

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	16 Jun 1993	<p>CRC/C/LCA/CO/2-4 13 June 2014</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fLCA%2fCO%2f2-4&Lang=en</p> <p>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>A .General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6) of the Convention)</p> <p>Legislation</p> <p>4. The Committee notes that some of the recommendations of the Committee in its previous concluding observations are being addressed within the framework of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and that the majority of draft bills have been submitted to the Government for consideration but have not yet been adopted. The Committee, however, is concerned at the slow rate of adoption and implementation of various child-related legislative measures relating to, inter alia, non-discrimination concerning children born out of wedlock, recognition of the role of both parents in the upbringing and development of children, abuse and neglect, family contact for children deprived of a family environment, adoption and juvenile justice.</p> <p>5. The Committee encourages the State party to take steps to develop a comprehensive legislative framework, fully compatible with the principles and provisions of the Convention, ensuring the effective implementation of child-related laws at the national, provincial and municipal levels. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) Take all necessary measures to prevent and combat child abuse and neglect, including adopting and implementing the necessary legislation and policies, in particular, legislation</p>

		<p>based on OECS model Child Care and Adoption Bill, which provides for the care and protection of children from various forms of abuse, and the Domestic Violence Bill;</p> <p>(d) Undertake the necessary legislative measures to ensure the right of the child to contact or visit with his or her parent when the child is deprived of a family environment based on the OECS model Child Care and Adoption Bill;</p> <p>(e) Recalling its previous recommendation in this regard (CRC/C/15/Add.258, para 48), adopt legislation concerning the reform of the adoption system to bring it into line with the Convention, ensuring that the views of the child are taken into consideration as part of the adoption process, by using the OECS model draft Child Care and Adoption Bill as a guide;</p> <p>C. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39 of the Convention)</p> <p>Corporal punishment</p> <p>28. The Committee notes efforts to address the issue of corporal punishment, such as the recent national consultations on the abolition of corporal punishment, and the project “Fostering the positive behavioural management of children in inclusive child-friendly classrooms in Saint Lucia”, which includes parenting skills training and training for principals and teachers. The Committee, however, reiterates its concern that corporal punishment is still seen as a lawful way of disciplining children, both under the 1972 Children and Young Persons Act and the 1999 Education Act, that corporal punishment continues to be practised within the family, schools and in institutions and is widely accepted in society (CRC/C/15/Add.158, para. 34).</p> <p>29. In line with its general comment No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, and general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Strengthen and expand its efforts through awareness-raising campaigns to inform the public in general about the negative impact of corporal punishment on children and actively involve children and the media in the process;</p> <p>(b) Promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline as an</p>
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		<p>alternative to corporal punishment, and expand parenting education programmes and training for principals, teachers, and other professionals working with and for children, and especially the Child Friendly School project; and</p> <p>(c) Finally amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in the family, schools and institutions.</p> <p>Abuse and neglect</p> <p>30. The Committee notes that the State party has undertaken initiatives to conform to the Committee's previous recommendations (CRC/C/15/Add.258, para. 50), including the introduction of a Child Helpline, training workshops on abuse and neglect for teachers, principals, judges, magistrates, lawyers, court prosecutors, religious leaders, community workers and parents and children, as well as widespread public sensitization campaigns. The Committee is, however, concerned about the increase in the number of cases of child abuse and neglect, insufficient training, in particular with respect to child protection social workers and the police, and insufficient support for victims of abuse and neglect. It is also concerned about the lack of a comprehensive strategy and insufficient governmental coordination regarding children in need of protection.</p> <p>31. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Take all necessary measures to prevent and combat child abuse and neglect in all settings, including adopting and implementing the necessary legislation and policies without delay, in particular the Protocol for the Management of Child Abuse and Neglect and the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force Child Protection Manual;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that all professionals and staff working with and for children are provided with the necessary training and supervision and are subject to background checks, as well as provide systematic training to judges, prosecutors, police and other law enforcement officers on how to prevent and monitor domestic violence and receive, investigate and prosecute complaints about such violence in a child and gender sensitive manner;</p> <p>(c) Facilitate the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the victims and ensure access for them to health services, including mental health services;</p> <p>(d) Establish a national database on all cases of abuse and neglect of children, and undertake a</p>
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		<p>comprehensive assessment of the extent, causes and nature of such violence, in order to formulate a national strategy for preventing and combating child abuse and neglect;</p> <p>(e) As part of the national strategy, establish easily accessible mechanisms for children and others to report cases of abuse and neglect and ensure the necessary protection for such victims; strengthen public awareness-raising programmes and provide information, parental guidance and counselling to prevent domestic violence against children; encourage children who are victims, as well as teachers, doctors, social workers and other caretakers to report incidents of such violence to the police; ensure the allocation of adequate human, technical and financial resources to implement the national strategy, including expanding the hours of operation of the Child Helpline to 24 hours per day/7 days per week; and</p> <p>(f) Strengthen governmental coordination to ensure the effective implementation of the national strategy for preventing and combating child abuse and neglect.</p> <p>D. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18(1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4) of the Convention)</p> <p>Family environment</p> <p>36. While welcoming the social support programmes for families, including the Parenting Programme Initiative and the Roving Caregivers Programme, the Committee is concerned that many families, in particular those in situations of poverty, face food insecurity and lack appropriate assistance in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities, especially family counselling and parenting education programmes. The Committee is also concerned about inadequate financial support and accessible early childhood education and care for young children.</p> <p>37. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Intensify its efforts to render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities, in particular in situations of poverty and especially in rural areas, including by strengthening the system of family benefits and child</p>
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		<p>families whenever possible;</p> <p>(c) In cases where institutional care is unavoidable, ensure that adequate facilities exist for both boys and girls in need of protection, and that children in need of protection are not mixed with children in conflict with the law;</p> <p>(d) Strengthen coordination among all relevant government ministries and departments with a view towards establishing a more integrated child protection system; and</p> <p>(e) Consider ratifying or acceding to the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.</p> <p>G. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 (b)–(d), 38, 39 and 40 of the Convention)</p> <p>Children in situations of migration</p> <p>56. The Committee is concerned about the impact of migration on children, especially those left behind as well as challenges in securing maintenance from parents who may have migrated abroad. The Committee is also concerned about children of foreign migrants in Saint Lucia, especially those who are undocumented, and the challenges and discrimination that they may face in accessing education, health services and other social services.</p> <p>57. The Committee recommends that Saint Lucia undertake a comprehensive study on all aspects of migration’s impact on children in the country and the role of child protection and social protection systems in providing services for children impacted by migration. It also recommends that the State party develop national policy and guidelines for all ministries, agencies and departments providing services to children of migrants, and all children impacted by migration, including measures to secure maintenance from parents working abroad. The Committee further recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure the recovery of maintenance from abroad by entering into bilateral agreements with the major States of employment of Saint Lucian migrant workers and also ratify all Hague Conventions and other Conventions relative to the subject;</p>
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OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	8 Oct 2013	
OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations

	15 Jan 2014	
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	N/A	
ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	N/A	
CEDAW	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	8 Oct 1982	
CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	N/A	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	25 Jan 2011	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/LCSession10.aspx
Hague Inter-country Adoption	Ratification Date	Link to Country Profile
	N/A	

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child/Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OPAC to CRC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
OPSC to CRC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review