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## An Assessment of the Legal Framework for the Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse in Tanzania

By  
Maryasinta Lazaro

LL. B (Hons) (UDSM), (LLM-Economic Laws (SAUT)), (PhD Candidate at the Open University of Tanzania and Principal State Attorney at the National Prosecutions Services, Tanzania)



### Abstract

This article investigates the effectiveness of the legal framework governing child victims of sexual abuse in Tanzania; it employs a doctrinal legal research methodology. The study aims to assess the current legal framework and case law on child protection and sexual abuse. By analyzing primary legal sources such as legislation, court decisions, and relevant legal literature, the research explores the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the existing mechanisms for addressing child sexual abuse cases. Through a critical evaluation of the adequacy of legal provisions and their implementation, the study seeks to identify areas needing improvement to enhance protections for child victims and ensure perpetrators are held accountable. The findings of this study provide valuable insights for ongoing efforts to strengthen legal protections for child victims of sexual abuse in Tanzania.

**Keywords:** Child sexual abuse; child law; effectiveness; accessibility; child victims.

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Corresponding author  
**Maryasinta Lazaro**

### 1.0 Introduction

Child sexual abuse involves engaging a child in sexual activities that they cannot fully understand or consent to in an informed manner.<sup>1</sup> It occurs when a child is not developmentally prepared to understand the implications of such acts or lacks the ability to give consent. These actions are not only morally wrong but also illegal, as they violate the laws and social norms that protect children.

Child sexual abuse involves an adult or an older child who holds a position of authority, trust, or power over the child.<sup>2</sup> By engaging in these behaviors, the abuser disregards the child's rights and well-being in order to satisfy their own demands and desires. This can include utilizing children in pornographic performances or

materials, exploiting children in the context of prostitution or other illegal sexual practices, or manipulating, pressuring, or coercing a child into engaging in illegal sexual acts.<sup>3</sup> Child abuse, on the other hand, occurs when dependent and immature children or adolescents are involved in sexual acts that they do not fully understand and cannot consent to in an informed way. Such acts violate family roles and social taboos.<sup>4</sup>

Child sexual abuse include acts of rape, attempted rape, unnatural offences, indecency assault and other acts which intend to abuse a child sexually. These acts are grave violation of human rights and pose significant challenges to the development of societies worldwide. The consequences of such offenses on physical, psychological, and social well-being of child victims are profound and long-lasting.<sup>5</sup> Tanzania, like many other countries, is not

<sup>1</sup> *The Law of the Child Act, Cap. 13,s 3, and the United Republic of Tanzania, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Policy Guideline for the Health Sector Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) 2011.*

<sup>2</sup> *United Republic of Tanzania, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Policy Guideline for the Health Sector Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV), 2011, p. 1.*

<sup>3</sup> *The law of the child act, Cap 13 R.E 2019, s. 3*

<sup>4</sup> *McCran, D. An exploratory study of child sexual abuse in Tanzania, Technological University Dublin, Dublin,(2017) .p.4*

<sup>5</sup> *United Republic of Tanzania, Report on violence Against Children in Tanzania: Findings from National Survey, 2009 (Dar es Salaam: Centre*



immune to incidents of child sexual abuse. For instance, from 2017 to 2021, a total of 70,997 cases of violence against children were reported to police stations countrywide, averaging 14, 199 incidents yearly, 1.183 monthly, and 39 incidents each day.<sup>6</sup>

The existence of child sexual abuse prompted the government to establish and implement various measures such as the establishment of a legal framework, child protection units, and the organization of awareness campaigns. Among the key legislative frameworks that aim to protect the rights of child include amendments to part XV of the Penal Code,<sup>7</sup> the Law of the Child Act of 2009,<sup>8</sup> the Criminal Procedure Act,<sup>9</sup> and the Tanzania Evidence Act<sup>10</sup> just to mention a few. These legal frameworks are essential for creating a protective environment, ensuring justice for victims, and deterring potential offenders.

The effectiveness and accessibility of legal support systems play a critical role in ensuring the well-being and protection of these vulnerable individuals. Despite the efforts made by the Government in enacting laws and policies to protect child victims of sexual abuses, still there have been claims of the existence of inefficiency of the existing laws to address child sexual abuse.<sup>11</sup> These include delays in legal proceedings;<sup>12</sup> and unfriendly/prolonged reporting mechanisms.<sup>13</sup> These indicate a notable gap in the effectiveness and accessibility of legal support systems available for child victims of sexual abuse in Tanzania.

The existing studies conducted in this area have predominantly examined various aspects related to child sexual abuse, such as perceptions of child sexual abuse<sup>14</sup>; management of childhood

sexual abuse,<sup>15</sup> attitudes towards child sexual abuse,<sup>16</sup> parent experiences in reporting child sexual abuse,<sup>17</sup> and preventive measures.<sup>18</sup> However, these studies have not extensively assessed the legal framework for the protection of child victims of sexual abuse in Tanzania.

Consequently, there is a clear need for comprehensive research that specifically focuses on assessing of the legal framework governing child sexual abuse and accessibility of legal support systems on child victims of sexual abuse in Tanzania. Specifically, this study is guided by the following objective: To assess the effectiveness of existing legal framework governing child victim of sexual abuse in Tanzania Mainland.

## 2.0 Legal Framework governing Child Sexual Abuse in Tanzania

This section outlines the contents of the laws and policies with regards to Child Sexual Abuse and highlights the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps of the existing legal frameworks. Laws which provides for Child Sexual Abuse in Tanzania which were examined include the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania,<sup>19</sup> the Law of the Child Act,<sup>20</sup> the Penal Code,<sup>21</sup> the Tanzania Evidence Act,<sup>22</sup> and the Criminal Procedure Act.<sup>23</sup>

### 2.1. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 (herein referred as the Constitution) has provisions which guarantee equal protection of human rights. These provisions guarantee equal protection under the law,<sup>24</sup> safeguards right to life,<sup>25</sup> prohibits torture and cruel treatment,<sup>26</sup> which implying the State's obligation to protect children from all forms of violence, mistreatment, harms and all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse. However, the constitution does not explicitly have a provision which addresses child sexual abuse. The absence of

for Disease and Control Prevention, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, *Dare s Salaam* 2011).

<sup>6</sup> Legal and Human Rights Centre, (LHRC) Tanzania Human rights Report, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> The Penal Code, Cap. 16 R.E. 2022 as amended by SOSPA in 1998

<sup>8</sup> The Law of the Child Act, Cap. 13 R.E. 2022.

<sup>9</sup> The Criminal Procedure Act, Cap. 20 R.E. 2022.

<sup>10</sup> The Tanzania Evidence Act, Cap. 6 R.E. 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Kimbute Otiniel v. R., Criminal Appeal No.300 of 2011, CAT, Dar es Salam Registry (Unreported); Godfrey Wilson v Republic, Criminal Appeal No. 168 of 2018, CAT Bukoba Registry, Seleman Moses Sotei@White v. R., Criminal Appeal No. 385 of 2018 CAT; and Mwalim Jumanne v. R., Criminal Appeal No.18 of 2019 (Unreported); Wambura Kigingwa v. R., Criminal Appeal No.301 of 2018, CAT, Mwanza registry (Unreported).

<sup>12</sup> Judiciary of Tanzania, *Comprehensive Performance of Judicial Function Report 2020*, p.13; and

Judiciary of Tanzania, *Comprehensive Performance of Judicial Function of Report 2021*, p.18; Mateka, N. A., "Adherence to Fair Trial Principles by High Court of Tanzania: A Case Study of Dar es Salaam Region," Ph.D. Thesis, Open University of Tanzania; 2020 and Matagi, P. R., *Reasons for Chronic Existence of Prison Congestion in Tanzania: Critical Analysis of the Law and Practice at Musoma Prison*, Ph.D. Thesis, Mzumbe University, 2016.

<sup>13</sup> Kisanga, F. et al, *Parents' Experiences of Reporting Child Sexual Abuse in Urban Tanzania*, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 2013, Vol.22, No.5, pp 481-498.

<sup>14</sup> Abeid, M., et al, *Knowledge and Attitude Towards Rape and Child Sexual Abuse: A Community-*

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<sup>15</sup> Buhori, J. A, *An Examination of Primary Prevention Measures in Combating Child Sexual Abuse in*

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<sup>16</sup> Abeid, M, et al, *Community Perceptions of Rape and Child Sexual Abuse: A Qualitative Study in Rural Tanzania*, *BMC International Health and Human Rights Journal*, 2014 Vol 14, pp1-13.

<sup>17</sup> Kisanga, (no.13 above) 290-309

<sup>18</sup> Kisanga, et al, *Child sexual abuse: Community concerns in urban Tanzania*, *Journal of child sexual abuse*, 2011 Vol 20 No 2, pp.196-217.

<sup>19</sup> *The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977*.

<sup>20</sup> *The Law of the Child Act, Cap. 13 R.E. 2019*.

<sup>21</sup> *The Penal Code, Cap. 16 R.E. 2022*.

<sup>22</sup> *The Tanzania Evidence Act, Cap. 6 R.E. 2022*.

<sup>23</sup> *The Criminal Procedure Act, Cap. 20 R.E. 2022*.

<sup>24</sup> *Article 13 of the Constitution of the United republic of Tanzania*.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid, Article 14*.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid, Article 15*.



specific provisions in the constitution impacts the safeguarding of child victims' rights. Nevertheless, subsequent legislation like the Law of the Child Act, the Penal Code, the Tanzania Evidence Act, and the Criminal Procedure Act have been enacted to provide more comprehensive protection for child victims of sexual abuse even though they still fall short as will be discussed later.

## 2.2. The Law of the Child Act

The Law of the Child Act in Tanzania (hereafter referred as the Act) is the principle legislation which promotes and protects the rights of the child.<sup>27</sup> It was enacted in 2009, among others, to provide for reform and consolidation of laws relating to children, to stipulate rights of the child and to, promote, protect and maintain the welfare of a child with a view to giving effect to international and regional convention on the rights of the child.<sup>28</sup> These international and regional conventions include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>29</sup> and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.<sup>30</sup>

The international and regional instruments established the principles governing child protection which include the best interest of the child, non –discrimination, right to life, survival, and development and freedom of participation and expression. Therefore, the Act plays a crucial role in providing, among others, a legal framework for the protection of child victims of sexual abuse.

In it, there are specific provisions that address child protection issues including child sexual abuse.<sup>31</sup> The Act defines child abuse to mean any contravention of the rights of the child which causes physical, moral or emotional harm.<sup>32</sup> Moreover, it criminalizes various forms of child sexual abuse, such as rape, defilement, child prostitution and child pornography.<sup>33</sup> These provisions have provided a stronger legal basis for prosecuting offenders and ensuring justice for child victims.

The Act also under the juvenile court procedure rules provides special measures to be taken during the testimony of child witnesses in court. These measures among others include testifying in the presence of social welfare, parents or guardian and to use the language which the child understands.<sup>34</sup> By providing these special measures, the Act helps to create a safe and supportive environment for child victims to testify without fear or undue pressure.

Nevertheless, the Act recognizes the vulnerability of child victims and incorporates child-friendly procedures in the justice system.<sup>35</sup> It

mandates the establishment of specialized courts (juvenile court) and the provision of support services, such as child-friendly interview rooms and trained personnel, to ensure a sensitive and supportive environment for children in conflict with the law and child victim of offence during legal proceedings.<sup>36</sup> However, the only problem is that the procedure is only applicable in juvenile court. Many cases involving child victim of sexual abuse are being dealt with in normal court where the procedures stipulated in the Act and the Juvenile Court Rules,<sup>37</sup> are not applicable. Therefore the child victims of sexual abuse are more protected in juvenile courts than normal courts.

Although the Act has positive aspects, there are several challenges that hinder its effective implementation. One of the main obstacles is the lack of awareness and understanding among various stakeholders including law enforcement agencies, parents, guardians, and communities, regarding the practical application of the law's provisions. This difficulty arises because the enforcement of the Act requires the collaboration of multiple institutions, such as the judiciary, law enforcement agencies like prosecutors and police officers, social welfare departments, and medical institutions, particularly in cases involving child sexual abuse.<sup>38</sup> Without proper knowledge and understanding of the Act, it becomes challenging to effectively enforce its provisions.

Apart from that, the Law of the Child Act also faces a challenge in implementation due to different and contradicting concept of a child due to the existence of various laws which provide definitions and rights for children. For instance, the Law of Marriage Act defines a child as any person under the age of eighteen years<sup>39</sup> but allows a girl to marry at the age of fifteen,<sup>40</sup> assuming that the girl of such tender age can handle family responsibilities. On the other hand, the Penal Code<sup>41</sup> criminalizes any sexual intercourse done to a girl below the age of eighteen.<sup>42</sup> These contradictions hinder the implementation of the provisions of the Law of the Child Act.

Another conflicting law is the Tanzania Evidence Act which recognizes a child of tender years as any person aged fourteen and below and make a provisions which require his or her evidence to be taken in court during criminal proceedings after fulfillment of certain conditions such as to promise the court that a child will tell the truth but not lies while other children aged above fourteen are treated as adults.<sup>43</sup> These contradictions create confusion and inconsistency. Consequently, becomes challenging to establish a unified and coherent understanding of the age at which a person is legally considered a child under criminal justice system.

Furthermore, it is important to note that child sexual abuse not only violates human rights but also inflicts physical, psychological, and

<sup>27</sup> *The Law of the Child Act, Cap. 13 R.E. 2019.*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid,*

<sup>29</sup> *The Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989.*

<sup>30</sup> *The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990.*

<sup>31</sup> *Section 83 of the Act*

<sup>32</sup> *Section 3 of the Act and section 4 of the Child Protection Regulations, 2014*

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid, Section 83.*

<sup>34</sup> *Rule 9 of the Law of the Child Act (Juvenile Court Procedure) Rules, 2016.*

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid, Sections 99*

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid n 34*

<sup>37</sup> *Law of the Child Act (Juvenile Court Procedure) Rules, 2016*

<sup>38</sup> *The Child Protection Regulations, 2014*

<sup>39</sup> *The Law of Marriage Act, Cap. 29 R.E. 2019.*

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid, Section 13.*

<sup>41</sup> *The Penal Code, Cap. 13 R.E. 2022.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid, Section 130(2)(e).*

<sup>43</sup> *Section 127(2) of the Tanzania Evidence Act Cap. 6 R.E. 2022.*



social harm upon its victims. Unfortunately, the Law of the Child Act lacks clear guidelines on how to address these issues effectively. Specifically, there are no provisions within the Act that directly tackle child sexual abuse or outline the necessary measures for supporting and rehabilitating child victims of sexual offences. It is imperative to provide appropriate psychological support and rehabilitation services to these victims in order to facilitate their healing process.

Additionally, ensuring access to high-quality mental health services, counseling, and support systems is crucial for assisting child victims in coping with the trauma they have experienced and aiding in their overall recovery. The absence of the provisions which specifically deals with child abuse cases make it difficult to help to a child victim as the service providers lack legal basis for their services and support to the victims because service provider needs to know all available laws a case which is not easy to many stake holders.

### 2.3. The Penal Code

The Tanzania Penal Code (herein referred as the Penal Code) has been used as a key legal tool for addressing child sexual abuse and protecting child victims.<sup>44</sup> Part XV of the Penal Code provides specifically for offences against morality which includes sexual offences against children. The Penal Code includes provisions that explicitly criminalize all forms of child sexual abuse, such as rape;<sup>45</sup> defilement;<sup>46</sup> incest;<sup>47</sup> unnatural offenses;<sup>48</sup> sexual and grave sexual abuse;<sup>49</sup> just to mention a few. These provisions serve as a deterrent and provide a legal basis for prosecuting offenders. It helps in holding perpetrators accountable for their actions and ensuring justice for child victims of sexual abuses.

Despite the existence of provisions in the Penal Code for the protection of child victims of sexual abuse, there are challenges in their implementation. These challenges include different punishment imposed to perpetrators committing same sexual offences to the child of same status. For example, if the offence of rape is committed against a child of the age below ten years old the punishment will be life imprisonment to the perpetrator who has no any blood relationship with the victim,<sup>50</sup> but if the same offence is committed against the child by his relative who follows under the category of prohibited relationships like father or brother etcetera, the punishment is thirty years imprisonment.<sup>51</sup>

Moreover, inadequate punishment for the offence of sexual exploitation as provided by the Penal Code.<sup>52</sup> Under the Penal Code the minimum sentence for the offence of sexual exploitation committed to a child is fifteen years imprisonment. Considering the

gravity and nature of these offences the provided punishment is not adequate. For example in the case of Job Mlma and others v Republic,<sup>53</sup> where a child of thirteen years was forced by a gang of three adults to have sexual intercourse with a dog, the accused was punished to twenty years imprisonment while the victim was left without any assistance. Therefore, Due to the advancement of science and technology some people are using children in inhuman and risk sexual activities such as forcing children to have sexual intercourse with animals,<sup>54</sup> child pornography and sexual activities for financial gains which follows under the umbrella of child sexual abuse, therefore, it is now a time to have a severe punishment for that offence.

Additionally, societal factors such as fear, stigma, and cultural barriers do hinder the reporting and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases which consequently cause the perpetrators to walk freely without any punishment.

### 2.4. The Evidence Act

The Tanzania Evidence Act<sup>55</sup> (herein referred as the Evidence Act) has been used to protect the child victims of sexual abuse by providing guidelines and provisions that ensure the admissibility and reliability of their evidence in court proceedings.<sup>56</sup> The Evidence Act recognizes that children may be competent to testify as witnesses in court.<sup>57</sup> It takes into account their age and understanding when assessing their competence to give evidence.<sup>58</sup> This provision enables child victims to provide their testimony and ensures their voices are heard in a courtroom setting.

Moreover, the Evidence Act recognizes that child victims may face challenges in providing corroborating evidence for their allegations of sexual abuse against the accuses persons; therefore, it allows the court to act upon evidence of a child victim of sexual abuse without corroboration.<sup>59</sup> By incorporating these provisions, the Tanzania Evidence Act ensures the fair and effective presentation of evidence in cases involving child victims of sexual abuse. It recognizes the unique circumstances and vulnerabilities of child victims and provides specific safeguards to protect their rights and well-being throughout the legal process.

Despite the provisions in the Evidence Act which protect child victims' affairs, there is a lack of minimum standards or guideline provided in order to ensure safe standard collection, preservation, and presentation of evidence obtained from a child in order to support the prosecution of offenders. Lack of these guidelines on creating and providing child-friendly services causes injustice to child victims of sexual offences in case the evidence was not taken

<sup>44</sup> *The Penal Code, Cap. 16 R.E. 2022.*

<sup>45</sup> *Sections 130, 131, 131A, and 132 of the Penal Code.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid, Section 138.*

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid, Sections 158 and 160*

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid, Section 154.*

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid, Section 138(A-D).*

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid, Section 131.*

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid, Section 158.*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid, Section 138B.*

<sup>53</sup> *Job Mlma & others v. R., Criminal Appeal No. 222 of 2022, CAT, Mwanza Registry, TANZILII*

<sup>54</sup> *ibid*

<sup>55</sup> *The Tanzania Evidence Act, Cap. 6 R.E. 2022.*

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid, Section 127.*

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid, Section 127(1).*

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid, Section 127(2).*

<sup>59</sup> *Section 127(7) of the Evidence Act.*



properly and sometimes causes the perpetrators to go unpunished due to inappropriate presentation of evidence.<sup>60</sup>

### 2.5. The Criminal Procedure Act

The Criminal Procedure Act<sup>61</sup> (hereafter referred as the Act) in Tanzania has been used to protect child victims of sexual abuse by providing guidelines and provisions that ensure their rights and well-being during the investigation and trial process. The Act permits the hearings for cases involving child sexual abuse to be conducted in camera.<sup>62</sup> This means that the court should insure the courtroom is limited to essential personnel and parties directly involved in the case.

It also prohibits the publication of evidence and names of the victims of sexual offences,<sup>63</sup> which in turn protect the child's privacy and prevent further harm or embarrassment. All in all, these provisions seek to safeguard the rights, well-being, and dignity of child victims of sexual abuse throughout the criminal justice process. It aims to minimize their trauma, protect their privacy, and ensure their effective participation in the court proceedings.

Despite the good provisions provided by the Criminal Procedure Act for handling child victims of sexual abuse, the procedures used during court processes is still unfriendly. A child is supposing to give his evidence in the presence of the accused in which he or she faces intimidation, coercion, or threats from the accused persons or their advocates.<sup>64</sup>

In Tanzania, the protection of child victims of sexual offenses faces a significant challenge due to the multitude of legislations dealing with child affairs. The absence of a single, comprehensive legislation addressing the issue of child victims of sexual abuse complicates matters for service providers. Consequently, when dealing with cases involving child victims, these service providers are compelled to navigate and apply various legislations.

Supporting child victims of sexual abuse is a multi-faceted challenge. Not only do these young victims require medical, psychological, and social assistance, but this support also involves various stakeholders. Unfortunately, there is no single comprehensive law that adequately addresses all the needs and services required by these children. Consequently, different stakeholders apply distinct legislations depending on their role in providing support to the victims.

Moreover, some of the laws are based on conservative beliefs which hinder child protection services especially legal services. For instance, the Law of Evidence Act still have provisions which

<sup>60</sup> *Kimbuta Otiniel v. R.Criminal Appeal No. 300 of 2011,CAT, Dar es Salaam Registry (unreported); and Law Reform Commission of Tanzania, Report of the Law Reform Commission on the Review of Evidence Law in Tanzania (Dar es Salaam: Law Reform Commission of Tanzania, 2019), p. 83.*

<sup>61</sup> *The Criminal Procedure Act, Cap. 20 R.E. 2022.*

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid, Section 186 (3).*

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid, Section 186.*

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid n.61, s,196*

indicate that a child has undeveloped mind and therefore need to promise the court that he will tell the truth before taking his or her evidence, without considering that taking oath or promises does not guarantee that the witness will tell the truth in court.

## 4.0 Recommendations

From what is discussed above the researcher have the following recommendations: -

The law of the child Act needs to be amended to include a part which will specifically deal with the rights and affairs of the child victim of criminal offences including child sexual abuse. Additionally, child sexual abuse causes physical, psychological, and social harm to the victims which lasting longer. Therefore, there is a need of the law to include specific provision to deal with provision of psycho-social support to the victim in order to assist him/her get healing.

The criminal procedure Act needs to be amended in order to include the provision which will create a friendly environment to the child when giving his or her evidence in court. For instance, to have a provision allowing the use of video, recorded evidence during investigation, prohibiting the need of a child to provide his evidence in the presence of the accused and other method which will suit the child to testify in court comfortably. Additionally, the law should establish a good referral mechanism for a child victim of sexual abuse, because child cases are handled by different stakeholders such as police, social welfare department, health facilities, prosecutor, judiciary and prisons.

The Tanzania Evidence Act need to be amended in order to include the provision which will put a standard and clarification on how the evidence of a child of tender years should be taken during trial in court. Where necessary the judiciary should provide a guideline to regulate the admissibility of child evidence as it was recommended by the Law Reform Commission in its Report for the Review of Evidence Law in Tanzania, 2019.

To ensure the effective protection of underage children from sexual abuse, it is crucial to harmonize the Penal Code and other relevant laws like the evidence Act, the law of marriage Act, The evidence Act and others. This harmonization process should specifically focus on addressing the issue of determining the appropriate age of consent for sexual activities, marriage, evidence and other relevant issues concerning child protection. By doing so, we can create a more robust and consistent legal framework to safeguard the rights and well-being of young children.

Due to the complexities arising from the existence of multiple legislations in Tanzania concerning child affairs, it is essential to establish a single comprehensive legislation focused on child criminal justice. This legislation will effectively address both the issues of child victims of offenses and child offenders, providing a more cohesive and efficient approach to dealing with matters related to children in the court justice system.

## 5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, to effectively address the gaps in the legal support systems for child victims of sexual abuse, a multifaceted approach is essential. This approach should include several key components such as providing necessary legal framework, allocating more resources to support child protection efforts, actively engaging communities in the process, and conducting comprehensive research. By committing to these measures, Tanzania has the potential to significantly enhance the level of protection and support provided to these vulnerable individuals.

This comprehensive approach will lead to the creation of a safer environment for all children in the country. It will strengthen the legal framework, ensuring that the rights and well-being of child victims of sexual abuse are given the utmost priority and protection.

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