



REDE MOÇAMBICANA DOS  
DEFENSORES DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

**RMDDH**



Monday, March 9, 2026 | Year VI, NO. 99 | President: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga | English

## Children as direct victims of political violence

- Within the framework of the National Summit of Human Rights Defenders, organized by the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH) on 9 December 2025 in the City of Maputo, Dr. Benilde Nhalivilo brought to the forefront a dimension often overlooked: the direct impact of political violence on children.



**H**eld under the theme “Resilience in Times of Adversity: Celebrating Human Rights Defenders,” the Summit provided a space for critical reflection on structural challenges in the protection of rights in Mozambique.

In her intervention, Dr. Nhalivilo emphasized that children are among the most vulnerable and consistently neglected groups within human rights protection frameworks. She warned about the impact of post-electoral violence on minors, including cases of deaths and serious injuries, stressing that such incidents reveal profound failures in the State’s primary obligation to ensure children’s protection and safety.

She further highlighted that beyond physical

violence, children face increasing risks in digital spaces. Cyber violence, online harassment, and exposure to harmful content remain largely unpunished, revealing gaps in the effective enforcement of existing legislation.

The speaker called for active vigilance regarding public policies and legislative initiatives that may restrict civic space, warning that regulation must not be equated with arbitrary control. Protecting children requires strengthening rights, not limiting freedoms.

Her intervention underscored the urgency of integrating child protection into national human rights strategies, affirming that safeguarding democracy begins with protecting younger generations.



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*Almejamos um país livre e seguro para os Defensores dos Direitos Humanos, um ambiente favorável ao desenvolvimento das comunidades e ao envolvimento da juventude como potenciais Defensores dos Direitos Humanos.*

*We aspire to a nation where Human Rights defenders can operate freely and securely, fostering community development and empowering youth to become effective advocates for Human Rights.*

#### EDITORIAL INFORMATION:

**Property:** RMDDH  
**President:** Prof. Adriano Nuvunga  
**Editor:** André Mulungo  
**Author:** RMDDH  
**Layout:** RMDDH

#### FINANCING PARTNERS



**SUOMI  
FINLAND**

Rua Dar-Es-Salaam, número 279, Bairro Sommerschild, Maputo -Moçambique **Contacto** +258 857645056  
 **Email** : info@redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org @RMDDH\_Moz rmddh\_moz  
 **Facebook**:@RMDDHMoz redemoz-defensoresdireitoshumanos.org/ **LinkedIn**: rmddh