



UPR JOINT SUBMISSION

The U.S. Children's Rights Working Group



Submitted By:



In Collaboration With:



ANNEX

About the Authors

Human Rights for Kids (HRFK) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of the human rights of children that was founded in 2017. We use an integrated, multi-faceted approach which consists of research & public education, coalition building & grassroots mobilization, and policy advocacy & strategic litigation to advance critical human rights on behalf of children in the United States and around the world. A central focus of our work is advocating in state and federal legislatures and courts for comprehensive justice reform for children consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Contact: James Dold, Chief Executive Officer & Founder
Address: 1250 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 700, Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: (202) 573-7758
Email: jdold@humanrightsforkids.org

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and the Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities. NDRN's mission is to promote the integrity and capacity of the P&A and CAP national network and to advocate for the enactment and vigorous enforcement of laws protecting civil and human rights of people with disabilities. NDRN has a vision of a society where people with disabilities have equality of opportunity and are able to participate fully in community life by exercising choice and self-determination.

Contact: Marlene Sallo, Executive Director
Address: 820 First Street, NE, Suite 740, Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone: 202-408-9514 Ext. 107
Email: marlene.sallo@ndrn.org

The Gault Center, formerly the National Juvenile Defender Center, was created to promote justice for all children by ensuring excellence in the defense of youth in delinquency proceedings. Through systemic reform efforts, training, and technical assistance, the Gault Center seeks to disrupt the harmful impacts of the legal system on children, families, and communities; decriminalize childhood and adolescence, particularly where Black, Latin, Native, queer, and disabled youth are treated disparately; and ensure the constitutional protections of counsel for all young people.

Contact: Mary Ann Scali, Executive Director
Address: 1800 M St NW, FT1 Box 33604, Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 452-0010
Email: mscal@defendyouthrights.org

RISE for Youth is a nonpartisan organization committed to dismantling the youth prison model and ensuring every space that impacts a young person's life encourages growth

and success. RISE promotes the creation of healthy communities and community-based alternatives to youth incarceration. Our work centers youth and their communities who together, challenge and dismantle racial and social injustice in Virginia

Contact: Valerie Slater, Executive Director & Founder
Address: P.O. Box 2347, Chesterfield, VA 23832
Phone: (804) 709-8780
Email: valerie@riseforyouth.org

Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT™) is the leading anti-child trafficking organization in the United States seeking to end child sexual exploitation and trafficking through education, partnerships, and legislative advocacy. PACT is a member of ECPAT International, a global network with one common mission: to eliminate the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children around the world. For more information, visit WeArePACT.org.

Contact: Lori Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
Address: 86 Wyckoff Ave, Ste. 609, Brooklyn, NY 11237
Phone: (718) 935-9192
Email: lcohen@wearepact.org

I. Intro

Every year approximately 53,000 children are charged in adult criminal court across the United States, which has resulted in the mass incarceration of children. Today, there are more than 32,000 people incarcerated in U.S. prisons for offenses committed as children. Approximately 29.24% of these people are serving life or de facto life sentences (40 years or more). The vast majority of this population – 79.69% – are racial minorities.ⁱ International human rights law recognizes that such treatment and punishment of children who have committed offenses are forms of torture pursuant to the CRC and ICCPR. This pattern of practice is also highly suggestive of conduct that constitutes a “crime against humanity” under Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as children of color, and Black children in particular, were the target of a dehumanization effort in the 1990’s that labeled them “Super Predators” in a deliberate attempt to make it easier to treat them as adults.

II. The United States is engaged in one of the largest government-sanctioned human rights abuses against children in the world today.

A. The U.S. routinely exploits its reserved right under Articles 10 and 14 of the ICCPR to transfer children into the adult criminal justice system under purportedly “exceptional circumstances.”ⁱⁱ

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has found that the “ambiguity of this reservation has been converted into an expansive gap in juvenile justice systems across the U.S., resulting in the violation of children’s human rights on federal, state, and local levels.”

Federal law permits the trial of children as adults in federal court when a crime involves drugs or violence. Under 18 USC 5032, children aged 15 and older charged with a violent felony, drug trafficking, drug smuggling, or arson can be transferred to adult court. If the offense involved a firearm, the laws permits a child as young as 13 to be prosecuted as an adult in the federal system. And if the child is 16 or 17, and has previously been convicted of a felony drug or violent offense, he or she is automatically prosecuted as an adult, regardless of the child’s circumstances.ⁱⁱⁱ

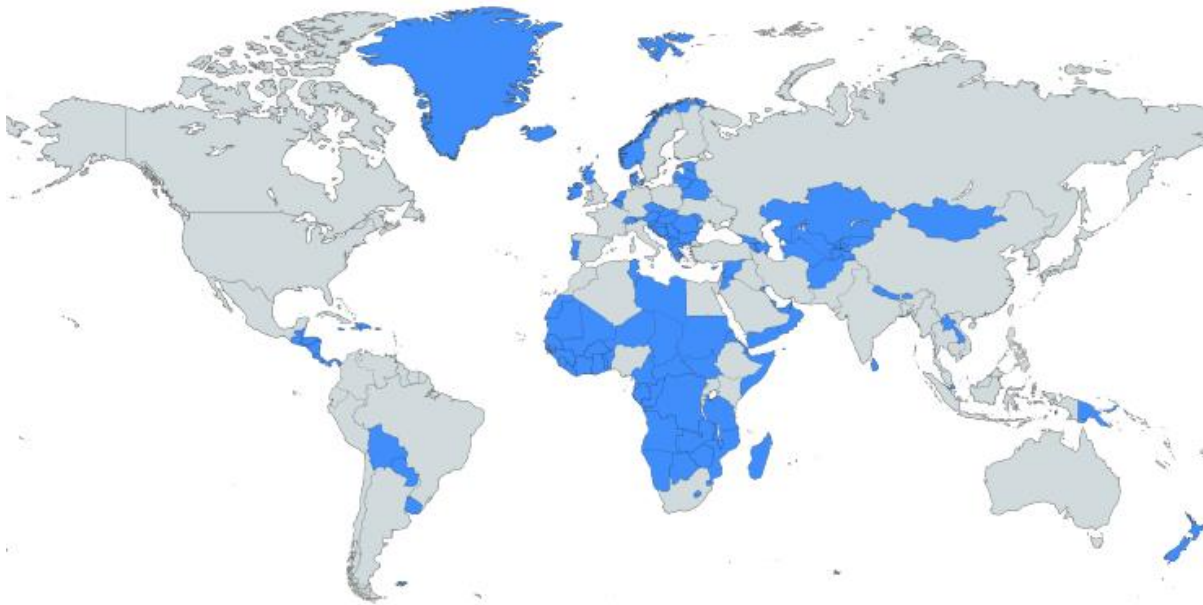
B. The federal government is not alone, however, in its routine violations of the ICCPR and the CRC. Every U.S. state and the District of Columbia allow children under 18 years old to be tried as adults.^{iv}

Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin, and Louisiana exclude 17-year-olds from juvenile court altogether even for low level offenses such as shoplifting, school fights, or drug possession.^v

States like Florida, vest prosecutors with immense discretion in prosecuting children as adults. Others, such as Maryland, presume most children are adults by starting their cases in criminal court and letting judges decide which kids should have their child status restored.^{vi}

Particularly disturbing are the 30 states, in addition to the District of Columbia, which allow children under the age of 14 to be convicted and sentenced as an adult. It is not uncommon in some of these states to see children as young as 10, 11, or 12 brought before judges in adult criminal court.^{vii} For example, just last year a judge in Wisconsin ruled that a 12 year old boy, who was accused of committing a serious crime when he was ten (10), will be tried as an adult.^{viii}

C. As a result, the U.S. prison population of individuals who were convicted as adults for crimes they committed as children (32,359) is greater than that of 171 other countries and independent territories, exceeding the total number of people in prison in almost 80% of the other countries and territories of the world.



The nations in darker blue have less adults in their prisons than people who have been incarcerated since they were children in the United States.

The combined practices of these jurisdictions contribute to the high rates of incarceration and overcrowding plaguing prisons in the U.S.^{ix}

D. In addition to being out of step with the CRC and in violation of the ICCPR, the U.S.'s deliberate and widespread practice of trying children in the adult criminal justice system and, consequently, exposing them to additional human rights violations such as the death penalty (before it was banned), life without the possibility of parole, physical and sexual violence in adult jails and prisons, and long-term placement in solitary confinement meets the legal definition of a "crime against humanity" as defined in Art. 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as these practices have

overwhelmingly impacted children of color, and Black children in particular, as discussed below.

E. The U.S. is also in direct violation of Article 40 of the CRC as it has not set a minimum age for a child to be arrested or prosecuted even in the juvenile justice system.

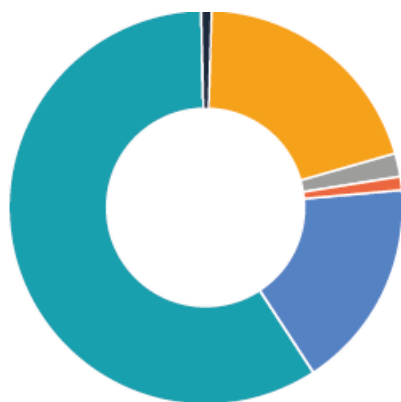
Only 15 states set a minimum age of at least 10 years old for adjudication in juvenile court. The remaining 35 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal government either have no minimum age or permit children under 10 to be arrested and prosecuted.^x

The youngest child ever arrested on record was a four (4) year old in Florida. However; it is very common for children under the age of ten (10) to be prosecuted in the United States. In a five-year period, between 2013 and 2018, it was reported that more than 30,000 children aged 9 or younger were arrested and faced criminal prosecution in juvenile court.^{xi}

III. The U.S. has failed to reform its criminal justice system to address persistent racial bias and racial disparities in its treatment of children in conflict with the law.

The vast majority of children convicted as adults in criminal court, and who remain incarcerated today (past the age of 18), are racial minorities.

There are 25,784 individuals in adult prisons in the U.S. who are identified as people of color who have been incarcerated since childhood. This represents 79.69% of the total number of people in prison prosecuted and incarcerated for crimes committed as children.^{xii}



KEY	RACE/ETHNICITY	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
	ASIAN AMERICAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER	241	0.74%
	BLACK	18,819	58.16%
	HISPANIC	5,860	18.11%
	NATIVE AMERICAN	373	1.15%
	OTHER	491	1.52%
	WHITE	6,570	20.30%

*Hawaii provided no breakdown on Race/Ethnicity, and is not represented in this graph.

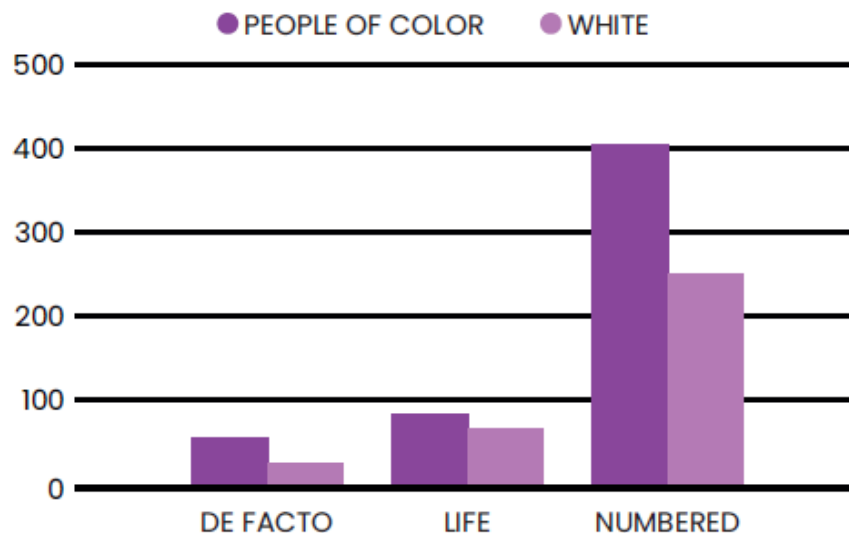
90.46% of people incarcerated since childhood in Maryland today are people of color, the fourth highest percentage in the country. Black children are vastly overrepresented in the adult system, with an incarceration rate of 2.54 times their prevalence in the state.^{xiii}

89.19% of New York's current population of people incarcerated as children are people of color, the fifth highest percentage in the country.^{xiv}

Girls incarcerated as adults are subjected to racial disparities similar to those seen in the larger criminal justice system. A 2024 study found that Black girls constitute nearly 42% of the overall female population, and girls of color make up 60% of the women who have been incarcerated since childhood.^{xv}

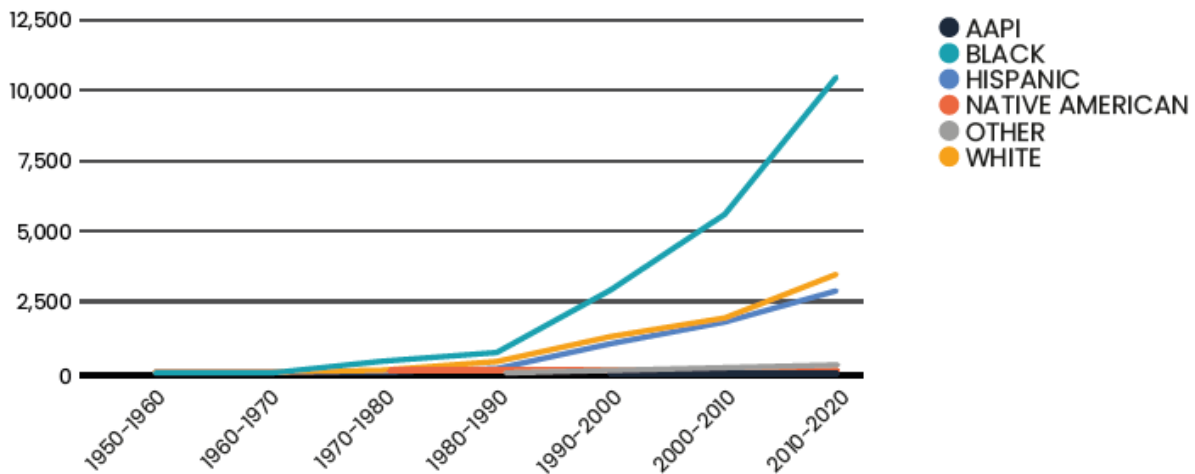
Girls of color also receive more term-of-years, life, and de facto life sentences than non-minority girls.^{xvi}

PREVALENCE OF SENTENCE TYPES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Children of color are sentenced to longer prison terms than White children when given numbered sentences. Children of color also receive more life sentences than White children. The average longest sentence was almost 60 years greater for Black children than White children.^{xvii}

While the incarceration rate of people sent to prison as children remained fairly consistent across racial demographics before 1990, we see a massive increase in the number of Black children who remain incarcerated for offenses that occurred over the past 30 years which coincides with the advent of the "Super Predator Theory".^{xviii}



IV. Children suffer numerous human rights abuses in violation of Articles 37, 39 and 40 of the CRC and Articles 10 and 14 of the ICCPR.^{xix}

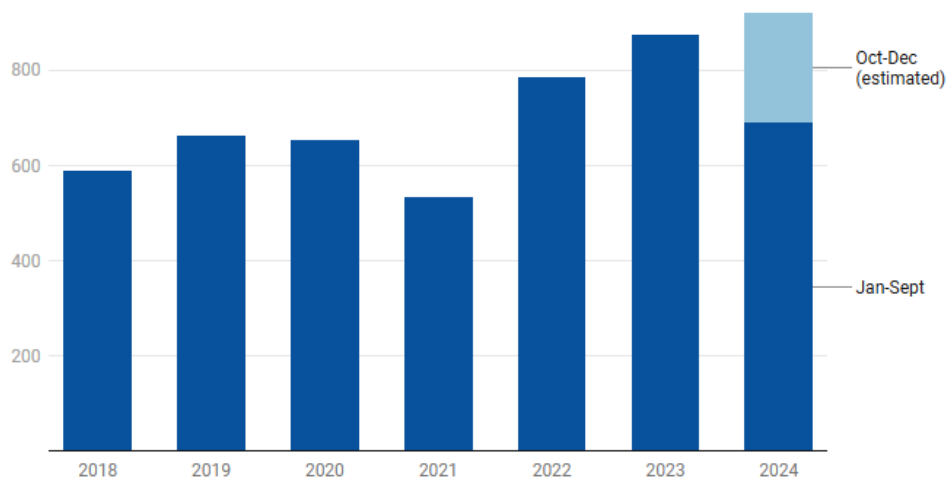
1. In 39 states and D.C. children are subject to custodial interrogation and waiver of Miranda rights without benefit of parental consultation or legal counsel to understand their rights, which vastly increases their risk for giving false confessions and wrongful convictions.^{xx}
2. In 44 states children are subject to mandatory minimum sentences where they are sentenced by the exact same standards that are used for adults. Their child status is often ignored, and in the event it is considered, courts are still bound by the statutorily mandated sentences that are used for adults.^{xxi}
3. In 47 states and D.C. children under the age of 18 can be held with adults during pre-trial detention and be incarcerated in adult correctional facilities.^{xxii}

In 2025, 83% of people incarcerated since childhood in Arkansas reported being held alongside adults when they were under 18.^{xxiii}

Between January 1, 2018, and the end of September 2024, Maryland law enforcement booked teens in adult jails nearly 4,800 times. Almost all of these children were Black.^{xxiv} One 17-year-old Maryland girl described having panic attacks while being held in an adult jail:

“I was crying, and I felt like I couldn't breathe, like it was bricks on my chest. I couldn't breathe.”

Youth bookings in Maryland's adult jails each year



Source: The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy provided juvenile holding logs to WYPR and APM Reports. Figures from October through December, 2024 were unavailable at the time of publishing, and were estimated based on the previous 9 months. • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

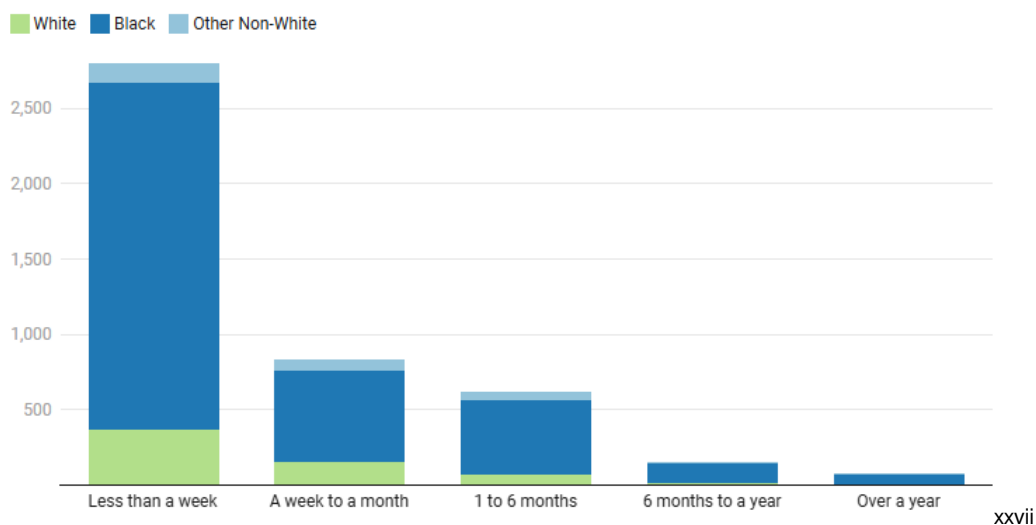
xxv

In another shocking incident in Maryland, where the state is in violation of federal law for housing children in the same cells and within sight and sound of adults, a 16-year-old boy reported that he:

“was also threatened and coerced into giving other people who were incarcerated his food. He reported he did not remove any of his clothes or shower for the entire week he was there for fear of sexual violation. He referenced he took bird baths in the sink.”^{xxvi}

Black teens made up the vast majority of bookings in adult jails since 2018

White youth were more likely to have shorter stays.



xxvii

Treating children this way is a form of torture, and the prevalence of these practices are further evidence that state officials are engaged in crimes against humanity.

*Just last year a 16 year old girl committed suicide while being detained in an adult Jail in Mississippi.^{xxviii} This follows the suicide of another young man in New York, after he was released from the notorious Riker's Island Jail where he was held in solitary confinement for two years when he was 16.^{xxix} The suicide rate of juveniles in adult jails is almost 7.7 times larger than that of juvenile detention centers; similarly, the suicide rate among juveniles in adult lockups is more than 5 times larger than that of juvenile detention facilities.^{xxx}

4. In 22 states, children can be given life without parole sentences and in 39 states they can be given de facto life without parole sentences (through consecutive or individual terms longer than 39 years without review).^{xxxi}

According to a 2024 survey, 6,301 individuals are currently serving life sentences some with and some without parole. This represents 19.47% of the total number of individuals who have been incarcerated since they were children.^{xxxii}

The U.S. Sentencing Commission considers a sentence over 39 years, effectively a life sentence. An additional 3,162 individuals are serving de facto life sentences. This represents 9.77% of the total population of children sentenced as adults who remain incarcerated.^{xxxiii}

5. Children are convicted of crimes related to their status as victims of human trafficking.

Between 2010 and 2020, more than 6,200 children were arrested for prostitution and commercialized vice in the United States. Approximately 690 of these children were 14 years of age or younger.^{xxxiv} In 2014, a court in California ruled that children between the ages of 14 and 17 are "legally able to form the requisite intent to engage in an act of prostitution," and can be prosecuted accordingly.^{xxxv}

Child victims are also incarcerated for crimes they are forced to commit by their traffickers, such as smuggling, drug and weapons trafficking, robbery, assault, burglary, and theft, to name a few. In 2019, for example, a 16 year old girl was forced by her trafficker to help rob a buyer who he later shot and killed.^{xxxvi} Prosecutors acknowledged that the girl was not the "trigger person" and that her role was that of "luring" the victim to the apartment by promising sex.^{xxxvii} Nevertheless she was convicted as an adult and sentenced to 12 years in prison. There are numerous cases like hers throughout the United States.

Child victims are also criminalized when they fight back or act out against their traffickers. Just last year a young woman, who was 16 years old when she killed the man who raped and trafficked her, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in Wisconsin. Prosecutors in her case tried to downplay the significance of her

being raped and trafficked by the man she killed, prompting a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to admonish the state:

“The constitution says that we need to treat victims with dignity and respect. And part of that is acknowledging what actually happened to them, and [name redacted] undeniably here was a victim of human trafficking.”^{xxxviii}

Despite the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s acknowledgment of the girl’s status as a victim of human trafficking whose crime was committed against her rapist and trafficker, she nevertheless is sitting in a prison cell today serving her decades-long sentence. There are at least 18 other child victims incarcerated across the United States for having killed their sex trafficker and/or rapist. This is not justice. This is a human rights abuse.

Current available research indicates that between 30% and 40% of children tried as adults in the United States were victims of human trafficking prior to their offense.^{xxxix}

6. In 47 states and D.C. children are convicted of murder under the felony murder rule even if they did not kill or intend to kill the victim.^{xl}

7. Children incarcerated in adult prisons are:

Subject to sexual assault.

Children are five times more likely to be sexually and physically assaulted in prison,^{xli} and face an outsize risk of other forms of victimization as well.^{xlii}

A 2024 Maryland study found that children are often victimized in adult facilities solely because of their age, further highlighting that children should never be held in adult facilities. Of the respondents who reported they were victimized because of their age, 88.04% faced physical violence, 57.61% reported experiencing emotional violence, and 15.22% reported experiencing sexual violence.^{xliii}

Denied access to adequate medical treatment, including mental health services.

Children who are incarcerated with adults are at a far higher risk for suicide than their peers in the juvenile justice system, and they face far worse health outcomes.^{xliv}

This is especially true for girls where many of their special health needs are frequently neglected,^{xlv} including mental health and feminine care.

In 2024 and 2025 surveys, 60% of people incarcerated for crimes committed as children in Maryland, and, 50% of the relevant population in Arkansas' prisons reported loss of access to necessary health care for active health conditions.^{xlvi}

* Held in solitary confinement - only 8 states and D.C. fully ban this practice.

A 2024 study of Maryland prisoners incarcerated since childhood revealed that 79.84% of respondents were placed in solitary confinement while under the age of eighteen, with 30.65% reporting that they were placed in isolation solely due to their age.^{xlvi}

Similarly, 81.4% of respondents to a 2025 survey in Arkansas reported being held in solitary confinement while under 18 years of age.^{xlvi}

8. Children released from prison are:

* Subject to lengthy post-release supervision without discretionary review for discharge in 15 states.^{xlix}

* Prohibited from having their voting rights restored as adults in 9 states.^l

V. Studies have shown that the overwhelming majority of youth who engage in delinquent or criminal behavior have histories of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and early childhood trauma.^{li}

A 2024 survey of 892 women incarcerated for crimes committed as children revealed:

*An average ACEs score of 7.7 out of 10, with 84% reporting sexual abuse. Over 90% reported experiencing at least 4 of the 10 ACEs. Among the general population, only 19% of women have experienced that level of childhood trauma.^{lii}

Child abuse and neglect are ubiquitous among system-involved girls in the United States.^{liii}

*A 2024 study in Maryland revealed the average ACEs score for all prisoners incarcerated for crimes committed as children was 6.4 out of 10. Nearly 70% of respondents reported experiencing six or more ACEs prior to their incarceration.^{liv} 76% experienced emotional abuse, 74% suffered physical abuse and 40% endured sexual abuse.^{lv}

*A 2020 study in Louisiana reported 70% of this population experienced both physical and emotional abuse, while 36% suffered sexual abuse.^{lvi}

*A 2025 study in Arkansas found an average ACEs score of 5.9 out of 10. 75% reported emotional neglect, while 57% reported physical abuse.^{lvii}

*A 2025 study in California found an average ACEs score of 7.06 out of 10. More than 80% of these youth experienced physical and emotional abuse, while more than 50% experienced sexual abuse prior to their offense.

The combination of complex trauma and community violence on externalizing symptoms like rule-breaking and aggressive behaviors creates a “cycle of violence, where the harsh environment constantly interacts with these children, leading to the possibility of their engagement in gangs, criminal activities, and violent behaviors.”^{lviii}

Responding to children who commit crimes through harsh punishment in adult court does not lead to better outcomes for the child or the public.^{lix}

Instead of prioritizing punishment, the U.S. criminal justice system should provide them with a trauma-informed system of care that “takes into account the child’s age and the desirability of promoting the child’s reintegration and the child’s assuming a constructive role in society” in accordance with the dictates of Articles 39 and 40 of the CRC.

What is important about understanding a child’s victimization is the impact it has on their brain development and behavior, especially when the resulting trauma is left unaddressed. Two conclusions can be drawn from this: (1) The solution for system-involved youth must include screening for childhood trauma and developing treatment plans to address that trauma; and (2) The dire need for effective strategies that will prevent children from becoming victims in the first place, as this will inevitably lead to a decrease in crime committed by youth.^{lx}

VI. Approximately 65-70 percent of youth in the U.S. justice system has a disability, a rate that is more than three times higher than that of the general population.

Children with disabilities are grossly overrepresented in the U.S. prison population for offenses committed as children. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, nearly 4 in 10 state prisoners (40%) and 3 in 10 federal prisoners (29%) report having a disability. Youth with disabilities are also overrepresented in the juvenile justice system, with some estimates showing a typical range of 30 – 60% to as high as 85%.^{lxi} Nationwide, a disproportionate number of students with disabilities are Black and Brown students who are continuously failed by the educational and juvenile justice systems. For many, the K-12 school system continuously refers these students directly to the juvenile justice system.

Students with disabilities are disproportionately disciplined in K-12 public schools in all major categories of discipline—out-of-school suspension, in-school suspension, referral to law enforcement, expulsion, corporal punishment, and school-related arrest—regardless of the grade level of school or income level which leads to their system involvement. These actions funnel students with disabilities into the U.S. carceral system. For many justice- involved youth with disabilities, coming into contact with the carceral system is not a one-off, instead,

it places them on a revolving path in and out of the criminal justice system. This is referred to as the school-to-prison pipeline in the U.S.

Incarcerating youth with disabilities for behaviors that are a manifestation of their disability is a violation of the procedural and substantive protections available under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA). The education and juvenile justice systems must enforce IDEA, but they continuously fail. Instead, much too often schools address a student's disability-related behavior through disciplinary practices, including arrests, rather than assessing disability-related behaviors and identifying appropriate interventions for those behaviors. Once youth with disabilities enter the juvenile justice system, the system's academic deficiencies, coupled with the systemic gaps that exist within the system, result in a lack of accountability and enforcement of IDEA and the ADA Title II by state and local juvenile facilities.

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The U.S. Senate must ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. The U.S. must fully comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by requiring states to allow all children aged 17 and younger to be treated in the juvenile justice system, and only treating children as adults in "exceptional circumstances" as it committed to do in 1992.
3. Encourage the federal Executive Branch to ban the placement of ALL children under the age of eighteen (18) in adult jails or prisons, and encourage individual states to do the same.
4. Encourage the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice to evaluate whether states are in violation of their commitments under the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act based on the wide-spread practice of placing children in adult jails and prisons without sight and sound separation. Specifically, numerous reports from the state of Maryland indicate that it is severely out of compliance with federal law; leadership in the state has failed to remedy this issue for several years now exposing children to emotional, physical, and sexual violence by adults at an unprecedented scale.
5. Encourage the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice to evaluate whether state and local government criminal justice entities are in violation of their commitments under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act based on the widespread arrests and incarceration of youth with disabilities for behaviors that are a manifestation of their disability. Numerous reports from across the nation highlight the ongoing failure of law enforcement to employ de-escalation techniques when responding to incidents involving a mental health crisis of a student or when interacting with a student with I/DD.

6. Encourage the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the U.S. Department of Justice to disaggregate the data in their online Statistical Briefing Book based on disability in order to facilitate accurate identification on the number of youth with disabilities in the juvenile justice system.
7. Encourage the federal government to review and consider people who committed their crimes as children for Executive Clemency and/or Pardons with great weight given to child status, growth, maturity, and rehabilitation.
8. Encourage the federal government to protect, not prosecute, child victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse who end up in the criminal justice system as a result of the trauma they've experienced, especially in cases of forced criminality where victims are forced to commit crimes by their traffickers.
9. Propose legislation designed to encourage the individual states, and local governments, to comply with the ICCPR, particularly Articles 10 and 14 as they apply to children, through incentive programs and penalties, including loss of funding for failure to comply.

END NOTES

-
- ⁱ *Crimes Against Humanity: The Mass Incarceration of Children in the United States*, May 2023, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/publication/crimes-against-humanity-the-mass-incarceration-of-children-in-the-united-states/>).
- ⁱⁱ Even though Article 10 of the ICCPR specifies that “juvenile offenders shall be segregated from adults and be accorded treatment appropriate to their age and legal status” and Article 14 states that procedures for children “shall be such as will take account of their age and the desirability of promoting their rehabilitation” during the Senate ratification of the ICCPR, the U.S. expressly reserved the right, “in exceptional circumstances,” to treat children as adults.
- ⁱⁱⁱ 18 USC § 5032 (1996); See also, shadow report at 15 (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Shadow-Report-2023-print-version.pdf>).
- ^{iv} 2024 State Ratings Report, pg. 20, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Ratings-Report-2024-1.pdf>).
- ^v *Id.* at 18.
- ^{vi} Maryland §3-8A-03.
- ^{vii} UN Shadow report, at 15, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Shadow-Report-2023-print-version.pdf>).
- ^{viii} Milwaukee Judge: 12 year old to be tried as an adult, Wisconsin Law Journal, December 4, 2024 (<https://wislawjournal.com/2024/12/04/milwaukee-judge-12-year-old-to-be-tried-as-adult/>).
- ^{ix} See <https://humanrightsforkids.org/publication/crimes-against-humanity-the-mass-incarceration-of-children-in-the-united-states/>.
- ^x 2024 State Ratings Report, pg. 16, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Ratings-Report-2024-1.pdf>).
- ^{xi} *More than 30,000 children under age 10 have been arrested in the US since 2013: FBI*, ABC News (October 1, 2019) (<https://abcnews.go.com/US/30000-children-age-10-arrested-us-2013-fbi/story?id=65798787>).
- ^{xii} UN Shadow report, at 4, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Shadow-Report-2023-print-version.pdf>).
- ^{xiii} <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 19.
- ^{xiv} <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/New-York-Report-2024.pdf> at 5.
- ^{xv} <https://humanrightsforkids.org/publication/unheard-the-epidemic-of-severe-childhood-trauma-among-girls-tried-as-adults/> at 16.
- ^{xvi} *Id.* at 18.
- ^{xvii} UN Shadow report, at 5, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Shadow-Report-2023-print-version.pdf>).
- ^{xviii} *Id.* at 8.
- ^{xix} 2024 State Ratings Report, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Ratings-Report-2024-1.pdf>).
- ^{xx} *Id.* at 14.
- ^{xxi} *Id.* at 16.
- ^{xxii} *Id.* at 32.
- ^{xxiii} <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/AR-ACE-Infographic.pdf>
- ^{xxiv} A national outlier, Maryland’s jails fail to protect young inmates, WYPR (March 3, 2025), <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2025-03-03/a-national-outlier-marylands-jails-fail-to-protect-young-inmates>.
- ^{xxv} *Id.*
- ^{xxvi} *Id.*
- ^{xxvii} *Id.*
- ^{xxviii} *Mother blames MS Coast jailers for 16-year-old girl’s suicide. ‘I’ll never get over it,’ Margaret Baker* (January 30, 2025), <https://www.sunherald.com/news/local/crime/article297184164.html>
Read more at: <https://www.sunherald.com/news/local/crime/article297184164.html#storylink=cpy>
- ^{xxix} A Heartbreaking Story: Kalief Browder, Jailed for Three Years Without Conviction, Commits Suicide, Taylor Lewis (October 27, 2020), <https://www.essence.com/news/heartbreaking-story-kalief-browder-jailed-three-years-without-conviction-commits-suicide/>.

-
- xxx *Assessment of the National Incidence of Juvenile Suicide in Adult Jails, Lockups, and Juvenile Detention Centers*, M G Flaherty, 1980, <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/assessment-national-incidence-juvenile-suicide-adult-jails-lockups>.
- xxxix 2023 Map, Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, (<https://cfsy.org/map2023/>).
- xxxix UN Shadow report, at 4-5, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Shadow-Report-2023-print-version.pdf>).
- xxxix *Id.*
- xxxix <https://humanrightsforkids.org/publication/unheard-the-epidemic-of-severe-childhood-trauma-among-girls-tried-as-adults/> at 8 citing OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. Department of Justice. Retrieved from https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/ucr.asp?table_in=1&selYrs=2010&rdoGroups=1&rdoData=c.
- xxxix *In re M.V.*, 225 Cal.App.4th 1495, 1526 (Cal. Ct. App. 2014).
- xxxix #SheWas16 Trends on Twitter Over Murder Case Against Zephi Trevino, Alleged Trafficking Victim, Aila Slisco, April 21, 2021 (<https://www.newsweek.com/shewas16-trends-twitter-over-murder-case-against-zephi-trevino-alleged-trafficking-victim-1584370>).
- xxxix *Id.*
- xxxix *Id.*
- xxxix High Rates of Trauma of Children Prosecuted as Adults in California/Arkansas (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-ACE-Infographic.pdf>; <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/AR-ACE-Infographic.pdf>).
- xl 2024 State Ratings Report, pg. 24, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Ratings-Report-2024-1.pdf>).
- xli All Children are Children: Challenging Abusive Punishment of Juveniles, Equal Justice Initiative (2017).
- xlii The Comparative Risk of Mistreatment for Juveniles in Detention Facilities and State Prisons, Leevitt, Lacey, International Journal of Forensic Mental Health pg. 44-54 (2010).
- xliii <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 17.
- xliii *Id.* citing Neelum Arya, Getting to Zero: A 50-State Study of Strategies to Remove Youth from Adult Jails, UCLA School of Law, 2018.
- xliii *Id.* citing Van den Bergh, Brenda J et al. "Imprisonment and women's health: concerns about gender sensitivity, human rights and public health." Bulletin of the World Health Organization vol. 89,9 (2011): 689-94. doi:10.2471/BLT.10.082842.
- xliii <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/HRFK-MD-ACE-Infographic-final.pdf>; <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/AR-ACE-Infographic.pdf>
- xliii <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 17.
- xliii <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/AR-ACE-Infographic.pdf>
- xlix 2024 State Ratings Report, pg. 34, Human Rights for Kids (<https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Ratings-Report-2024-1.pdf>).
- i *Id.* at 36.
- ii <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 9.
- iii *Id.* at 11 citing Swedo EA, Aslam MV, Dahlberg LL, et al. Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among U.S. Adults— Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011–2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:707–715.DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7226a2>.
- iii <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 11-12.
- liv *Id.* at 7.
- lv <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/HRFK-MD-ACE-Infographic-final.pdf>
- lv <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 6.
- lv <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/AR-ACE-Infographic.pdf>
- lv <https://humanrightsforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Disposable-Children-The-Prevalence-of-Child-Abuse-and-Trauma-Among-Children-Prosecuted-As-Adults-in-Maryland.pdf> at 9 citing Yearwood K, Vliegen N, Chau C, Corveleyn J, Luyten P. Prevalence of Exposure to Complex Trauma and Community Violence and Their Associations With Internalizing and Externalizing Symptoms. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2021;36(1-2):843-861. doi:10.1177/0886260517731788.
- lix Richard Mendel, The Sentencing Project. (2023). "Why Youth Incarceration Fails: An Updated

Review of the Evidence.” <https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/why-youth-incarceration-fails-anupdated-review-of-the-evidence/>.

^{ix} <https://humanrightsforkids.org/publication/unheard-the-epidemic-of-severe-childhood-trauma-among-girls-tried-as-adults/> at 8.

^{ixi} NCLD-Unlocking-Futures-Final-7th-Dec-Updated-.pdf at 6; Breaking the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Students with Disabilities at 39.