

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT RELATED POLICIES ADOPTED BY AFRO-ASIAN- AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, OCCUPATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (ACCORD)

As we know that child is the father of man, so we at Afro-Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, Occupational Research and Development (ACCORD) have dedicated ourselves for the cause of the overall development of the child by adopting the slogan “Catch Them Young” in order to prepare the children as didactics so that they may finally educate their fathers, mothers, guardians, teachers, colleagues, rather the entire neighbourhood.

With full hope and optimism, the 101 Point Agenda of Afro-Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, Occupational Research and Development (ACCORD), a People's Charter for the survival, protection and development of children in the twentyfirst century is being presented on the auspicious occasion of the compilation of the book titled “Distance and Open Education Worldwide : Contributions of Afro-Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, Occupational Research and Development (ACCORD)” in the form of a GUIDE to private and public action in the interests of the children with the assertion that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give and that this Agenda will be treated as a moral framework for children's rights today and tomorrow for the emergence of an international consensus for strengthened cooperation focusing on children that could be a development of far reaching significance for creating the conditions in which children may take an active and creative part in the social and political life of their countries.

1. To provide a healthy and safe environment, access to medical care, and minimum standards of food, clothing and shelter for the development of the intellectual, moral and spiritual capacities of the children.
2. To establish the right of a child to be an actor in his or her own development, to express opinions and to have them taken into account in the making of decision relating to his or her life.
3. To acknowledge the primary role of the family and parents in the care and protection of children and the obligation of the government(s) to help them in carrying out these duties.

4. To promote the principle that every child has the inherent right to life and that the child survival and development must be ensured to the maximum.
5. To see that every child gets the right to a name and a nationality from birth.
6. To ensure that each child enjoys full rights without discrimination or distinctions of any kind.
7. To promote the practice that the children are not separated from their parents, unless by competent authorities for their well being.
8. To facilitate reunification of families by permitting travel into, or out of, their territories.
9. To fix the primary responsibility for a child's up-bringing with the parents with appropriate assistance of the Government(s), International Organisations, Public, Private and Independent Sectors for developing child-care institutions.
10. To protect the children from physical or mental harm and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation.
11. To provide parentless children with suitable alternative care.
12. To provide special treatment, education and care to the disabled children.
13. To place emphasis on preventive measures for attaining the highest standard of health, health education and reduction of infant mortality.
14. To ensure that the discipline in schools respects the child's dignity and that education prepares the child for life in a spirit of understanding, peace and tolerance.
15. To provide facilities and time for enabling the children to rest and play and to further provide equal opportunities for cultural and artistic activities.
16. To protect the children from economic exploitation and work that may interfere with education or be harmful to health and well-being.
17. To protect the children from the illegal use of drugs and involvement in drug production or trafficking.
18. To eliminate the abduction and trafficking of children.

19. To provide facilities to separate the children from adults while in detention so that they are not tortured and that they must not suffer cruel and disregarding treatment.
20. To offer special protection to children exposed to armed conflict by also ensuring that no child under the age of 15 should take any part in hostilities.
21. To let the children of minority and indigenous populations enjoy their own culture, religion and language.
22. To enable the children, who have suffered maltreatment, neglect or detention, receive appropriate treatment or training for recovery and rehabilitation.
23. To treat the children involved in infringements of the penal law, for promoting their sense of dignity and worth that aims at reintegrating them into society.
24. To identify dangers to the well-being of the world's children.
25. To look for practical answers to the growing problems of the children.
26. To mobilize the human and financial resources for overall development of children.
27. To raise the level of public awareness and concern for the protection and promotion of children's rights.
28. To recognise that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.
29. To consider that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and brought up in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.
30. To bear in mind that the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.
31. To take due account of their importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child.

32. To take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery of a child victim of any form of neglect, exploitation or abuse, torture or any other form of cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
33. To prevent the abduction of the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.
34. To protect the children from inducement or coercion for engaging them in any unlawful sexual activity.
35. To protect the children from the exploitative use in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices.
36. To take suitable measures for protecting the children from the exploitative use in pornographic performances and materials.
37. To take appropriate steps including legislative, administrative, social and educational steps, for protecting the children from the illicit use of narcotics and psychotropic substances.
38. To provide for a minimum age for admission to employment, appropriate regulation for the working houses and conditions of employment and penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement relating to employment of children after attaining the required age.
39. To develop the child's personality, talents and mental abilities to their fullest potential.
40. To ensure that the education of the child be directed to the development of the respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may be originating and for civilizations different from his or her own.
41. To prepare the child for responsible life in a free society in the spirit of understanding, equality of sexes and friendships among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups.
42. To make the children educated with a view to developing among them the respect for the natural environment.
43. To make primary education free as well as compulsory for all.

44. To encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child.
45. To make higher education accessible to all children on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means.
46. To make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children.
47. To take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates among children.
48. To recognise the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
49. To make the parent(s) responsible for securing, within their abilities and financial capabilities the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.
50. To assist the parents for providing material assistance, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing for the children.
51. To recognise the right of children to benefit from social security, including insurance, and to take the necessary measures to achieve the full realisation of this right for their optimum development.
52. To enable the children to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and the facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.
53. To take suitable measures for diminishing infant and child mortality.
54. To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care.
55. To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious food and clean drinking water, taking into consideration the damages and risks of environmental pollution.
56. To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care of mothers.

57. To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition. The advantages of breast feeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents be more popularised and made common.
58. To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.
59. To take all effective measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices pre-judicial to the children's health.
60. To recognise that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.
61. To accord special care to the disabled children with all assistance which is appropriate to the children's conditions and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.
62. To ensure that the disabled children have effective access to receiving education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including their cultural and spiritual development.
63. To promote the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services.
64. To take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receives appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance.
65. To ensure that the adoption of a child is authorized only by the competent authorities who determine, in accordance with the applicable laws and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child's status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their consent to the adoption on the basis of such counselling as may be necessary.

66. To recognise that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot, in any suitable manner, be cared for in the child's country of origin.
67. To ensure that the child concerned by the inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption.
68. To take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption the placement does not result in improper financial gains for those involved in it.
69. To ensure special protection and assistance to all children temporarily or permanently deprived of their family environment or whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment.
70. To include special care for the children like foster placement, Kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the case of children viewing the desirability of the country their upbringing and to their ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
71. To take social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.
72. To establish social programmes for providing necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment.
73. To recognise the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child.
74. To render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and to ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.
75. To ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care and facilities for which they are eligible.

76. To ensure that children have the access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of their social and moral well being, physical and mental health.
77. To encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child.
78. To encourage international cooperation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources.
79. To encourage the production and dissemination of children's books.
80. To encourage the mass-media to have regard for the linguistic needs of the children who belong to the minority or indigenous groups.
81. To encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of children from information and material injurious to their well-being.
82. To ensure that children are not subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on their honour and reputation.
83. To recognise the rights of the children to freedom of associations and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
84. To respect the right of the children to freedom of thought, conscience and religions.
85. To respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the children in the exercise of their rights in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the children.
86. To ensure the children's right to freedom of expressions including freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of their choice with due respect of the rights or reputations of others and for the protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals.
87. To assure to the children who are capable of forming their own views the rights to express those views freely in all matters affecting the children, the views of the children being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

88. To take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad.
89. To ensure the right of the children to maintain on a regular basis, direct contacts and personal relations with both parents in case they reside in different countries.
90. To ensure that children are not separated from their parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine in accordance with applicable law, that such separation is necessary in the best interests of the children.
91. To respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.
92. To respect the right of the children to preserve their identity including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference.
93. To ensure that the children are registered immediately after birth and that they have the right from birth to a name, and as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.
94. To respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child to provide in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of their rights.
95. To take all appropriate steps to ensure that children are protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child parents, legal guardians, or family members.
96. To ensure that all children have equal and same rights without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the their own or their parents' or legal guardians' race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

97. To take due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the children.
98. To recognise that in all countries in the world, there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions, and that such children need special consideration.
99. To bear in mind that the children, by reason of their physical and mental immaturity, need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth.
100. To recognise that the children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.
101. To finally promote the philosophy that the family as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.