

## **Broad overview of the *South African Child Gauge 2010/2011***

The *South African Child Gauge* is produced annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape to monitor government and civil society's progress towards realising children's rights. This issue focuses on children's citizenship and participation rights.

The *South African Child Gauge* is divided into three parts:

### **PART ONE: Children and law reform**

Part one discusses recent legislative developments affecting children. This issue comments on the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, Policy on Learner Attendance, Social Assistance Amendment Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill, Protection from Harassment Bill, and Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill.

See pages 9 – 15.

### **PART TWO: Children as citizens: Participating in social dialogue**

Part two presents nine essays – the first two set the scene, defining children's rights to participate in decision-making and describing the conditions for children's meaningful participation in social dialogue. Four essays explore the challenges and benefits of children's participation in different contexts, from one-to-one encounters with professionals to involvement in democratic governance. The essays examine how to enhance children's relationships with professionals; strengthen their participation in school governance; facilitate their involvement in government policy and budget analysis; and support their active engagement with the media. Children's experiences of participation and the role of inter-generational dialogue in challenging and transforming how adults and children communicate with each other are also discussed. The concluding essay uses the notion of children as citizens to draw together key arguments and lessons.

See pages 17 – 73.

### **PART THREE: Children Count – the numbers**

Part three updates a set of key indicators on children's socio-economic rights and provides commentary on the extent to which these rights have been realised. The indicators are a special subset selected from the website [www.childrencount.ci.org.za](http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za).

See pages 75 – 106.