



**NATIONWIDE
ADOPTION OF CHILD
RIGHTS ACT 2003:**

**STATUS REPORT OF ASSENT BY
ALL STATES ACROSS NIGERIA**



SCEPTRE AND PRIMA



Nigerian National Assembly, Abuja.

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PREAMBLE

20 Years after the enactment of the Child Rights Act of 2003 in Nigeria, the legislation has finally achieved nationwide adoption across all 36 States in the Country, though with varying legal provisions.

Nigeria, a federal republic and a dualist State ratified the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1991 and 2001 respectively. Following its international and regional commitments, in recognition of the human rights of children, it domesticated these Child Rights protection and achievement standards through the Child Rights Act 2003.

Through consistent advocacy, in recognition of the cruciality of every child's life as well as the need to uphold core standards for the wellbeing and development of this stage of human life, every State in the country has ultimately arrived at the decision that children need to be protected and the best for that stage of life must be achieved: hence it is not simply left to goodwill but a core duty of which the nation, State, parents, guardians and other duty bearers with matters involving children are bound. The Law creates a legal obligation in order to ensure commitment and clarity in the achievement of best standards for every child across the country.



Below is a summary of the detailed tracking by Child Rights Lawyers at Sceptre and Prima Legal Consulting of the nationwide adoption of this key legislation. The research notes each State, the year of Assent by the State Governor, link to the source of information and the citation of the Law by each individual State following the adoption. The methodology employed for this research is Doctrinal involving a review and analysis of existing reports, articles and legislation.

STATE	ADOPTED THE CHILD RIGHTS ACT 2003? (YES OR NO)	YEAR OF ASSENT	LINK TO SOURCE OF INFORMATION	CITATION OF LAW ADOPTED IN THE STATE
ABIA	Yes	Assent in 2006	https://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/afrikanistik/wocal/schedule/abstracts/2-8-3%20Roseline%20Ihuoma.pdf	Abia State Child Rights Law 2006
ADAMAWA	Yes	Assent in 2022	https://www.thisdaylive.com/2022/11/07/unicef-commends-adamawa-for-signing-child-protection-bill/	See the Adamawa State Child Protection Law 2022
AKWA IBOM	Yes	Assent in 2008, Amended in 2023	https://www.cenresinjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/page-58-64-733-1.pdf https://invictusafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AKWA-IBOM.pdf	Akwa Ibom State Child Rights Law 2008 Akwa Ibom State Child Rights Law 2023
ANAMBRA	Yes	Assent in 2004	https://www.nigerianjournalonline.com/index.php/ACARELAR/article/download/2667/2592	Anambra State Child's Rights Law 2004.



BAUCHI	Yes	Assent in 2023	https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/plan-international-welcomes-signing-child-rights-act-bauchi-state	Bauchi State Child Protection Law 2023.
BAYELSA	Yes	Assent in 2016	https://www.africanexaminer.com/dicks-on-signs-2016-appropriation-child-rights-bills/ https://books.google.com.ng/books/about/Bayelsa_State_Child_Rights_Law_2016.html?id=QCpOzQEACAAJ&redir_esc=y	Bayelsa State Child Rights Law 2016.
BENUE	Yes	Assent in 2008	https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/benue-state-child-rights-law-2008-37316946/37316946	Benue State Child Rights Law 2008.
BORNO	Yes	Assent in 2022	https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/01/sci-applauds-as-borno-state-passes-child-protection-bill-into-law/amp/	Borno State Child Protection law 2022.
CROSS RIVERS	Yes	Assent in 2009 Amended in 2023	https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/media/1571/file/Nigeria-ending-violence-against-children-in-Nigeria-priority-actions-cross-river-state_0.pdf.pdf https://crossriverwatch.com/2023/05/brci-lauds-ayade-for-assenting-to-child-rights-amendment-bill/	Cross Rivers State Child Rights Law of 2009 (as amended in 2023). Cross Rivers State Child Rights Law 2023



DELTA	Yes	Assent in 2008 Amended in 2025	https://genderpedia.ng/shop/laws/delta-state-child-rights-law-2008/ https://www.thepeintersnewsonline.com/oborevwork-gets-kudos-for-child-rights-law/	Delta State Child Rights Law 2008. Delta State Child Rights (Amendment) Law 2024
EBONYI	Yes	Assent in 2010	https://invictusafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/EBONYI.pdf	Ebonyi State Child Rights Law 2010.
EDO	Yes	Assent in 2007	https://www.scirp.org/reference/referencespapers?referenceid=2972968	Edo State Child Rights Law 2007.
EKITI	Yes	Assent in 2006	https://www.ekitistate.gov.ng/archives/3196	Ekiti State Child's Rights Law 2006.
ENUGU	Yes	Assent in 2016	https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/08/enugu-applause-over-passage-of-child-rights-bill/amp/	Enugu State Child Rights and Responsibility Law 2016.
GOMBE	Yes	Assent in 2022	https://x.com/UNICEF_Nigeria/status/1599089415879413760	Gombe State Child Protection Law 2022.
IMO	Yes	Assent in 2004	https://genderpedia.ng/shop/laws/imo-state-child-rights-law-2004/	Imo State Child Rights Law 2004.



JIGAWA	Yes	Assent in 2021	https://dailytrust.com/11-years-after-jigawa-gets-childs-rights-law/	See Jigawa State Child Protection Law 2021.
KADUNA	Yes	Assent in 2018	https://www.policyvault.africa/policy/child-welfare-and-protection-law-2018/#:~:text=This%20law%20provides%20for%20the,and%20supervision%20of%20a%20child.	Kaduna State Child Welfare and Protection Law of 2018.
KANO	Yes	Assent in 2023	https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/unicef-applauds-kano-state-enacting-child-protection-law-calls-effective-implementation	Kano State Child Protection Law 2023
KATSINA	Yes	Assent in 2023	https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/12/katsina-gov-radda-signs-vapp-child-protection-law/	Katsina State Child Protection Law 2023
KEBBI	Yes	Assent in 2022	https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/press-releases/unicef-commends-kebbi-state-government-enacting-child-protection-law-urges-its-fulfill#:~:text=ABUJA%20C%2008%20August%202022%20E2%80%93%20UNICEF,implementation%20of%20the%20law%20to	Child Rights Protection Law 2022



KOGI	Yes	Assent in 2009	https://genderpedia.ng/shop/laws/kogi-state-child-right-law-2009/#:~:text=Passed%20in%202009%2C%20this%20comprehensive,health%2C%20education%2C%20and%20more	Child Rights Law of Kogi State 2009
KWARA	Yes	Assent in 2006	https://www.ahrlj.up.ac.za/abdulrah-eem-mustapha-m-a#pgfid-1138484	Kwara State Child Rights Law 2006
LAGOS	Yes	Assent in 2007 Amended in 2015	https://www.academia.edu/45202805/Challenges_of_Lagos_State_Childs_Rights_Law_Social_Welfare_Officers_Perspective https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/12/abuse-lagos-govt-moves-to-review-2015-child-rights-law/	Lagos State Child Rights Law 2007 Lagos State Child Rights Law 2015
NASARAWA	Yes	Assent in 2005	https://thesun.ng/nacwyca-tasks-nasarawa-governor-four-others-to-implement-child-right-law/	Nasarawa State Child Rights Law 2005
NIGER	Yes	Assent in 2010	https://dailytrust.com/bello-signs-child-right-law/	Niger State Child Rights Law 2010

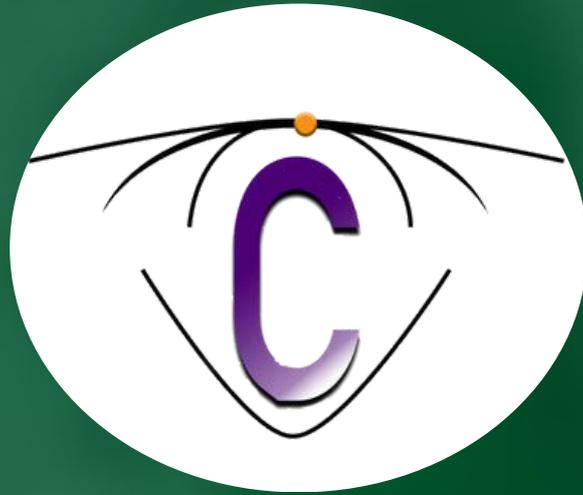


OGUN	Yes	Assent in 2006	https://afribary.com/works/a-critique-of-the-child-rights-law-cap-c155-volume-1-laws-of-ogun-state-2006#:~:text=The%20Child%20Rights%20Law%20of,w as%20signed%20i nto%20law%20by	Child Rights Law of Ogun State 2006
ONDO	Yes	Assent in 2009	https://genderpedia.ng/shop/laws/ondo-state-child-right-law-2007/#:~:text=Passed%20in%202009%2C%20this%20comprehensive,health%2C%20education%2C%20and%20more.	Ondo State Child Rights Law 2007
OSUN	Yes	Assent in 2007	https://openlibrary.org/works/OL22609299W/Child%27s_Right_Law_2007	Child Rights Law of Osun State 2007
OYO	Yes	Assent in 2006	https://onelifefinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Oyo-State-CHILD-RIGHTS-LAW-2006.pdf	Oyo State Child Rights Law 2006
PLATEAU	Yes	Assent in 2005	https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-central/270581-plateau-to-fully-implement-child-rights-law-commissioner.html	Child Rights Law 2005



RIVERS	Yes	Assent in 2009 Amended in 2022	https://www.thetidenewsonline.com/2012/05/27/domesticating-child-rights-law-...the-rivers-example/ https://sceptreandprima.com/childs-rights-law-2022-rivers-state/child_s_rights_law_2022_rivers_state-2/	Child Rights Law of Rivers State 2009 Child Rights Law of Rivers State 2022
SOKOTO	Yes	Assent in 2021	https://genderpedia.ng/shop/laws/2021-sokoto-state-child-protection-law/#:~:text=Passed%20in%202021%2C%20this%20comprehensive,health%2C%20education%2C%20and%20more.	Sokoto State Child Protection Law 2021
TARABA	Yes	Assent in 2005	https://invictusafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/TARABA.pdf	Taraba State Child Rights Law 2005
YOBE	Yes	Assent in 2022	https://theinterview.ng/2022/05/27/buni-signs-child-rights-protection-vapp-bill-into-law/amp/	Yobe State Child Protection Law 2022
ZAMFARA	Yes	Assent in 2022	https://gazettengr.com/matawall-e-signs-child-protection-bill-into-law/	Zamfara State Child Protection Law 2022
FCT	Yes	Assent in 2003	https://ovcsupport.org/wp-content/uploads/Documents/Child_Rights_Act_Nigeria_UNICEF_information_sheet_1.pdf	Child Rights Act 2003 (Nigeria)





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...to every child, a successful life.

Report compiled by:

- Chisom Sam-Igbokwue
- Chioma Oke-Chinda
- Affiong Ene-Obong

Contact:

admin@sceptreandprima.com