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**“Religious Legal Traditions, Muslim States
and the Convention on the Rights of the Child:
An Essay on Relevant UN Documentations”**

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Developing an approach to religious interpretation that can associate Muslim Legal Traditions (MLT) within modern universal values as expressed in international human rights norms is an important priority. Concerning the relation between personal aspects of MLT and human rights, there is a wealth of literature on women's rights, but very little on the rights of children. Based on relevant UN documentation, this paper will undertake a comparative study, in order to examine the various ways that the Muslim Legal Traditions affected the Muslim states' implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC which came into force fifteen years ago is the most universally accepted human rights treaty. On the other hand, this convention is the only international treaty that includes an explicit reference to Islamic law in its article 20. In the meantime, along with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the CRC has received the most religion-based reservations of Muslim states on different articles and/or on the treaty as a whole. This paper also examines the relevance of Muslim States' reservations to the practice of MLT. Unlike theoretical visions of Islam and human rights that presume Muslim law to consist of divine and immutable rules, this study provides a vision of Muslim law by which it has been subject to different interpretations, practices and modifications by States. This study also draws a dividing line between effects of personal (family) MLT and public MLT on children's rights.