



**ACERWC**  
African Committee of Experts on  
the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Comité Africain d'Experts sur les  
Droits et le Bien-être de l'Enfant

Comitê Africano dos Direitos e  
Bem-Estar da Crianças

اللجنة الأفريقية المعنية بحقوق الطفل ورفاهه

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## Statement on the recurrence of child abductions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) is heartened by the relieving news on the releasing of the girls who had been abducted in Zamfara. The ACERWC commends the Federal Republic of Nigeria for placing urgency on the issue and yielding positive results. While the ACERWC jubilates with the families and communities who have gotten their daughters, sisters and aunts back, this incident is a rude awakening of the need to make access to education safe for all children in Nigeria. It is also a chilling reminder of the Chibok girls who have had their childhood robbed from them and are yet to be reunited with their families.

No child in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, or anywhere else, should be allowed to go through such a horrendous experience if the government delivers on its obligation of basic protection for its children. The recurrent trend of abductions is an eloquent expression on the failure of the state in upholding its protection obligation for all children. Further, the perenniality of the abductions inculcates a sense of insecurity and fear in the children when accessing education which will stand as a barrier to accessing the much needed education. With already existing other barriers, this will result in more school drop outs for especially the girl child. The consequences of abductions cast a bleak generational future, not only for the girls and their families, but also for the human capital of the country.

The ACERWC urges the Federal Republic of Nigeria to provide psychosocial support to the released girls, their families and their teachers.

The ACERWC makes it categorical that priority has to be invested by the Federal Republic of Nigeria in making schools safe for all children. Schools and other learning institutions must be safe for children to enjoy their right to education without any anxiety.

To curb a culture of impunity, the perpetrators of this heinous crime must face the wrath of the law. The ACERWC requests the Government of Nigeria to share with the ACERWC, the steps followed in ensuring accountability on the issue. Further, the ACERWC is also interested in knowing the steps that the government intends to take towards ensuring that schools are made safe for all children in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

*done in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho*

*04<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.*

***Hon. Joseph NDAYISENGA,***

***Chairperson ACERWC***