What is IMPACT Justice?

IMPACT Justice is a Project funded by the Canadian Government. It is being implemented by the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in 13 CARICOM Member States: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.

The outcome of the project is enhanced access to justice benefiting men, women, youth and businesses. The components are: legislative drafting, establishment and expansion of legal databases, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), legal professional education and standards, and public legal education.

What is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?

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Children have the right to know their rights! Adults should know about these rights and should help children learn about them too.
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention provides (in simplified form):

♦ Everyone under 18 has these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor.

♦ When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children and do what is in the best interest of those children.

♦ The government has a responsibility to make sure that children’s rights are protected. They must help families to protect these rights.

♦ Children have the right to live with their parents unless this is not in their best interest. They have the right to special care and help if they cannot live with their parents, and the right to live with a family who cares for them if possible.

♦ Each child has a right to life.

♦ Children have the right to give an opinion and to have adults listen to it. They have a right to learn and share their ideas and to choose their own religion and beliefs. Their parents should help them decide what is right and wrong.

♦ They have a right to privacy and a right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

♦ Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind. They have the right to protection from harmful drugs, and the right to be free from sexual abuse. Children should not be punished in a cruel or harmful way.

♦ Children who have a disability have the right to special education and care so that they can live a full life.

♦ Each child has the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well. The government must help them if they are poor or in need.

♦ Children have the right to a good quality education. Their education should help them use and develop their abilities and should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

♦ Children have the right to practice their own culture, language and religion. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

♦ Children have the right to help if they have been hurt, neglected or badly treated. They have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects their rights.