



Hon Phil Reeves MP

Member for Mansfield

Your reference: Petition 1790-11
Our reference: COM 16579-2011

**Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport**

21 DEC 2011

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Neil
Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition No. 1790-11 tabled on 1 December 2011 concerning the treatment of children in Uganda.

The Queensland Government is committed to upholding children's rights and ensuring the most vulnerable in our community have access to supports and services that ensure their safety and wellbeing.

The petitioners may already be aware that in 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Convention was a landmark in children's rights and recognised, for the first time, children as people in their own right. It enshrines their rights in all areas of their lives, including economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. Australia ratified the Convention in 1990, after gaining the approval of the Australian States and Territories.

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs is responsible for all international political, multilateral and legal issues with overseas countries and any foreign policy response to situations of international concern.

In addition, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs is responsible for all human rights aspects of the United Nations system and engagement with the UN on human rights issues.

The petitioners may also wish to consider approaching the Federal Government direct regarding the reported treatment of Ugandan children.

I can assure the petitioners that the Queensland Government is committed to continuing its work with the Australian Government and other States and Territories to support vulnerable children and young people. Children are the future—in every society, in every country—and I would like to thank the petitioners for their advocacy in support of the children of Uganda.

Yours sincerely

Phil Reeves MP
Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport
Member for Mansfield