



# **NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2025**



### **FIDA NIGERIA SIDE EVENT**

**THEME: STAND OUT, STAND TALL: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR EXCELLENCE; EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER PARITY AND PROTECTION OF THE NIGERIAN CHILD**

**SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD RIGHTS ACT:  
MYTH OR REALITY**

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**SCEPTRE AND PRIMA**

# The Journey Thus Far

Children's Rights : a novel concept ?



Novelty? Conceptualization→ Defined Standards

- **Children→ Human Beings**
- **Childhood→ Stage of Human Life (Peculiarity)**
- **Children's Rights→ Human Rights**

# Advent of Legal Framework

Simply Benevolence-Based ----- Legal Obligation

Transition

Legal Instruments → General + Specific

- 1924 Declaration of the Rights of the Child



- 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- 2003 Child Rights Act
- 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)



# Nationwide Adoption of the Child Rights Act 2003

Sokoto (2021)  
Kebbi (2022)  
Zamfara (2022)  
Niger (2010)  
Kaduna (2018)  
Kwara (2006)  
Oyo (2006)  
Ogun (2006)  
Osun (2007)  
Ekiti (2006)  
Ondo (2009)  
Lagos (2007)  
Edo (2007)  
Kogi (2009)  
Delta (2008)  
Bayelsa (2016)



Rivers (2009) Akwa Ibom (2008) Cross River (2009) Imo (2004) Abia (2006)

Kano (2023)  
Katsina (2023)  
Jigawa (2021)  
Yobe (2022)  
Borno (2022)  
Bauchi (2023)  
Gombe (2022)  
Adamawa (2022)  
Plateau (2005)  
Nasarawa (2005)  
Taraba (2005)  
Anambra (2004)  
Benue (2008)  
Enugu (2016)  
Ebonyi (2010)

Source: [www.sceptreandprima.com](http://www.sceptreandprima.com)

# 'NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN'

**ACTION:**

KNOWLEDGE

ACCOUNTABILITY

MONITORING

DEVELOPMENT

## KNOWLEDGE

CHILDREN: About 50% of Nigeria's Population.  
(FMBEP 24 & UNICEF)

S.154, S.206 CRA– Professional Education, In-service Training, Refresher Courses, etc: Judges, Magistrates, Personnel of the Court, Officers of Specialized Children's Police Unit Supervisors, Child Development Officers

DUTY BEARERS

S.1 CRA– BEST INTEREST PRINCIPLE – "In every action concerning a child, whether undertaken by an individual, public or private body, institutions or service, court of law, or administrative or legislative authority, ..."

S.2: PROTECTION AND CARE: "A child shall be given such protection and care as is necessary for the well-being of the child..."

RIGHTS HOLDERS

# ACCOUNTABILITY

- All Duty Bearers
- All Sectors
- Government/Non-Government
- Profit/Not For Profit

- Legal Obligation: Duty

 Simply

Goodwill  
Benevolence  
Morality/Welfare

*Ignorantia Juris non  
excusat*

- ↓
- Penalties for Breach
  - Evident Impact

# MONITORING

- Various Levels  
+
- Within Organisations

## CRA Part XXIII (S.260–271): CHILD RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

- Details the Establishment & Operation of the CRIC
- Committee comprised of reps across various sectors and organisations
- Not optional: Legal Obligation
- Multi-layered – National, State, LGA

## Functionality

- Ensure Knowledge & Observance of Children's Rights and Welfare
- Practical Support for Implementation
- Information collection and documentation
- Continuous review of state of implementation

## AREAS:

- Legal Framework is silent e.g. Assisted Reproduction; Digital Technologies
- Child Rights Standards not perfectly reflected e.g. Alternative Care Solutions → Family Based Solutions
- Requiring Clarity e.g Relinquishment; neglect; abandonment

NATIONAL

## DEVELOPMENT

STATEWIDE

- Disparities in Legal Provisions e.g. Definition of a Child
- Legal Provisions contravening tenets of Children's Rights

N/B- Public Document- Ensure Accessibility



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# CONCLUSION

# YES

→ ***Milestone?***

→ ***Strides in Implementation ?***

→ ***Areas for Improvement?***

Safeguarding the rights of children through the effective implementation of the Child Rights Act requires these PRACTICAL, INTENTIONAL AND COMMITTED measures, upholding standards and recognizing that our actions and decisions concerning the child are not merely based on benevolence but rather are bound by a legal obligation.

# THANK YOU

*Every Child, a Successful Life*



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