

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	8 Aug 1990	<p>CRC/C/GAM/CO/2-3 4 February 2015</p> <p><a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fJAM%2fCO%2f3-4&amp;Lang=en">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fJAM%2fCO%2f3-4&amp;Lang=en</a></p> <p><b>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</b></p> <p><b>A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44, para. 6, of the Convention)</b></p> <p><b>Training</b></p> <p>21. The Committee is concerned that children’s rights have not been institutionalised in the initial pre-service training of many professionals working with children such as judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, teachers, school administrators, health workers including psychologists, social workers, personnel working in all forms of alternative care, and traditional or community leaders.</p> <p>22. <b>The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that professionals working with or for children are adequately and systematically trained on children’s rights, in particular judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, teachers, school administrators, health workers including psychologists, social workers, personnel working in all forms of alternative care, and traditional or community leaders.</b></p>

	<p><b>C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the Convention)</b></p> <p><b>Respect for the views of the child</b></p> <p>33. The Committee is concerned about the limited respect for the views of the child in the community and the family, and the lack of information on whether the views of the child are constantly respected in the Children’s Court, the Cadi Courts and the Community Child Protection Committees.</p> <p>34. <b>In the light of its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to strengthen this right in accordance with article 12 of the Convention. To that effect, it recommends that the State party conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, community, including traditional community, schools, and the care and judicial systems, including the Children’s Court, the Cadi Courts and the Community Child Protection Committees, with particular attention to girls and children in vulnerable situations. The Committee also encourages the State party to consider establishing a children’s parliament.</b></p> <p><b>E. 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>41. The Committee welcomes the prohibition of corporal punishment in the child justice system and the provisions of the Children’s Act that those with parental authority must ensure that discipline respects the dignity of the child. The Committee also notes the actions taken by the State party to discourage corporal punishment in school and in the community. However, the Committee remains concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) The absence of legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in the home, school and alternative care settings;</li><li>(b) The existence of provisions in the common law allowing parents, guardians and others in loco parentis to “reasonably chastise” their child; and</li><li>(c) Frequent incidents of corporal punishment, including severe physical punishments suffered by children, especially in the home.</li></ul>
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	<p>42. With reference to 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 (CRC/C/GC/8), the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Repeal all provisions that authorize corporal punishment, including the Children’s Act provisions on the right for parents, guardians and others in loco parentis to “reasonably chastise” their child and explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including within the family, schools and other institutions and childcare settings;</li><li>(b) Strengthen public education, awareness-raising and social mobilization programmes, involving children, families, communities and religious leaders, on the harmful effects, both physical and psychological, of corporal punishment, with a view to changing the general attitude towards this practice, and promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment in the family, schools, alternative care and penal institutions; and</li><li>(c) Ensure the involvement and participation of the whole society, including children, in the design and implementation of preventive strategies with regard to corporal punishment of children.</li></ul> <p><b>F. 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>Family environment</b></p> <p>51. The Committee is concerned about the challenges, including poverty, faced by parents to provide stable, warm and nurturing environment for children. The Committee is also concerned that polygamy is still legal and widespread – a situation, which is contrary to the dignity of women and girls entering such marriages and which negatively affects the children of such marriages. The Committee is further concerned about the concurrent jurisdiction between the Children’s Court and the Cadi Courts in the fields of maintenance, custody and inheritance, the Cadi Court tending to discriminate against women, in particular as regards custody issues, maintenance and the need to provide the identity of the father, which ultimately has a negative impact on the children.</p> <p>52. <b>The Committee recommends that the State party:</b></p>
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		<p>(a) Identify and elaborate strategies for providing parent education, strengthening parenting capacities, and the overall climate of child-rearing, and establish social protection systems to support poor families in their child rearing and nurturing efforts;</p> <p>(b) Repeal legal provisions, such as provisions authorizing polygamy, that discriminate against women and ultimately have a negative impact on their children be repealed;</p> <p>(c) Review the law to remove the confusion created by the concurrent jurisdiction between the Cadi Court and the Children’s Court and to ensure that the Children’s Act covers the fields of maintenance, custody and inheritance; and</p> <p>(d) Ratify the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions relating to the Maintenance Obligations, the Convention on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations, and the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.</p> <p><b>Children deprived of a family environment</b></p> <p>53. The Committee is concerned about:</p> <p>(a) The increase in the occurrence of baby abandonment, partly due to the lack of family and parenting support programmes, the limited programmes on reproductive health education, and the criminalization of abortion;</p> <p>(b) The insufficient financial and human resources allocated to alternative care and the Department of Social Welfare;</p> <p>(c) The insufficient number of trained social and welfare workers;</p> <p>(d) The absence of independent complaint mechanism for children in alternative care; and</p> <p>(e) The inadequate review of the placement of children in institutions.</p> <p>54. <b>The Committee recommends that the State party:</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Strengthen the family and parenting support programmes, the programmes on reproductive health education and review its legislation concerning abortion, in order to prevent baby abandonment and neglect;</b></p>
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<b>OPSC to CRC</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	8 April 2010	
<b>OPAC to CRC</b>	<b>Signature Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	21 Dec 2000	
<b>ICCPR</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	22 Mar 1979	
<b>ICESCR</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	29 Dec 1978	
<b>CEDAW</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	16 April 1993	
<b>CRPD</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	N/A	
<b>UPR</b>	<b>Date of Consideration</b>	<b>Link to Page</b>
	28 Oct 2014	<a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/GMSession20.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/GMSession20.aspx</a>

Hague Intercountry Adoption	Accession Date	Link to Country Profile
	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