



SCHOOL OF LAW

MHR6207: THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL 2026

LECTURER: Dr. L. SITHOLE

DURATION:3HRS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do NOT write your name on the answer sheet
2. Answer ALL questions.
3. Begin your answer for each question on a new page
4. Exam is worth **100 marks**.

Question 1

Examine the historical development of women's rights in international human rights law. In your answer, discuss factors that shaped the emergence of CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol, and assess whether these instruments adequately respond to contemporary challenges faced by women and children, particularly in Africa.

[50 Marks]

Question 2

In a rural agricultural region of Zafari nation, children as young as 10 years engage in seasonal farm work to support household income. Although some of this work is officially classified as 'light work,' evidence shows that many children work excessive hours, are denied access to education, and are exposed to sexual exploitation by labour contractors and supervisors who control wages and food distribution. The Zafari Government authorities defend the practice as culturally accepted and economically necessary. They further argue that children are not legally recognised persons with human rights.

Using relevant international and regional legal instruments, examine the arguments set forth by Zafari. In your answer, assess the extent of state responsibility in preventing child labour and sexual exploitation, and evaluate the roles of non-state actors in protecting children's rights.

[50 Marks]

THE END