

## Zeinebou TALEB MOUSSA



Mauritania's Candidate to the Committee on the Rights of the Child 2025-2029

## Motivation to become a member of the Committee

*"I want to monitor and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child locally, nationally and internationally. My vision is that children, as human beings, should be able to enjoy their fundamental rights with dignity, in a just and responsible society. I am an activist for the rights of girls and young women in Mauritania."*

## Professional career

As the founding President of the NGO Mauritanian Association for Mother and Child Health (AMSME in French) and a member of Defence for Children International, I have been fighting for 30 years for the rights of girls and young women, independently of the Mauritanian government, as evidenced by my interview for [Human Rights Watch](#) in 2018.

In 2000, I created AMSME to educate girls and young women about reproductive health and rights. Early in my work, however, I realised that another issue, sexual violence, needed to be addressed. Thus, in 2001, I founded the El Wafa center in Nouakchott to help victims of rape and sexual assault. I am fighting to write new laws regarding rape, which is not specifically recognised in the criminal code in Mauritania. I wish to put all my commitment and expertise at the service of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to advance emerging issues and challenges.

I was a member of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, always as an activist/member of civil society and a human rights defender.

I am currently a member of the National Observatory for the Rights of Women and Girls.

*"I have been running a reception center for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) since 2001 and I initiated the first version of the bill against GBV in 2010. This subject is close to my heart and I am actively campaigning for this law to finally pass through Parliament."*

## Awards and Recognition

- 2008: Honored with the "Koun Houran" International Prize for good practices in the protection of children's rights detected in the United Arab Emirates.
- 2017: [Winner of the Woman of Courage Award](#) by the United States Embassy in Mauritania.
- 2019: Candidate for the European Parliament's international prize for open-mindedness.
- 2020: Honored by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family for my constant commitment to the rights of girls in Mauritania.

## My added value

- As a woman from the North-West of the African continent, my expertise in the field consists in managing major programs for more than 25 years relating to the protection of children against all forms of violence and discrimination and particularly sexual violence as well as children deprived of liberty.
- Having developed socio-legal defence centers in my country, I specialised in social, legal and psychological support for child victims of sexual violence and children in conflict with the law.
- Organised regional debates on child protection and advocated for monitoring the implementation of the national child protection strategy.
- At the international level I have an in-depth knowledge of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (2019), as well as the one on Violence (2006), and of course the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its three protocols.
- Contributed to the dissemination and follow-up of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UPR and the ACERWC for Mauritania through the Coordination of NGOs for the defence of children's rights for the elaboration of alternative reports on the CRC and the ACERWC.



*"I would like to stress the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, as well as the need for States to implement them first at the national level in order to generate widespread political will and integrate the recommendations of the study."*

## My expertise

- Violence against children (early and forced marriage of children, female genital mutilations, sexual abuse).
- Children deprived of their liberty and children in conflict with the law.
- Child labour.
- Children in the context of migration.

## The challenges I wish to address to the Committee

- Child protection.
- The quality of childcare.
- Impunity and non-enforcement of laws.

## For more information

Ms. Zeinebou TALEB MOUSSA, Mauritania, CV ([English](#)).

Thank you for your support!

