

2020 IN REVIEW

Gender Research & Advocacy Project Legal Assistance Centre



GR&AP's mission is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and children through legal research, law reform and related advocacy work.

GR&AP's key accomplishments in 2020

in the time of Covid with a staff of three persons!

- launch of *Guide to the Child Care and Protection Act* & accompanying PowerPoints
- comic, pamphlet & poster on medical interventions involving children
- 16 workshops on the Child Care and Protection Act
- simple summary of initial state of emergency regulations & annotated versions of 23 different sets of Covid-19 regulations
- updates of three legal databases on Namibian laws
- research on child pornography
- input on nine proposed laws
- factsheet: facts and figures on abortion in Namibia & the world
- nine ProBono columns researched and written for newspaper publication
- 47 media appearances
- distribution of almost 35 000 publications
- assisted 150 clients.

Impact of COVID-19: The LAC offices closed voluntarily for two weeks in March to reduce potential staff exposure to the coronavirus, then remained closed during the government-imposed lockdown from 28 March until 4 May 2020. The LAC reopened officially from 1 June, with staff continuing to work from home where possible.

Due to the limitations on public gatherings, some workshops and other activities had to be cancelled, postponed or scaled back – but we persevered with our plans as far as possible given the restrictions, with due regard to safety measures. Some volunteer interns had to cancel or curtail their internships due to travel restrictions, but we appreciate those who assisted us remotely across the world.

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT

Guide to the Child Care and Protection Act

The Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015, Namibia's key legislation on children, came into force in early 2019.

For the last few years, GR&AP has worked together with the Ministry of Gender to produce a comprehensive *Guide to the Child Care and Protection Act*, designed to serve as a training and reference manual for service providers. The illustrated Guide consists of 28 chapters, including examples, discussions of relevant case law and technical notes. In May 2020, this project came to fruition with the printing and launch of the *Guide*, supplemented by several sets of PowerPoint presentations aimed at different audiences.



To comply with Covid-19 restrictions, the launch had to be a small event. - but despite the small size, it was a matter of huge excitement to be able to make this resource available to the public. Dianne Hubbard of the LAC and Rahimisa Kamuingona of the Ministry spoke at the event.



Legal Assistance Centre @LACNamibia

This morning, the LAC alongside its partners, will announce the launch of materials on the Child Care and Protection Act. Due to COVID-19 Regulations, the event will be by invite only, adhering to such regulations. Material available as indicated on the release.



UNICEF Namibia @UnicefNamibia · 1d

@OdedeRachel: Glad to be part of the launch of the Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015 materials. The Act is #Namibia's key legislation on children. Thanks to the solid partnership #ForEveryChild with @MGECW_Namibia @LACNamibia @FinEmbWindhoek @PEPFAR @EU2Namibia @UNICEF

PirkkoLiisa Kyöstiä @plkyostila · 1d

@FinEmbWindhoek and @LACNamibia have been partners the last three years based on our Embassy's fund local cooperation. The LAC's work for empowering children and women through access to information is much needed and appreciated @UnicefNamibia @EU2Namibia @NamMediaTrust



New publications on medical interventions

During 2020, GR&AP produced a **comic**, a **pamphlet** and a **poster** explaining the rules in the Child Care and Protection Act on medical interventions involving children. The comic was distributed nationwide as an insert in *The Namibian* and *Republikein* newspapers on 18 December. The **poster** is being distributed for display at clinics and hospitals.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION AND MANDATORY REPORTING

UNDER THE CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT 3 OF 2015

1 KEY TERMS



What is medical intervention?
This term is not defined, but the Act states that it "includes dental, physiological, psychological and psychiatric interventions". The lack of a specific definition was intentional, as the term is too broad and general to be easily explained.

What is mandatory reporting?
Mandatory reporting is the legal obligation to report a suspicion that a child may need protective services.

What is consent?
Consent means giving permission for a medical intervention. Consent must be both voluntary and informed.

What is informed consent?
Informed consent requires an understanding and appreciation of the risks of the medical intervention, the consequences of having or not having the intervention, and information about available alternatives. A medical practitioner has an ethical duty to make sure that no patient receives any treatment without informed consent.

2 EMERGENCIES

Who can give consent in an emergency?

- superintendent or acting superintendent of a State hospital
- regional director or acting regional director of a State clinic
- equivalent official in a private health facility.

This child was hit by a car. The accident resulted in the accident called the ambulance. We do not even know the child's name. But if I don't operate right now, she could lose her leg. Get her into theatre right now while I arrange the superintendent's consent.

What is an emergency?
An emergency is when a medical intervention or surgical operation that is necessary to preserve the life of the child or to save a child from serious or lasting physical harm or disability (AND) the situation is so urgent that the medical intervention or surgical operation should not be delayed in order to obtain the usual consent.



2 NON-SURGICAL MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

When can a child give consent?

A child may give consent to a medical intervention in respect of himself or herself if –

- the child is 14 years of age or older
- the medical practitioner concerned is satisfied that the child has sufficient maturity and the mental capacity to understand the benefits, risks and implications of the intervention.

If the child is not competent to give independent consent, then consent to medical intervention may be given by the child's parent or guardian.

If the child has no parent or guardian, consent may be given by the child's caregiver in the place of the parent.

Disclosure of HIV results with consent:
A child may give independent consent to disclose his or her own HIV positive status if –

- the child is 14 years of age or older
- OR
- the child is under the age of 14 years BUT the person who conducts the pre-test or post-test counselling is satisfied that the child is of sufficient maturity to understand the benefits, risks and social implications of disclosure.

Disclosure of HIV results without consent:
Disclosure by a person of a child's HIV-positive status WITHOUT anyone's consent is permissible (ONLY) in very limited circumstances:

- Disclosure is within the scope of the person's power and duties in terms of the Child Care and Protection Act or any other law.
- Disclosure is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Child Care and Protection Act.
- Disclosure is for the purpose of legal proceedings.
- Disclosure is made in terms of a court order.

Unlawful disclosure of a child's HIV-positive status is a crime punishable by a fine of up to N\$20000 or imprisonment for up to five years or both.

3 SURGICAL OPERATIONS

When can a child give consent?

A child may give consent to a surgical operation in respect of himself or herself if –

- the child is 14 years of age or older
- AND
- the medical practitioner concerned is satisfied that the child has sufficient maturity and the mental capacity to understand the benefits, risks and implications of the surgical operation
- AND
- the child is duly assisted by a parent or guardian OR (if the child does not have a parent or guardian) the child's caregiver.

4 HIV TESTING

When can a child give consent?

A child may give independent consent to HIV testing in respect of himself or herself if –

- the child is 14 years of age or older
- OR
- the child is under the age of 14 years BUT the person who conducts the pre-test counselling is satisfied that the child is of sufficient maturity to understand the benefits, risks and social implications of an HIV test.

HIV testing of a child is possible without anyone's consent when –

- it is necessary to establish whether a person in a health care setting may have been exposed to HIV
- it is necessary to establish whether a person in some other context may have been exposed to HIV AND the test is authorized by a court
- the child is pregnant to facilitate prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

No matter what circumstances lead to an HIV test, the child must receive pre- and post-test counselling UNLESS the child is too young to benefit. The child's parent, guardian or caregiver must also receive pre- and post-test counselling where he or she has knowledge of the test.

5 EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT OF ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN

This exception applies when a health practitioner suspects that a child has been abused or neglected.

It allows a health practitioner to:

- assess the child
- AND
- provide reasonable medical interventions WITHOUT CONSENT from a parent, guardian or caregiver, regardless of the age of the child.

MANDATORY REPORTING DUTY

People who perform professional or official duties involving children are required to make a report if, during the course of their duties, they come across "information that gives rise to a suspicion that a child is or may be in need of protective services". In such a case, they must alert police or any child-empowered social worker.

Failure to report is a crime punishable by a fine of up to N\$20000 or imprisonment for up to five years, or both.

My body, my decision

This poster, and the pre-test guide and consent protocol above, are available on the Legal Assistance Centre website: www.lac.gov.na for comprehensive information on medical interventions under the Child Care and Protection Act, see the Guide on Namibia's Child Care and Protection Act (Chapter 46). The full Guide, and accompanying sets of PowerPoint presentations (in-venue presentations and the general public), are available on the LIC website.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION AND MANDATORY REPORTING

under the Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015

Center Research & Advocacy Project
LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE
Windhoek, Namibia, 2020



KEY TERMS

What is medical intervention?
This term is not defined, but the Act states that it "includes dental, physiological, psychological and psychiatric interventions". The lack of a specific definition was intentional, as the term is too broad and general to be easily explained.

What is mandatory reporting?
Mandatory reporting is the legal obligation to report a suspicion that a child may need protective services.

What is consent?
Consent means giving permission for a medical intervention. Consent must be both voluntary and informed.

My body, my decision: Children and medical interventions

Good morning, doctor. Would you mind if we asked you a few questions? We need some information for a Life Science project that is due soon.



Of course, I would love to help. Do either of you hope to become a doctor some day?

I love science! I do want to become a doctor. I know that doctors must always be certain about the information they give their patients. That is why we need your help to make sure that we give our class the right information when presenting our project.

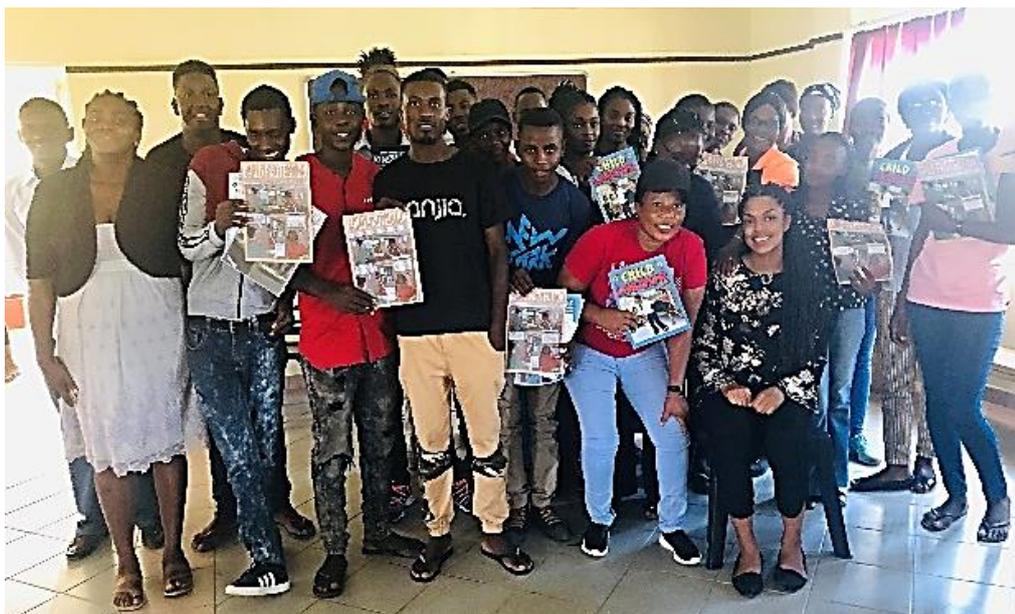
I agree, Dr. Angela is it true that 14-year-olds like us can consent to medical treatment on ourselves?

Yes, that is true, but there is a bit more involved. Before a child age 14 or older can make a medical decision, a medical practitioner has to confirm that the child has the maturity and mental capacity to understand what is at stake.

Workshops

GR&AP provided general and specialised training at 16 workshops on the Child Care & Protection Act. The trainings involved key role-players (such as police, social workers & clerks of children’s court), NGOs dealing with child protection and grassroots community groups.

Date	Group	Participants		
		F	M	Total
11 Mar	Community group, Havana informal settlement, Windhoek	28	7	35
12 Mar	Community youth group, Havana informal settlement, Windhoek	31	14	45
13 Mar	Learners, Abraham Iyambo Primary School, Katutura, Windhoek	24	20	44
2 Jul	Community group, Okahandja	22	17	39
3 Jul	Professional group, Okahandja	12	14	26
16-17 Jul	Philippi Trust social workers & health care providers, Windhoek	13	2	15
24 Jul	Namibia National Students Organisation (NANSO) staff, Windhoek	28	12	40
25 Jul	Namibia National Students Organisation (NANSO) stakeholders, Windhoek	16	6	22
27-28 Jul	Clerks of the court, national group convened in Windhoek	31	7	38
29-30 Jul	Social workers, national group convened in Windhoek	32	7	39
8-9 Oct	NAMPOL, Khomas, //Kharas and Omaheke regions, Windhoek	13	13	26
20-21 Oct	NAMPOL, Oshana Region, Ondangwa	18	11	29
29 Oct	Rosewood Private School teachers, Windhoek	16	5	21
4-5 Nov	Philippi Trust private counsellors, Windhoek	16	5	21
17-18 Nov	Trevali Scorpion Zinc, professionals, Rosh Pinah	14	3	17
19 Nov	Trevali Scorpion Zinc, community members, Rosh Pinah	11	4	15
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS		325	147	472



Youth group in Havana informal settlement (before the coronavirus hit Namibia)



Covid-19 regulations were adhered to at all times with social distancing in seating arrangements, and hand sanitizer and face masks compulsory during all workshops, such as with this group in Okahandja.

“It will benefit me a lot, because I’ll apply the knowledge that I got and will also get a chance to educate others out there that didn’t get a chance to receive this information.”



Philippi Trust, private social workers and health care providers

The NANSO stakeholders, were a diverse group that included high school learners and students from all institutions of higher learning such as UNAM and the Southern Business School.



“Please if you have not already, please have these kind of presentations in rural and marginalized communities in their preferred languages as frequently as possible.”

“Yes, it was initially tough to follow, but with more practical examples things became clear.” – *social worker*



Specialised training for clerks of the children’s courts and social workers. Participants raised specific child protection cases that provoked lively discussion and debate.

“I gained knowledge that I will take back to my station and share with my colleagues.”



Police training at Patrick Iyambo Police Training College, Windhoek, for Nampol members from Khomas, //Kharas and Omaheke regions

“Grateful for the eye opening training Such information is very useful to all police officers who are dealing with issues as such on a daily basis”



Police training for Nampol members from Oshana region in Ondangwa



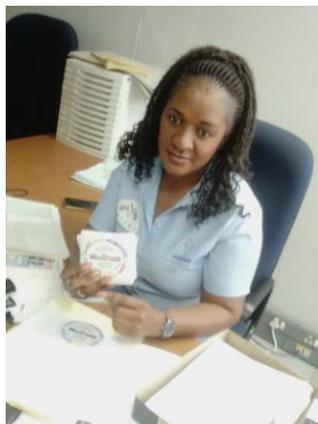
Teachers, Rosewood Private Academy



Two workshops were held in Rosh Pinah, one with professionals and one with community members.

Drive-by advocacy

We drew attention with our branded vehicle, and handed out bumper stickers with child protection messages and educational materials on the Child Care and Protection Act in numerous locations throughout Namibia.



Educational materials on the Child Care and Protection Act available from the Legal Assistance Centre

1. Factsheets: A set of factsheets available in English, Afrikaans and Oshiwambo, which can be used individually or combined as a set in a summary booklet.



2. Comic books: Seven comics on specific topics in the Act:

- 1) Age of majority
- 2) Parenting plans
- 3) Kinship care
- 4) Child protection proceedings
- 5) Children born outside marriage
- 6) Guardianship after the death of a parent
- 7) Medical interventions involving children

There is also a pamphlet on this topic, as well as a poster suitable for display at clinics and other medical facilities.



3. Guide to the Child Care and Protection Act: A detailed Guide in 28 chapters which can be used individually or combined into a comprehensive manual.

4. Four sets of PowerPoint

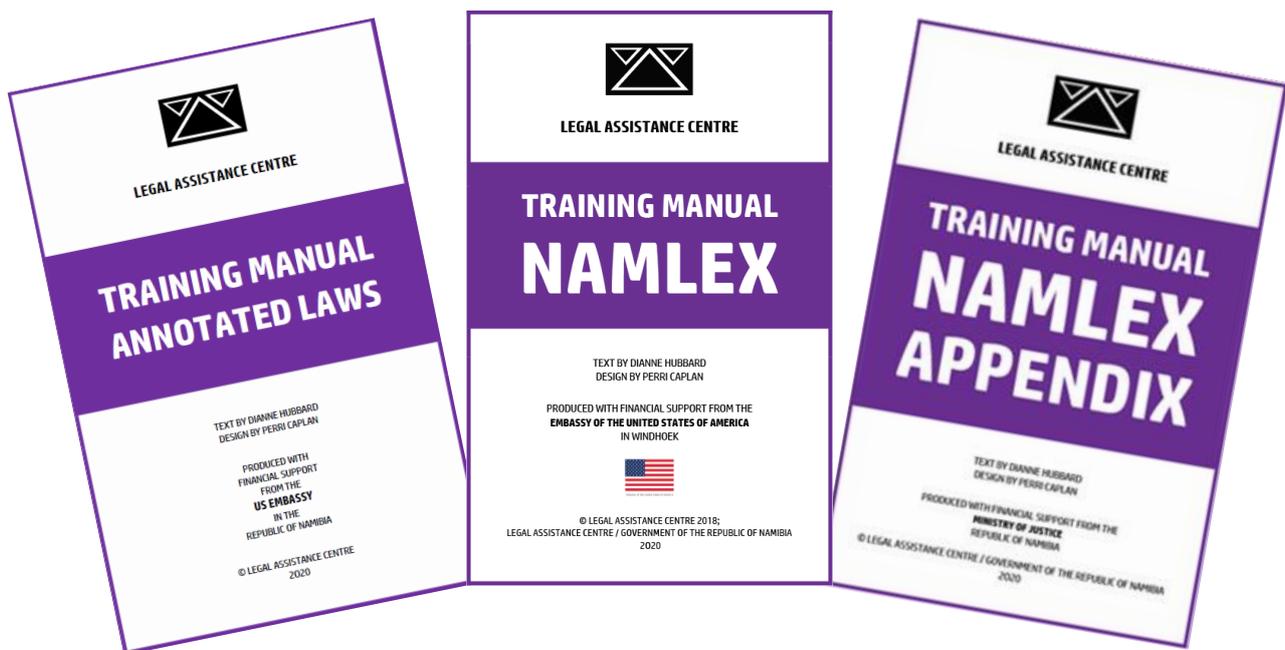
- **Overview PowerPoint (1 new presentation):** for the general public
- **Summary PowerPoints (8 new presentations):** for community workshops
- **Guide PowerPoints (28 revised presentations):** for service providers and trainers
- **Police PowerPoints (5 new presentations):** for police training



LEGAL DATABASES

GR&AP worked on updating and improving its three legal databases. All three databases were updated to 31 October 2020. We also completed a set of three manuals on how to carry out updates, to ensure the sustainability of the databases in future.

1. **NAMLEX:** a list of the laws in force in Namibia, organised by topic, with brief descriptions of each law.
2. **NAMLEX APPENDIX:** a list of all multilateral international treaties binding on Namibia, including a summary of the treaty and relevant dates
3. **ANNOTATED LAWS:** current versions of all statutes and post-Independence regulations in force in Namibia, with all their amendments incorporated



On 19 November 2020, the most recent updates were presented at a launch of the public-private partnership between LAC and the Government of the Republic of Namibia aimed at the sustainable maintenance of all three databases. The partnership involves the sharing of resources and work product, and the training of Government counterparts by GR&AP.

The launch was organised by the Ministry of Justice and held at the Windhoek Country Club. The Executive Director, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, was the keynote speaker. In attendance were the Chief Justice and representatives of the Law Society, the Society of Advocates, and the Office of the Government Attorney.



Presentations were also made by Dianne Hubbard of GR&AP; Anél Stegmann, of the Government’s legal information website NamibLII, and Basilius Dyakugha, the Chief of the Law Reform and Development Commission.

The event was live-streamed on the Ministry of Justice social media channels and featured on Future Media, Radio Cosmos and *The Namibian* website.



A full-page advert aimed at popularizing the legal databases was published in *The Namibian* to coincide with the launch.

LEARN ABOUT THE LAWS OF NAMIBIA

Legal Information Online  November 2020



The rule of law requires that **laws must be accessible to everyone**. The Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) has for many years now been publishing information to help members of the public know the law of Namibia as it stands today.

The LAC publishes **three free legal databases** to inform the legal profession and the public about the laws in force.

In 2020, the LAC and the Ministry of Justice entered into an agreement making all of these databases into a joint project to ensure their long-term sustainability.

- ▶ All of the databases are available on the LAC website at www.lac.org.na.
- ▶ The annotated laws are also available on the Parliament website at www.parliament.na.
- ▶ All of the databases will soon be available on the Namibia Legal Information Institute website hosted by the Law Reform and Development Commission at www.namiblii.org.

1. NAMLEX: Index of Namibian law

NAMLEX is a list of the laws in force in Namibia, organised by topic, with brief descriptions of each law. In the case of laws inherited from South Africa, NAMLEX explains how they came to apply to Namibia and which South African amendments are in force in Namibia. The index also provides references to rules and regulations, appointments, court cases and commentary under each statute, and includes links to online versions of virtually all of the *Gazettes* cited. Think of it as the “Wikipedia” of Namibian law. NAMLEX was initiated by the late Adv Anton Lubowski in 1988, and continued by the LAC after his death. NAMLEX is now current to **31 October 2020**.

2. NAMLEX APPENDIX: Index of international law

NAMLEX is supplemented by a separate document called the NAMLEX APPENDIX, which contains detailed entries for all multilateral international treaties that are binding on Namibia. Each entry includes a summary of the treaty, a link to the most authoritative text of the treaty available online, the date when the treaty became binding on Namibia, information about amendments and protocols, and other explanatory information. The NAMLEX APPENDIX is prepared and updated with assistance from the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and Parliament. It is now current to **31 October 2020**.

3. ANNOTATED LAWS: Statutes and regulations

The database of annotated laws was initiated by the Parliamentary Support Project in 2015 and has been maintained by LAC to date. This database includes all **statutes and post-Independence regulations** in force in Namibia, as amended. This enable users to view or download the *current version* of a statute in Word or PDF, and to access the regulations issued in terms of each statute. The database is now current to **31 October 2020**. Pre-independence regulations will be added in 2021.

The latest updates of the databases were produced with funding from the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry of Justice.

1

Public Private Partnership Act 4 of 2017

Summary: This Act (GG 6322) provides a legal framework for public private partnership projects and establishes the Public Private Partnership Committee. It was brought into force on 1 December 2018 by GN 335/2018 (GG 6785).

Regulations: Regulations and guidelines are authorised by section 40 of the Act. Regulations are contained in GN 353/2018 (GG 6796).

Notices: GN 336/2018 (GG 6785) provides a form for the disclosure of business and financial interests by nominees for membership on the Public Private Partnership Committee, in terms of section 8(2) of the Act.

Appointments: GN 336/2018 (GG 6785) announces the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the Public Private Partnership Committee.

2

SADC Protocol Against Corruption, 2001

Summary: The Protocol aims to promote and strengthen the development, within each member state, of mechanisms needed to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption in the public and private sector. The Protocol further seeks to facilitate and regulate cooperation in matters of corruption amongst member states and foster development and harmonization of policies and domestic legislation related to corruption. The Protocol defines “acts of corruption”, preventative measures, jurisdiction of member states as well as extradition, institutional arrangements for the implementation of this Protocol have been outlined within the document.

Text: A copy of the authoritative text of the original Protocol is available [here](#). A link to the text of the 2016 amendments is provided below.

Binding on Namibia: 23 July 2005 (Article 18(2) of the Protocol)

- signature: 14 August 2001 (source: SADC)
- approval by National Assembly: 27 April 2004 (source: Hansard)
- ratification: 23 June 2005 (source: SADC)
- entry into force internationally: 6 July 2005 (source: SADC)

Depositary: SADC Executive-Secretary

Commentary: Frederico Links & Clement Daniels, “Protected Disclosure: Informing the Whistleblowing Debate in Namibia, Anti-Corruption Research Programme”, Paper 10, Institute for Public Policy Research, 2012.

Amendments: Amendments can be adopted by a decision of three quarters of Members of the Summit. The Agreement *Amending the SADC Protocol on Corruption, 2016* came into force on 24 July 2017. A copy of the Agreement is available [here](#).

3



Republic of Namibia
Annotated Statutes

Stock Theft Act 12 of 1990

(GG 43)
came into force on date of publication: 28 August 1990

as amended by

- Stock Theft Amendment Act 4 of 1991 (GG 291)
came into force on date of publication: 14 May 1991
- Stock Theft Amendment Act 19 of 1993 (GG 392)
brought into force on 15 October 1993 by GN 117/1993 (GG 728)
- Stock Theft Amendment Act 19 of 2004 (GG 3381)
came into force on date of publication: 20 December 2004
- General Law Amendment Act 14 of 2005 (GG 3868)
came into force in relevant part on date of publication: 28 December 2005

Note that portions of section 14 were struck out and read down as a result of *Daniel v Attorney-General & Others; Pater v Attorney-General & Others* 2011 (1) NR 338 (HC), confirmed on appeal in *Prosecutor-General v Daniel & Others* 2017 (3) NR 837 (SC).

ACT

To consolidate and amend the laws relating to the theft of stock and produce.

(Signed by the President on 20 August 1990)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Definitions
2. Failure to give satisfactory account of possession of stock or produce
3. Absence of reasonable cause for believing stock or produce properly acquired
4. Entering enclosed land or kraal, shed, stable, or other walled place with intent to steal stock or produce
5. Delivery of stock or produce between sunset and sunrise
6. Absence of identification to be furnished by person who disposes of stock
7. Acquisition of stock or produce from persons whose places of residence are unknown
8. Stock or produce driven, conveyed or transported on or along public roads
9. Arrest and search without warrant

COVID-19 EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

GR&AP annotated 23 different sets of emergency and post-emergency Covid-related regulations, and prepared accessible summaries of the early regulations to inform members of the public and service providers such as police.

The most significant legal event in Namibia in 2020 was probably the declaration of a state of emergency for six months with effect from 17 March 2020, to deal with the coronavirus. Throughout the state of emergency and its aftermath, LAC regularly prepared annotated versions of all of the emergency regulations as well as a regularly-updated explanatory overview of the various legal enactments and the impact of the 23 June 2020 High Court judgment which declared several emergency regulations unconstitutional.

“This is immeasurably valuable. A very welcome resource.”

HON. YVONNE DAUSAB, MP
Minister
Ministry of Justice
in Namibia*

Summary of Key Provisions in the Amended State of Emergency – Covid-19 Regulations



A summary of the lockdown regulations was prepared at the request of NamPol’s Deputy Commissioner and widely circulated in soft-copy to the police and various partners and on social media.

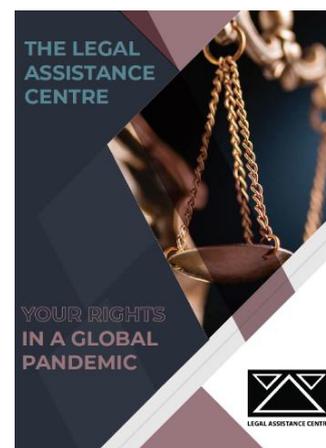
Working together with other LAC colleagues, GR&AP prepared a similar summary of the post-lockdown “Stage 2” State of Emergency – COVID-19 Regulations for circulation online and on social media. Information on these regulations was also provided in Afrikaans.

Summary of Key Provisions in the STAGE 2: State of Emergency – Covid-19 Regulations



GR&AP also worked with other LAC colleagues to produce a press release on the State of Emergency and a pamphlet entitled “Your Rights in a Global Pandemic”.

All of these materials were posted on the LAC website as well as being distributed via email and social media. The LAC featured the successive Covid-related regulations on its website.

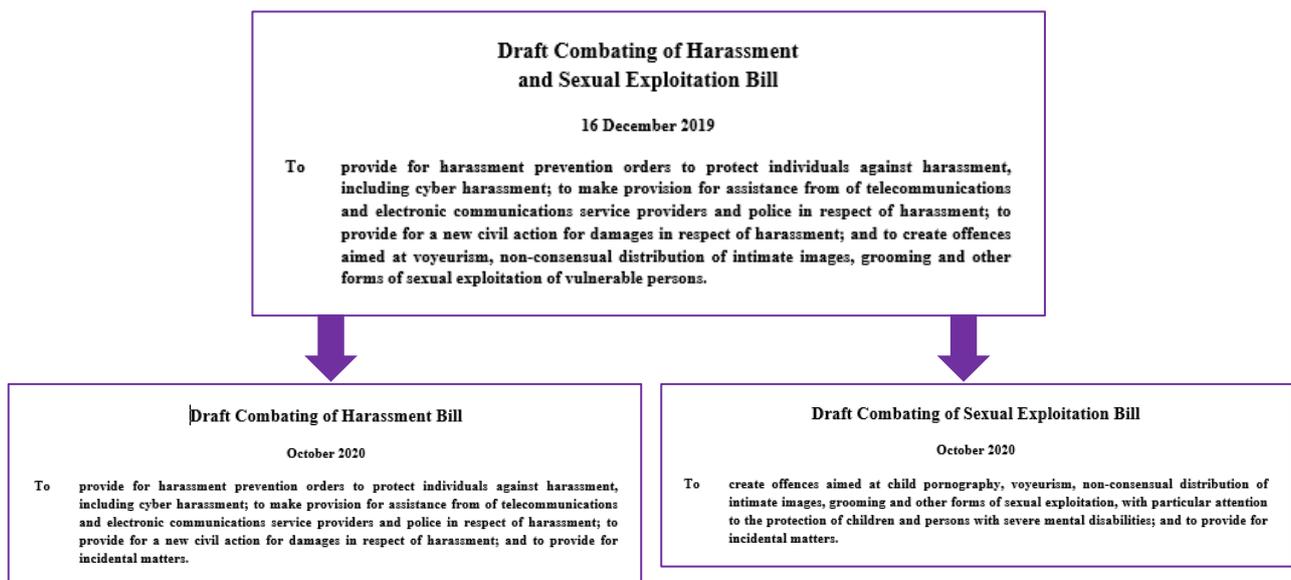


CHILD PORNOGRAPHY



During 2019, GR&AP conducted extensive research on stalking and harassment, including cyber harassment and physical and online grooming and sexual exploitation of children. The report containing this research was published in early 2020 and used as a basis for developing a draft **Combating of Harassment and Sexual Exploitation Bill** for further consideration by stakeholders.

In February 2020, a roundtable discussion attended by representatives from LAC, the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Law Reform and Development Commission considered the draft bill along with a draft **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment and Hate Speech Bill** prepared by the Office of the Ombudsman. That meeting recommended that the Combating of Harassment and Sexual Exploitation Bill should be split into two separate bills to be less unwieldy: a **Combating of Harassment Bill** and a **Combating of Sexual Exploitation Bill**. It also recommended that the proposed draft on sexual exploitation should be expanded to include child pornography.



GR&AP engaged in additional research on how other countries have addressed child pornography, as well as examining international standards and recommendations on this topic.

A revised draft bill that covers child pornography along with other forms of sexual exploitation of children and persons with severe mental disabilities has been prepared for further stakeholder consultation during 2021. It is accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum that provides the reasoning behind the proposed provisions.

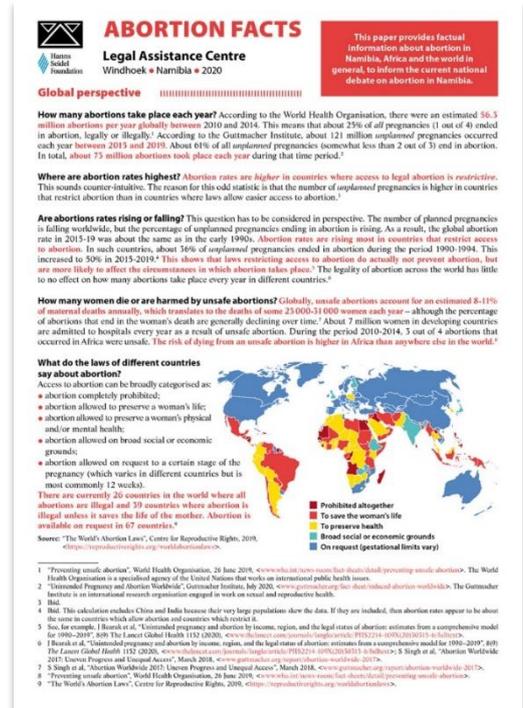
ADVOCACY

GR&AP shared input with government and civil society on a range of draft bills.

- Access to Information Bill
- Data Protection Bill
- Divorce Bill
- Marriage Bill
- Uniform Matrimonial Property Bill
- Civil Registration and Identification Bill
- Wills Bill
- Combating of Domestic Violence Amendment Bill
- Prohibition of Unfair Discrimination, Harassment and Hate Speech Bill.

GR&AP produced a factsheet to inform the renewed public debate around abortion.

Following on a renewal of public debate about whether access to legal abortion should be liberalised in Namibia, GR&AP drafted a one-page factsheet on abortion intended to inform the national debate with accurate facts and figures. This factsheet was published on the LAC website, and circulated to relevant stakeholders.



GR&AP launched a report on the use of force by Namibia’s armed forces.

The launch took place on 14 February, with some 50 participants, including the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, many uniformed members of Namibia’s armed forces and the Chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission. A lively discussion followed the summary of the key points in the report. The Deputy Minister of Safety and Security praising the report’s balanced approach to the topic. The study seems to sparked interest in law reform on the use of force, which would bring Namibia’s laws on this issue in line with international standards and good practice.



GR&AP launched three YouTube videos on the rule of law, the three branches of government and the law on elections.

Three civic education YouTube videos were launched on 19 February 2020 and uploaded to LAC’s new YouTube page. These short videos presented by well-known local comedian “Courage” were based on the factsheets prepared by LAC in 2018-2019. The videos have been utilised by other NGOs in civil education training with very positive feedback



- “Short and informative.”
- “All the kids that watched it loved them.”
- “The video simplified issues. Easy and made for mostly young ones.”
- “Great videos, well produced.”

audience feedback

PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTION

GR&AP distributed almost 34 800 publications nationwide in 2020, despite being hampered by the Covid-19 lockdown.

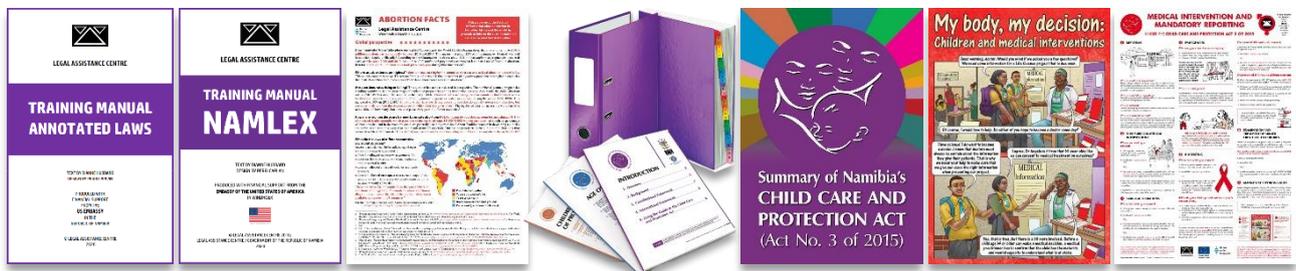
Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
11 000	6 113	0	0	3 500	3 130	3 683	150	950	1 260	4 950	10 590	34 736

Some of the groups which received GR&AP publications were the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dagbreek School | Zero Violence in Okahandja Group |
| Childline/Lifeline | Oshakati |
| The Namibian (inserts) | NANSO |
| Die Republikein | Clerks of the Court |
| Oshikuku Combined School | Social workers |
| Ministry of Justice | Pillipi Trust |
| NDF | Okahandja (community) |
| NamPol | Osire |
| Namibian Correctional Services | Oshana Region |
| Minister of Safety and Security | Omusati Region |
| Law Reform and Development Commission | Oshana Region |
| Ombudsman's office | Oshikoto Region |
| Childline/Lifeline | Ohangwena Region |
| Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID) | |

GR&AP has one publication stand placed at Lifeline/Childline to help introduce new audiences to our publications.

Please contact our office if you would like to suggest a location for our publication stands.



Note that all of the materials produced by GR&AP are available in hard copy from the Legal Assistance Centre or in electronic form on the LAC website: www.lac.org.na.

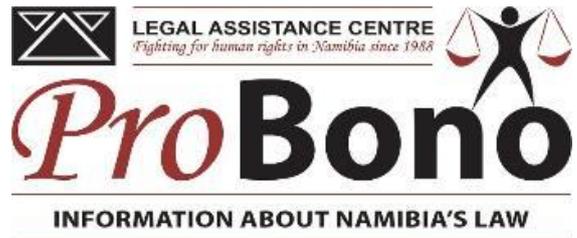
MEDIA

GR&AP appeared in the media on 49 occasions during 2020, with 28 print appearances, 17 radio broadcasts and 2 television appearances.

Media inputs by GR&AP primarily involved information on the Child Care and Protection Act, gender-based violence, corporal punishment and the abortion debate.

GR&AP researched and wrote 9 ProBono columns in 2020, on the following topics:

1. Presidential debates
2. Use of force by law enforcement officials in Namibia
3. Powers and duties of the Law Society of Namibia
4. Admission of guilt fines
5. Cabinet confidentiality
6. Criminal conviction as a disqualification for public office
7. A victim's right to information
8. Protecting same-sex couples from domestic violence
9. Allegations of witchcraft.



CLIENTS

GR&AP assisted 150 individual clients during 2020, often in the course of teamwork with other LAC colleagues.

The most common or interesting topics raised by clients were:

- child maintenance / paternity issues
- surrogacy
- adoption
- domestic violence and rape
- legal abortion after rape
- citizenship / birth certificates
- forced marriage
- child's right to take a Covid test independently
- registering a sex change.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Permanent staff



Dianne Hubbard - Coordinator

(dhubb@africaonline.com.na)

Dianne is a graduate of Harvard Law School. She also has degrees in English from the University of North Carolina in the USA and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She has been the Coordinator of GR&AP since its inception in February 1993, and she served a 3-year term as Deputy Chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission from 2010-2013.

Yolande Engelbrecht - Paralegal

(yengelbrecht@lac.org.na)

Yolande joined GR&AP at the beginning of 2009, having worked at the Ministry of Justice for a number of years. Yolande takes the main responsibility for running workshops on behalf of the department as well as developing training programmes and providing information to clients.

Yolande is currently enrolled at the South Business School for a Bachelor of Commerce in Law degree.



Celine Engelbrecht - Project Assistant

(cengelbrecht@lac.org.na)

Celine joined GR&AP in March 2019 as Project Assistant, after a stint as a GR&AP volunteer in 2018. She assists with all kinds of administrative tasks and is the person to contact for copies of our publications.



Consultants and volunteers



Perri Caplan regularly assists GR&AP with publications design and lay-out. She is responsible for the appealing look which helps to make our publications so popular.

GR&AP would like to acknowledge **Mitchell Putukara** of Tafy Tang Arts and local artist **Nicky Marais** for their excellent work on the recent additions to the GR&AP publications library.

We would also like to thank **Laura Halonen** and **Felix Leuth** for their continuing support on the Namlex Appendix project from Geneva, Switzerland.



Delia Mutale-Mwando, a social worker with a research speciality, assisted GR&AP in 2019-2020 on a volunteer basis. Her main projects in 2020 involved research on child trafficking and abortion issues.



Felicitas Rachinger worked with GR&AP after completing her law studies at the University of Vienna (Austria). She completed her internship remotely after having to leave Namibia during the Covid crisis. She worked on many projects, including research on international law and issues in the Child Care and Protection Act.



Toini Johannes managed to fit volunteer work with GR&AP around her law studies at the University of Namibia. She assisted with scanning the *Official Gazettes*, as well as various legal memos.



Lauren Taiclet from the University of Michigan Law School (USA) assisted GR&AP remotely after Covid prevented her from travelling to Namibia. Her main projects involved research on child pornography and international law.

Canadian lawyers **Andrew Cooper** and **M'Mah Tourè** assisted GR&AP in late 2019 and early 2020 under the auspices of the Young Lawyers International Program of the Canadian Bar Association, but had to cut their internships short due to the Covid situation. Andrew is a recent law graduate of the University of New Brunswick, and M'Mah received her law degree from the University of Montreal.



Andrew, M'Mah, Delia, Yolande, Celine, Dianne and canine friend Mars at a GR&AP planning meeting in January 2020

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