

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOTSWANA

BOTSWANA UPR PRE-SESSION



Letloa Trust



DITSHWANELO



**BOCONGO**  
BOTSWANA COUNCIL OF  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



# CHILD RIGHTS

## ▶ Implementation of previous recommendations

- The recommendations encompassed human rights issues such as poverty, human trafficking, violence against children and promotion of children's rights. These were made by Cuba, Slovenia, Singapore, Germany, Myanmar and Bhutan.
- None of these recommendations have been fully implemented.

## ▶ New developments

- In 2018, the Government of Botswana partnered with UNICEF to launch the E Seng Mo Ngwaneng (Not on the Child) Campaign.
- In 2021, the Botswana Police Service announced the launching of a Gender and Child Protection Unit for domestic violence and sexual abuse cases related to children.
- The child friendly police centers are also available in Shakawe, Francistown, Lobatse and Gaborone.
- Botswana conducted a Situational Analysis of the National Plan of Action of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in 2019.

## ▶ New Needs

- Review the Children's Act of 2009 within a specified timeframe.
- Establish a special budget for supporting Child Protection Committees and strengthen their capacity to carry out their mandate.
- Strengthen capacity of labour inspectors to inspect domestic households and farms to ensure there are no child labour violations.

## ▶ Recommendations

- Provide information on the number of children who have been subject to abuse and have been successfully removed from foster care / shelters, rehabilitated, and socially reintegrated.
- Establish a special budget for supporting Child Protection Committees and strengthen their capacity to carry out their mandate.
- Review the Children's Act of 2009 within a specified time-frame.

# RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR DOMESTICATION

## ▶ Implementation of previous recommendations

- In 2018, it was recommended by Madagascar and Namibia that Botswana ratify those international instruments to which it had committed, including: the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families; the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## ▶ New developments

- No information was provided on the progress toward the ratification of these.
- Botswana ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 12 July 2021. The Draft Disability Policy was approved in November 2021: no information was provided on the progress made on the integration of corrections as recommended by Parliament. Other Conventions and Covenants have not been ratified.

## ▶ New needs

- Ratify and domesticate instruments to ensure protection and promotion of peoples' human rights, especially minority and marginalised groups.

## ▶ Recommendations

- Provide information on when the Conventions already been ratified will be domesticated, including provision of a timeframe.
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## ▶ Implementation of previous recommendations

- In 2018 Botswana received 4 recommendations on human trafficking, from the Syrian Arab Republic, Maldives, the Republic of Korea and the Philippines.
- Those recommendations have been partially implemented. Botswana is ranked on Tier 2, It does not fully meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking in key areas.

## ▶ New developments

- On May 2022, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, housed under the Ministry of Justice, hosted a workshop at Kang, Botswana to consider the draft Anti-Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill of 2022.
- Information collection and sharing is also facilitated through the SADC Regional Anti-Trafficking in Persons Data Collection System.
- Approximately 32 cases have been registered since 2015.
- Government of Botswana has signed bilateral agreements with neighboring countries to coordinate efforts to tackle trafficking in persons.

## ▶ New Needs

- Build shelters to temporarily accommodate victims of human trafficking and provide them with counselling.
- Collaborating with civil society organisations to conduct public awareness on human trafficking.

## ▶ Recommendations

- Conduct education and awareness-raising campaigns for the public and for all stakeholders involved, including local government officers.
- Provide a date of commencement of the Anti-Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill of 2022.

# Thank you

- ▶ from all the members of our UPR NGO Working Group:
  - Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO)
  - DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights
  - Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LeGaBiBo)
  - Letloa Trust
  - Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) – Botswana Chapter
  - Rainbow Identity Association (RIA)

and from all the civil society organisations who participated in the consultations.