

National Laws

Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children

Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe – Zimbabwe

Harare

The information on this page is up to date as of spring 2006

The following legal provisions are applicable for child pornography/child prostitution/rape and other forms of child sexual abuse:

- Common law rape
- Indecent assault
- Common law crime injuria
- Sexual Offences Act chapter 9:21
- Children's Act chapter 5:06
- Censorship and entertainment Act chapter 10:04

Hereunder are some repeats (verbatim) of some provisions in respect of:

- Sexual Offences Act chapter 9:21
- Children's Act chapter 5:06
- Censorship and entertainment Act chapter 10:04

I. Ages for legal purposes

Age of consent for sexual activity

The age of consent to sexual activity in Zimbabwe is 16 years and above .

II. Rape

No information provided

III. Other forms of child sexual abuse

Provisions of the Sexual Offences Act chapter 9:21

PART II

SECTION

3. Prohibits extra-marital sexual intercourse or immoral or indecent act committed with young person. Here young person means below the age of 18 years.

5. Prevention of sexual exploitation of young persons and intellectually handicapped persons outside Zimbabwe.

6. Prevention of conspiracy or incitement abroad to exploit young persons and intellectually handicapped persons in Zimbabwe.

7. Permitting young person to resort to place for a purpose of extra-marital sexual intercourse.

10. DETENTION OF PERSON FOR SEXUAL PURPOSE

Any person who detains any other person against his or her will with the intention for committing sexual offences.

Provisions of the Children's Act chapter 5:06

PART III

Prevention of neglect, ill-treatment and exploitation of children and young persons.

7. Ill-treatment or neglect of children and young persons.

- If any parent or guardian of a child or young person assaults, ill-treats, neglects, abandons or exposes him or allows, causes or procures him to be assaulted, ill-treated, neglected, abandoned or exposed in a manner likely to cause him unnecessary suffering or to injure or detrimentally to affect his/her health or morals or any part or function of his mind or body.

IV. Child prostitution

Provisions of the Sexual Offences Act chapter 9:21

PART IV

SUPPRESSION OF PROSTITUTION

(a) Brothels and Pimping BROTHELS AND PIMPING

(1) Any person who:

(c) Solicits or importunes other persons for immoral purposes, or

(d) Demands from a prostitute money in consideration of his -

(iii) Having effected the prostitutes entry into a brothel for the purpose of prostitution; or

(iv) Having brought or assisted in bringing the prostitute into Zimbabwe for immoral purpose.

Provisions of the Children's Act chapter 5:06

PART III

8. Corruption of Children and Young Persons

(1) Any person who allows a child or young person to reside in or to frequent a brothel shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who causes or conduces to the seduction, abduction or prostitution of a child or young person or the commission by a child or young person of immoral acts shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) For the purpose of subsection (2), a person shall be deemed to have caused the seduction, abduction or prostitution of a child or young person who has been seduced or abducted or has become a prostitute if he knowingly allowed the child or young person to consort with or enter or continue in the employment of any prostitute or person of known immoral character.

V. Child pornography

Zimbabwe has legislation against production or possession of pornographic material, irrespective of age, in the Censorship and Entertainment Act.

Provisions of the censorship & entertainment Control Act chapter 10:04

26. Prohibition of possession of prohibited articles

(1) No person shall, without lawful excuse, have in his possession any-

(a) publication, picture, statue or record that is indecent, or obscene or prohibited, or

(b) recorded video or film material on which is recorded a film that is indecent or obscene or prohibited.

(2) No prosecution in respect of an offence in terms of subsection (1) shall be instituted without the authority in writing of the Attorney General or his deputy.

27 Prohibition of restricted person

Where the board has approved a film, film advertisement or public entertainment

subject to the condition that it shall not be exhibited or given to persons of a specified age or sex, no person who is of such specified age or sex shall be

present at any place at which the film, advertisement or public entertainment is being exhibited or given provided that it shall be a sufficient defence for a person charged with a contravention of this section if he proves to satisfaction of the court that he was, at the relevant time-

(a) required to be present at such exhibition or performance in the course of his employment, or

(b) outside the place to which persons were admitted for the purpose of witnessing the exhibition or performance.

33 Determination of what is indecent or obscene or offensive or harmful to public morals

For the purpose of this Act, a matter or thing, or the manner in which any matter or thing is depicted, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be-

(a) Indecent or obscene if-

(i) It has the tendencies to deprave or corrupt the minds of

persons who are likely to be exposed in the effect or influence thereof or it is in any way subversive of morality, or

(ii) Whether or not related to any sexual content, it unduly exploits horror, cruelty or violence, whether pictorial or otherwise.

(b) Offensive to public morals if it is likely to be outrageous or disgusting to persons who are likely to read, hear or see it.

(c) Harmful to public morals if it deals in an improper or offensive manner with criminal or immoral behavior.