

Broad overview of the *South African Child Gauge 2014*

The *South African Child Gauge* is published annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, to monitor progress towards realising children's rights. This issue focuses attention on the prevention of violence against children.

PART ONE: Children and law reform

Part one outlines recent legislative developments affecting children. This issue comments on litigation, law reform and policy developments including Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure, a Constitutional Court ruling on school admissions policies, High Court judgments on school furniture and textbooks, the Traditional Courts Bill, Constitutional Court rulings on consensual sex between adolescents and children who commit sexual offences, an Amendment Act which provides for sexual offences courts; and proposed amendments to the Children's Act.

See pages 12 – 21.

PART TWO: Preventing violence against children – breaking the intergenerational cycle

Part two presents eight essays – the first essay describes the extent and primary drivers of violence against children, while the second provides a conceptual framework to inform the design and delivery of prevention programmes. The next two essays focus on the child protection system and address current design and resource challenges. A further three essays focus on violence prevention during three critical stages of children's development: early childhood, the primary school period and adolescence, while the conclusion considers what is needed to shift from policies and plans to implementation.

See pages 22 – 85.

PART THREE: Children Count – the numbers

Part three updates a set of key indicators on children's socio-economic rights and provides commentary on the extent to which these rights have been realised. The indicators are a special subset selected from the website www.childrencount.ci.org.za.

See pages 86 – 116.