Children and Work Research Series: Session 12

Sport and Child Labour

Prof. Mr. Jaap E. Doek (VU University Amsterdam)

Abstract

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights organized a project on Sport and Child Labour with the aim to produce a white paper on this topic as a contribution to the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour held in Durban in May 2022. The white paper was the result of an extensive literature review and a series of consultations with different groups of stakeholders e.g. athlete unions, international sports organizations, child rights and child labour experts, athletes and parents.

Across the globe adults who were child athletes have begun to raise their voices, recalling situations and conditions they encountered as young persons in sport that disturbingly have some of the characteristics of child labour. Results of this project will be briefly presented and recommendations will be discussed.

Speaker Bio

Jaap E. Doek is Professor Emeritus Family- and Children's/Youth Law at the VU University Amsterdam, Extraordinary Professor children's rights at the Anton de Kom University in Paramaribo Suriname and guest lecturer children's rights at the Leiden University.

He is the chairperson of the Supervisory Board of Child Helpline International (CHI), a member of the International Board of Trustees of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), a member of the Advisory Committee of Defence for Children International (DCI). He was a member (1999-2007) and the Chairperson (2001-2007) of the UN CRC Committee.

He is senior legal advisor of ECPAT international (Bangkok). In that capacity he was involved in the drafting of the Terminology Guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse (ECPAT 2017) and in the drafting of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (approved by the CRC Committee in May 2019) and the Explanatory Report to these Guidelines.