

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	14 May 1991	<p>CRC/C/JAM/CO/3-4 4 February 2015</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fJAM%2fCO%2f3-4&Lang=en</p> <p>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>B. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the Convention)</p> <p>Respect for the views of the child</p> <p>26. The Committee notes the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child in courts, schools, the family and relevant administrative processes, as well as in judicial proceedings. The Committee also notes the numerous child participation initiatives by various government agencies, including the Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children's Advocate. The Committee is concerned, however, that traditional and cultural practices do not readily accommodate and recognize the views of the child in homes, alternative care centres, schools and communities; and that respect for the views of the child is not adequately implemented in practice in all relevant areas and at the national and local levels.</p> <p>27. The Committee, in light of its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal and administrative proceedings; (b) Develop toolkits for public consultation on national policy development to standardize such consultation at a high level of inclusiveness and participation, including consulting with children on issues that affect them; and

		<p>(c) Conduct awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns, to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, in particular with regard to family decisions affecting their lives, alternative care centres, communities and schools, including within student council bodies, with particular attention to children in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39 of the Convention)</p> <p>Corporal punishment</p> <p>30. The Committee notes the significant progress in enacting legislation prohibiting corporal punishment in the penal system, alternative care settings and early childhood institutions, in particular, the Early Childhood Act, Child Care and Protection Act and the Act to Provide for the Regulation and Management of Early Childhood Institutions. The Committee, however, is concerned that corporal punishment remains lawful in the home and schools, is widely accepted in society, and continues to be practised in the State party.</p> <p>31. In line with its general comment No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment, and general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the family, schools and institutions, and explicitly repeal the common law right to inflict “reasonable and moderate” punishment;(b) Finalize and approve the draft National Safe Schools Policy which addresses the use of corporal punishment in schools;(c) Promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment, and expand parenting education programmes and training for principals, teachers, and other professionals working with and for children; and(d) Strengthen and expand its efforts through awareness-raising campaigns to inform the public in general about the negative impact of corporal punishment on children and actively involve children and the media in the process.
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		<p>leaving the care system. The Committee additionally notes the efforts of the State party to encourage foster parenting, which has resulted in an increase in the number of children placed in foster care. The Committee is, however, concerned about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The continued institutionalization of children, and institutional abuse of children, as well as the number of critical incidents in child care facilities;(b) Inadequate monitoring of the conditions of the system of children's homes and foster care, and inadequate number of institutional childcare providers, as well as insufficient training of such providers; and(c) Inadequate financial support and psychological support for foster families. <p>39. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake the following measures, taking into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children annexed to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/142 of 18 December 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Further strengthen the support provided to biological families to prevent out-of-home placements;(b) Increase efforts to ensure that children in need of alternative care are placed in family-based care rather than in institutions, and that they maintain contact with or are returned to their families whenever possible, with a view to avoiding the institutionalization of children;(c) 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;(d) Ensure periodic review of the placement of children in foster care and children's homes, and monitor the quality of care therein, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children;(e) 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;(f) Increase training to staff dealing with children in alternative care including staff sensitization training sessions by the Child Development Agency and the development and dissemination of
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		<p>relevant tools such as the Child Abuse Prevention and Control in Residential Care Facilities Handbook;</p> <p>(g) Increase financial support to foster parents and provide psychosocial support to both children and foster families; and</p> <p>(h) Implement the remaining recommendations contained in the Keating Report.</p> <p>Adoption</p> <p>40. The Committee welcomes the information that the backlog regarding adoption cases is being addressed, but is, nevertheless, concerned about the lengthy process and remaining backlog regarding adoptions. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.</p> <p>41. The Committee recommends that the State party review current legislation and policies on adoption with a view to ensuring that the best interests of the child should be of primary consideration, and that the relevant legislation and policies are in line with the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the adoption system be strengthened to address the backlog in cases by ensuring sufficient number of officers to handle adoption cases, conduct the necessary investigations and prepare the requisite documents. The Committee additionally recommends that the State party streamline the adoption process, including by amending the Adoption Act of 1958. The Committee further recommends that the State party consider becoming party to the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.</p> <p>G. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 (b)–(d), 38, 39 and 40 of the Convention)</p> <p>Children in situations of migration</p> <p>56. The Committee is concerned about the impact of migration on children, especially those left behind as well as challenges in securing maintenance from parents who may have migrated abroad.</p> <p>57. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake a comprehensive study on all aspects of migration’s impact on children in the country and the role of child protection and social protection systems</p>
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OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	26 Aug 2011	
OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	9 May 2002	
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	3 Oct 1975	
ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	3 Oct 1975	
CEDAW	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	19 Oct 1984	
CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	30 March 2007	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	13 May 2015	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/JMSession22.aspx
Hague Inter-country 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