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Children and the International Criminal Court : analysis of the Rome Statute through a children's rights perspective

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

CHILDREN AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Analysis of the Rome Statute through a Children's Rights Perspective

by Cynthia Chamberlain Bolaños

1. Children should not adapt to the judicial process, the judicial process should be adapted to children's rights.
2. Child victims should be regarded as fully-fledge clients vis-à-vis their legal representatives.
3. Adults should not unilaterally decide on the best interests of a child.
4. Any reparations mechanism that excludes children will ultimately be futile for the victims and their communities.
5. National jurisdictions, and not international tribunals, should be the protagonists in the investigation, prosecution and reparation of international crimes. Solely when national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to fulfill their international obligations, should international tribunals play a significant role.
6. Gender mainstreaming in international justice mechanisms is not optional, it is essential to avoid discrimination and ultimately meaningless justice.
7. In an era of widely available satellite images, smart phone videos and images, testimony *viva voce* should not be regarded as the primary source of evidence in international trials.
8. The International Criminal Court should adopt English as its only working language and should solely on a case-by-case basis decide whether it is necessary or recommendable to adopt a second working language relevant to the situation country concerned (*i.e.* French, Swahili, Arabic).
9. Our children make us mature, while at the same time reviving our inner child.
10. In times of social networking, it has become more difficult to talk to our next-door neighbor than to our e-friend at the other side of the world.