

**THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR:  
APPLYING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH**

*by*

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## **ABSTRACT**

Child labour is a major obstacle to the development of many countries today. It is only recently that development is being conceptualised in terms of the progression of human rights. It is even more recent that dialogue and policies for the elimination of child labour are using a rights-based approach. In this thesis, the application of a right-based approach to child labour is explored. Child labour is inextricably linked to the realisation of education for all and to poverty reduction. Both of these are fundamental aims of EU development policy. Thus, this study is focused on analysing the role of the EU in eliminating child labour and how a rights-based approach to development cooperation should be applied to this problem. The example of Kenya is used to demonstrate how the elimination of child labour is being conducted in a Sub-Saharan African state which is part of the Cotonou Agreement with the EU. The use of the enhanced role of political dialogue in the revised version of the Cotonou Agreement is presented as one way for the EU to accelerate its efforts in this area. The adoption of a comprehensive policy for the elimination of child labour with an embedded rights-based approach is recommended for both the EU in its development cooperation and for Kenya.

## **PREFACE**

My interest in the issue of child labour stems from working in transitional education centres in New Delhi, India. My experiences in these centres taught me about the challenges of systematic poverty and the desperation faced by many people in the developing world- not least the children. This thesis was written under the supervision of Professor Markku Suksi and co-supervision of Alessandra Lundström at the Department of Law and Institute for Human Rights of Åbo Akademi University, Finland, as a component of the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation 2009-2010.

The thesis would not have been realised without the academic and general support of Professor Markku Suksi, who was always helpful no matter what the query. My time in Finland would not have been the same without his kindness. My thanks go also to Alessandra Lundström who provided valuable comments on various points of the paper and to Noelle Spring whose advice and time have been invaluable to the completion of this text. I would like to also extend my thanks to Harriet Nyback-Alanen for her patience with explaining the use of the databases and also for her help with tracking down books and documents. Last but not least, I would like to thank my colleagues' Malin Pahlmblad and Mourad Mahidi for their support with developing my ideas and for their friendship these past few months in Finland.

## ACRONYMS

ACP	Africa Caribbean Pacific
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights
AU	African Union
EIDHR	European Instrument
EFA	Education For All
EU	European Union
C138	Convention No. 138
C182	Convention No. 182
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRIN	Children Rights Information Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSP	Generalised Systems of Preferences
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
HRBA	Human Right Based Approach
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
IHRN	International Human Rights Network
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPEC	International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non Government Organisation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SCREAM	Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media

SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour
TACKLE	Tackling Child Labour through Education
TBP	Time Bound Programme
TNC	Trans National Corporation
UCW	Understanding Children Work
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	A study on European Union external action in eliminating Child Labour	1
1.2.	Methods and materials	5
2.	CONCEPTUALISING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR	8
2.1.	The UN Common Understanding of the HRBA to Development Cooperation	8
2.2.	The best interests of the child	9
2.3.	Why does the fight against child labour need a rights-based approach?	10
3.	A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR?	13
3.1.	Introductory remarks	13
3.2	Finding an appropriate definition of child labour	13
	3.2.1. <i>Defining Child Labour- The lack of consensus</i>	13
	3.2.2. <i>Exploring the most prevalent forms of child labour</i>	16
	3.2.3. <i>Defining child labour in the context of this study</i>	17
3.3.	Protection of children from child labour in international law	18
	3.3.1. <i>ILO Conventions</i>	18
	3.3.2. <i>The UNCRC and other UN Instruments</i>	20
	3.3.3. <i>Protection at the regional level- Europe and Africa</i>	23
3.4.	Root causes of child labour	24
	3.4.1. <i>Child labour and its links to poverty</i>	24
	3.4.2. <i>Education for all and child labour</i>	26
	3.4.3. <i>Child labour and the MDGs</i>	29
3.5.	Main strategies of ILO/IPEC and other international actors in eliminating child labour	30

3.6.	Is there a rights-based approach to the elimination of child labour?	34
4.	EU EXTERNAL ACTION AND ITS ROLE IN ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR	36
4.1.	A rights-based perspective to EU External Development policies	36
	4.1.1. <i>The European Consensus on Development 2005</i>	36
	4.1.2. <i>EU partnership with Africa</i>	38
	4.1.3. <i>The absence of explicit reference to human rights in EU development policy</i>	41
4.2.	EU's approach to advancing children's rights in external action policy	41
	4.2.1. <i>Children's rights in EU development cooperation policy</i>	41
	4.2.2. <i>Child labour in EU external policy</i>	43
4.3.	EU cooperation with the ILO	44
5.	CASE STUDY: A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR IN KENYA	47
5.1.	Introductory remarks	47
5.2.	The situation of Children's rights in Kenya	47
	5.2.1. <i>Developments in Children's rights in Kenya</i>	47
	5.2.2. <i>Concluding observations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child</i>	51
5.3.	Approaches to eliminating child labour in Kenya	53
	5.3.1. <i>The Challenge of child labour in Kenya</i>	53
	5.3.2. <i>Strategies to prevent the most prevalent forms of child labour in Kenya</i>	55
	5.3.3. <i>Other forms of child labour in Kenya</i>	56
	5.3.4. <i>Eliminating child labour in Kenya through education</i>	57

5.4.	EU and Kenya- a partnership to eliminate child labour	59
	5.4.1. <i>The nature of partnership between the EU and Kenya</i>	59
	5.4.2. <i>A place for the elimination of child labour in the partnership</i>	59
6.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	61
	<u>BIBLIOGRAPHY</u>	65