Child Rights in the Caribbean:
An annotated bibliography

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Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a binding international treaty which derives from *the Universal Declaration on Human Rights*. Ratifying the treaty means we have declared to the world, and have agreed to comply with the special rights. For one, there is the basic right to survival; it is a basic and fundamental right every human being ought to enjoy. We are also obligated to ensure that our children are allowed to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually to the fullest so that they are able to participate meaningfully in the world we leave behind for them. We are also mandated to protect them from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation. The Convention also calls on signatory countries to ensure the conditions are there for children to participate fully in family, cultural and social life; pointing to four core principles:

•   Non-discrimination;
•   Best interests of the child;
•   The right to life, survival and development;
•   Respect for the views of the child.

The following annotated bibliography is gear towards anyone with an interest in children and child right. It can be used by students to identify resources for class projects and research. The work contains subject specific references and informational abstract to child rights resources in several Caribbean territories. Child rights issues in the Caribbean are especially beneficial and of great value to libraries and researchers.

Children's rights are the basic human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to minors. This includes their right to both parents, an identity, the needs for food, education, health care, criminal and civil rights, and freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, colour, ethnicity, or any other characteristics.

Interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children to be self-sufficient, to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse. This initiative is taken to provide a resource list to inform and guide every Caribbean child with the key knowledge of their rights and privileges, and for them to know when those rights are being violated.

Child rights; Child rights—Caribbean; United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Antigua and Barbuda
Childcare and Protection Act, 2003
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/Natio
nal%20Legislation/Childprotact_2003.pdf

Sexual Offenses Act, 1995
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/Natio
nal%20Legislation/SexualOffencesAct.pdf

The Bahamas
The Child Protection Act 2007
http://www.oas.org/dil/The_Child_Protection_Act_Bahamas.pdf

Child Protection 2010
http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2007/2007-
0001/ChildProtectionAct_1.pdf

Adoption of Children 2010
http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1954/1954-
0052/AdoptionofChildrenAct_1.pdf

Barbados
Barbados Protection of Children Act, 1991
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/National%20Legislation/
ProtectionChildren_1991.pdf

Domestic Violence (protection orders) Act, 1993
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/National%20Legislation/
DomesticViolence_1993.pdf

Minors Act, 1985
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/Barbados/National%20Legislation/
MinorsAct.pdf

Belize
Families and Children Act 2003
http://www.oas.org/dil/Families_and_Children_Subsidiary_Act_Belize.pdf

Dominica
Committee on the Rights of the Child 1993
http://www.law.yale.edu/rcw/rcw/jurisdictions/caribbean/dominica/Dominica_Rep_03.ht
m

Grenada
Child Care and Protection Act 2010
http://laws.gov.gd/

Guyana
Protection of Children Act 2009
http://www.tobaccocontrollaws.org/files/live/Guyana/Guyana%20-
%20Protection%20of%20Children%20Act%202009%20-%20national.pdf

Haiti
Children's Legal Rights in Haiti
http://ihrp.law.utoronto.ca/utfl_file/count/documents/Final%20Haiti%20Report.pdf

Jamaica
The Child Care and Protection Act 2004
http://www.cda.gov.jm/sites/default/files/Resources/Child_Care_and_Protection_Act_20
04_0.pdf

http://www.welcome.oca.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Child-Care-and-
Protection-Act.pdf

The Juveniles Act,
http://www.ecc.gov.jm/Downloads/Child-
Laws/Child%20Care%20&%20Protection%20Act%20%20-%202004.pdf

The Sex Offenders Act 2009
http://issuu.com/digjamaica/docs/341_the_sexual_offences_act__2009/1?e=0

Montserrat
Convention on the Rights of the Child 2000
http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/spmapping/Legal/national/Montserrat/Reporting/
2000_StateReportCRC_UKBOT.pdf

Child Abduction and Custody Act 2008
http://moh.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/child-abduction-and-custody-act.pdf

Adoption of Children ACT and Subsidiary Legislation 2008
http://moh.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/adoption-of-children-act.pdf

Montserrat Status of Children Act 2011
http://agc.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/No.-15-of-2012-Status-of-Children-Act-
20123.pdf

Saint Lucia
Committee on the Rights of the Child 2004
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/St.Lucia/Reporting/CRC_initialrepo
rtSt.Lucia_2004.pdf

St. Kitts and Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis: National Laws
https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/saint-kitts-and-nevis-national-laws

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/St.Vincent/Reporting/st.vincent_ng
o_report.pdf

Suriname
Child Protection
http://sr.one.un.org/child-protection/

Trinidad and Tobago
An Act to amend the Children Act 2000
http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2000-68.pdf

Children Act 2012
http://www.oas.org/juridico/PDFs/cyb_tto_children.pdf

Protection of children 2012
http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2012-12.pdf

Articles (Internet)

Caribbean Countries Yet To Ratify Convention Allowing Children To Complain Directly To UN About Human Rights Abuses in International News April 15, 2014
http://pridenews.ca/2014/04/15/caribbean-countries-yet-to-ratify-convention-allowing-children-to-complain-directly-to-un-about-human-rights-abuses/
No *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)* country has yet ratified an agreement allowing children the right to complain directly to the *United Nations* about alleged violations of their rights. The UN said the *Optional Protocol* will enable children and their representatives to submit complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about specific violations of their rights under the Convention, as well as under its other two Optional Protocols (on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution).

Child Rights: Convention on the Rights of the Child
http://www.unicef.org/barbados/children_23539.htm
The Convention defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger. The Convention applies to all children, whatever their race, religion or abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from. It doesn't matter where children live, what language they speak, what their parents do, whether they are boys or girls, what their culture is, whether they have a disability or whether they are rich or poor. Governments have a responsibility to take all available measures to make sure children's rights are respected, protected and

fulfilled. When countries ratify the Convention, they agree to review their laws relating to children. This involves assessing their social services, legal, health and educational systems, as well as levels of funding for these services.

Children's Rights in Jamaica
http://digjamaica.com/childrens_rights
November 20 is the *United Nations' (UN) Universal Children's Day.* The day was established in 1954 to promote awareness among children of their rights. Since 1990, Universal Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Jamaica is a signatory to Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Haiti: All Eyes on the New Paternity Act - September 16, 2014
http://www.healthpolicyproject.com/index.cfm?id=HaitiPaternityAct
The government of Haiti signed into effect a new law, *Loi sur la paternité, la maternité et la filiation*, in June of 2014. The law, commonly known as the *Responsible Parenthood Act*, requires parents to afford equal opportunities to children born in- and outside of wedlock. The Responsible Parenthood Act will ensure equal rights for Haiti's children, regardless of their parentage, and advances the USAID-stated goals of improving child protection services and decreasing the incidence of human rights abuses that affect women, children, and sexual minorities.

UNICEF puts children rights at center of development in Belize
http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/59860
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is at the forefront of issues affecting children and adolescents. The situation of children and women were analysed by UNICEF to determine the challenges and progress made since the United Nations adopted the convention on the rights of the child.

Articles (Newspaper)

Caribbean child brides worry UNFPA. Agency says leaders must address human rights violation by Nadine Wilson, Observer staff reporter. The Jamaican Observer |Monday, December 30, 2013
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Caribbean-child-brides-worry-UNFPA_15709117
Approximately 29 per cent of girls in the Caribbean were married before their 18th birthday, resulting in what representatives from the *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* feel is a human rights violation that needs to be urgently addressed by regional leaders. According to the UNFPA 2013 report, titled '*Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the challenge of adolescent pregnancy'*, the Caribbean ranks second only to continental Africa in the number of adolescent girls being pregnant under 18 years old annually.

CDA Wants Law to Offer More Protection for Street Children. The Gleaner |Wednesday February 12, 2014.
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140212/lead/lead91.html The *Child Development Agency (CDA),* along with several stakeholders is moving to make changes to the *Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA)* to include, how street children are treated. The act itself presents two separate sections: one which identifies a child as homeless, wandering on the streets and in need of care and protection, and another section that makes it an offence to have a child soliciting and begging.

Child Rights Concerns In Grenada The Gleaner|Wednesday February 3, 2010
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/latest/article.php?id=16577
In a report presented to the *United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child*, the *Grenadian Non-Governmental Organisations NGOs* said advocating for the rights of the child has to be done in the areas of legislative implementation and the collection of data on child rights issues. The NGOs credit the government with making strides in the area of ensuring that children have access to education and health care.

Children have rights too by Sushania Pryce Observer TEENage Writer Glenmuir High. Observer |Tuesday, May 11, 2010
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Children-have-rights-too_7595475
The *United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF)* is an organisation devoted to the welfare of children and co-operates with the *World Health Organisation* in immunisation programmes. It has issued some basic rights of a child, such as 1.Children have rights as human beings and also need special care and protection. 2. Children have the right to life, survival and development and respect for their views. 3. Children have the right to an education and a standard of living adequate for his/her physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. 4. Children should be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Children's Rights Improving The Gleaner Monday | April 30, 2012
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120430/lead/lead92.html
There is a shift in attitude from children being the deviant troublemaker, to the child with rights and more importantly life. The ratification of *The Convention of the Rights of the Child* new approach towards children aimed at prevention and improving the quality of life of children

Commentary: The Jamaican government's brutish response to child rights advocates by Rodje Malcolm. Caribbean News Today| July 25, 2013
http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Commentary%3A-The-Jamaican-government's-brutish-response-to-child-rights-advocates-16973.html
The Jamaican government attempted to respond to Jamaicans advocating for an end to the violation of child rights. Government ministers responded to an online petition by human rights group *Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ)* to stop the abuse and neglect of children in state care.

Courts Too Lenient With Sex Offenders - Children's-Rights Body. The Gleaner|
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20100421/lead/lead8.html
The courts have been accused by children's-rights advocates of being lenient to child sex offenders. A child rights group has also chastised the Government for dragging its feet on legislation which could protect the vulnerable.

EU commends PM for efforts in promoting children's rights. The Jamaica Observer|
Monday, March 17, 2014
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/EU-commends-PM-for-efforts-in-promoting-children-s-rights
Head of Delegation for the European Union, Ambassador Paola Amadei, has congratulated Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller for Jamaica's effort in reducing the population of juveniles in State care. During the discussions Ambassador Amadei commended Simpson Miller for consistently promoting children's rights in the national and international fora, and also for her leadership on the projects aimed at the reduction of juveniles in State care.

Jamaica Lagging Behind On Child Rights The Gleaner, Saturday | April 28, 2012
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120428/news/news2.html
The *United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF)* resident representative, Robert Fuderich, has given Jamaica a less-than-impressive grade for efforts made to satisfy the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. He said while the country has employed strategies to help children, there are still too many violations preventing the nation from progressing. Fuderich said the country deserves as low as a 'C' for its efforts in putting things in place, and a 'D' for the actual results.

Jeopardising Childhood Rights - More Needs to Be Done To Celebrate Our Children." The Gleaner. Thursday | May 3, 2012
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120503/news/news2.html
The most underfunded aspect of education, *the early-childhood sector* faces severe challenges in learning resources, the number of trained teachers and, in some cases, infrastructure. The Government's unwillingness to provide publicly funded tuition at the pre-primary level is a violation of every child's constitutional right. If the nation does not provide its children with the best possible start, the nation is limiting the potential of these children, and thus jeopardising the fulfilment of all rights throughout childhood.

Misplaced Values On Children's Rights. The Gleaner Tuesday | April 30, 2013
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20130430/letters/letters1.html
A child who has been charged with a crime - even a non-violent one - can find himself incarcerated at *Metcalfe Street Juvenile Remand Centre* for months, even a year, awaiting a trial. For these children, 'innocent until proven guilty' means nothing. Our society and our leaders are quite content to have them experience the same circumstances that would face them if they were convicted.

Region alarmed at increased violence against children. CANA News Online | September 07, 2012
http://cananewsonline.com/features/80884-cmcfeature-caribbean-rights-region-alarmed-at-increased-violence-against-children.html
A CARICOM Secretariat statement issued notes there is growing concern about the alarming levels of violence against young children. The *2006 United Nations study on Violence against Children* is arguably the most telling piece of empirical exposé on the magnitude of the problem, especially in the Caribbean. Its findings point to the disturbing fact that violence does not discriminate between rich and poor nations, but infiltrates all societies within which children grow. Sadly, the report notes that violence is part of the economic, cultural and societal norms that make up many children's environment.

Securing Children's Rights. The Gleaner. Monday | September 17, 2012
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20120917/flair/flair93.html
All adults in Jamaica have a responsibility to safeguard the best interest of children, but the *Child Care and Protection Act* is directly applicable to parents, teachers, day-care centre workers, doctors, nurses, guidance counsellors and other persons who work with children. There are three main objectives:

- To make sure that adults consider the views and best interests of children.
- To put in place new organisations to monitor the care and protection of children and to provide special help to children who are in need of care and protection.
- To make sure that all children are protected from abuse or neglect.

UN report raps Gov't for child rights abuse. The Jamaica Gleaner. Tuesday | June 17, 2003
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20030617/lead/lead2.html
The *United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child* released a negative report about the state of children in Jamaica. The plight of street children and the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, including street children are among key concerns listed in the Committee's report. The report noted that progress was made in children's rights and in certain mechanisms, but there are still concerns about the overall violent environment in which Jamaican children are living.

Unacknowledged children given right to name fathers Dutch Caribbean Legal Portal | September 28, 2011
http://www.dutchcaribbeanlegalportal.com/constitutional-news/1586-unacknowledged-children-given-right-to-name-fathers
A child born out of wedlock who does not have a father named on his or her birth certificate now has the right to list the father's name.

Website for child-rights organisation The Gleaner, Wednesday | February 10, 2010
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20100210/news/news2.html
The Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) has launched its website www.ocajamaica.com which will serve as an additional public-education and advocacy tool. The website will become an authoritative source for anyone who is a parent or

provides care for children, works for and with children, and who is concerned about the welfare of children.

<p style="text-align:center">**Articles (Scholarly)**</p>

Britto, Pia Rebello, and Nurper Ulkuer. "Child Development in Developing Countries: Child Rights and Policy Implications." Child Development 83, no. 1 (January 2012): 92-103. Education Research Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed June 19,2015).http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8624.2011.01671.x/abstract

The *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)* was used to provide information on feeding practices, caregiving, discipline and violence, and the home environment for young children across 28 countries. The findings from these studies provide information on the most proximal context for development of the youngest children in the majority world. Using the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular *the Rights to Survival, Development and Protection*, findings are explained with implications for international and national-level social policies. Implications are also discussed, with respect to policy makers and the larger international community, who have the obligation to uphold these rights

Jones, A. 2009. "Social marginalization and children's rights: HIV-affected children in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago." Health & Social Work 34, no. 4: 293-300. CINAHL Plus with Full Text, EBSCOhost (accessed June 19, 2015). http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19927478

This article examines the social epidemiology of HIV/AIDS within a Caribbean context and the specific ways in which children are affected. In particular, the article explores the nature of risk and vulnerability among marginalized children, especially street children. Literature on HIV/AIDS was reviewed, and semi structured interviews with 44 key informants were subjected to an analysis based on the feminist theory of intersectionality to explore the ways in which social marginalization intersects with risk and increases vulnerability to HIV infection. Despite advances in children's rights and the provision of testing and treatment programs, stigma, discrimination, and social marginalization combine to limit the rights and access to services of children affected by HIV/AIDS in Trinidad and Tobago. The author suggests that universal discourses on the concepts of risk and rights may be an inadequate basis for addressing the health and social needs of especially marginalized children and that targeted social action to tackle the processes of marginalization is also needed.

Children's exposure to violence in Jamaica: over a decade of research and interventions. West Indian Med. J. Vol.61 No.4 Mona July 2012 http://caribbean.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0043-31442012000400014

Many children in Jamaica are exposed to violence of various forms in settings where they should be protected, namely, their homes, schools and communities. Schools in particular

which were once seen as safe havens have been in the media with reports of student on student violence, student on teacher violence, teacher on student violence and community on school violence. This paper presents research findings over the last 15 years out of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica on the nature and prevalence of violence exposure, outcomes and associated risk and protective factors. It also highlights psychologically-driven interventions and policy papers addressing violence exposure coming out of the *Department of Child and Adolescent Health, UWI,* Mona, during the past decade.

Mauras, M. "Public Policies and Child Rights: Entering the Third Decade of the Convention on the Rights of the Child." Annals Of The American Academy Of Political And Social Science, 2011 Jan, Vol.633, pp.52-65
http://ann.sagepub.com/content/633/1/52. After 20 years of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), it is increasingly clear that states bear the responsibility to promote, guarantee, respect, and fulfil the realization of children's rights by all members of the national and international communities. An initial emphasis on legal reforms to adapt national law to the CRC needs to give space to changes in other important areas of public action: economic policy and financing; social policy and administration; and public participation, including that of children. Enforcement and justifiability of rights need to be addressed today to face questions about public policy, systems, and institutions in the long term. The evolution of social policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, from neoliberal policies to systems of social protection, illustrates that only a comprehensive and equity-based view of social and economic policy, underpinned by the four principles of children's rights (non-discrimination, best interests of the child, survival and development, and the right to be heard), will satisfy the requirements for implementation of the CRC.

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Books

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Child Protection in Barbados: The need for a National Reporting Protocol
http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_unicefeco_national_protocol_Barbados.pdf
Barbados, like all of the other States in the Caribbean region has committed itself to protecting the rights of children through the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (C R C). Integral to this collection of rights are those geared at the protection of children who are abused, neglected or at risk of harm. Many of the positive developments have come in the form of legislative enactments or legislative reform geared at affording more care and protection provision to children at risk of harm. Despite these legislative interventions, authorities in Barbados readily acknowledge that the child protection mandate of the State still has scope for significant improvement.

**Children's rights, Caribbean realities / edited by Christine Barrow. 2002
http://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Rights-Caribbean-Christine-Barrow/dp/9766370605
Available at: CCDC library**
It is widely accepted that the children of the Caribbean remain virtually unseen and unheard on the region's agenda for development and research. Where children are visible, it is as passive beneficiaries of traditional services in health, education, welfare and the

objects of socialisation in preparation for adulthood, rather than as subjects of rights. In recognition of this and drawing on papers presented at a symposium held by the Caribbean Area Office of the *United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)* and the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Barbados, Children's Rights: Caribbean Realities sets out to identify - from a wide range of perspectives: legal, medical, educational, sociological, anthropological and psychological - the major issues in the realisation of child rights and development in the Caribbean region, as dictated by the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each contribution brings a unique and scholarly perspective to longstanding questions relating to children in the cultural context of the Caribbean and examines these issues on the basis of realities within the family setting and at the community and national levels. This book should inspire and engage those who read it to take urgent action to promote the protection of our children within their individual sphere of influence.

Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean : Perceptions of, Attitudes to, and Opinion on Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean
Adele D. Jones and Ena Trotman Jemmott (Consultants)
http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Child_Sexual_Abuse_Publication.pdf
This study aimed to understand how Caribbean people perceive the problem of child sexual abuse; what behaviours and social conditions contribute to it; what is the impact of child sexual abuse on those most affected and what views are held about the forms of action that might be needed to prevent it and to heal those affected.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child: 15 years later – The Caribbean
http://www.unicef.cu/sites/default/files/La%20CDN%20quince%20a%C3%B1os%20despu%C3%A9s%20-%20el%20Caribe.pdf
During the last fifteen years, the countries in the Caribbean have advanced significantly in recognizing the human rights of children as well as in the effective improvement of their life condition. Important aspects related to the protection of the rights of children have been incorporated into their Constitutions, Civil Codes and Family Laws.

The Evolving Capacities of the Child: Innocenti Insight 11
http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/evolving-eng.pdf
The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* introduces for the first time in an international human rights treaty, the concept of the 'evolving capacities' of the child. This principle has been described as a new principle of interpretation in international law, recognising that, as children acquire enhanced competencies, there is a diminishing need for protection and a greater capacity to take responsibility for decisions affecting their lives. The Convention allows for the recognition that children in different environments and cultures, and faced with diverse life experiences, will acquire competencies at different ages. Action is needed in law, policy and practice so that the contributions children make and the capacities they hold are acknowledged. The purpose of the study is to open the discussion and promote debate to achieve a better understanding of how children can be protected, in accordance with their evolving capacities, and also provided with opportunities to participate in the fulfilment of their rights.

A Guide to General Comment 7:'Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Children's Fund and Bernard van Leer Foundation, 2006.

http://www.unicef.org/spanish/earlychildhood/files/Guide_to_GC7.pdf

The monograph presents numerous documents and papers outlining current expert opinion on the meaning of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with special emphasis on the rights of young children.

The Rights of the child in the Caribbean, with specific reference to Trinidad and Tobago. Sustainable development through implementation by Indarsingh, Allene. Available at: UWI Space

The book covers issues of children's rights in Trinidad and Tobago. It looks at children legal status, laws, child labour and prevention and the welfare in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Paradox Of Children's Rights In Trinidad: Translating International Law Into Domestic Reality / by Charrise L. Clarke (retrieved June 2015) summit.sfu.ca/system/files/iritems1/9127/etd3634.pdf

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been criticised for its ambiguous language and lack of applicability to developing countries. This qualitative thesis explores diverse perspectives of children's rights in Trinidad through interviews with teachers, child-care providers, children and parents. Participants revealed a number of structural, ideological, and cultural changes to the recognition of children's rights in Trinidad. Structural challenges included shortcomings in the social development system, education system and government initiatives, while ideological challenges were identified as flowing from respondents' fear of rights, their view of rights as privileges, and the disjuncture between policy and practice. Finally, cultural challenges stem from the conception of children as property, the tolerance of infringements on privacy, and the ongoing use of corporal punishment. The future of children's rights in Trinidad will depend on increased international funding to alleviate poverty and enhanced public awareness and acceptance of children's rights

Laying the Foundations for Children's Rights Innocenti Insight 10. *An Independent Study of some Key Legal and Institutional Aspects of the Impact of the Convention on the Rights of the Child* **by Philip Alston and John Tobinb with the assistance of Mac Darrow. UNICEF 2005**

http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ii_layingthefoundations.pdf

This study provides a critical and constructive analysis of how far the international community and individual states have come in their efforts to establish the normative, legal, and institutional frameworks which are essential if the aspirations of the Convention are to be translated into reality. Within this context the study seeks to achieve three objectives: (1) to draw up a balance sheet of some of the Convention's achievements and shortcomings in terms of laying the foundations for an effective Convention-based regime; (2) to provide a balanced perspective on the Convention's importance within the overall range of endeavours to improve the well-being of children

in the world; and (3) to expose and examine some of the dilemmas and complexities which arise in efforts to promote and give effect to the Convention.

Promoting Child Rights through Research: Selected Proceedings of the Caribbean Child Research Conference 2006
http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/Pages_from_Promoting_Child_Rights2.pdf
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with the *University of the West Indies (UWI)* through the *Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)* and the *Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC),* and in association with the Early Childhood Commission (ECC), the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA), the Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child (JCRC), the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY), hosted the first Caribbean Child Research Conference in Jamaica in 2006 under the theme "Promoting child rights through research".
This conference covered a range of child-related issues. It aimed to share research findings and issues related to children, to strengthen the network of researchers on children's issues, and to encourage research. Proceedings from the conference are available in a book published by the University of the West Indies.

Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection Number 8, September 2009
http://www.childinfo.org/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN.pdf
The concept of a protective environment has evolved simultaneously with the child rights movement that achieved the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 and its nearly universal ratification to date. The term '*children in especially difficult circumstances*' – used during the mid to late 1980s and 1990s – drew on programme experiences with children living and working on the streets of Latin America and elsewhere, and it soon expanded to include children in armed conflict and child victims of abuse and neglect. In almost every area, it was clear that data were inadequate to quantify and qualify the nature and extent of the violations of child rights.

Sexual Violence against Children in the Caribbean: Report 2012. Glenford Howe PhD. Prepared for UNICEF by Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Office
http://www.unicef.org/barbados/ECAO_Sexual_Violence_againstChildren_in_the_Caribbean.pdf
For decades the global community has been aware that violence against children, including sexual abuse, was a significant but under-acknowledged scourge on humanity. As such various governments have sought in their own way to give some attention to addressing the problem. Indeed, the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by the vast majority of countries (140 countries) globally is in part a manifestation of this concern or recognition of the need to protect children from all ills, including violence.

The Status of Child Protection in St. Kitts/Nevis: The need for a National Reporting Protocol
http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_unicefeco_child_protection_Skn.pdf
The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis was among the first countries in the region to sign and ratify the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Since its ratification on July 24th, 1990, some gains have been made in ensuring that national laws, policies and practices conform to the intent of the convention. Despite the positive efforts, authorities in St. Kitts/Nevis readily acknowledge that the child protection mandate required of the State has not been adequately met. Identification of the weaknesses and the implementation of corrective measures are critical to the advancement of St. Kitts/Nevis commitment to making good on its national and international child protection obligations. UNICEF's support to the government of St. Kitts/Nevis in the creation of a child abuse protocol is geared at taking those very necessary next steps in identifying and correcting some of the inadequacies in the current systemic responses to child abuse. Although, a child abuse protocol will not, on its own, solve all of the present challenges, it is certainly an efficient means by which deficiencies in the system can be identified and corrected.

Booklets

Children in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Child Rights - The Unfinished Agenda
http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Child_Rights_-_The_Unfinished_Agenda.pdf
This booklet presents information on the key socio-economic situation and main issues as it concerns children rights in each of the *10 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* covered by the UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean within its Multi-Country Programme. The 10 *SIDS* are characterised by notable political stability with open and competitive democratic systems; medium to high per capita incomes and medium to high rankings on the Human Development Index. Despite the major progress made, the states are in a region which it is classified as one of the most unequal in the world as they grapple with high public debts, import dependency and rising violence and crime. They are also being impacted by the global economic recession and increasing food and energy prices which are pushing vulnerable, poor and at-risk (up to 50% of the population in some countries) into poverty.

First Call for Children: World Declaration and plan of action from the World Summit for Children. Convention on the rights of the child. United Nations Children's Fund, USA
http://www.unicef.org/about/history/files/WSC_declaration_first_call_for_children.pdf
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/others/FIRST_CALL_FOR_CHILDREN.pdf
The *United Nations World Summit for Children* was held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 29–30 September 1990. The summit had the then-largest-ever gathering of heads of state and government to commit to a set of goals to improve the well-being of children worldwide by the year 2000.

The main result of the World Summit was the joint signing of a _World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children_ and a _Plan of Action_ comprising a detailed set of child-related human development goals for the year 2000. The World Summit set the stage for a decade of high level commitment on issues concerning children around the world and it set the stage for a series of UN conferences throughout the 1990s on population, environment, food, human rights, social development and women's rights.

Rights and Responsibilities - A Guide for Parents
http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/resources_2899.htm
A booklet which explains the essence of the rights of the child as outlined in the _UN Convention on the Rights of the Child_ and which provides parents and guardians with useful tips to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities.

<p style="text-align:center">Booklets (children's version)</p>

Act Right, Treat me Right! Child Care and Protection Act 2004. A guide for children 7-12 years. Produced by the Child Development Agency, with technical and financial support from the United Nations Children's Fund, Country Office for Jamaica.
http://cfwelfareja.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/ccpa_childrens_version.pdf
The Act Right, Treat Me Right guide to CCPA notes that the family is the best place for raising children.   The guide also notes that:

* Both parents are responsible for their children, even if they do not live together;

* Parents have the biggest duty to protect children;

* Parents have the biggest duty to provide their children with the basic things they need; and

* Parents must not harm or abuse their children.

Protecting Myself by Carol Samuels, Tania Chambers. Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child, 2005
http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/Protecting_myself_7-9.pdf
Story and activity booklet for children on how they can take action to protect themselves in different settings - home, school, during play, on the streets, in the community.

Protecting the Children Of Guyana A Guide To The Protection Of Children Act 2009. Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security. Produced by The Child Rights Division, Childcare and Protection Agency, Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security. Georgetown:with technical and financial support from the United Nations Children's Fund - Guyana
http://www.unicef.org/guyana/Protecting_the_Children_of_Guyana(1).pdf
A publication of the _Child Rights Division, Childcare and Protection Agency, Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security_ in collaboration with UNICEF. As children

you have the right to lead a happy and productive life, free from physical and emotional or mental harm or abuse. However, some children are in difficult circumstances that threaten their health, safety and well-being, so the law provides for the protection of these children.

<div align="center">**Brochure**</div>

The European Union & Children's Rights in the Eastern Caribbean; Celebrating 20
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/barbados/documents/eu_barbados/child_rights_brochure_final_en.pdf
The EU is guided by the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),* the most widely ratified human rights instrument in history, in the formulation and implementation of its external policy on the subject.

<div align="center">**Chapters from Books**</div>

Crawford-Brown, Claudette. "The impact of migration on the rights of children and families in the Caribbean." IN: Christine Barrow. Children's rights, Caribbean realities. Kingston, Jamaica : Ian Randle Publishers, 2002.
Available at UWI Mona Main Library (RBC)
http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/85694836/chapter-13-impact-migration-rights-children-families-caribbean
The article discusses the effect on families from migration experiences of Caribbean parents and children. It states that the effect of migration turns on the issues of attachment, separation and loss. It tells that for a child who is left for very early age, the memory of parent fades and for the child who is left at later stage experiences anger and feelings of rejection. It says that the result of separation manifest themselves later through absence of bonding between parent and child.

<div align="center">**Courses**</div>

CCDC'S Child Rights Education Project
http://www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc/ccdc%E2%80%99s-child-rights-education-project
The 40-hour Child Rights and Responsibilities course aims to bridge the gap between child rights theory and practice by helping to increase learners' understanding of children's rights within personal, local, national, regional and international contexts. It goes beyond sensitising learners to the rights of the child, and it presents critical knowledge, tools and techniques to course participants who are required to effectively uphold and advocate child rights.

Graduate Course on Social Investment for Children opens at Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona
http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/promoting_child_rights_5971.htm
This course seeks to examine the critical social issues and social policy challenges in relation to children. The dimensions and causes of child vulnerability within several theoretical frameworks and current policies and programmes to reduce vulnerability of children.

Committee on the Rights of the Child Fortieth Session Geneva, 12-30 September 2005

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/GeneralComment7Rev1.pdf

This general comment arises out of the Committee's experiences of reviewing States parties' reports. In many cases, very little information has been offered about early childhood, with comments limited mainly to child mortality, birth registration and health care. The Committee felt the need for a discussion on the broader implications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for young children. Accordingly, in 2004, the Committee devoted its day of general discussion to the theme "*Implementing child rights in early childhood*". This resulted in a set of recommendations, as well as the decision to prepare a general comment on this important topic. Through this general comment, the Committee wishes to encourage recognition that young children are holders of all rights enshrined in the Convention and that early childhood is a critical period for the realization of these rights. The Committee's working definition of "early childhood" is all young children: at birth and throughout infancy; during the preschool years; as well as during the transition to school.

Situation Analysis on Excluded Children in Jamaica Update 2006, UNICEF Jamaica

http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/situation_analysis.pdf

Jamaica has made impressive strides to provide most of its children with access to health, nutrition, education and social welfare. Overall, the country is on a good track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, even if all of these are met, out of the 977,000 Jamaican children under the age of 18 (37% of the population), thousands of these will be left out. These are the most in need: the poorest, the most vulnerable, and the abused. They are currently beyond the reach of research, government programmes, and budgets. Their rights to birth registration, safe and protective environments, family care and love, quality education, life skills, and opportunity to participation are denied or violated.

In this document, children are considered 'excluded' if they do not benefit from an environment that protects them from violence, abuse, exploitation, or if they are unable to access and benefit from, quality essential services, information and goods in a way that threatens their ability to participate fully in society during their childhood and in the future. Children may be excluded by their family, institutions, the community, the government, services, civil society, the media, the private sector and other children. This report describes the manifestations of exclusion in Jamaica, analyses factors, identifies current and potential responses and provides recommendations for improvement.

A Whole-of-Government Approach to Child Welfare and Protection. Fourth Annual Report to Congress on Public Law 109-95, The Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005 December | 2010
http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdacq777.pdf
This report summarizes the U.S. Government's response to the child protection emergency in Haiti and the role played by the PL 109-95 secretariat.

Bakker, Caroline; Martina Elings-Pels and Michele Reis. The Impact of Migration on Children in the Caribbean. UNICEF Office for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, 2009.
http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/Impact_of_Migration_Paper.pdf
Children who have been left behind as well as migrant children are placed in a particular vulnerable situation affecting their psychosocial well-being and educational performance. They are at a higher risk and more vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation including sexual abuse, child labour and trafficking**.**

Bahamas 2013 Human Rights Report
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/220627.pdf
The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is a constitutional, parliamentary democracy. Prime Minister Perry Christie's Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) won control of the government in May 2012 elections that international observers found to be generally free and fair. The most serious human rights problems were police abuse, detainee abuse, a poorly functioning judicial system leading to delays in trial, and witness intimidation. Other human rights problems included poor detention conditions; corruption; violence and discrimination against women; sexual abuse of children; and discrimination based on ethnic descent, sexual orientation, or HIV status

Child Rights and Governance Roundtable: Report and Conclusion. London: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2011.
http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/gov_crc_roundtable_2011.pdf

The paper reflects on child rights and governance, in the realization that children's rights could not be advanced significantly without close consideration of the governance systems in which they are implemented. Implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is highly dependent upon the way traditions, mechanisms, processes and institutions operate for common good not only for children but for all. Conversely, governance can only be comprehensive if it takes into account the human rights of all, including children.

Current state of social protection legislation in Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States from a human rights perspective
http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4688e.pdf
This document was produced as *Food and Agricultural Organization's* contribution to the *UN Joint Programme Enhancing Equity: Ensuring a Social Protection Floor for Poor and Disadvantaged Women, Men, Girls and Boys in Barbados* and the *OECS, 2013–2015* UNDAF, 2013. The primary goal of the document is to perform a comparative analysis,

from a human rights perspective, of the current state of legislation and programs related to social protection in Barbados and the Member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Daumerie, Beatrice, and Karen Hardee. The Effects of a Very Young Age Structure on Haiti: Country Case Study. By Washington, DC: Population Action International, 2010.
http://pai.org/reports/the-effects-of-a-very-young-age-structure-on-haiti-a-country-case-study/
This report begins by briefly describing Haiti's current and projected population age structure before surveying issues of security, governance, economic development, climate change and gender, and assesses how these focus issues might be affected by demography. The report then outlines key demographic trends, such as age at marriage, desired family size, contraceptive use and maternal mortality. To evaluate the response of Haiti's government and other actors to demographic issues, national policies on population and reproductive health are analysed, and the activities of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international donors in the population sector are summarized. The report concludes with a review of the opportunities and current challenges facing Haiti related to age structure, and offers related policy recommendations for long-term reconstruction and development strategies.

NGO Initial Report On Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Submitted to the United Nations Committee On The Rights Of The Child. The Saint Vincent And The Grenadines Human Rights Association, Kingstown Saint Vincent and the Grenadines January 2002
http://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/St.Vincent/Reporting/st.vincent_ngo_report.pdf
This is a report submitted by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines human rights association is a non-governmental organization concerned with children rights, among other human rights issues. The Organization has been in existence since 1986 and has worked and continues to work in promoting and protecting children rights.

Saint Kitts and Nevis 2013 Human Rights Report
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/220677.pdf
In January 2010 national elections, Prime Minister Denzil Douglas' Saint Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) won six of the 11 elected seats in the legislature. Independent observers concluded that the election had no major irregularities and was generally free and fair, but they called for electoral reform. The constitution provides the smaller island of Nevis considerable self-government under a premier. Authorities maintained effective control over the security forces. Security forces did not commit human rights abuses. The most serious human rights problems were poor prison conditions, politicization of the police force, discrimination and violence against women, and child abuse. Other human rights problems included discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Advancing Children's Rights in Jamaica - Report on Legislative Reform Initiative
http://www.unicef.org/jamaica/LRI_Report.pdf
The study was conducted by UNICEF in Jamaica to assess the impact of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on legislative reform. Particular attention was paid to the linkages between legislative reform and social policies.

Children's Legal Rights in Haiti. Law and Armed Conflict Working Group Report
http://ihrp.law.utoronto.ca/utfl_file/count/documents/Final%20Haiti%20Report.pdf
The areas of principle concern for children's rights in Haiti are in labour rights, family law and juvenile criminal justice. A significant number of children are without the benefit of any child protection system, and only ½ of children are reached by the education system. Child protection efforts will need to reach street children and domestic workers.

The paper looked at children who are trafficked by their parents or others into work as domestic workers. The family law regime views the family as a source of protection for children, and the state does not intervene in family situations on behalf of children. Adoption laws are also severely restrictive of who may adopt, but do not have strict criteria about the circumstances of the child being put up for adoption. Adoptions laws that allow for almost any child to be put up for adoption, has led to concerns that children are being trafficked into international adoptions.

Committee on the Rights of the Child. Fourteenth Session. Pre-Sessional Working Group. 14-18 October 1996. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
http://www.law.yale.edu/rcw/rcw/jurisdictions/caribbean/cuba/crc_issues_cuba_1996.htm
The report highlights a list of issues to be taken in connection with the consideration of the child rights report of Cuba.

Early Childhood in the Caribbean by Christine Barrow with Martin Ince, Bernard van Leer Foundation, April 2008. Working papers in Early Childhood Development
http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED522741.pdf
This report looks at the development and socialisation of children under 5 years of age in two Caribbean countries, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica.

Legislative Reform Related To The Convention On The Rights Of The Child In Diverse Legal Systemsnational Case Studies: Armenia, Barbados And Ghana. Legislative Reform Initiative Paper Series. Division of Policy and Practice, March 2008
http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Formatted_-_Legislative_Reform.pdf
As part of its continuing efforts to fulfil its mandate under the Convention and promote a human rights-based approach to development, UNICEF began a Legislative Reform Initiative in 2003. The studies contained in this Working Paper are a result of this Initiative. They contain an analysis of CRC implementation in four countries with different legal systems—Armenia, Jordan, Ghana and Barbados.

The Status Of Child Protection In St. Kitts/Nevis The Need For A National Reporting Protocol. The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) December 2007
http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/cao_unicefeco_child_protection_Skn.pdf
The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis was among the first countries in the region to sign and ratify the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Since ratification on July 24th, 1990, some gains have been made in ensuring that national laws, policies and practices conform to the spirit and intent of the convention. Despite the positive efforts, authorities in St. Kitts/Nevis readily acknowledge that the child protection mandate required of the State has not been adequately met. This paper forms UNICEF support to the government of St. Kitts/Nevis in the creation of a child abuse protocol geared at taking necessary steps in identifying and correcting some of the inadequacies in the current systemic responses to child abuse. This initiative is intended to produce an end product in the form of a national protocol to guide professionals in the prevention, reporting and management of child abuse.

Trinidad and Tobago Strategic Action for Children. UNICEF work Plan 2013-2016
http://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/ECAO__TNT_Strategic_Actions_for_Children.pdf
Trinidad and Tobago provides free and universal primary education and the quality of education have generally improved. Similarly, there is no difference between male and female school attendance and the country has achieved equitable access for both sexes. Adult literacy is well above 95%. Despite overall progress, the paper reported that children remain one of the most vulnerable groups in Trinidad and Tobago. Children's experience of risk, vulnerability and deprivation is shaped by characteristics of childhood poverty. There is need to enhance further analysis on the basis of this available data and strategic appreciation of the benefits of collecting, sharing and using social data on children for planning and measuring performance of public policies

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Non-Governmental Organisations Written Submission Under Article 45 (A) of the Convention: Jamaica
Prepared and submitted by: The Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child
 http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/Jamaica_ngo_report.pdf
This report is a direct response to the Jamaican government's "*Report to the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1998*". In submitting this report, the *Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child* focuses on the points raised in each section of the government's report

Videos

Caribbean youths support child rights through sport
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4vv5a_caribbean-youths-support-child-righ_news
UNICEF correspondent Natacha Ikoli reports on the role of sport and play in reinforcing vital messages about HIV/AIDS to Guyanese youths.

Jamaicans march for child rights
http://jamaica-gleaner.com/videos/video.php?id=430
Help JA Children, a youth advocate group staged a march on May 1, 2012 to raise the profile of children's rights in Jamaica.

The Rights of the Child PSA PARTS I & II - Panos Caribbean's St. Lucia Youth Journalism Group
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV758FPz_6E
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2NiD3lslaw
Young people from St. Lucia speak out about the rights of children and young people. The programme targeted 20 youth aged 12 to 16 in S. Lucia who are marginalised or vulnerable, but possess strong leadership and communication skills.

Street Boys of Jamaica - Part I - Risk Factors of Street Boys in Kingston, Jamaica for HIV/AIDS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfuAGcw6RQs
Children/young people have rights! The rights to speak about issues that concern them and affect them and they have the right to be listened to, and have those issues addressed.

UNICEF - No Fixed Place: Migrant Children and Education (pt. I)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVNtkGrk5KQ
This video profiles children and young adults who have migrated from French, Spanish and Creole speaking countries to various parts of the Caribbean, discussing the discrimination and challenges that they face within the education systems (Caribbean, 2009).

UNICEF: Unfinished Agenda for Children in the Eastern Caribbean
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sERnkD4-kRU
Beyond the picturesque beauty of the Eastern Caribbean, there remains an Unfinished Agenda for Children that must be addressed to ensure that the development and rights of children are taken into consideration in schools, in national policies and legislation, and in the behaviour and the attitudes of people. This video describes areas of concern for child rights in the region, including early childhood development, life skills education, HIV/AIDS, adolescent participation, child sexual abuse, child protection, migration, and particular vulnerability to natural disasters.

Youth journalists use video to urge action on child rights in the Caribbean
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4vgax_youth-journalists-use-video-to-urge_news
UNICEF correspondent Natacha Ikoli reports on youth input at the *Council for Human and Social Development* meeting in Guyana.