

Children's Rights and the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

A Global Perspective

Don Cipriani

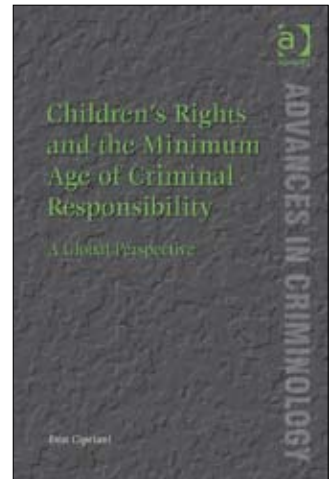
Advances in Criminology



'This is the first book on children's rights which offers a complete panorama of the history as well as the approach taken by the world to the problem of the age of children's criminal responsibility. The book is a good handbook on this issue showing the reader the immense variability in the conceptions of childhood and the differences between theory and practice. It is a "must" for academics interested in juvenile justice and for practitioners working with children in conflict with the law.'

Josine Junger-Tas, University of Utrecht, Netherlands

Children of almost any age can break the law, but at what age should children first face the possibility of criminal responsibility for their alleged crimes? This work is the first global analysis of national minimum ages of criminal responsibility (MACRs), the international legal obligations that surround them and the principal considerations for establishing and implementing respective age limits. Taking an international children's rights approach, with a rich theoretical framework and the vitality of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, this work maintains a critical perspective, challenging the assumptions of many children's rights scholars and advocates. Compiling the age limits and statutory sources for all countries, this book explains the broad historical origins behind most of them, identifying the recurring practical challenges that affect every country and provides the first comprehensive evidence that a general principle of international law requires all nations, regardless of their treaty ratifications, to establish respective minimum age limits.



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About the Author

Don Cipriani (Ph.D. in Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) has researched and written frequently about children's rights, juvenile justice and criminal responsibility for UNICEF and international NGOs in Europe and Asia. In particular, he was the author of a draft General Comment on the minimum age of criminal responsibility for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

See overleaf for more information ►

Contents: Foreword, *Nigel Cantwell* and *Jaap Doek*; Preface; Shifting perspectives on children, shifting rights and criminal responsibility in juvenile justice; Children's rights: mediation of welfare-justice tensions; MACRs and states' obligations under

regional and international law instruments; Historical influences on MACRs; Current MACRs worldwide and modern trends; Practical implications and challenges of MACR implementation; Making MACRs work for children's rights; Annexes; Index.

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