



November 20
Universal Day of Children's Rights

10 – 9 – 8 – 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1

GETTING TO KNOW MADAGASCAR

Where you already acquainted with FMSI? The Marist Brothers are present in 80 countries. Many children, adolescents and young adults like you speak the same [Marist language throughout the world](#). Hand in hand with Mary, we make Marcelin Champagnat's dream come true. 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4...

Today we will look at a great insular country that is located near Mozambique. You can go straight to the information about Madagascar [here](#) without losing time.

It is the duty of every State to protect its citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* indicates. Some Marist students will comment on the following UN recommendation to Madagascar: *"Strengthen the social measures to deal with the problem of the children who are not attending school and promote their rights. Double your efforts to improve free primary education for your citizens, and encourage the children who have dropped school because of the political crisis to attend primary school. Strengthen the legal framework aimed at combating and eradicating the worst forms of child labor, through legislative measures and awareness-raising campaigns"*.

Marist teenagers and young people from Madagascar have a lot to say about their social reality. The *Human Rights Council* examined Madagascar in 2014.

Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 18

1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.
2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance

of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.



“Madagascar is an island abundant in natural resources, the fauna, flowers are all wonderful. It is in this sublime country that I live. Unfortunately, my country is going through numerous difficulties such as insecurity, hunger, unemployment, violence ... This reality is the result of the instability and of those who are victims. They are given no attention, their rights are not respected.

According to what I have observed, we Madagascan children go through numerous difficulties concerning the rights of children. The rate of those without schooling and the drop outs from school is always on the increase. The parents do not have enough money to pay the expenses for the school, and the children leave the school to work and help the parents. This

situation brings with it other problems for the children. There are some who go to prostitution (the young girls), thinking that they can easily get money, robbing for some, and which evidently leads them to insecurity. There are also those who take drugs. Finally, in Madagascar, only a few rights are respected and accepted by all, but just the same, we try the best we can so that those rights are respected and understood. There are organizations and associations that work to promote the rights of children”. **MAMIARIMANITRA Fanambinana Jaquelina, 15 years.**



“A large number of children in Madagascar suffer from malnutrition. There are those who do not have the opportunity to go to school, especially the children from the countryside.

I am aware that there are several rights but they are not respected, like the right to express oneself freely, the right to health, the right to live with the parents... Nevertheless, it is still difficult to apply them. That lack of respect for the rights of children has negative consequences for the future; it could be bad behavior, delinquency. On the contrary, if those rights are respected, the children could have a better life, and the possibility of having a future with greater security and splendid”. **RAKOTOARIMANANA Fanilo Antenaina, 15 years.**



"We have been told that one calls child those who are less than 18 years of age and that there is no distinction or difference. It is necessary to think that all the children have the same reaction when they are touched, and they cry when they are hurt. And in addition those children have above all the same rights and they need respect.

In my neighborhood, the interdiction or prohibition to make children work is not respected, many do not go to school. They are obliged to work to nourish the family, to help the parents.

The little boys become carriers or messenger boys, or work in the market and the little girls are in charge of doing the tasks at home for the family. But there are cases which make me

sad. There are some parents who make a contract with some master and the salaries go directly to the parents and they are happy with the money, with the salary while the child suffers very much and receives nothing. There are still many rights that are not respected, but these are only examples". **RAOLIJON Nandrianina Prisca Jenny, 15 years.**

Congratulations to these students who have the courage to speak out regarding the problems of their country. Unfortunately, situations like this happen in many places. Is it the same in your country?

[FMSI](#) would welcome your feedback, so please leave your comments at the Foundation's [Facebook](#) page.

We invite you to reflect on these important issues regarding the children of your country and of the entire world.

Stay tuned! See you tomorrow!

