

# Children's Rights Under Siege in the Era of Global Interdependence

Editor:

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In 1989, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and introduced the document for signature to member-states. On September 1990, the CRC was ratified, and as of 2021, 196 states (or all members of the UN) have formally recognized and signed it, except the United States. Since then, many global governance institutions and domestic state institutions have invoked the importance of human rights and the dignity of children—or human individuals who are 18 years of age and below—in various policy actions, government strategies, organizational mission, and civil society advocacy. It has become increasingly clear, however, that the degree to which children's rights are effectively observed and respected in global governance and national government strategies varies greatly within and between countries as well as the policy issue areas. In public international law, the CRC's main addressees remain states; yet, the global and transnational dimensions that facilitate local problems fundamentally do challenge not only the state's formal mandate but also their organizational capacities. For that reason, policy challenges concerning the rights and dignity of children should not be understood as mere outcomes of domestic governance failures but also as shortcomings of global governance. More often than not, contemporary policy problems within countries are produced through the complex interactions of local and global factors, as demonstrated by problems such as armed conflict and wars, labour rights abuses, extreme material inequality, human displacement from their natural habitat, and pandemics.

Hence, this multidisciplinary and eclectic human rights anthology asks the following core questions: *Considering that more than three decades have elapsed since the CRC was first globally introduced, how and under which conditions are the rights and dignity of children under siege? How and under which conditions do transnational crises in children's rights emerge amidst increasing global and national constitutionalization of human rights law? Why did such crises of human rights emerge? In what ways do transnational and domestic factors interact to the extent that children's rights are seriously undermined?*

This multidisciplinary volume examines the causes and consequences of contemporary crises in children's rights and dignity. It advances the overarching argument that children's rights abuses must be analyzed by considering the structural and historically-rooted factors that are produced, reinforced, and entrenched at both the transnational and domestic scales.

Interested chapter authors are invited to propose contributions that showcase the full range of research currently underway by humanities scholars, social scientists, legal scholars, human rights specialists, and practitioners interested in children's rights. Theoretical and conceptual proposals are welcome, although the preference is for empirically-grounded case studies of contemporary crises of children's rights in various parts of the world. Chapter proposals that deploy a transnational, global, or comparative perspective of children's rights are preferred. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Children's rights amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

- Children in extreme poverty
- Children in the global war on drugs
- Children's rights and the United Nations/international organizations
- Dignity and rights of indigenous children
- Refugee crisis and children's rights
- Children and human trafficking
- Children's rights and public health
- Education and children's rights
- Domestic violence and children
- Juvenile justice and welfare system
- Intersectionality and children's rights
- Children and global material inequalities
- Children and the rights of persons with disabilities
- Children and gender equality
- Decolonization and the global governance of children's rights
- Children's rights in authoritarian and illiberal societies
- Children's rights vis-à-vis social media networks/Internet
- Methodological issues in children's rights research in a global perspective

If you are interested in contributing a chapter, **please submit a 300-word abstract and a brief author biography (200 words) (in one Word document) by December 15, 2021** to: [s.s.regilme@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:s.s.regilme@hum.leidenuniv.nl). The abstract must clearly indicate the core argument, the analytic scope of the chapter, and the proposed chapter's direct relationship to the edited volume's overarching questions.

The publisher will be chosen after proposed abstracts are selected by January 2022, but **full chapter drafts (maximum 8,000 words, inclusive of bibliography etc.) are expected by August 1, 2022**. The inclusion of a chapter in the final manuscript depends on the outcome of editorial and external peer reviews.