

Global Charter on Children's Care Reform

A continental commitment to ensure every child grows up in a family

Why this matters for Africa

Across Africa, millions of children are growing up without parental care, not because families do not exist, but because families are under pressure, from poverty, inequality, disability exclusion, conflict, and limited access to services.

Too often, the response has been institutional care. Yet evidence and lived experience are clear: children do best in families, not institutions.

The Global Charter on Children's Care Reform represents a shared commitment to change this reality, by strengthening families, transforming systems, and working together to ensure that every child grows up in a safe and loving home.

What the Charter is

The Global Charter is a global call to action that brings together:

- Governments
- Civil society organisations
- Regional and global networks
- Communities and faith leaders
- People with lived experience

It builds on existing international frameworks and sets out a clear, coordinated pathway to:

- Prevent family separation
- Prioritise family-based care
- End the institutionalisation of children

What it calls for

The Charter focuses on practical, system-wide change across six key areas:

- Strengthening families to prevent separation
- Prioritising kinship and foster care over institutional care
- Supporting safe reintegration of children into families
- Providing aftercare for young people leaving care
- Ensuring ethical adoption practices
- Progressively ending institutions

At its core, the Charter recognises that family care is not just a social good—it is a child's right.

FAFICA's role and commitment

As the Family First Alliance for Children Without Parental Care in Africa (FAFICA), we are committed to ensuring that this Charter is not just a global statement—but a lived reality across Africa.

FAFICA exists to:

- Mobilise and connect African actors working on care reform
- Strengthen collaboration between governments, civil society, and communities
- Amplify African leadership and lived experience
- Translate global commitments into practical action at country level

Through this Charter, FAFICA will:

- Support countries to adopt and implement family-based care approaches
- Promote learning, knowledge sharing, and evidence across the continent
- Strengthen regional advocacy to influence policy and financing
- Ensure that communities and people with lived experience are at the centre of reform

A movement for systems change

Ending institutional care is not about closing buildings—it is about building systems that work for families.

This means:

- Investing in community-based services
- Strengthening the social service workforce
- Addressing root causes of separation
- Ensuring inclusion of children with disabilities
- Shifting resources towards family strengthening and prevention

FAFICA brings together partners across Africa to drive this systems change together.

Our shared vision

An Africa where:

- Every child grows up in a safe and nurturing family
- Families are supported, not separated
- Communities are equipped to protect children
- Systems are strong, inclusive, and sustainable

From commitment to action

The Charter is a turning point—but progress depends on what we do next.

FAFICA calls on partners across Africa and beyond to:

- Commit to family-based care systems
- Invest in prevention and family support
- Work collaboratively across sectors and countries

- Center African leadership and solutions

Together, we can move from policy to practice, and ensure that every child has the chance to grow up in a family