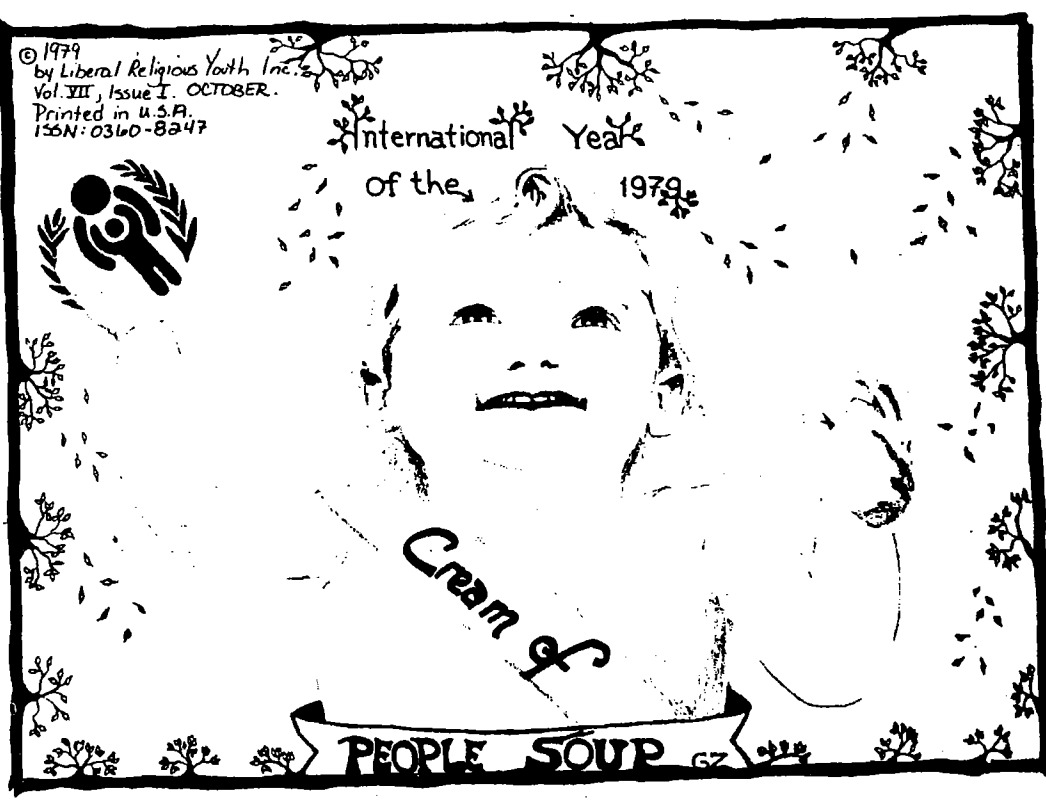


© 1979
by Liberal Religious Youth Inc.
Vol. VII, Issue I. OCTOBER.
Printed in U.S.A.
ISSN: 0360-8247

International Year
of the 1979



U.N. DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

- The right to affection, love, and understanding.
- The right to free education.
- The right to adequate nutrition and medical care.
- The right to full opportunity for play and recreation.
- The right to a name and nationality.
- The right to special care, if handicapped.
- The right to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster.
- The right to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities.
- The right to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood.
- The right to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, MA
PERMIT NO. 8652

Liberal Religious Youth
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 742-2105 x.370

To all you great L.R.Y. people I'm moving! So please come visit or write to me at:
 Doug Hewitt
 Travers Hall Rm. #908
 Trenton State College
 Hillwood Lakes P.O. Box 940
 Trenton N.J.
 I also love poetry! Send it!
 Where are you Leigh, Lisa, and Shalimar? Love Doug

Ryk, it may be your birthday, but goats' knees will always be cuter than lamb's knees! I love you always, Mu

To: Joe & Margaret Who?
 Hold down the fort for me, I'll be back in Dec. Love, G

Darren, You never did come by Houston and I missed you in Dallas...
 Hi there, Cathy

Lester Chester, I miss you too much already. ay ay ay your friend

Stevie, I love and miss you, and I'll find a way to pay some of your phone bill, at least, with or without your cooperation. Frankie

LONG DISTANCE BIKE RIDERS

I am interested in riding my bicycle across the country next summer. If you have any information that could help me out, PLEASE send it to me. I've never done anything like this before... Thank you...
 Cheryl Markoff- 25 Beacon St.
 Boston, Ma. 02108

To all the people that went to Morristown- I love you and thanks for caring-Pepsi.

Hey folks in the real world: I've taken refuge in a small box in the northwestern Massachusetts and am anxious to learn the sordid details of all your lives. send all love, letters, letter bombs, & other paraphernalia to:

Nada I. Velimirovic
 Box 1993-Williams College
 Williamstown, Ma. 01267
 (413) 597-6592

To my favorite folks in San Fran-
 What can I do? The school's on strike!
 Thanks for letting me do it. Love-
 -Your Son

Jimmy and Andy, We've looked for our planet but we can't find it down here. Keep it for us till we come back. Love, Kaila & Leslie

Sister Snail and Mama Kim, Let's get right to the nitty-gritty. OPIK helped me to prepare more for this semester than any other experience, and I would like to thank the both of you for helping me out. I still dream of cleaning johns.
 James Walsh Frisco

To all people at OPIK 79, Steve and Sam Wilcoxon, Paul Evans, the two Tacos, Johns Bridgeford and McShane, Alex Shedroff, Kim Riegel, Gail the Snail, Chris I, Cathys M. and A., Kathy Rose, Radio, and more; I thoroughly enjoyed being with you all and I will need much amnesiac to forget you. I love you,
 Reed Bilgere

To J. W. Red, H. Walker, J. Beam, K. J. Smith, J. W. Black, O. Forrester:
 Bottoms up! Love, Kale Uha.

To everyone at MICON 79
 Well here I am in Austin pining away for all. My mailbox is empty (hint hint) but my heart is full. I really miss y'all and so does Leslie. We'll see you in Nov. I love you all! Kaila

To all who were at Princeton LRY conference, Oct. 12-14: A valuable flute was lost/stolen at the conference. Description: Silver, open-holed Gemeinhardt. PLEASE, If you have any information concerning it, call: Niev Duffy at 609-799-1959. It's also a matter of TRUST, not just property.

DAT'S ALL FOLKS!!!

HELP

PEOPLE SOUP NEEDS YOU

TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR artwork,
 poems, stories, personals,
 ideas, etc...

PEOPLE SOUP
 belongs to YOU! It is YOUR
 paper!

CONTRIBUTE SOON

Mr. Farble the invisible one legged egg man

To all our faithful readers:

We, the staff of People Soup wish to apologize for this issue being so late. Due to the amount of work we've all had to do during the past two months, the fact that two of our staff are new to newspaper production, and that this is such a large and full issue, Soup is indeed almost a month behind schedule. We hope that you'll enjoy it all the more for the wait, and we welcome any feedback you have in regard to it (and to all other issues, of course).

The People Soup Staff

To all who have written to us and are now sitting at home grumbling about not getting any response:

No, we are not ignoring your existence, nor are we neglecting our responsibilities in responding to you. The workload at the LRY office has been exceptionally heavy lately (especially while we've been working on People Soup), and we haven't had time to respond to everyone! We will be directing our energies toward clearing up our "back-log" of correspondence, so you should all be hearing from us soon.

We appreciate your patience, and hope that we have not caused you too much inconvenience.

The LRY Executive Committee

poetry TODAY! Don't feel as if your work isn't fine enough!

Send in your articles, graphics, photographs and



Future People Soup THEMES!

Send them in to:
 PEOPLE SOUP
 LRY
 25 Beacon St.
 Boston, MA
 02108
deadlines

DEC. 15

CONFORMITY 12.1.79

FEB. 15

creativity 2.1.80

MAY 1

youth groups 4.10.80

4 Children Behind Bars

By Jessie Fulton

Children sit behind bars and within over-crowded institutions with under-trained staff all over because there is no other place for them. Why? Because their parents have abused, neglected, abandoned, and hated them; because their parents have died or gotten into trouble themselves; because their families can't afford them; because they've been charged with assault and battery with things like snowballs, chains or spitballs; because step-parents and other family members have tired of them; because they've been truant to schools that don't treat them as important human beings and don't meet their needs; because they have been raped or molested; because they wouldn't clean their bedrooms; because their parents have physical, psychological, and/or emotional problems; because they never learned how to deal with life and have thus hurt themselves and/or others; because they ran away from homes that were more abusive to them than some adult prisons are; because they have abused, stolen from, lied to, defied, or even killed other people; because courts are overloaded, and there aren't enough foster homes; because they have not been given the fair chance that they deserve.

Who are these children? They are your parents, your cousins, your friends, your enemies, your neighbors, your brothers, your sisters, and maybe you. And, one day, they may even be your children.

There is only one similarity between these children: they are not being treated as a human being deserves.

The majority of institutions children and youth are placed in are controlled by means other than those dictating the utmost concern for individuals. Youth are taken from situations where they have been neglected and/or abused; they are taken from the only home they know and placed in a setting filled with other neglected people. This initial re-placement creates a feeling of guilt in the children - they feel that they have done something wrong, something bad, and this makes their already low self-esteem even lower. A person with low self-esteem will usually cause her/himself to do harmful things. These children are not



bad, they are innocent victims.

Victims in most situations get defensive, angry, and withdrawn. Many institutionalized children do this. Many staff people and counselors turn angry and defensive toward the children because of their actions, and because they are accountable to their administrators. The administrators realize that there are many problems in an institution that they aren't sure they know how to deal with. They are accountable to the government in that "their" institutions have to pass a government inspection, yet they don't have the money, staff, or facilities to do this adequately. The government gets confronted

all the time about conditions of various institutions. There is apparently not enough funding or time to correct the faulty institutions. The government has the many concerned Social Workers whom they are accountable to. Social Workers visit institutions and find children further neglected and abused. They see that children are at the bottom of a tall, grossly imperfect totem pole. The children are the butt of much anger, frustration, and depression from the staff, administration, Government, and from other abused children. Certainly, this is a vicious circle.

Taking one typical, though hypothetical case may help clarify some of these facts:

Charley is 15. Dave, his younger brother is 12. Their permanent residence is at the "Children's Home" in Cleveland, Ohio. They were placed there for "temporary placement" 4 1/2 years ago. Two years ago a relative went there while passing through town, "inquiring" about Dave and Charley. She was told that they would get to it "as soon as possible", but at that time, they just couldn't because of their work load. Three months later, Charley was diagnosed as a schizophrenic, and was recommended for placement in the state hospital for treatment. He had become



extremely depressed after being sexually assaulted by one of the staff members.

Charley was taken away screaming and crying. It was the most amount of noise he had made in many months. People noticed him for almost the first time in years. Dave and Charley were the only friend the other had, and now they were being cruelly and unnecessarily separated. Neither understood why this was happening, and neither understood much of anything that was going on in the Children's Home.

The boys' mother died when Dave was born. Joe, their father, had a girlfriend who watched them inappropriately for about two years until Joe finally kicked her out. Joe loved the boys dearly, but he couldn't be with them very often because he had to work two jobs a day to make ends meet. He was losing touch with his children, and almost forgot how to care for them at all.

Joe then turned to heavy drinking because his depression from the situation was becoming overwhelming. He began to physically abuse the boys, and verbally criticize Charley for not keeping the small, cockroach-infested apartment clean enough.

Five years ago, a neighbor reported the family to the police because the boys were being so badly neglected and abused. Four months later, the boys were caught shoplifting in a grocery store. They had to steal food because they were hungry, they hadn't seen their father in over three days, and they didn't have any money. One month later, the proceedings began to remove the boys from their father's custody ("temporarily") until a more suitable home could be found. No action was taken to help the father and boys adjust - only the removal; proceedings were cared for. Joe left the boys at the Children's Home, never to be heard from again. According to the

police, Joe has been on the missing persons list ever since.

Today, 4 1/2 years later, Dave is sharing a small concrete room with 11 other boys, ranging in age from 2 to 18, from extremely intelligent to extremely emotionally handicapped; from boys who were raped and molested to boys who killed their parents. Most are severely withdrawn, depressed, and aggressive when they do speak out.

Charley is in the state hospital, where he undoubtedly will remain until his dying day.

Other than the one relative who in-



quired about the boys while conveniently passing through town, there seems to be no one who is even aware of their existence...except for two files somewhere with numbers on them, and the words "temporary placement" stamped on them.

Although Charley and Dave are fictional children, their story is similar, and better off, than some real children.

There are children like Charley and Dave locked behind the bars of red tape all over the world. They are locked away because politics have gotten in the way of people.

Foster homes, concerned individuals, suggestions and the action therein, Social Workers, and funding are all needed to help end this destruction of our innocent children.

Suggested reading:

The Children's Rights Movement, edited by Beatrice Gross and Ronald Gross (includes further resources and many individual cases, politics, and reasons).



International Year
of the Child 1979

When is the logo not the logo?

One British citizen said it shows "two footballs and a pair of sausages"; a soccer association claims it is like their logo - and so the misinterpretations gain ground.

What is the IYC logo?

It was chosen from 170 entries from 30 countries. It was designed by Eric Jerichau, a freelance graphic designer living in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The IYC logo depicts two figures embracing. The figures symbolize the relationship between an adult and a child. The embracing figures are, in turn, circled by the olive branches of the United Nations.

Erik Jerichau said: "I tried to put into the symbol the message that adults will help children whenever they are in need."

"THE CHILD IS THE FATHER OF THE MAN"

Some thoughts on the paradox of parenting

by the Reverend Douglas Morgan Strong

This sermon was delivered on August 12th, 1979, at the Mt. Diablo UU Church, Walnut Creek, California, to pay tribute to the International Year of The Child and to recognize the work of the Continental LRY Annual Board of Director's Meeting being held at the church during that week, and is based on a lecture given by Dr. Richard Farson at the Sonoma County Unitarian Fellowship. Our thanks to Dr. Farson for letting us use his material.

When a friend of mine who recently received his PhD in Child Psychology was asked to speak on parenting, he decided to entitle his lecture "The Ten Commandments of Parenthood". Then he married, had a child of his own and was asked to speak again about parenthood. This time he called the talk "Some Principles of Parenthood". After the third child came along his lecture was titled "A Few Suggestions For Parents".

My brother-in-law is a British Historian and he tells me that some of the best British Historians are not English, but are French, American, Chinese, Dutch, or African. Many people who work with children and find themselves involved with parenting have dogs, but no children. It is naturally fair to ponder whether a non-parent, like myself, can offer comments on the process of raising children. It may be easy to read this and think to yourself "Well, until he has kids of his own, he won't understand the subtle nuances of parenthood". In defense, one can remember that you don't need a brain tumor in order to understand one, and you don't have to compose a symphony in order to appreciate one.

A few months ago I came across a quiz entitled: "Test Yourself: How Good a Parent Are You?" A panel of experts in child development, education, and psychology presented a series of 15 scenarios and I was to select the most appropriate response. I took the test, and then gave it to several friends who all share the common struggle of being parents. I thought the test was simplistic, over-obvious, and a bit boring. How surprised I was to discover that most of my parent friends flunked! How annoyed they were to find out that my score was unscathed. And how thankful we all were that the bonds of friendship endure longer than test scores! A most interesting dialogue ensued and led me to feel a little uneasy about talking to people - especially parents - about parenthood. I sort of felt that whatever I said about parenting (which grammatically isn't even a word) seemed to only make things worse, so we decided to go out for a pizza instead.

I have discovered that people, parents in particular, have a seemingly unlimited willingness to accept any new thought



about parenting that anyone gives them - even ministers - and a willingness to try to do everything they hear about it as if there is no limit to the technologizing of the job of parenting.

Reader's Digest, several women's magazines, and even one publication devoted entirely to parenting - Parent's Magazine - bombard us with the latest theories on how to transform children into adults.

What often is not mentioned is that parenting is not natural. It is an invention! Childhood itself is not natural, and is an invention also. Children didn't used to exist. The invention of childhood is barely 400 years old. Until the end of the 16th century, children, once beyond and expected to act much the same as adults, with due allowances made for their frail bodies and small size. In the July 21st issue of Saturday Review, Jonathan Kozol, who wrote Death At An Early Age, says in his article "Reinventing Childhood":

"With the advent of childhood as 'a unique condition' lasting generally into and sometimes even after adolescence, the role of children underwent dramatic change. Little by little, they came to be regarded as they would be for the next several centuries: Little packets of charming but incorrigible mischief, lovable at best, infuriating at worst, and in either case requiring constant feeding and attention - contributing little and consuming much. Children were regarded as small problems patiently waiting to be big ones."

The idea of childhood, according to the experts, is a fairly new one in civilization. The ideas that children need to be raised, reared, developed, protected, and kept innocent, and that they are helpless, weak, and so forth are not old ideas, they are relatively new.

The word "Parent" itself doesn't mean to refer to a person who raises children, it refers to a person who makes children. That is an important lesson for us to learn, I think. The idea of childhood is, along

with the idea of parenthood, an invention. The invention of parenting creates both a terrific and extraordinarily difficult condition for humanity.

Parenting was invented for us in invisible ways - as the result of other developments which have taken place in the world and have forced us into a kind of parenthood that is not easy to do. Dr. Richard Farson, a child psychologist in the San Francisco Bay area, feels that one of these invisible ways parenting has been invented concerns our use of the automobile.

When we think of "The Good Parent", one of the images that comes to mind is taking a child's hand and helping her/him across the street. Now that is being a good parent, and when we do it, most of us feel like we are parenting. But it was not all that long ago that I realized that the reason I do that is because I must do it to protect the child. Last week I found myself darting after a toddler who was about to run out into traffic. If it weren't for the automobile, I would never dream of taking a child's hand to cross a street any more than to cross a lovely meadow.

Without automobiles, children could explore the community in relative safety, but we grab kids' hands and we think of it as a natural part of parenthood, which is "natural" only since the invention of the car.

Parents today have to do something that no parent in history has had to do. They have to watch over their children 24 hours a day, because of the urban lifestyle - including the automobile.

Another way in which parenting has been invented is in response to our living patterns. We, as a nation, tend to be more urban than rural, and because of the automobile, it has been possible for us to separate our living centers from our work centers, and our recreational areas, industrial complexes from educational institutions. This naturally makes access to these areas nearly impossible for anyone who doesn't have a car. So what it once made possible, now makes necessary in terms of our mobility as people. Children aren't mobile, they depend upon us for that, which means once again that the car has directed parenting - as we lug our little ones from band practice to the dentist to a piano lesson or the zoo. We chauffeur children to all those places that the car has made out of reach for them.

So in countless invisible ways - ways we think of as wonderful: these great automobiles, our zoned communities - we invent parenting. We've got all this great technology of parenthood which we don't realize happened to us because of the automobile, and that is only one development that is out to amend parenthood. The car, by the way, has amended many other things: dating practices and sexual behavior, for example, have drastically been changed because of the invention of the automobile.

Because I am not a full-time parent, and because I find many parents wondering what I do that they seemingly don't do to "reach" kids, I devote attention to all of those articles, theories, suggestions and guidelines (and pop-quizzes) which everyone from Joyce Brothers to Bear Abby chisel out as experts in the field.

I think it is apparent that parenting has become an overwhelming burden, and while it is ordinarily the case that experts talk about parenting in terms of its necessary qualities, its importance, its rewarding aspects, and its "doability", I think we overlook the impossibility, the undoability, the unnecessaryness, and the undesirability of parent-hood.

I think we have excessively exaggerated the role of parents. Some feel that any



AGEISM is not being able to get around



AGEISM is being seen and not heard

continued on Page 8.

6

~ YEAR OF THE CHILD ~

On December 21, 1976, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution declaring 1979 the International Year of the Child. The United Nations, by placing the child in the center of world attention, invites the world community to renew and re-affirm its concern for the present condition and the future of its children.

Despite increased emphasis within the international community on development and economic cooperation, there remain an appallingly large number of children - especially in the developing nations but also in others - who lack even the basic necessities of life. This need not and should not be. Much that is practical can be done to bring these children into the mainstream of progress and enable them to participate fully in the development of their societies.

The International Year of the Child should be an occasion to re-affirm, not by words alone but by deeds, that the well-being of today's children is the concern of all people everywhere and that it is inseparably linked with the peace and prosperity of tomorrow's world.

The International Year of the Child (IYC) is concerned with children in all countries, especially young children. Its major aims are to:

- Encourage all countries, rich and poor, to review their programs for the promotion of the well-being of children, and to mobilize support for national and local action programs according to each country's needs, conditions, and priorities;
- Heighten awareness of children's special needs among decision-makers and the public;
- Promote recognition of the vital link between programs for children on the one hand, and economic and social progress on the other;
- Spur specific, practical measures with achievable goals to benefit children, in both the short and long term on the national level.

The Year should also provide an opportunity to emphasize the intellectual, psychological and social development of children, in addition to their physical welfare.

Since 1979 is the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the IYC is an opportunity for each country to increase its efforts to implement those rights.

Special attention will be devoted to particularly disadvantaged children. Among the most vulnerable groups, for example, are young girls where they receive unequal treatment; slum children; children of migrant workers; abused children; orphaned children; refugee children; children of unwed mothers; children in poor rural areas; children exposed to drugs and crime; physically and mentally handicapped children; and the vast category of children suffering from malnutrition.

While programs of national and local action remain the focal point of the year, IYC should also stimulate new research on the needs of children and the widespread gathering and dissemination of research on child-related issues. Examples of IYC programs worldwide are scattered throughout this issue.



Little Drug Addicts

Hundreds of thousands of children throughout the world are addicted to drugs. For many, the habit starts before they are born, leading to agonizing withdrawal pains within the first few days of their life.

This is the grim picture to emerge from a report released by the UN Narcotics Division.

Over a half million children live in the hill tribe areas of the "golden triangle" countries - Burma, Laos, Thailand. Their mothers spend up to 18 hours a day tending opium for drug lords. The opium is trafficked at a profit of up to 6,000 percent, even though wages are less than a dollar a day.

"Mothers are so exhausted in the evening that they lace the gums of their young children with raw opium to keep them quiet" says the report.

In Peru, six million kilos of coca leaf - the raw material for cocaine - are consumed by 1.6 million chewers. One out of every five schoolchildren is on drugs. A survey in Columbia found 130,000 young addicts in just three cities; no less than 100,000 were found in two coastal states of Malaysia. Fourteen percent of the addicts in the Philippines are 13 or 14 years old.

In the west, the habit begins in the womb. In 1973, says the report, one out of every 14 babies delivered in the Philadelphia General Hospital was born to a drug-addicted mother.

Surveys have found there are between 2,000 and 3,000 young addicts in the Netherlands, 2,000 in Finland, 6,000 in Denmark. One British survey found that "nine percent of the young children interviewed admitted to non medical drug use".

Studies in France, Switzerland and Argentina have also indicated that boredom, broken marriages, neglect and parental alcoholism are all major reasons why children turn to drugs.

The report claims some successes in the uphill fight against drugs - particularly at the source. The main strategy is to encourage small farmers to grow crops other than coca and poppies.

"...I guess it was a question of which I wanted more at the time: Liquor or my kid and I chose the bottle," said Alice Z, who is 22 but looks 40 and admits to a guilt complex "as big as my arm" because she gave up her child for adoption.

"That was five years ago and he was only eight months old at the time ... I was brought to court for neglecting my kid because I was on the booze ... I was only 17 when I got pregnant and my parents threw me out of the house ... I chose to keep the baby for a while ... As things got worse for me I kept drinking ... Neighbors used to care for the kid, they felt sorry for him, I guess ... But, I was young, too young to realize what I had in him ... Now I am older ... I gave up the bottle two years ago and spend much of my free time now helping young mothers who are walking where I have been ... I pray Jimmy is in a good home and well taken care of ... He earned it ... I think a lot about him especially when I see the young kids passing my door going to school."

NO MORE SWEDISH "BASTARDS"

There are no longer any illegitimate children in Sweden. According to a new law, every child has the same legitimate status, regardless of whether s/he was born inside or outside of marriage.

S/he has the right to adopt either the paternal or maternal surname, the right to receive maintenance from both parents, provided that paternity has been established. And in about 90 percent of the cases, paternity is established, with most fathers voluntarily coming forward, according to an article published by the Swedish Institute in Stockholm.

The first statute on terminology, passed in 1917, substituted the terms children born "inside marriage" and "outside marriage" for "bastard". Further improvements in the status of children born to unmarried parents were made over the years until the most recent legislation which outlaws any distinction. This new law allows both parents to share the custody of and act as guardians for their children if they want to. In the past, the mother automatically became the custodian of the child.

This is one of the areas which has moved forward in the 20 years since the Declaration of the Rights of the Child urging equal rights for all children was adopted by the United Nations.



