

## **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Articles 7 to 9 and 31**

### **Article 7: Freedom of Expression**

Every child who is capable of communicating his or her own views shall be assured the rights to express his opinions freely in all matters and to disseminate his opinions subject to such restrictions as are prescribed by laws.

### **Article 8: Freedom of Association**

Every child shall have the right to free association and freedom of peaceful assembly in conformity with the law.

### **Article 9: Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion**

1. Every child shall have the right to freedom of thought conscience and religion.
2. Parents and, where applicable, legal guardians shall have a duty to provide guidance and direction in the exercise of these rights having regard to the evolving capacities, and best interests of the child.
3. States Parties shall respect the duty of parents and where applicable, legal guardians to provide guidance and direction in the enjoyment of these rights subject to the national laws and policies.

### **Article 31: Responsibility of the Child**

Every child shall have responsibilities towards his family and society, the State and other legally recognized communities and the international community. The child, subject to his age and ability, and such limitations as may be contained in the present Charter, shall have the duty;

- to work for the cohesion of the family, to respect his parents, superiors and elders at all times and to assist them in case of need;
- to serve his national community by placing his physical and intellectual abilities at its service;
- to preserve and strengthen social and national solidarity;
- to preserve and strengthen African cultural values in his relations with other members of the society, in the spirit of tolerance, dialogue and consultation and to contribute to the moral well-being of society;
- to preserve and strengthen the independence and the integrity of his country;
- to contribute to the best of his abilities, at all times and at all levels, to the promotion and achievement of African Unity.

Extract from the [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](http://acerwc.org/acerwc-charter-full-text); follow the link to see the whole document.

*Organization of African Unity (1990) African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child [Online]. Available at <http://acerwc.org/acerwc-charter-full-text> (Accessed 5 March 2014).*