The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Taking Stock after 25 Years and Looking Ahead

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FOREWORD

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a Magna Carta for the protection and promotion of the rights of children. Its global importance has been acknowledged by various measures, including its quick and nearly universal ratification, which currently stands at 196 States Parties.

The milestone of the CRC’s twenty-fifth anniversary in 2014 was a significant event. It was significant not only for celebrating the achievements brought about by this instrument, but also for challenging us all to reflect further in our collective efforts to create a world fit for all children.

This book, based on papers presented at the conference ‘25 Years CRC’ hosted by the Department of Child Law at Leiden University at the time of the anniversary celebration, marks an important contribution to the growing body of specialised scientific literature on children’s rights. The collaboration between academia, practitioners, NGOs and other specialists at the conference illustrates the reach and impact of the Convention on a broad church. This serves to confirm the interdisciplinary nature of the children’s rights implementation project, and marks a seminal point at which stock can be taken and areas worthy of future consideration discussed.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, which enjoyed representation at the conference, as well as other stakeholders working with and for children, will benefit from the diverse reflections contained in this collection.

Benyam Dawit Mezmur
Chairperson UN Committee on the Rights of the Child