



## **SOCIAL STUDIES: CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD LABOUR IN ZAMBIA**

The government of Zambia aims to protect children. Even so, some reports have shown that most Zambian children live in difficult situations. These include the following:

- Street children (kids) – the number of street children in Zambia is rising.
- AIDS orphans – some charities claim that in Lusaka, one fifth of children under 15 years old have had one or both parents die of AIDS. This is the big cause of children living on the street.
- Disabled children – Zambia does not provide much medical or emotional care for disabled children. There is also little health care for children who get sick.
- Out-of-school children: a quarter of 5 and 7 years olds are not attending school. This means it will be difficult for them to get a job, be successful and provide for themselves and their families in future.
- Working children: parents with little money sometimes send their children to work rather than to school, to raise extra money for the family.

### **HOW CHILDREN ARE HELPED IN ZAMBIA CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD**

- This is a record of children's rights.
- It was written from 1979 onwards by a group of people who were involved in the United Nations commission on the Human Rights.
- The convention became law on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1989
- Some of the important parts of the CRC include the following:
  1. Every child has the right to life, and countries must help children to live and grow to their full potential.

- 2. Parents have the main responsibility for looking after the child, but their country must give them any help they need.**
- 3. Countries must protect the child from work that will damage their education, or be dangerous to their health or happiness.**
- 4. The convention on the Rights of a child gives rules for how children should be treated.**