**ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN: [COUNTRY]**

1. **What is the legal status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)?**
   1. What is the status of the CRC and other relevant international instruments in the national legal system?
   2. Does the CRC take precedence over national law?
   3. Has the CRC been incorporated into national law?
   4. Can the CRC be directly enforced in the courts?
   5. Are there examples of domestic courts using or applying the CRC or other relevant international instruments?
2. **What is the legal status of the child?**
   1. Can children and/or their representatives bring cases in domestic courts to challenge violations of children’s rights?
   2. If so, are children of any age permitted to bring these cases by themselves in their own name/on their own behalf, or must the cases be brought by or with the assistance of a representative?
   3. In the case of infants and young children, how would cases typically be brought?
   4. Would children or their representatives be eligible to receive free or subsidised legal assistance in bringing these kinds of cases?
   5. Are there any conditions or limits on children or chosen legal representatives bringing cases (e.g. would a child’s parents or guardian have to agree to a case being brought)?
3. **How can children’s rights violations be challenged before national courts?**
   1. If there is a potential violation of the Constitution or other principles established in domestic law, or with the CRC or other relevant ratified international/regional instruments, how can a legal challenge be brought?
   2. What powers would courts have to review these violations, and what remedies could they offer?
   3. Would such a challenge have to directly involve one or more individual child victims, or is it possible to challenge a law or action without naming a specific victim?
   4. Is any form of collective action or group litigation possible, with or without naming individual victims?
   5. Are non-governmental organisations permitted to file challenges to potential children’s rights violations or to intervene in cases that have already been filed?
4. **Practical considerations**  Please detail some of the practical issues, risks and uncertainties that might be involved in bringing a case to challenge a violation of children's rights, such as:
   1. Venue: In what courts could a case be filed (e.g. civil, criminal, administrative, etc.)? What would the initial filing process entail?
   2. Legal aid / Court costs: Under what conditions would free or subsidised legal aid be available to child complainants or their representatives through the court system (i.e. would the case have to present an important legal question or demonstrate a likelihood of success)? Would child complainants or their representatives be expected to pay court costs or cover other expenses?
   3. Pro bono / Financing: If legal aid is not available, would it be possible for child complainants or their representatives to obtain legal assistance from practising lawyers on a pro bono basis, through a children’s rights organisation, or under an agreement that does not require the payment of legal fees up front?
   4. Timing: How soon after a violation would a case have to be brought? Are there any special provisions that allow young adults to bring cases about violations of their rights that occurred when they were children?
   5. Evidence: What sort of evidence is admissible/required to prove a violation? Are there particular rules, procedures or practices for dealing with evidence that is produced or presented by children?
   6. Resolution: How long might it take to get a decision from the court as to whether there has been a violation?
   7. Appeal: What are the possibilities for appealing a decision to a higher court?
   8. Impact: What are the potential short-term and long-term impacts of a negative decision? Is there a possibility for political backlash or repercussions from a positive decision?
   9. Follow up: What other concerns or challenges might be anticipated in enforcing a positive decision?

**V. Additional factors.** Please list any other national laws, policies or practices you believe would be relevant to consider when contemplating legal action to challenge a violation of children's rights.

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*This report is provided for educational and informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice*.