with immense poverty and inequality, as well as failures in education and other systemic failures.

Skelton, Ann “Reforming the Juvenile Justice System in South Africa: Policy, Law reform and parallel developments” (2008) Visiting Experts’ Papers, UNAFEI: Annual Report for 2007 and Resource Material Series No 75, online(pdf): <https://www.unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS_No75/No75_00All.pdf>.

This paper discusses South Africa’s juvenile justice policy developments and law reform from 1992 to 1996. It also examines the system proposed by the then Child Justice Bill (now the Child Justice Act, 2008) and parallel developments in practice as well as their future prospects.

Sloth-Nielsen, Julia, “Children in Africa struggle to get justice. Here’s how to improve their access” (November 20, 2018) online: *The Conversation* <<https://theconversation.com/children-in-africa-struggle-to-get-justice-heres-how-to-improve-their-access-107144>>.

This article discusses the results of a study the aim of which was to understand how much children interact with informal justice systems in selected African countries including South Africa. The study found that when children were drawn into their countries’ informal justice systems (such as restorative justice mechanisms), their human rights were often threatened. It

concludes that the answer to the human rights concerns is to strengthen communities' capacity to access and navigate the formal justice system.

Sloth-Nielsen, Julia, "Realising Children's Rights to Legal Representation and to be Heard in Judicial Proceedings: An Update" (2008) 24 SAJHR.

This article outlines some key developments in law, policy and implementation in South Africa that constitute emerging practices which attempt to ensure the implementation of juveniles' rights to legal representation. The article also argues that apart from merely serving as the child's voice in the courtroom setting, a child justice lawyer must be committed to seeking out children in need of services and be willing to adjust to changing circumstances.

Tedam, Prospera, "Achieving rights for young children in Ghana, Enablers and barriers" in J Murray, BB Swadener & K Smith, eds, *The Routledge International Handbook of Young Children's Rights* (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2020).

This chapter draws on research evidence to examine the enablers and barriers to achieving and protecting rights of children in Ghana. It examines legislative and policy frameworks underpinning children's rights and the impact of gender on the guarantee of children's rights. It also considers the role of government and non-governmental organisations in advocating for children's rights.

Wakefield, Lorenzo, "Is the Act Working for Children? The first year of implementation of the Child Justice Act" (2016) 38 SA Crime Quarterly.

This article investigates the extent to which South Africa's Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 has been implemented since its passing. It interrogates the annual report presented to parliament on the first year of implementation of the Act, and highlights the aspects of the Act that have been implemented.

Winterdyk, John, "Juvenile Justice and Young Offenders: An Overview of Canada" in J. Winterdyk, ed, *Juvenile justice systems—International perspectives* (Toronto, Canada: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2002).

This chapter describes the juvenile justice system in Canada from its birth to the various calls for reform the passing of the Juvenile Delinquents Act, the Young Offenders Act and finally the Youth Criminal Justice Act. It also analyses the dimensions of the delinquency problem in Canada and the stages in the youth justice process under contemporary juvenile justice system in Canada.

Winterdyk, John, “Juvenile Justice Administration: A Canadian Overview” in Peter C Kratcoski, ed, *Juvenile Justice Administration* (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2012).

This chapter provides an overview of the historic development and evolution of the Canadian youth justice system. It discusses critically and in detail the Youth Criminal Justice Act and its impact on and relation to the administration of juvenile justice in Canada. It makes references and comparisons to the juvenile justice system of the US and speculates on the future administration of youth justice in Canada.

SECONDARY MATERIAL: BOOKS

Twum-Danso, Afua, *Children’s Perceptions of Physical Punishment in Ghana* (2010) online (pdf):

<http://www.icyrnet.net/UserFiles/File/Children_Perceptions_of_%20Physical_%20Punishment_Ghana.pdf>.

This book explores children's perceptions of the physical punishment they experience at the hands of parents and authorities in Ghana and the meanings they attach to the practice. The study conducted revealed that discipline is seen as an inherent part of parental love and care, and highly valued by adults and children in the country. The study also highlights that physical or corporal punishment such as caning is a widely accepted punishment in Ghanaian child upbringing both at school and at home.

SECONDARY MATERIAL: WEBSITES

News sources about police violence against young people (arrested and/or detained) in Ghana:

“What drives police violence in Ghana, and what can be done about it” (1 November, 2018), online: *The Conversation* <<https://theconversation.com/what-drives-police-violence-in-ghana-and-what-can-be-done-about-it-105813>>.

Adogla-Bessa, Delali, “KNUST students begin protests over alleged police brutality” (22 October, 2018), online: *Citinews* <<https://citinewsroom.com/2018/10/knust-students-begin-protests-over-alleged-police-brutality/>>.

Gyamfi, Kwabena Adu, “Ghana suspends police officers over crackdown on protesting students” (14 June, 2022), online: *Africa news* <<https://www.africanews.com/2022/06/14/ghana-suspends-police-officers-over-crackdown-on-protesting-students/>>.

Suuk, Maxwell, “Reports of torture” (12 August 2019), online: *D+C Development and Cooperation* <<https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/ghana-juvenile-offenders-are-kept-prisons-adults-which-against-law>>.

The Child Rights International Network ranks states according to the extent to which their legal systems effectively guarantee children’s right to access to justice:

CRIN, “Access to Justice for Children: Global Ranking” online: <<https://archive.crin.org/en/access-justice-children-global-ranking.html>>.

SECONDARY MATERIAL: REPORTS

Ghana Police Service, “Integrating child-friendly policing into the Ghana Police Service (GPS)” (2016) Mapping report summary, online (pdf):<<https://www.unicef.org/ghana/media/1921/file/Integrating%20Child-Friendly%20Policing%20into%20the%20Ghana%20Police%20Service.pdf>>.

This report maps the current system of juvenile justice and child protection in Ghana with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of the police and the institutions with which they interact to carry out their responsibilities. The study involved data collection through interviews as well as the review of relevant existing literature related to juvenile justice and child protection in Ghana.

South Africa Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, “Inter-departmental Annual Reports on the Implementation Of the Child Justice Act, 75 of 2008, 2018-2019”, online (pdf): <http://www.dcs.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/11/CJ-Inter-Departmental-Annual-Report-2018-19_compressed.pdf>.

This detailed report focuses on the implementation of the Child Justice Act of South Africa by each of the reporting Departments/ institutions including the Correctional Services, the South African Police Service, the National Prosecuting Authority and Legal Aid South Africa. This report reviews the legal framework of the country’s child justice system and associated government structures. It also outlines the key priority performance areas in the National policy framework for child justice and discusses the limitations and possible interventions.

US, Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor: Ghana 2020 Human Rights Report (Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2020), online (pdf): <<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GHANA-2020-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>>.

The annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices cover internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements. This report focuses on Ghana and how its practices within the criminal justice system, among other things, aligns with its international human rights obligations.

OTHER MATERIALS

Hoffmann, Stephanie & Corinne Baerg, “Juvenile Justice in Ghana: A Study to Assess the Status of Juvenile Justice in Ghana” (2011) Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Africa Office.

This study examines Ghana’s juvenile justice system in practice. It analyses international norms and rules for dealing with juvenile offenders and shows how they compare with the situation and the Juvenile Justice Act in Ghana. It concludes that Ghana does not meet many of the requirements and obligations laid out by international instruments. It also gives recommendations on the steps the country can take to improve its adherence to international standards on juvenile justice.

South Africa Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, “Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act No. 75 of 2008) National Policy Framework on Child Justice” (2018) online (pdf): <http://www.dcs.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/National-Policy-Framework-on-Child-Justice2c-2018-_Child-Justice-Act-75-of-2008.pdf>.

This document gives a detailed review of South Africa’s Child Justice National Policy Framework. It also examines the legal framework applicable to child justice and analyses the policy considerations for the successful implementation of the Child Justice Act 2008.

Tadesse, Admassu, “Reforming Juvenile Justice Legislation and Administration in South Africa: A Case Study”, online: UNICEF South Africa <https://www.unicef-irc.org/portfolios/documents/489_south-africa.htm>.

This case study sets out the broad political, socioeconomic and cultural context of South Africa in relation to juvenile delinquency. It also reviews some of the main problems and concerns in the administration of juvenile justice in South Africa against international standards. Finally, it documents an initiative by the South African Law Commission to reform juvenile justice legislation in South Africa for it to be in line with international standards.

UNICEF Ghana & Judicial Service of Ghana, “Children before the courts in Ghana: Towards child-friendly Justice” (2018) online: <<http://docplayer.net/176678685-Courts-in-ghana-towards-child-friendly-justice.html>>.

This document provides the results of a research into the courts’ services of Ghana. The study identifies the factors that enhance or inhibit efficient and effective delivery of justice for children (as offenders, victims, witnesses) in criminal and civil proceedings in the country. The study also offers recommendations for realising the prevention and adequate responses to juvenile offences as well as for improving the protection of child victims and witnesses in criminal justice proceedings.