

Case support for Child Protection Network (CPN) Nigeria

Frequently asked questions

Long-distance case support for the Child Protection Network (CPN) Nigeria is a way for members of the CPN to request assistance from barristers in the UK through the Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) when they are working on cases regarding child rights.

- *How do you get a barrister to help you on your case?*
 - Fill out our case support request form available at http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/biblio/CPN_Nigeria_Case_Support_Request_Form.docx. When you have completed the form, please email it to the BHRC project coordinator at coordination@barhumanrights.org.uk. The BHRC Project Coordinator will then find a suitable practitioner in the UK to assist on your case.
- *Who are the lawyers that will help on your case?*
 - Some of the lawyers will have been trainers on the simultaneous training programme to develop the capacity of the CPN in child rights documentation and monitoring that the BHRC is conducting in partnership with UNICEF in 2011 and 2012. Others will have expressed an interest to assist on this project. All lawyers will have expertise in relation to child rights and international human rights law.
- *What kind of assistance can I request?*
 - Please be very specific about the assistance you require when completing the case support request form. You can request assistance from UK-based practitioners for cases involving child rights. Here are only a few examples of scenarios in which you might want to request assistance from the BHRC:
 - when lodging complaints with national, regional or international mechanisms for the protection of the rights of the child;
 - when you need more information about jurisprudence and legislation in relevant other jurisdictions;
 - when you need research on a specific legal issue;
 - when you would like support from practitioners to review or help draft pleadings;
 - when you require an amicus brief.
- *Why might it be useful to have a barrister help on your case?*
 - Barristers in the UK tend to be highly specialised and it is for this reason that we are in a good position to assist your cases. The barristers are likely to be familiar with the legal arguments, UK and international case law, statutory provisions, and international treaties and guidance that will be relevant to your case.
- *When should you make the request?*
 - Make the referral as soon as possible, even if you still have preliminary work to do on the case before sending all of the documents. This will give us time to identify the right barristers to work with you and will ensure that we can meet your deadline.
- *What happens if the deadline is very tight? Is it still worth referring a case?*
 - Yes! We will do our best to help. If we are unable to find someone with time to work on your case quickly then we will let you know.
- *Do you have to use the work done by the barrister?*
 - Your case remains your case, even if you refer it for input from a barrister. The decision of course remains yours how to run your case and what arguments to include. We are happy to share ideas and make suggestions based on our experience, but we in no way intend to tell you how to run your case.