

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	3 Aug 1990	<p>CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5</p> <p>29 January 2016</p> <p><a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fBEN%2fCO%2f3-5&amp;Lang=en">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fBEN%2fCO%2f3-5&amp;Lang=en</a></p> <p><b>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</b></p> <p><b>B. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the Convention)</b></p> <p><b>Best interests of the child</b></p> <p>24. The Committee welcomes the incorporation of the best interests of the child in the current Children's Act. However, the Committee is concerned that the principle of best interests of the child is frequently not upheld in cases of disputes involving children, which are often resolved in line with traditional beliefs and customs with a view to preserving social cohesion.</p> <p><b>25. In the light of its general comment No 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children. In this regard, the State party must guarantee the best interests of the child in every area and that it is given due weight as a primary consideration.</b></p> <p><b>Right to life, survival and development</b></p>

		<p>28. The Committee notes that the current legislation punishes all forms of infanticide and that certain measures have been taken to prevent them. However, it remains concerned that children born with disabilities as well as so-called “sorcerer” children are likely to be killed or abandoned by their parents. It is further concerned by the lack of information on legal actions taken against the perpetrators of these infanticides and on sentences handed down.</p> <p><b>29. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/BEN/CO/2, para. 31) and urges the State Party to prevent and stop infanticide, and to take prompt and active measures to protect infants’ right to life and to ensure that all infanticide perpetrators are brought to justice. It recommends that the State Party ensure the promotion of medically assisted deliveries in health centres by trained midwives; the monitoring of new-borns in the community; the provision of community education on child rights, including through literacy classes and primary schools; and the provision of adequate support to NGOs and religious associations active in this field.</b></p> <p><b>D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24, para.3, 28, para. 2, 34, 37 (a) and 39)</b></p> <p><b>Corporal punishment</b></p> <p>34. While the Penal Code and the Children’s Act prohibit corporal punishment, the Committee is concerned that corporal punishment continues to be considered an acceptable way of disciplining children. It is further concerned that few students, teachers and other staff members have knowledge of the legal ban on corporal punishment, legislation on sexual harassment, and have access to information on respect for children’s rights.</p> <p><b>35. In the light of its general comment No. 8 (2006) on corporal punishment, the Committee urges the State Party to implement both the Penal Code and the Children’s Act as a matter of priority. The Committee further recommends that the State Party ensure a large dissemination of the legislation prohibiting corporal punishment, especially in public and private schools and vocational training structures, and also ensure that an educational program be developed against corporal punishment, and for the promotion within the society, of positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline.</b></p>
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		<p><b>(a) Effectively enforcing the criminalization of FGM, ensuring that offenders are prosecuted and punished in accordance with the severity of this violation;</b></p> <p><b>(b) Adopting and implementing a National Plan of Action to prevent this harmful practice and allocating adequate resources for its implementation, in particular in rural areas;</b></p> <p><b>(c) Reinforcing public education and awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns, targeting both women and men, including officials at all levels, and traditional, community and religious leaders, to eliminate this practice;</b></p> <p><b>(d) Providing retraining, where appropriate, for practitioners of female genital mutilation and supporting them to find alternative sources of income.</b></p> <p>42. The Committee is concerned at the practice of sequestration of children, especially girls, in voodoo convents due to family traditions and beliefs. The Committee is particularly concerned that these children are deprived of education and contacts outside of convents, are subjected to ill treatment, including scarification rites and sexual abuse. The Committee is further concerned at the persistence of the traditional practice of vidomégon affecting girls and at limited measures taken to eradicate it and to hold accountable those exploiting them.</p> <p><b>43. The Committee urges the State party to investigate and prosecute persons responsible for harmful practices against children, and urgently remove children from these environments. The State party should work closely with traditional leaders and community-based organizations to raise awareness of the harmful effects of these practices and to eradicate them. Furthermore, the Committee requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next report to the Committee on the concrete measures in this respect as well as their outcome.</b></p> <p>44. The Committee is concerned that early and forced marriage of girls is enduring and practiced in a large scale in rural areas and specific regions in the north of the State party, as the Code of Persons and Family allows marriage between adolescents under the minimum age of 18 years, upon special dispensation.</p> <p><b>45. The Committee recommends that the State party take concrete measures in order to prevent and combat child and forced marriage of girls by:</b></p> <p><b>(a) Ensuring that the minimum age of marriage set in the Children’s Act be strictly enforced;</b></p>
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		<p>(b) Developing awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on the harmful effects of child marriage on the physical and mental health and well-being of girls, targeting households, local authorities, religious leaders, judges and prosecutors;</p> <p>(c) Establishing protection schemes for victims of child and forced marriage who file a complaint.</p> <p><b>E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (paras. 1 and 2), 20-21, 25 and 27 (para. 4))</b></p> <p><b>Children deprived of a family environment</b></p> <p>46. The Committee welcomes that the Children’s Act provides for social assistance for lowincome parents and for the establishment of children’s shelters, protection centres and foster care families. It is concerned however at the high number of children in need of alternative care, the insufficient capacity of alternative care facilities and the inadequacy of support for those structures. The Committee also regrets the limited information and data on children who receive alternative care.</p> <p><b>47. Drawing the State party’s attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children (General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), the Committee emphasizes that financial and material poverty should never be the sole justification for removing a child from parental care, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing a child’s social reintegration. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible, including for children in single-parent families, and strengthen its system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, with a view to reducing the institutionalization of children;</li><li>(b) Ensure adequate safeguards and clear criteria, based on the needs as well as best interests of the child, for determining whether a child should be placed in alternative care;</li><li>(c) Ensure periodic reviews of the placement of children in foster care and institutions, and monitor the quality of care therein, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children;</li><li>(d) Ensure the implementation of the 2012 Decree establishing the norms and standards of child protection and reception centres, and that adequate human, technical and financial resources are</li></ul>
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		<p><b>allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, in order to facilitate information management, data collection and the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children resident therein to the greatest extent possible.</b></p> <p><b>Adoption</b></p> <p>48. While welcoming the initiation, in 2014, of the accession process to the Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, the Committee is concerned about the lack of information on legal regulation and data on formal and informal domestic adoptions. The Committee is further concerned that the process of accession is too slow.</p> <p><b>49. The Committee recommends that the State party regulate domestic adoption, including within the extended family and community, in accordance with the Convention, in order to strengthen the protection of adopted children. It also recommends the State Party to accelerate the accession process to the 1993 Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.</b></p> <p><b>F. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (para. 3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (paras. 1-3) and 33)</b></p> <p><b>Children with disabilities</b></p> <p>50. The Committee is concerned about the very little information on children with disabilities and about measures taken for their inclusion in regular schools. The Committee is further concerned about their access to appropriate health services and care, and to social grants; about their social exclusion from many spheres in the society; and by the level of stigma they suffer both in urban and rural areas.</p> <p><b>51. In the light of 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:</b></p>
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		<p>(a) Organize the collection of data on children with disabilities and develop an efficient system for diagnosing disability, which is necessary for putting in place appropriate policies and programmes for children with disabilities;</p> <p>(b) Set up comprehensive measures to develop inclusive education and ensure that inclusive education is given priority over the placement of children in specialized institutions and classes;</p> <p>(c) Take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes;</p> <p>(d) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities and promote a positive image of such children.</p> <p><b>Children in street situations</b></p> <p>64. The Committee notes the studies undertaken by the State party on talibés and other children begging in the streets, but is deeply concerned about the weak enforcement of legislation with regard to these children, evidenced by the absence of prosecutions and convictions of religious leaders and parents who send children to beg in the streets. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of programs to meet the needs of these children and to protect them. The Committee is further concerned that street children are not covered by parental protection and face enormous hardship to subsist.</p> <p><b>65. The Committee calls on the State party to:</b></p> <p>(a) Enforce the legislation in place for the protection of children from all forms of exploitation and to actively investigate those cases, prosecute and sanction all offenders, with a view to strengthening the deterrent effect of its existing legislation;</p> <p>(b) Develop and implement, with the active involvement of street children themselves, a comprehensive policy which should address the root causes of this situation, to prevent this phenomenon and reduce its scale;</p> <p>(c) Provide children in street situation, in coordination with NGOs, the necessary protection, and accommodation, adequate health services, education and other social services according to their needs;</p> <p>(d) Support family reunification if that is the best interest of the child.</p>
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		<p><b>Sale, trafficking and abduction</b></p> <p>66. Although the State party has set up a Central Office for the Protection of Minors, the Family and Suppression of Human Trafficking, the Committee is concerned at the number of children who fall victims of internal trafficking for the purpose of domestic work, subsistence farming or trade, or victims of transnational trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic labour in other countries, especially adolescent girls. The Committee is further concerned that the tradition of vidomégons children would feed sale and trafficking networks.</p> <p><b>67. The Committee recommends that the State party put into operation the Action plan for implementing the recommendations of Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, providing for a strategic framework for the protection of children, combating impunity and establishing a system for identifying children. It further recommends the adoption of the draft bill on the exploitation of persons.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Country Report</b></p> <p>CRC/C/BEN/3-5</p> <p>29 Jul 2013</p> <p><a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fBEN%2f3-5&amp;Lang=en">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fBEN%2f3-5&amp;Lang=en</a></p>
<b>OPSC to CRC</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	31 Jan 2005	<p>CRC/C/OPSC/BEN/CO/1</p> <p>11 October 2018</p>

		<p><a href="https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPSC%2fBEN%2fCO%2f1&amp;Lang=en">https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPSC%2fBEN%2fCO%2f1&amp;Lang=en</a></p> <p><b>IV. General measures of implementation</b></p> <p><b>Dissemination and awareness-raising</b></p> <p>14. The Committee is concerned that the Optional Protocol is not sufficiently disseminated and that there is limited knowledge of the Optional Protocol among the relevant government officials, children and civil society actors involved in issues under the Optional Protocol.</p> <p><b>15. The Committee recommends that the State party:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>(a) Disseminate more widely information about the offences covered by the Optional Protocol and about prevention measures among government officials, general public, particularly among children in vulnerable situations, parents, caregivers and all relevant professional groups, as well as community and religious leaders, especially by involving the media in awareness-raising;</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">...</p> <p><b>Training</b></p> <p>16. The Committee notes the workshop on child protection for police and military officers organised by the National Police School in 2017 and the training on judicial protection of children organised for professionals in the justice system in 2013-2014. However, the Committee is concerned that the measures taken are not systematic and do not adequately cover all offences under the Optional Protocol and that not all main actors responsible for the enforcement of the Optional Protocol have systematically received training on the Optional Protocol.</p>
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		<p><b>17. The Committee recommends that all aspects, including prevention and prosecution of offences covered by the Optional Protocol, as well as child-friendly justice processes and programmes for treatment and reintegration of children who are victims of such offences, be systematically included in the training of all relevant professional groups, in particular judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and immigration officers, social workers and investigators.</b></p> <p><b>V. Prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ((art. 9 (1) and (2))</b></p> <p><b>Measures adopted to prevent offences prohibited under the Protocol</b></p> <p>20. The Committee notes the legislative and administrative measures taken by the State party to prevent offences under the Optional Protocol, including the adoption of the 2015 Children’s Code, the National Justice Sector Development Policy and Strategy, the National Plan to Combat Trafficking of Persons (2018-2025), the National plan of action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour 2012-2015, the National child protection policy 2014-2025, and the zero tolerance campaign to child marriage (2017). However, the Committee is concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>...</li><li>(b) The low level of birth registration, in particular for children living in remote rural areas, children from disadvantaged families and children in residential care;</li><li>...</li><li>(h) The high number of children in street situation, migrant children, abandoned children and orphans in the State party;</li><li>(i) The phenomenon of missing children, and the lack of recent data in this regard</li></ul> <p><b>21. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its preventive measures to address all areas covered by the Optional Protocol and in particular that it:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>...</li></ul>
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		<p><b>(g) Develop child-empowering prevention programmes to address the root causes and multiple vulnerabilities that place children, families and communities at risk and promote child protective social norms through community development projects, civil society such as youth groups, faith-based organizations and the media, including social networks;</b></p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Adoption</b></p> <p>22. The Committee notes the establishment of the Central Authority for international adoption in June 2018 but is concerned that children are insufficiently protected from sale in the context of international adoption.</p> <p><b>23. The Committee recommends that the State party enforce the provisions of the Family Code that define a strict adoption process, and provide adequate resources for the newly established Central Authority for international adoption.</b></p> <p><b>VII. Protection of the rights of child victims (arts. 8 and 9 (3) and (4))</b></p> <p><b>Recovery and reintegration of victims</b></p> <p>34. The Committee notes the Children's Welcome and Transit Centre and other measures referred to in the reply to the list of issues (CRC/C/OPSC/BEN/Q/1/Add.1). However, the Committee is concerned that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Does not provide an adequate response to child victims of the offences under the Optional protocol and that most services, shelter and temporary accommodation for child victims are provided by non-governmental organizations, with very limited support from the State party;</li><li>(b) Has very limited availability of physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration services; and</li><li>(c) Does not enforce Decree No. 2012-416 establishing norms and standards applicable to the child reception and protection centres.</li></ul>
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OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	31 Jan 2005	<p>CRC/C/OPAC/BEN/CO/1</p> <p>11 October 2018</p> <p><a href="https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPAC%2fBEN%2fCO%2f1&amp;Lang=en">https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPAC%2fBEN%2fCO%2f1&amp;Lang=en</a></p> <p><b>VI. Protection, recovery and reintegration</b></p> <p>Measures adopted to protect the rights of child victims</p>

		<p>26. The Committee notes the development of the vulnerability matrix to identify vulnerable children requiring social protection. However, the Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the effectiveness of this instrument to identify, at an early stage, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children who enter the State party and may have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad.</p> <p>27. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Strengthen the vulnerability matrix instrument to identify, at an early stage, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children, including unaccompanied children, coming from countries with past or current armed conflicts and who may have been involved in hostilities;</li> <li>(b) Ensure that the personnel responsible for such identification are trained in children’s rights, child protection and interviewing skills;</li> <li>(c) Develop protocols and specialized services to ensure that such children are provided with appropriate assistance for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.</li> </ul>
<b>ICCPR</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	12 Mar 1992	
<b>ICESCR</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	12 Mar 1992	
<b>CEDAW</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	12 Mar 1992	
<b>CRPD</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	5 Jul 2012	
<b>UPR</b>	<b>Date of Consideration</b>	<b>Link to Page</b>

	10 Nov 2017	<a href="https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BJIndex.aspx">https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BJIndex.aspx</a>
<b>Hague Intercountry Adoption</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Link to Country Profile</b>
	N/A	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