

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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		http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCRC%2fCOC% 2fGHA%2f20799⟪=en
		III. Main areas of concern and recommendations
		D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24, para.3, 28, para. 2, 34, 37 (a) and 39)
		 Violence against children, including abuse and neglect and corporal punishment 35. The Committee welcomes the number of measures undertaken by the State party to address domestic violence and eliminate corporal punishment against children, particularly through the Child and Family Welfare Policy and the setting up of complaints procedures. However, the Committee expresses its deep concern about: (a) The high incidence of domestic violence, gender-based violence, and child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and incest, mainly in the family, schools and care institutions, mostly affecting girls; (b) Corporal punishment being still widely practised in society, its acceptance as a form of discipline and the Children's Act still allowing for a degree of "reasonable" and "justifiable" punishment.
		36. Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children of 2006 (A/61/299), the Committee recommends that the State party prioritize the elimination of all forms of violence against children. While recommending that the State party take into account general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, and general comment No. 8 (2006) on corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (para. 37) and in particular requests the State party to:



- (h) Ensure children's access to justice, including by providing legal support and making available childfriendly and confidential complaint mechanisms in institutions, schools, detention centres, hospitals and any other relevant setting.
- E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (paras. 1 and 2), 20-21, 25 and 27 (para. 4))

Family environment

- 41. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Child and Family Welfare Policy (2015) and the steps taken to develop a National Targeting System (NTS) to be used by all government agencies in identifying, prioritising and selecting households living in vulnerable conditions. However, the Committee remains concerned about the situation of children from single-parent families and those from disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- 42. The Committee encourages the State party to continue its family support programmes, increase their coverage and improve their long-term impact. It also recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to support and strengthen the capacity of parents, in particular those in difficult circumstances, to perform their responsibilities in the upbringing of their children through family support programmes and facilitate the work of civil society organizations in this regard.

Children deprived of a family environment

- 43. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2010-2012) and the Care Reform Initiative (2007) aimed at strengthening the legal framework for alternative care and promote deinstitutionalization. However, the Committee is concerned about:
 - (a) The increasing number of children living outside their family environment placed in institutions due to socioeconomic pressures;
 - (b) The poor conditions of a number of alternative care centers for children, including lack of proper records, care plans, licensing, registration, monitoring and quality services and;
 - (c) Informal kinship and informal foster care mechanisms being under strain due to socioeconomic pressures.



- 44. In light of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (annexed to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/142 of 20 December 2009), the Committee emphasizes that financial and material poverty or conditions directly and uniquely attributable to such 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:
 - (a) Strengthen the implementation of the Care Reform Initiative (2007), prioritizing the adoption of measures to support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible, for children in single-parent families and for orphan children with AIDS, and establish a system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, with a view to reducing the institutionalization of children;
 - (b) Ensure the registration, certification and licensing of existing alternative care centers for children, in accordance with the Children's Act;
 - (c) Strengthen and ensure the periodic review of the placement of children in foster care and institutions, and monitor the quality of care therein through the Department of Social Welfare, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children;
 - (d) Ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children resident therein to the greatest extent possible.

Adoption

- 45. The Committee notes the drafting of new national adoption regulations. However, the Committee is concerned about:
 - (a) The fact that adoption practices in the State party lack proper oversight and monitoring mechanisms, rendering the present legislation on adoption inadequate;
 - (b) Despite some positive effects, the continued placement of a moratorium on adoption (domestic and inter country) in the State party since 2013 contributing to the prolonged stay of children in institutions and to illegal adoption;
 - (c) The lack of a Central Authority for Adoption in charge of, inter alia, compiling a national data base of adoptable children and, the negative effects of the decentralization of the court decisions on intercountry adoption between Low and High Courts;
 - d) The practice of some orphanages and homes allegedly operating as 'illegal adoption agencies.'



- 46. The Committee recommends that the State party:
 - (a) Expedite the finalization and adoption of the Adoption Regulations and the amendment of the Children's Act;
 - (b) Review and assess the impact on children and the consequences of the implementation of the moratorium temporarily suspending all adoption in the State party (domestic and inter-country) since March 2013;
 - (c) Establish a Central Authority for Adoption and the centralization of inter-country adoption decisions through the High Court only, providing proper monitoring for adoption in the State party;
 - (d) Expedite the ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.
- F. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (para. 3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (paras. 1-3) and 33)

Children with disabilities

47. The Committee welcomes the creation of the District Assembly Common Fund for Persons with Disabilities (2010) and the efforts of the State party to promote inclusive education and accessibility for children with disabilities. However, the Committee notes with deep concern that:

(b) Children with disabilities confined in psychiatric institutions and the socalled "prayer camps" are being subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment due to cultural and traditional beliefs;

48. 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 to:

- (a) Prohibit the admission and treatment of children with disabilities in prayer camps;
- (b) Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of acts of inhumane and degrading treatment against children with disabilities, including in prayer camps but also in psychiatric institutions;

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HIV/AIDS 53. The Committee notes with appreciation that the HIV prevalence rate in the State party. State party. Nevertheless, the Committee still remains concerned (a) The continued high prevalence rate of HIV; (b) The limited number of HIV-infected children and mothers having access to antire well as about limited HIV/AIDS testing; (c) The high rate of child mortality due to AIDS; (d) The high number of orphan children infected with AIDS in the States.	ammes interventions d about: troviral medication as
54. In the light of its general comment No. 3 (2003) on HIV/AIDS and the rights of the recommends that the State party: (a) Sustain the measures in place to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV roadmap to ensure the implementation of effective preventive measures; (b) Improve follow-up treatment for HIV/AIDS-infected mothers and their child diagnosis and early initiation of treatment; (c) Improve access to quality, age-appropriate HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproduct including confidential services, particularly for adolescents; (d) Improve access and coverage of antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected of pregnant women, and also improve access and provision of prophylaxis, particularly for orphan children infected and affected (f) Seek technical assistance from, inter alia, the Joint United Nations Programme of and UNICEF, in this regard. G. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29, 30 and 31)	dren to ensure early tive health services, nildren, mothers and ularly to adolescents; with AIDS;
Education, including vocational training and guidance 57. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Education Act (Act 778 of 2008) and	the Education Sector

Plan (ESP 2010–2020), particularly the policy measures deriving from the ESP, such as the free compulsory basic education, the capitation grant and school feeding programmes, among others. It also notes the



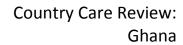
achievements of the State party in relation to school enrolment over the reporting period. The Committee is, however, concerned that the education system continues to face serious challenges, and is particularly concerned about: (d) A significant proportion of children living in rural areas, children with disabilities, children from poor households, working children, orphaned children, and children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS being deprived of their right to education, and remaining out of school; 58. In the light of its general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Take the necessary measures to ensure free primary education to all children and to strengthen its efforts to ensure enrolment of all children in primary and secondary education by taking targeted measures to reach children deprived of education, particularly girls and children living in rural areas; (e) Ensure that resources are focused on the most marginalized children, improve transparency and budget tracking and adopt the Inclusive Education Policy (currently in draft form). H. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 37 (b)-(d), 38, 39 and 40) Asylum-seeking, refugee and unaccompanied children 59. The Committee welcomes the general practice of the State party in hosting refugees and asylum seekers and providing them with access to the national health insurance system (NHIS). It also notes with appreciation the efforts taken to provide protection to refugee, asylum-seeking and unaccompanied children against sexual and gender-based violence in refugee camps, including the establishment of special protection committees, regional task forces, sensitization activities and reporting mechanisms, including a helpline Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about the limited legal and procedural guarantees and assistance for asylum-seeking children and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children during the refugee status determination procedures.



- 60. In the light of general comment No.6 (2005) on Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside Their Country of Origin and the recommendations from the 2012 Day of General Discussion on the rights of all children in the context of international migration, the Committee recommends that the State party:
 - (a) review the Refugee Act (PNDC Law 305d) (1992) and amend it accordingly, in order to ensure that the specific needs of asylum-seeking children are taken into account during the refugee status determination procedures;
 - (b) include- special guarantees for personal interviews to be conducted on a child appropriate manner, the consideration of child-specific forms of persecution and specific procedural safeguards for unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children;
 - (c) seek technical assistance from the UNHCR in this regard.

Children in street situations

- 65. The Committee welcomes the initiatives taken by the State party to provide protection to children in street situation. While noting that the State party carried out an indepth study and a systematic assessment of the street children phenomenon in the Greater Accra Region, the Committee regrets the lack of information about the findings of this study and remains concerned about the absence of national data available on the prevalence of children living and working in the streets.
- 66. The Committee recommends that the State party:
 - (a) Undertake an in-depth study and statistical analysis on the root causes and scope of the issue of children in street situations in the State party;
 - (b) Develop a national strategy and a national plan of action to support children in street situations with sufficient financial, human and technical resources and to address socioeconomic disadvantages and other root causes of vulnerability of children in street situation, as well as the violence they are sometimes expose including in the hands of law enforcement officials;
 - (c) Ensure the appropriate implementation of initiatives to provide these children with adequate nutrition, clothing, housing, health care and educational opportunities, especially informal education and life-skills training, in order to support their full development and when in the best interest of the child return to their families and community and;
 - (d) Provide, as appropriate, all child in street situations victims of physical, sexual and substance abuse with reintegration and recovery services.





		Country Report
		CRC/C/GHA/3-5
		http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGHA%2 f3-5⟪=en
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OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date 9 Dec 2014	Care-Related Concluding Observations
ICCPR	Ratification Date 7 Sep 2000	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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CEDAW	Ratification Date 2 Jan 1986	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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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