



The Providenciales Resolution on Justice for the Next Generation The Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children in contact with the Law

We, the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association and United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of the Colloquium on the Child and the Law in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, 1 – 2 October 2009,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights , the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and especially its articles 3, 12, 37, 39 and 40,

AND NOTING

- other International Standards and Norms in crime prevention, criminal justice and the administration of justice for **juveniles and children**,
- the specific vulnerability of the child to abuse, exploitation, violence and other violations of their rights while in contact with the law, in particular while deprived of their liberty,
- the need to promote and protect the rights of all children in contact with the law.

1. **Urge** the Governments of the Commonwealth to take urgent steps to introduce and implement child justice systems in line with International Standards as established through the United Nations.
2. **Commit to** encouraging, in cooperation, governments and judiciaries across the Commonwealth in the establishment and enhancement of child justice systems in line with international standards through:
 - the development and promotion of court procedures which are child appropriate and gender and disability sensitive;
 - the systematic use of child rights principles, including as a primary consideration the best interests of the child in the administration of justice;
 - the use of deprivation of liberty of children only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time.

**Providenciales,
Turks and Caicos Islands, 2 October 2009**