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## Challenges of Social Justice, Child's Rights Act and Protection and Its Implication for Social Work

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### **Abstract**

*The researchers surveyed the issues of social justice, child protection and child's right in African and especially in Nigeria State. It highlighted how many citizens of Nigeria were denied social justice and that is true of many Africa States places like Somalia, Gambia, Southern Sudan, and etc. It was discovered also that many Africa Countries have not domesticated child rights act in their countries which eventually exposed Africa Child to abuse of many types. The paper discussed instruments put in place to check the excessive practice of child abused such like family court, child rights implementation committee and Child Protection Order. Provisions of child's rights act were also enlisted although many African countries lack political will to enforce the child's rights act in their states. The work in addition, assessed the practice of children Protection Services which were non-inexistence in many Africa Countries. The paper therefore suggested that an appropriate mechanism be put in place to enforce the provision of Africa Childs Rights Act, and the researchers saw the dream as uphill task since Africa country is soverigned state.*

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**Keywords:** *Child's Rights Act, Family court, Child Protection Service, Social Justice, and Protection Order.*

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### **Introduction**

It is the believe of every social worker that every individual has certain basic rights, at least those identified in the declaration of Independence, the bill of Right, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issue by the United Nations. In short, social workers seek social justice which Barker (2003, 404) describes as is an ideal condition in which all member of a society have the same basic rights, protection, opportunities, obligations and social benefits.

According to Sheater, et al (2006) considerations of social justice rest on a core belief: Every human being is intrinsically valuable. This work is not something that must be earned or proved, nor is it a function of one's skin color, nationality, gender, gender, social station, health education, political affiliation, occupation, or other external characteristics or life circumstances.

Simply by virtue of being human, every person has a right to be treated with fairness and respect, protected from abuse and exploitation, and granted opportunities to have a family, a basic education, meaningful work, and access to essential health care and social services. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1948, 1) observed that the "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and invaluable rights of all

members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”.

A multitude of complex and interrelated economic, political, historical, and, social forces give rise to and perpetuate injustice (Horeisi, et al, 2006), he defined social injustice as various forms of oppression, exploitation and discrimination that are embedded in societal beliefs and attitudes and reinforced by laws, religions and social norms.

This same injustice arrangement is being meted to the children in Africa. A situation where children are maltreated manipulated and labeled with evil deeds in our society. Simply because there is no viable and enforceable punishment to the perpetrators. In all, injustice has permeated into our culture disposition.

### **Social Justice and Civil Rights**

According to Segal, et al (2004), envision a society in which all members feel physically, emotionally, and psychologically safe; resources are distributed equitably; job are for all who want them; all people have the same basic rights and opportunities; and all are able to develop to their fullest potential. This is a society with true social justice unfortunately; the main culture of justice does not really exist in most certain Africa societies rather injustice persists.

Most of the issues social workers confront are directly or indirectly related to injustice Segal, et al, (2004). It is hoped to solve the problems that affect the living of so many in society, the need to understand not only the concept of social justice, but also the causes of injustice. Justice means fairness, and social justice refers to the level of fairness that exists in human relationship. Injustice has been described as coercively established and maintained inequality, discrimination, and dehumanizing, development-inhibiting conditions of living (e.g slavery, serfdom, and exploitation wage labour, employment, poverty, starvation and homelessness, inadequate health care, and education), imposed by dominant social groups, classes, and people upon dominated and exploited group classes and people (Gil, 1998, P. 10). The foregoing describes the life style of most of Africa especially country with mean civil war or militant groups and Boko-Haram and even in the political environment where the winners take all syndrome and subject the opposition parties or and citizenry and groups of level of injustice. Again from the definition according to Gil, the conditions that limit people's chances are imposed by dominant social groups and classes. This suggests that certain groups in society have more power than other groups and they set the conditions under which the other, must live. It also means that certain groups in society have less power and are dominated and exploited by those with more power. In Nigeria those who belong to the ruling party APC obviously dominate other opposing population, and this true of most Africa states as today. Civil Rights in this paper are the rights embedded into Articles 6 to 27 of the international convention and political Rights which guaranteed the following: right to life, (article 6) not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (article 7).

In fact, in any country where militia groups abound there would not be social justice. For instance, cases of Boko-Haram in the North East of Nigeria, militia group in southern Somalia and southern Sudan and Gambia under post-Election era just to mention a few. Africa states have long been denied social justice and it is on the basis of this, that this conference is convened and to draw the attention of social workers for solution.

All in all social justice and child rights are important because many of the issues that confront the majority of social workers and their clients bother on poverty, unemployment, homelessness, hunger, inadequate health care, and unequal and inadequate education exist, and due to injustices in the social, political, and economic systems. Because injustice is

established coercively by others, we must look beyond the individual for causes and solution (Segal et al, 2004).

### **Barriers to Social Justice**

To achieve a more just and equal society, it is necessary to first understand the barriers that stand in the way of social justice. Many barriers are related to the way people treat each other and the way societal institutions treat groups of people. These barriers include prejudice, discrimination, and oppression.

**Prejudice** is an attitude. It involves judging and or disliking groups and individuals based on myths and misconceptions. People can be prejudiced without acting on their feelings. For example, a prejudiced person might be afraid of members of a certain group and not want them to move in next door but he or she would not actually do anything to prevent members of this group from buying the house.

**Discrimination** is an action, Discriminating against people involves treating them differently, usually by denying them something, based on their membership in a group. Examples of discrimination abound. A landlord may refuse to rent to an indigenous Person. A qualified woman may be turned down for a job because she is over fifty years old. All African American customers may be followed in a store by a security guard, while white clients are not routinely watched.

**Oppression** is systematic and pervasive mistreatment of people based on their membership in a certain group. Oppression can include differential treatment that is built into institutions and systems as well as instances of violence. It restricts people's Opportunities, life chances, beliefs in what they can be, and self-determination (Bell, 1997). The situation of a poor, young, African American boy is an example of oppression. He lives in a neighborhood characterized by violence and decay. He goes to a school that has inadequate funding, where he receives a poor education and thus has less chance than a wealthier white child to go to college and get a job that pays well. He is often harassed by police based solely on the color of his skin. This young man's mistreatment is clearly systematic and pervasive. He is experiencing oppression.

A single individual can be prejudiced and/or discriminate against others, but for oppression to occur the mistreatment must be institutionalized, or built into the social system in some way. Oppression does not require overt discrimination. Instead, a lack of attention to creating societal structures that meet the needs of diverse populations can result in oppressive situation. For people, when a woman who uses a wheelchair wants to apply for a job covers a steep stairway at the entrance to the business. She finally freight elevator at the back of the building, but the buttons are too his/her to reach. Even after someone else pushes the button, she can't way into the office because the doorway is too narrow to accommodation wheelchair. Exhausted, demoralized, and not feeling welcome, she... without applying for the job. The example below demonstrates institutional discrimination, occurs when discrimination is built into the norms and institutions and is enforced by those in power. Institutional discrimination exists in the educational, health, political, social, legal, and economic systems. In fact, few areas of Americans' economic and social lives are free of institutional discrimination.

**Racism** is the systematic mistreatment of people based on race. Racism is institutionalized, and it is perpetrated by members of groups who have power and/or control over society and

its institutions. As a result of pervasive racism, many people of color experience extreme poverty, infant mortality, unemployment, and violence, and their level of educational attainment is lower than that of members of the dominant population. Racism is frequently based on a belief in the inherent superiority of one race over another. This belief in superiority is so ingrained in society that racism is perpetuated by a generally accepted, unconscious attitude that presumes a white cultural norm.

**Sexism** is oppression that grows out of the belief that men are superior to women. Inequality has long been supported by belief in ‘natural’ and inherent differences between the sexes. Women, considered the weaker sex, have been seen as unable to fulfill certain roles and have been expected to serve as the primary caregivers for children and other family members. Two social conditions – the gender gap and the feminization of poverty – have resulted from sexism. The gender gap is the difference between men’s earnings and women’s earnings.

**Classism** describes the institutional and cultural attitudes and behaviors that stigmatize the poor and place a higher value on wealthier people. The economic system creates and supports excessive inequality, and basic human needs of poorer people go unmet. Classist attitudes hold that the poor are less capable and less industrious than those who have more resources, and that they are responsible for their own poverty.

**Ableism** is the oppression of people with disabilities. Like other oppression, it is systematic, pervasive, and institutionalized. Ableism is based on the presumption that perfect physical and mental health is the normal state. However, few people are in perfect physical condition their entire lives, so nearly everyone is a person with a disability at some time in his or her life.

**Ageism** is the belief in the superiority of youth over age and the systematic oppression of people because they are older. Discrimination based on age can happen to people of different ages in different situations. Ageism can cause extreme economic hardship. Older people are often driven out of jobs by forced retirement, or find it hard to get jobs because employers do not want to hire them.

**Anti-Semitism** or the systematic discrimination against or oppression of Jews is the most frequently addressed oppression based on religious belief. In many Christian countries, Jewish people have often been seen as “the other.” They have been excluded from many areas of life and frequently have been targets of hate and violence.

### **Child’s Rights and Protection**

The Act of injustice is not peculiar to the adults alone, but there are to Africa child. And it is view of the unwholesome act, barbaric unnecessary abuse of child that necessitated the enactment of Africa child’s Rights and protection instruments. By the reason of the Act.

### **WHO IS A CHILD?**

According to international law, a child means every human being below the age of 18 years. This is a universally accepted definition of a child and comes from the United Nations. Convention on the right of the child (UNCRC), an, international legal instrument accepted and ratified by most countries, including Nigeria. However, ‘UNICEF’ statistics showed the term child refers to the period 0-15 years of age, and, 1989, Federal Government Social Development Policy defines a child as any person who is twelve years or below. But to us, a

child as a terminology will be used to cover age zero to eighteen, the age fixed by Nigeria Constitution for having voting privileges or adulthood (Okunola, 2002).

In India, a child is placed under the category of persons below the age of 18 years as distinct legal entity. That is precisely why people can vote or get a driving licence or enter into legal contracts only when they attain the age of 18 years. Marriage of a girl below the age of 18 years and a boy below 21 years is restrained under the child Marriage Restraint Act 1929. Moreover, after ratifying the UNCRC in 1992, India changed its law on juvenile justice to ensure that every person below the age of 18 years, who is in need of care and protection, is entitled to receive it from the state. This equally means all persons in your village/town/city below the age of 18 years have to be treated as children and need your assistance and support. Infact, what makes a person a 'child' is the person's age. Even if a person under the age of 18 years is married and has children of his/her own, he/she is recognized as a child according to international standards.

### **Institutions for Children Development**

- Children attendance centre,
- Children centre,
- Children residential centre,
- Children correctional centre,
- protection centre,
- Special children correctional centre.

A Children Attendance Centre shall be a residential place for children to attend and been training and instruction for their reformation and re-socialization. A children Centre shall be a detention place of children who remanded in custody for trial, or deposition or awaiting adoption or fostering. A child residential Centre shall be a place for detention of offenders for regular school education and other training conducive to their reformation.

A Children Correctional Centre shall be a place in which child offenders may be detained rid given training conducive to their training and re-socialization. An Emergency Protection shall be a place in which a child taken it no police protection or in respect of whom an emergency protection order is made shall be accommodated. A Special Children Correction Centre shall be a place to which children who are found to be incorrigible may be detained. A Special Mothers Centre shall be a place in which expectant and nursing mothers are held for purposes of remand in an atmosphere devoid of institutional confinement, which may be damaging to proper development of their children. The appropriate Minister may by' regulations provide for the regulation and governance of the approved institutions. (Child's Right Act, 2003).

### **WHAT IS THE CHILD'S RIGHTS ACTS?**

The child's Rights Act (CRA) is a national law that makes provisions for the protection of the rights of a child without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his/her parents or legal guardian's sex, tribe, religion or political opinion, national ethnic or social origin, disability, birth or other status. The Act came into force in 2003. It incorporates the basic principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Charter, 1990), the labour Act Cap 198 of LFN 1990 and Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution. It also adopts every provision in any other law that secures the protection of a child even if that provision is not specifically contained in the Act.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which came into force in 1990 remains the most comprehensive and complete statement of children's rights ever made. It is a landmark of the UN in ensuring justice, peace and freedom in the world of children. The CRC recognizes that the children of today, over half of the world's population will be the adults of tomorrow. The lessons from their youth will live with them as adults in their individual and joint process of creating just and sociable environment (Child Rights Act, 2003).

According to provision of Chapter IV of 1999 constitution and any successive constitutional provision relating to fundamental right, every child has the follow rights; according to Africa Chatter, as applicable to Nigeria.

- Every child has the right to survive and development
- Every child has the right to be given a name on his birth or on a date as dictated by the culture of the parents or guardian and every birth shall be registered.
- Every child has the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly
- Every child has right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion subject to parental direction. This right shall be of paramount consideration whenever adoption, fostering, guardianship or custody is in issue.
- Every child is entitled to his privacy and family life. This is however subject to reasonable supervision and control by parents and guardians over the conduct of their children and wards.
- A child shall not be subjected to any form of discrimination merely by reason of his belonging to a particular community, ethnic group, sex, religion and political opinion or circumstances of his birth.
- Every child is entitled to rest and leisure and to participate fully in the cultural and artistic activities of the Nigerian, African and world communities, Every government, persons, institutions etc, responsible for care of the child shall provide him/her opportunities for the enjoyment of this right.
- Every child has a right to parental care and protection and accordingly no child shall be separated from his parents against his wish, except for purposes of his education, welfare or in the exercise of judicial determination.
- Every child 'has the right to free, compulsory basic education to be provided by the government.
- Every child who is in need of special protection measures has the right to such measure of protection as is appropriate to his needs to be provided by a person or authority that has the care of the child.
- A child may bring an action for damages against a person for harm or injury caused to him willfully or through neglect before, during or after his birth; and where any parent of the unborn child dies intestate before the child is delivered, the unborn child is entitled to share in the estate (Child's Rights Act, 2003).

### **Challenges of Child Protection**

So many social workers are not properly trained in Africa states especially in skills development various practices (models and theories). Even the institutions of higher learning that may be running social work programme do not have necessary qualified staffers. Those institutions that have are ill-equipped or consequently, do not have ideal social work laboratory/ counselling clinic well-fortified for research, students and treatment for clients. And it is what the students learnt they will transmit outside. These obviously account for search of instructional materials (textbooks) for knowledge based on skills. Most Africa state has not demonstrated the Africa charter on Child's Rights Acts. To on extent, Nigeria, as a

Country has embraced it, but it has not been adopted by all the states. And that is why issues of child maltreatment and Abuse are quite common in Africa states and Nigeria.

### **Children Protection Services and Nigeria Experience**

Child Protection Services (CPS) is interventions aimed at protecting children at risk of maltreatment. Child Protective Services social workers are usually employed by state or country public agencies whose designated task is to protect children from harm (Liederman, 1995). Child Protection Services investigate reports of a child and neglect, assesses the degree of harm and the ongoing risk of harm to the child, determine whether the child can remain safely in the home or should be placed on the custody of the state, and work closely with the family or juvenile court regarding plans for the child's safety and well-being.

Interventions in child maltreatment cases follow the same sequential steps used in cases/other of Social Work Intervention. These may have to do with receipt of the initial referral, gathering information about the, case through a social study, assessment of the situation, case planning including goal setting, permission of treatment, evaluation of the effects of treatment, and termination of the case (Kadustrin-and Martin, 1988). Following assessment, a treatment plan is developed providing direction on how to proceed.

According to Winton and Mara (2001), treatment goals for victims including increasing self-esteem, decreasing feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, decreasing aggressive behaviours, and negative behaviours such as lying, suicide attempts, running away, promiscuity, and drug or alcohol abuse. These can be achieved through individual counselling, group therapy, or family therapy. One of the ways of meeting treatment for physically abused children involves getting them medical needs, and keeping them safe. In some cases, they are removed from them, and from a dangerous situation at least for temporary period (Kirst-Ashman, 2007).

It is mandatory that all states have status establishing a minimum standard of care that caregivers are expected to provide to their children. If the worker investigating any case finds out that parents are not meeting this standard, the family is slated to receive protective services. This is an involuntary programme that is, the parent did not request or volunteer to receive the services (Ambrosino, 2012).

### **Child Maltreatment**

Child maltreatment is the umbrella term of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect physical abuse occurs when "a child younger than 18 years of age his experienced an injury ...or risk of an injury.... As a result of having been hit with a hand or other object of having been kicked, shaken, thrown, bunted, stabbed or choked by a parent or parent surrogate. (Kolko, 2002).

### **Investigations of Child Maltreatment**

In implementing the mandated services, Child Protective Services workers cooperate closely with other professionals, including law-enforcement officers, attorneys, health care provider or educators. Child protective services workers assume a variety of roles in cooperation or jointly with other agencies. They may offer intake services, in which they screen reports of child maltreatment and interview persons, who report cases by phone to obtain the information necessary to make a preliminary determination about how serious the report is and whether it requires immediate investigation. In a sense, most states require that life-threatening situations be investigated immediately or 24 to 48 hours and that less serious case be investigated within 10 days (Ambronina et. al., 2012).

Children Protective Service (CPS) personnel work by themselves or jointly with Nigeria law-enforcement officers, conduct investigations of child maltreatment, interviewing

children, parents, other family members and collateral contacts such as teachers, and neighbors to determine the name and extent of the reported maltreatment. Investigation involves examining and interviewing the child, attending to the child's immediate emotional needs during the investigation, and making preliminary assessment about whether maltreatment is occurring (Ambrosine, 2012).

According to Heffernan (2012), if the maltreatment is confirmed, investigators determine whether it is causing or could cause permanent damage to the child's body or mind, how severe it has been and whether the situation is life threatening and warrants immediately removing the child to a safer environment. At times too, services of physicians may be required to assist in gathering the needed information. Investigations of cases of child maltreatment require skills and knowledge in identifying various types of maltreatments. Interviewing skills and techniques that are appropriate to the children and adults who might be unwilling to cooperate or disclose relevant information. So it is necessary to balance authority and comparison, or between the ability to confront and the ability to be emphatic, is one of the challenges of being a child protective services work (Britain & Hunt, Rwu; Brown, 2002; Crostson-Tower, 2009).

### **Determination of Intervention Process**

It is worthy of note, that social workers in Children Protective Services (CPS) are not oppose to probe whether the maltreatment is criminal offence or not because, that is the duty to court to determine. The role of the social workers in this regard therefore, is to determine if the child has to be protected and what is needed to provide that protection. Infact, when assessing a possible situation of child maltreatment, workers have four options.

1. Determining that the child is not being maltreated and withdraw then from the case.
2. Offering help to the family
3. Determining that the child is at serious risk, and or that the child's parents are uncooperative and then make arrangement to take the family to court.
4. With the court permission, remove the child from the home immediately and place the child in emergency care and later, usually foster care (Guy Shuttles Worth, 2012).

### **Reasons for Removing a Child from Home**

- The child or a sibling has been seriously injured or abandoned
- The parent/caregiver states that he or she is going to injure or kill the child
- Evidence suggests that the child has been sexually abused and the perpetrator is still in the home or has easy access to the child.
- A current crisis exists, such as a psychotic parent or a parent jail because of a crime connected with substance abuse
- The parents are not cooperative, and the child is at serious risk for substantial harm.

### **Emergency Protective Orders**

This is another instrument with which the protection of a child is guaranteed. In this case, a state government or an appropriate authority may apply to the court for an emergency protection order with respect to a child and the court may make the order if there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is likely to suffer significant harm if not removed to an Emergency Protection Centre or any other approved suitable accommodation. The Emergency Protection Centre, or any other shall give applicant guaranteed responsibility for the child but he shall allow the child reasonable contact with his parents.



## **POLICE ORDERS**

The police are able to remove and detain children without reference to the court. Under 46;

- (i) Where a constable has reasonable cause to believe a child would otherwise be likely to suffer significant harm, he may.
- (a) Remove the child to suitable accommodation and keep him there; or
- (b) Take reasonable step to ensure the child's removal from any hospital, or other place, in which he is being accommodated is prevented. (CA 1989) police protection is a short-term remedy of no more than 72 hours' duration. The police must inform the local authority as soon as is reasonably practicable after taking a child into police protection. It may then be appropriate for the local authority to apply for an EPO in respect of the child. The police must also take steps to inform the child's parents, any person with parental responsibility, or any person with whom the child was living immediately before effecting the order.

## **Children in Need of Care and Protection**

A child development officer, a police officer or any other person may bring a child before the court if he believes that the child is an orphan; or is abandoned/deserted by his relatives; or has been neglected or ill-treated; or has a parent who does not exercise proper guidance and control over him; found destitute; or has both parents undergoing imprisonment; or has mentally disordered or incapacitated parents. The person making the application must give notice to the child, the parents or any person who has parental responsibility over the child. If satisfied, the court may make an order which it has powers to make under this section

Where the court is satisfied that the parent or guardian of a child is unable to control the child, the court may make a corrective order in respect of the child or order the child to be placed under supervision of a period not exceeding 3 years. Where the child is committed to the care of an individual under this Act or to an approved institution and the court is satisfied that the need for the order arose from neglect on the part of any person, the court may order that person to make contribution towards the maintenance of the child (Child's Rights Act, 2003).

## **Care and Supervision**

The court may, on the application of a State Government, an appropriate authority or authorized person make a care order or supervision order placing a child under 18 years in the care or supervision of a designated person if it is satisfied that the care given or likely to be given to him is not what a parent would reasonably be expected to give to the child or he is beyond parental control. A court before which an application for an order is brought may draw up a timetable and make other provisions with respect to the proceedings for the purpose of ensuring that the proceedings are disposed of without delay.

Where a care order is made, the State Government and the appropriate authority designated by the order shall receive the child into its care and shall have parental responsibility over him if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to promote his welfare. The State Government shall not cause the child to be brought up in a different religious persuasion than that in which he would have been brought up if the order had not been made or cause the child to be known by a new surname or have the right to consent or withhold consent to the making of an application under adoption provision or remove him from the state jurisdiction without consent of persons having parental responsibility for him.

Apart from the above, schools, churches and, of course, family institutions have often offered protections to the children at their nurturing and socialization stage. However, the effect of this protection has not yielded the desired consequences. In a sense, there is an

urgent need for effective collaborations with the mentioned institutions and the government agencies (law enforcement/courts) in order to ensure that children under 18 years old are adequately protected from their foes.

## **Protection of the Rights of the Child**

### **Family Court**

Establishment of family court will in addition go a long way in taming the tide of child abuse and even the family issues that need special attention. For quick dispensation of justice in children Abuse related matter, family court will address such matters.

### **A Custody Order**

This is an order made by a court of law which gives all the parental rights and duties relating to the possession of a child to specific person or persons. A person who has actual possession of a child whether or not the possession is shared with other persons is said to have care and control the custody of a child. When these parental rights and duties are granted to a person by a court order, it is called Legal Custody. (Child's Right Act, 2003).

A custody order can be made in favour of one parent or guardian, but the court may still order that the other parent, guardian or biological father of the child not married to the mother to have any or all of the rights and duties in relation to the child e.g maintenance of the child. It is an offence to hire, give or acquire custody, control, and possession of a child whether or not for pecuniary benefit. The law affects the common practice of giving out children as domestic help to other people who are not members of the child's family although it allows customary law. (Child's Right Act, 2003).

Child protection refers to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour, and harmful practice with female genital mutilation or cutting and child marriage.

**Incest:** By definition is defined as a crime of two members of the same family having sexual intercourse, for example, a father and daughter, brother and sister, (John, 2006). This is common in our society and even among children and father, at times a relation and child. This is abhorred and condemned by all. Our concern here is that children should be protected by relevant rules, legislation, regulation and the culprit should be made to face the law.

It is a form of sexual abuse, is "sexual intercourse between people to close the closed related to legally Married "(usually interpreted to mean father, daughter, mother- son, or brother sister combinations)" strong et al. 2005. Physical symptoms of sexual abuse include physical damage to or bleeding in the genital or anal areas. Emotional indicators are depression, low self-esteem, and thoughts of suicide. Other clue include compulsive masturbation and sexual behaviour or knowledge in appropriate to a child's age Kirst Ashmman, 2007.

Child tagged witch: This refers to naming and categorizing certain children 'who may be innocent or ignorant of witch and perhaps without verifiable or justifiable cause for it. This attitude of the adult against a child more often than not ruin, and stigmatized the child and make him feel more inferior than his peers. Relevant legislation should be made to protect the child from this unwholesome act. Protection in this area should involve the following: Setting up a task force to monitor and prosecute the offenders and bring them to justice. This again will serve as deterrent to others. In addition, serious awareness on the above against named-tagged should be carried out to every media through electronic and print media.

### **Recovery Orders**

It is a criminal to remove a child who is the subject face order, EPO (Emergency

protection order), or police protection, from the responsible person, or to keep the child away from the responsible person; e.g by failing to return the return the child after a contact visit. The responsible person is the person who had care of the child by virtue of the order. If a child has been taken away or is being kept away from the responsible person, has run away or is missing, the court may make a recovery order (S. 50). A person with parental responsibility (under an EPO or care order) or the designated officer, where the child is in police protection, may apply for a recovery order.

### **Children Refuges**

Certain children's homes and foster careers may be classed as providing a refuge for child who appears to be at risk of harm. A certificate will be issued by the secretary of state to recognized refuges. A refuge can provide temporary accommodation to a child and, provided a certificate is held, the person providing the refuge will be exempted from persecution for abduction or harbouring a child.

### **Protection of Children**

A State Government or an appropriate authority may apply to court for a child assessment order with respect to a child and the court may make the order where the child is suspected to be suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. A court shall treat an application under this section as application for emergency protection order.

A State Government or an appropriate authority may apply to the court for an emergency protection order with respect to a child and the court may make the order if there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is likely to suffer significant harm if not removed to an Emergency Protection Centre or any other approved suitable accommodation.

For this to be curtailed there must be aggressive awareness and information and notices to all guardians and parents in all strata of society to adhere to this. It is on this note that the Committee for State Child Rights implementation (committee) should rise up to their task. This can be done by setting up enforcement committee in all LGAs, to monitor campaign, arrest the defaulters for prosecution. Through this action, child labour activities can be reduced if not eliminated at least in our urban and rural society. Child Protection Services (CPS).

### **Child Protective Service and the Implication for Social Work**

Child Protection Services (CPS) is interventions aimed at protecting children at risk of maltreatment. CPS Social workers are usually employed by state or country public, agencies whose designated task is to protect children from harm- Liederman (1995) According to him CPS Agencies investigates reports of child abuse and neglect, assess the degree of harm and the ongoing risk of harm to the child, determine whether the child can remain safely in the home or should be placed in the custody of the state and work closely with the family or juvenile court regarding appropriate plans for the child's safety and wellbeing. Intervention in child maltreatment cases follow the same sequential step used in other areas of social work (intervention) these include receipt of the initial referral, gathering information about. The about the case through a social study assessment of the situation, case planning including goal setting, provision of treatment evaluation of the effects or treatment, am termination of case. (Kadushin and Martin 1988).

### **Conclusion**

On the whole; Social justice in Africa is a very fundamental issue that should border everybody in this continent. It is hardly practiced; perhaps, it is due to the fact that the colonial masters were hard on the colonialized states. This may have established the culture

of violence and actions that deal with child abuse on the Africa environment and by extension affected the child's rights and protection services.

It is difficult to name any country in Africa colonized by whites that experience full practice of social justice and child's right acts without symptoms of injustice and child Abuse. Given that most states in the continent had their peculiar experiences, we all have to see on it that Africa chapter on human rights including vulnerable are adequately enforced to letter. Especially, Signatories to this document must ensure that it is carried out. It is only when that is done that social workers could carry out their legitimate duties that will ensure values. As it today most states have not institutionalized child's Right Act and ever when they have, then has been reasonably carried off given yield results. The practice of child's Right Act supposed to be complemented with child protective services and family court to adjudicate child's right abuse.

If this is done, in our various countries, it will give impetus to the services of a professional social work. It could be recalled that in Africa today, most states have been engulfed with one militia group or political instability. Notably among these states is Nigeria North East attacked by (Boko Haram), Gambia election result rift, southern Sudan militia group and even many others. One can pose a question: How can these nations experience social justice? And in any conflict, clashes, insurgence, the children and women are mostly vulnerable, consequent to this development, social workers should remain alert and ensure that the vulnerables do not suffered extremely in any events.

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