

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	<p>1 Oct 1990</p>	<p>CRC/C/BLR/CO/5-6 12 February 2020 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fBLR%2fCO%2f5-6&Lang=en</p> <p>II. Follow-up measures taken and progress achieved by the State party</p> <p>3. The Committee welcomes the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2016, and the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, in 2018. It also welcomes the adoption of the Law on Granting of Refugee Status, Subsidiary Protection, Asylum and Temporary Protection to Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons, in 2016, that strengthened the asylum system and the recommendation resulting from the 2018 research to integrate the principle of the best interests of the child into the legislation regarding forced migration. It further welcomes the progress in reducing mother and child mortality and in eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis; the launch of the deinstitutionalisation process, which resulted in lowering the number of children in residential care and the development of family-based alternative care; and the steps taken to develop inclusive education and restorative justice for children and to protect and rehabilitate child victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>4. The Committee reminds the State party of the indivisibility and interdependence of all the rights enshrined in the Convention and emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. The Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the recommendations concerning the following areas, in respect of which urgent</p>

		<p>measures must be taken: violence, including corporal punishment (para. 21), sexual exploitation and abuse (para. 23), family environment and children deprived thereof (paras. 26, 28), children with disabilities (para. 31) and child justice (para. 43).</p> <p>A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))</p> <p>Allocation of resources</p> <p>8. The Committee welcomes the increased support for families with children. Recalling its general comment No. 19(2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children’s rights, the Committee encourages the State party to utilize a child-rights approach in the elaboration of its budget and implement a tracking system and indicators for the allocation and use of resources for children. It also recommends measures to:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) Introducing budgetary allocations for children in disadvantaged situations, including children living in poverty, child victims of abuse, children with disabilities, adolescents in vulnerable situations, children in institutions, Roma children, stateless children and migrant children;</p> <p>...</p> <p>C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)</p> <p>Non-discrimination</p> <p>15. Noting that the principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in article 6 of the Law on the Rights of the Child and that research is being conducted on the necessity of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and recalling SDG target 10.3, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>...</p>
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		<p>(b) Ensure that all children have access to education, medical care and social benefits on an equal basis, particularly children living in poverty, rural children, children without parental care, Roma children, migrant and stateless children, children with disabilities and children in institutions;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Respect for the views of the child</p> <p>17. The Committee notes with concern that reportedly children are at times not considered as rights holders but rather as objects of social protection. Recalling its general comment No.12(2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that children’s views are given due consideration in the family, at schools, in the courts and in all relevant administrative and other processes concerning them, including parental and alternative care, adoption and migration matters. It also recommends encouraging, promoting and supporting the participation of all children in Adolescent Parliaments, with particular attention to children in vulnerable situations; making the selection process more transparent and democratic; and allocating adequate financial support to all youth organisations.</p> <p>D. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, and 13-17)</p> <p>Right to privacy</p> <p>19. Noting the insufficient protection of children’s right to privacy and personal information, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Establish safeguards against arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, in accordance with article 16 of the Convention;</p> <p>(b) Ensure their monitoring with respect to children, including in schools, alternative care, adoption processes and the media;</p>
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		<p>(c) Provide effective remedies in case of violation; (d) Develop and apply child-friendly procedures for obtaining children’s informed consent.</p> <p>E. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39)</p> <p>Violence, including corporal punishment</p> <p>20. Noting the reinstallation of the national hotline for violence against children and the steps taken to address domestic violence, , the Committee is seriously concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The lawfulness of corporal punishment at home, in alternative and day care settings, which is largely condoned and practiced;(b) The withdrawal of the draft law on domestic violence, that would have prohibited corporal punishment;(c) The absence of liability for any forms of violence that do not leave physical marks;(d) Widespread use of violent and degrading means of discipline, which contributes to peer and intergenerational violence, crime and suicide among children;(e) Prevalent peer violence, including bullying, in schools, institutions, communities and online, especially in relation to LGBT children and children with disabilities;(f) Underreporting of cases of violence against children, especially in institutions and by police, and the impunity of perpetrators; and(g) Insufficient rehabilitation services for child victims of violence, including an effective helpline. <p>21. Recalling its general comments No. 8(2006) on corporal punishment and No. 13(2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and SDG target 16.2, the Committee urges the State party to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment, in law and in practice, in all settings;(b) Resume consideration of the draft law on domestic violence, in broad consultation with civil society, with a view to its adoption;
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		<p>(c) Establish liability for all forms of violence against children, including psychological abuse and physical forms of violence that do not leave physical marks;</p> <p>(d) Formulate, with the involvement of children, a comprehensive strategy for preventing, combating and monitoring all forms of violence against children, including bullying and online violence, with particular attention to LGBT children and children with disabilities;</p> <p>(e) Train parents, teachers, professionals working with and for children and the public and conduct awareness-raising activities on positive, non-violent forms of child rearing discipline and respect for children’s right to human dignity and physical integrity, with a view to eliminating the acceptance of corporal punishment and promoting zero tolerance to violence against children, non-violent communication and conflict mediation;</p> <p>(f) Encourage the reporting of all forms of violence against children and establish accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective reporting channels;</p> <p>(g) Develop effective mechanisms, procedures and guidelines and build the capacity of the professionals concerned to ensure early identification and prompt and mandatory reporting of all cases of violence against children, taking into account a gender perspective;</p> <p>(h) Ensure that cases of violence against children are investigated and prosecuted and perpetrators are brought to justice;</p> <p>(i) Develop programmes and policies for the prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims, including by ensuring an effective nationwide three-digit toll-free 24-hour helpline operated by competent and independent specialists allowing for prompt referrals, and promote awareness of how children can access the helpline;</p> <p>(j) Strengthen data collection on all forms of violence against children; and</p> <p>(k) Allocate adequate human, financial and technical resources for implementing the above-mentioned recommendations.</p> <p>F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1) and (2), 20-21, 25 and 27 (4))</p>
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		<p>Family environment</p> <p>25. The Committee is concerned about the system for child care and protection being fragmented under three ministries, Commissions for Minors and Guardianship authorities and about its capacity to provide effective and child focused measures to assist and support families to care for children and prevent separation. It is also seriously concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The insufficient training of professionals that manage the reported cases, which could result in arbitrary separations, when not in the best interests of the child, and in creating psychological pressure on families, resulting in incidences of filicide and maternal suicide;(b) Children’s placement in temporary six-months care without judicial review;(c) Deprivation of parental rights that could be applied as a measure to punish parents;(d) Insufficient measures to facilitate the reintegration of children into their families, including the way the parents’ maintenance obligation is interpreted in case of separation;(e) Insufficient provision and coordination of child- and family-centred social services, including on positive parenting skills, as well as insufficient incentives for fathers to actively participate in parenting. <p>26. The Committee urges the State party to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Consider creating a unified structure coordinating child and family assessment by restructuring and strengthening the Social Pedagogical Centres and Territorial Social Protection in order for them to undertake professional social work assessment of children and their families;(b) Build the social service workforce for children and families to incorporate case management approach, adopt sufficient tools, guidelines and social work quality standards and ensure systemic and regular training of all professionals involved in the case work;(c) Ensure that children are separated from their family only if it is necessary for their best interests and subject to judicial review, according to article 9(1) of the Convention, and
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		<p>that poverty and disability should never be justification for removing a child from parental care;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that the deprivation of parental rights is used as a last resort and solely in the best interests of the child and address the punitive function of the child support obligation;</p> <p>(e) Address social vulnerabilities leading to separation and intensify the provision and coordination of social services that should be child- and family-centred and develop community-based family support services, with a view to strengthening families as safe environments for children, facilitating returns and reducing reliance on alternative care;</p> <p>(f) Further promote equal parenting, including by clarifying fathers' entitlement to paternal leave and encouraging fathers to use it, and monitor the practice;</p> <p>(g) Seek technical assistance from UNICEF for the implementation of these recommendations.</p> <p>Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>27. The Committee welcomes the deinstitutionalisation process and the development of family-based care. However, it is concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The lack of a coordinated deinstitutionalisation strategy and an action plan;(b) An increasing number of children with disabilities in residential care;(c) Insufficient coverage of family-based care, especially for children with disabilities;(d) The need to strengthen and harmonise the legal framework and practice on foster care and family-type children's homes; and(e) Insufficient efforts to increase the standards of institutional care with the view to protecting children's rights and to ensuring regular monitoring of placement. <p>28. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p>
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		<p>(a) Adopt, with the involvement of civil society, a comprehensive strategy on child care reform as integral part of the 2021-2025 state programmes with allocated adequate human, financial and technical resources that phases out institutionalisation and strengthens the family-based alternative care responses with particular attention to children with disabilities;</p> <p>(b) Direct efforts towards enabling children to remain in or return to the care of their parents, by ensuring that parents and other family members have access to support in their caregiving role and are able to provide safe, stable and nurturing care for their children, including through child-sensitive social protection policies and services;</p> <p>(c) Harmonise legislation and practices applying to foster families and family-type homes; ensure that medical and rehabilitation costs for children in foster care are covered from the State budget;</p> <p>(d) Ensure periodic review of the placement of children in alternative care and monitor the quality of care, including by providing accessible channels for children to report violence and maltreatment; investigate cases and hold the perpetrators accountable and provide children with adequate remedies; and</p> <p>(e) Provide premises and opportunities for children in alternative care to maintain direct contact with their parents.</p> <p>Children of incarcerated parents</p> <p>29. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonise its laws and regulations to protect the children of incarcerated parents and the visitation rights of these children.</p> <p>G. Children with disabilities (art. 23)</p> <p>30. The Committee notes the adoption of the action plan on the implementation of the CRPD and of the policy framework and action plan for inclusive education. It also notes that the Draft Law on the</p>
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		<p>Rights of Persons with Disabilities and revisions to the draft Education Code are pending before the Parliament. However, the Committee remains seriously concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Discrepancies in the definitions related to disabilities that is also reflected in the data collection that do not allow to comprehensively assess and address the number and situation of children with disabilities, including in mainstream education;(b) Insufficient coordination of policies related to children with disabilities in particular regarding family outreach, rehabilitation programmes and family-centred services;(c) High number of children with disabilities in institutions, in the absence of family-based care solutions;(d) Insufficient support for children in disabilities in transition to adulthood; and(e) Widespread discrimination, stigma and violence against children with disabilities. <p>31. Recalling its general comment No. 9(2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Adopt a single definition on disability based on CRPD and making use of the International Classification of Functioning and Health of Children and Youth;(b) Organize a systematic and comprehensive data collection on children with disabilities, including in education;(c) Ensure improved coordination between authorities, strengthened inclusive policies, in particular those of inclusive care and education, and the provision of adequate financial, human and technical resources;(d) Strengthen support to parents of children with disabilities to ensure their right to grow up in a family environment; develop family-based care solutions for children with disabilities deprived of a family environment;(e) Further strengthen early identification of disability and age-appropriate rehabilitation interventions; improve information outreach to parents of children with disabilities and develop programmes to support children with disabilities in transition to adulthood to help them start an independent life; and
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		<p>(f) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities and promote a positive image of such children; ensure the investigation of, and an adequate response to, cases of violence.</p> <p>G. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)</p> <p>Standard of living</p> <p>35. The Committee notes the increase in childcare benefits and targeted social assistance for large and single-parent families. Recalling SDG target 1.3, the Committee reiterates that the State party should ensure an adequate and sustainable standard of living for all children within its territory, particularly the ones in the most vulnerable situations, and recommends that it:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(c) Strengthen support programmes for large and single-parent families, parents of children with disabilities and children without parental care; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>I. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29, 30 and 31)</p> <p>Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities</p> <p>38. Recalling its general comment No. 17(2013) on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to guarantee the right of children, including children living in poverty, children with disabilities, children without parental care and migrant children, to rest and leisure and sufficient time to engage in play and recreational activities that are safe, accessible, inclusive, reachable by public transport, smoke-free and age-appropriate. It also recommends expanding the offer of cultural activities in Belarussian.</p>
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		<p>(g) Prohibit immigration detention of children and ensure non-custodial solutions, including foster care and accommodation in specialised open reception centres serviced by trained professionals with access to education and psychosocial support; and ensure the periodic and independent review of the care and access to complaint procedures.</p>
		Country Report
		<p>CRC/C/BLR/5-6 18 March 2019 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fBLR%2f5-6&Lang=en</p>
OPSC to CRC	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	23 Jan 2002	
OPAC to CRC	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	25 Jan 2006	
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	12 Nov 1973	
ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	12 Nov 1973	
CEDAW	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	4 Feb 1981	

CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	29 Nov 2016	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	4 May 2015	https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BYIndex.aspx
Hague Intercountry Adoption	Ratification Date	Link to Country Profile
	17 Jul 2003	https://www.hcch.net/en/states/hcch-members/details1/?sid=10

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