

BHUBANESWAR DECLARATIONS ON RIGHTS OF EVERY CHILD TO FAMILY

1. Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that it is in the best interest of the children that they be brought up in their own families, it envisages separation as the last possible resort, after doing everything that can be done to support parents, Children without parental care, for whatever reasons or circumstances and in need of alternative care because of their parents are unavailable or unable to care for them and deprived of love, affection, care and sustenance, which is the basic requirements for a child to survive and develop.
2. Whereas it is the primary responsibility of the states to formulate policies, laws and schemes for the protection of the children in accordance with CRC. And address standards of child care and regulate practices and monitor the agencies providing the services, the state should implement laws and take action in this regard.
3. Whereas Juvenile Justice (care and protections of the children) Act 2000 & Amendment 2006 has been enacted in consonance with CRC provisions for rehabilitation and social reintegration of children i.e adoption, foster care, sponsorship, and sending the child to a after care organization such as kinship care, group home diversion, alternatives to detentions and non-custodial options and after care- Post integration care and support.

4. Whereas Integrated Child Protection Schemes (ICPS) provides mechanism for child protection, guiding principles for implementation and brings several existing child protection programs under one umbrella and initiated new interventions for care, support and rehabilitation services at national ,regional ,state level and district level and prescribes minimum standards for the services for every institutions operate under the scheme.

5. Whereas institutionalization for a child should be used as a means of last resort after all other options have been explored, as children in institutions are exposed to vulnerability and need to grow-up in a family environment and it is proposed to improve house hold economic capacity, strengthen and support child-care capacities, provide basic health and nutrition services, increase school enrollment and attendance, strengthen young people's life skills, adopt laws, policies and services to safe-guard the parent and child relationship and to ensure that all measures are taken to keep the family together.

This declaration raise awareness at all levels through advocacy and social mobilization to create a support system for children without parental care and emphasizes it's strong commitments for the implementation of Convention of the Rights of the Child, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act 2000 & Amendment 2006 and Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in it's true letter and spirit and urge the state government to take proactive necessary steps to discharge it's solemn responsibilities...

[This declaration is developed by the children, the members of civil societies and Child Welfare Committees members of Orissa assembled in the occasion of "*Right to Family Campaign*" during 29th and 30th August 2010 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa]