

ABSTRACT

It is a fundamental principal that has been recognized by the UN standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), vide Rule 1.4, that juvenile justice shall be conceived as an integral part of the national development process of each state. Juvenile justice as a separate and spealized legal regime was evolved in the early 20th century and by 1960s, it was firmly rooted in the USA and UK. The pro-juvenile approach adopted by Britain in 1930s were imported to the British Colonies and a juvenile justice regime was evolved in the British Commonwealth on the British lines. Despite the advances made 1960s viz juvenile justice, the trend was reversed in 1980s as part of the “getsough” approach on juvenile crimes and consequently a retrograde legal approach was evolved in the USA, UK and India. By contrast, the Continental Europe continued to expand its pro-juvenile approach and consequently Western European Countries are highly advanced in comparison to the USA and UK.

In this backdrop, this Research endeavored to identify the existing state of juvenile justice regime Sri Lanka in relation to International Law and whilst making a comparative analysis with the juvenile justice regimes in the USA, UK and India.

In the final analysis, the research concluded that existing juvenile justice regime of Sri Lanka is well below the International Standards and hence the research has made a series of recommendations to fill the lacunae in the local legal regime in order to upgrade them on par with International Standards governing Juvenile Justice.

Key Words - Juvenile Justice, Felonies, Beijing Rules, CRC, Juvenile Court, Due Process Rights, Minimum Procedural Safeguards, right to Fair Trial.