

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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		10 February 2020
		https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/ layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fHUN% 2fCO%2f6⟪=en
		III. Main areas of concern and recommendations
		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 measures must be taken: violence, including sexual violence, abuse and neglect (para. 24), children deprived of a family environment (para. 28), children with disabilities (para. 30), adolescent health (para. 33), education (para. 37) and asylumseeking, refugee and migrant children (para. 40).
		A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))
		Dissemination, awareness raising and training
		13. Recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 16), the Committee recommends that the State party:
		(c) Include mandatory modules on human rights and the Convention in the school curriculum and in training programmes for all professionals working with or for children, including all law enforcement officials, teachers, health personnel, social workers and personnel of childcare institutions, as well as State and local government officials.



#### Cooperation with civil society

14. Recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 18), the Committee urges the State party to ensure that non-governmental organizations can conduct their activities unimpeded, including on detention issues, asylum-seeking and migration, in an environment conducive to human rights. Additionally, it recommends that the State party strengthen its collaboration with non-governmental organizations working on children's rights, such as through the National Professional College of Child Welfare and the Child Protection Services.

# C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

#### Non-discrimination

- 16. Taking note of target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 20), the Committee urges the State party to:
  - (a) Implement its laws that prohibit discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, such as girls, children with disabilities, Roma children, migrant and unaccompanied children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex children, and to take measures to educate the public about equality and non-discrimination and to expand its programmes in schools;

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# Respect for the views of the child

- 18. With reference to its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 24), the Committee recommends that the State party:
  - (a) Further develop the practice of hearing the views of children under 14 years of age and ensure that their views are duly taken into account in family law proceedings concerning them, including in custody and guardianship decisions;



party:

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(b) Ensure that children, including unaccompanied children between 14 and 18 years of age, have their views heard in migration and asylum-seeking processes, in all situations, including during crises caused by mass migration; (c) Ensure that children in alternative care are heard in decisions affecting them throughout their stay; and children' rights representatives are in sufficient number and have the technical capacities adequate to guarantee respect for the views of the child in alternative care; (d) Continue promoting the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, community and schools, including through student council bodies and the children's parliament; (e) Strengthen initiatives aimed at increasing child participation and develop toolkits to consult with children on national policy issues that affect them, in particular the issues that children identified as being of most concern for them such as education, climate change and security, and ensure that children's views are taken into account by local and national authorities. D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39) Violence, including sexual violence, abuse and neglect 23. The Committee is seriously concerned about: (a) The lack of information on a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse, with specific measures targeting girls, Roma children, asylumseeking and migrant children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children; (b) The effectiveness and the use by children of the procedures for reporting of cases of violence against children to the authorities. 24. With reference to its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all

forms of violence and taking note of target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, paras. 35, 30 and 32), the Committee urges the State

including sexual abuse, paying particular attention to girls and children in disadvantaged

(a) To develop a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children,



situations, including children with disabilities, children in alternative care, Roma children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children; and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children; and ensure that the strategy clearly informs children about the procedures available for reporting cases of violence;

- (b) Put in place child-sensitive mechanisms to facilitate and promote the reporting of cases and ensure that complaints mechanisms are child friendly and available both online and off-line, paying particular attention to alternative care settings, detention facilities and locations for asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, and ensure that cases are promptly recorded and investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and duly sanctioned
- (c) Consider expanding the application of the "institutional, maintainer and sectoral methodology for the investigation and addressing violence against children and young adults in child care institutions, foster families and correctional institutions" of the Minister on Human Resources to all settings and instances where children may be victims of violence;
- (d) Adopt the legal measures necessary to support the implementation of the Barnahus programme; and ensure that child victims of violence have effective access to the investigation and therapy services based on the Barnahus model, and that these services are by default available to all child victims of violence.

#### **Corporal punishment**

- 25. In the light of 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 recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, paras. 34), the Committee urges the State party:
  - (a) To effectively implement the prohibition on the use of all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, schools and alternative care institutions;
  - (b) To strengthen its measures to develop awareness raising and education campaigns that promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child rearing and discipline, and that underscore the adverse consequences of corporal punishment, targeting in particular children, parents, teachers and social protection professionals.



# E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9–11, 18 (1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4))

#### Family environment

- 26. Recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 37), the Committee urges the State party:
  - (a) To fully implement the prohibition of the separation of children from their families and their placement in alternative care due to the economic situation of those families, through comprehensive programs that tackle the multiple challenges that families are facing, and ensure that separation is only used as a last resort in accordance with the United Nations guidelines for the alternative care of children;
  - (b) To strengthen its measures to provide families in need with adequate and long-term social housing and other support measures, and increase social benefits to low-income families with children, in particular single-parent households, in order to prevent out-of-home placements;
  - (c) To increase access to counselling and social support to pregnant women in crisis situations, and introduce confidential birth registration to prevent the abandonment of children and ensure their safe delivery into the child protection system, while phasing out the "Baby Box" (incubator) programme.

# Children deprived of a family environment

- 27. While welcoming the establishment by law of the profession of foster parents in January 2014 as well as the creation of the child protection guardianship, the Committee remains seriously concerned about:
  - (a) The increasing number of children in alternative care, and that many still live in institutional settings, including 300 children under 3 years of age;
  - (b) The fact that ethnic origin of children in the child protection system is not recorded, making it difficult to know whether particular groups require targeted prevention services;
  - (c) Insufficient measures to guarantee that children spend the shortest time possible in temporary care, due to bureaucratic procedures to assess their situation;



<ul> <li>(d) The insufficient number of foster families, and the fact that the majority of foster families are located in remote areas where children have limited access to support services and to their families of origin;</li> <li>(e) The violence and abuse suffered by children in alternative care settings.</li> </ul>
28. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (see General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 39), the Committee urges the State party:  (a) To urgently phase out the institutionalization of children while redirecting funds towards families to promote and support care in a family environment;  (b) To prioritize social protection measures for families to prevent children, in particular those
under 3 years of age, from entering alternative care; (c) To ensure that records of ethnic origin of children in the child protection system are collected and analysed, with a view to providing targeted prevention services; (d) To modernize and make child protection services more efficient to guarantee that children spend the shortest time possible in temporary care; (e) To strengthen its measures to increase the number of foster families countrywide, invest in the provision of health, education and social services at the local level, and ensure that children
maintain contact with their biological families, when in the child's best interests;  (f) To strongly invest in the training and supervision of professionals working in alternative care, and provide them with the infrastructure and financial resources necessary to care for the children they are responsible for;  (g) To ensure that children in alternative care settings, including children with disabilities, have access to confidential and child-sensitive complaints mechanisms, are able to report cases of misconduct, and that reported cases are promptly addressed.
F. Children with disabilities (art. 23)
29. The Committee is seriously concerned about:  (a) Children with disabilities being deprived of their families and living in institutions, children's homes and small group homes;



<ul> <li>(b) Insufficient measures to end the institutionalization of children with disabilities and to promote accessible health and rehabilitation services, transportation, leisure and sports to ensure their inclusion in the community;</li> <li>(c) Cases of child sexual abuse and maltreatment of children with disabilities in institutional care, such as at the Tophaz Special Home/ House of Providence, Kossuth Zsuzsa children's home in Bicske and the children's home at Zalaegerszeg;</li> <li>(d) State care not providing adequate services to children with disabilities;</li> <li>(e) The lack of information on the situation of Roma children with disabilities;</li> <li>(f) The continuing stigma endured by children with disabilities.</li> </ul>
30. Recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 45), the Committee urges the State party:
(a) To strengthen its efforts to support, including through financial assistance, families of children with disabilities so they can provide adequate care to their children and ensure their integration in the community;  (b) To rapidly phase out institutionalization of children with disabilities and urgently close Tophaz and other institutions that do not comply with standards; while increasing access to community services inclusive of children with disabilities, particularly health and rehabilitation services, transportation, leisure and sports, to promote their inclusion in society;  (c) To provide adequate training to child protection workers on the rights and needs of children with disabilities;  (d) To ensure that reporting of cases of violence, abuse and neglect of children with disabilities is mandatory for all persons working with them, and ensure access to judicial remedies and redress for children with disabilities, to strengthen the independent monitoring of psychiatric hospitals and other institutions where children with disabilities are institutionalized, and to ensure access to independent lawyers and human rights defenders for the provision of legal aid and counselling;  (e) To conduct a study on the rights of Roma children with disabilities;  (f) To conduct awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities, promote a positive image of such children, and their recognition as rights-holders and respect for their dignity and evolving capacities on equal basis with other children.

# Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children

38. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

...

(b) Children above the age of 14 years being kept in transit zones, following the amendment to section 4 (1)(c) of Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Administration of Guardianship stipulating that, in cases of emergency, unaccompanied children above the age of 14 are not covered by the Act for the duration of their asylum procedure;

...

- (c) The cases of violence inflicted by border police on children and others staying irregularly in the State party during interception and or removal operations;
- (d) Children over 14 years old in transit camps receiving inadequate nutrition;

...

- 39. With reference to its general comment No. 6 (2005) on treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin and to joint general comments No. 3 and No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families / No. 22 and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the human rights of children in the context of international migration and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/HUN/CO/3-5, para. 55), the Committee urges the State party to immediately:
  - (a) Amend the asylum law to prohibit the immediate expulsion of children and their families who are staying irregularly in the State party and have not had the opportunity to apply for asylum, and ensure that the asylum law is in conformity with the Convention;
  - (b) Remove the amendment to section 4 (1) (c) of Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Administration of Guardianship in order to cover all children, including unaccompanied children between 14 and 18 years of age, in all situations, including during crises caused by mass migration;



		(c) Conduct training for border police on the rights of the child and of asylum-seekers and ensure that any cases of violence against children are immediately investigated and perpetrators prosecuted and duly sanctioned; (d) Ensure that the changes to asylum procedures introduced on 1 January 2018 and 1 January 2019 guaranteeing the provision of food to children and adults in transit camps are effectively and adequately implemented; (e) Only use the age assessment process in cases of serious doubt and through multidisciplinary methods, taking into account all aspects, including the psychological and environmental aspects of the person under assessment; (f) Ensure that children in transit centres have access to education in the same conditions as Hungarian children; and that those children who have been kept in transit centres have access to adequate child protection, education and health services, including mental health services.  Country Report  CRC/C/HUN/6
		8 November 2019  https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/ layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fHUN%  2f6⟪=en
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OPAC to CRC	24 Feb 2010 Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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	17 Jan 1974	
ICESCR	Accession	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	Date	
	17 Jan 1974	
CEDAW	Ratification	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	Date	
	22 Dec 1980	
CRPD	Ratification	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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CRPD/C/HUN/CO/1	20 Jul 2007	22 October 2012
Concluding Observations on the initial report of Hungary adopted by the Committee at its eight session (17-28 September 2012)		http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Session8.aspx  III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations  A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1-4)  13. The Committee regrets the insufficient participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the review and design of disability-related legislation and policies, as well as in other policy and decision-making processes, in line with their obligation under article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention. The Committee further regrets the fact that representative organizations of persons with disabilities from Hungary did not participate in the constructive dialogue with the Committee.  14. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the planning, execution and monitoring of public decision-making processes at all levels and in particular in the matters affecting them, giving them reasonable and realistic



timelines for providing their views, and providing them with adequate funding in order to enable them to fulfil their role under article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

#### Children with disabilities (art. 7)

- 21. The Committee takes note of the State party's expression of dedication to protect and promote the rights of children with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned about the large number of children living in institutional settings and about the fact that many children with disabilities receive institutional rather than home care. It stresses the importance of allocating sufficient resources to enable children with disabilities to continue living with their families in their own communities.
- 22. The Committee calls upon the State party to undertake greater efforts to make available the necessary professional and financial resources, especially at the local level, to promote and expand community-based rehabilitation and other services in their respective local communities to children with disabilities and their families, in order to enable children with disabilities to live with their families, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/HUN/CO/2).

### Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

- 27. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party is committed to undertaking measures to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty. It also notes with appreciation that "personal liberty is assured by making use of the services voluntarily" (CRPD/C/HUN/1, para. 87). However, the Committee is concerned about the situation faced by persons under guardianship, where a decision on institutional care is made by the guardian rather than the person him/herself, and guardians are authorized to give consent to mental health care services on behalf of their ward. The Committee further regrets that disability, in some cases, can be the ground for detention.
- 28. The Committee recommends that the State party review provisions in legislation that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability, including mental, psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and adopt measures to ensure that health care services, including all mental health care services, are based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned.



#### Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

- 31. The Committee appreciates that the State party has taken measures to provide some specific disability-related provisions in its legislation and policies for prevention of exploitation, violence and abuse. However, it is concerned that women, men, girls and boys with disabilities continue to face violence, abuse and exploitation.
- 32. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure protection of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with the Convention, inter alia, the establishment of protocols for the early detection of violence, above all in institutional settings, procedural accommodation to gather testimonies of victims, and prosecution of those persons responsible, as well as redress for victims. It also recommends that the State party ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive and accessible.

#### Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

- 36. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities still face various financial, physical and attitudinal barriers to founding a family and that scarcity of the support services for independent living (see paras. 34 and 35 above), presents a de facto barrier to the full and effective enjoyment of the rights set out in article 23 of the Convention.
- 37. The Committee calls upon the State party to take appropriate measures to enable men and women with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and found a family, as well as to provide adequate support services to men and women, boys and girls with disabilities to enable them to live with their families, in order to prevent or reduce the risk of placement in an institution.
- 38. The Committee calls upon the State party to take appropriate and urgent measures to protect persons with disabilities from forced sterilization.



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# **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 ICCRP 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