

Sweden in witchcraft,  
it is to protect



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Sweden is aware and interested in all human being wellness. So, this situation seems to us as a direct attack to human rights, mostly in children. We know there are different ONG's that are working directly in this issue such as The Child Rights and Rehabilitation Network (CRARN) that is a charity organization, that has the mission "reduce numbers of street and abandoned children, to stop children being "branded" such as witches and wizards, and prevents to prevent children being killed for these reasons, and to facilitate the rehabilitation of abused children." CRARN has made many movements toward achieving these goals using measuring as (PACT) (Preventing the Abandonment of Children Today) campaign, which is a program that focuses on children accused of witchcraft and avoiding the abandonment.

There is another charity, Nigeria called Stepping Stones, who is building shelter for these abandoned children and works with Aiwalbom and CRARN. The shelter is giving a full service as education, medical treatments, food and has successfully reunited 32 families with their children between 2003 and 2009. The UK gave support to this program which purpose is to prepare children for a sustainable future. This kind of efforts should be duplicated as a best practice in the resolutions coming out of this committee. Their efficacy serves as an example to be followed in the current day. On another hand the main effort is not to change the believe in witchcraft, it is to protect children from violence and abuse, most of these methods have been proven in other cases, which are negotiating with families, finding allies in local churches, providing services to vulnerable children and enforcing law. Strengthen the structure of the family.

We know that laws act Unfortunately against children accused for witchcraft, instead of being for their accusers. We completely backup some countries had tried to put laws against accusations. For example, in 2012 at Aiwa Ibom, in Nigeria, they realized the annual International Symposium of PACT (Preventing the Abandonment of Children Today), they did a great media coverage to get more people know about it.

The government issued a law that punishes people who accuses witchcraft (DeFraia, 2012), also this law addresses the arrest of parents who abandoned children for witchcraft. This law was to send the message that the police in Nigeria would no longer be lax in their approach to child abuse. Another chapter occurred in January 2009, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued the Child Protection Law. Congo also is a signatory the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, that states that children are protected by law from any violence or abuse. This law says that accusing a child of sorcery or witchcraft is punishable from one to three years of penal servitude. This law has the weakness that is not well known.

UNICEF goal is to work with as many people involved as it can such as CRARN, authorities, society, NGOs, members of the private sector, and other concerned entities to count the impact this accusation of witchcraft have had in children. UNICEF has called governments to integrate children into their communities, through programs and health care services, It is a purpose of the EU system of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the NGO's to take special care to this issue, that affects Human Rights in Africa, although we have not idea of the real magnitude of the problem.