

UN CRC	Ratification	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	Date	
	24 May 1991	CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5 13 June 2014
		13 June 2014
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		E. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24, para.3, 28, para. 2, 34, 37 (a) and 39)
		Abuse and neglect
		29. The Committee welcomes the steps taken by the State party to address domestic violence, in particular the adoption of the 2008 Act No.6 on the protection from domestic violence, the National Strategic Plan on Family Protection and the Prevention of Violence 2005–2009 and the establishment of a family violence tracking system. However the Committee is deeply concerned that these measures have proven to be insufficient to respond to the many concerns expressed by the Committee in 2006 as shown by the widespread abuse and neglect, which children, and especially girls, continue to be victims of. 30. The Committee urges the State party to accord a higher priority to effectively implementing its recommendations of 2006 (CRC/C/JOR/CO/3 para. 55), in particular those related to the necessity to undertake a national study on the extent, causes and nature of domestic violence, ill treatment and child abuse in the home, to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent and to respond to domestic violence and to develop an effective system for the identification, reporting and managing of child abuse and ill treatment cases. The Committee also urges the State party to:
		a.) Adopt as a matter of priority a law criminalizing all forms of domestic violence, including marital rape, and to repeal any legal provisions that excuse perpetrators of domestic violence;
		b.) Establish a national database on all cases of domestic violence against children;
		c.) Address the root causes of violence and abuse and take concrete measures to change attitudes, traditions, customs and behavioural practices which often serve as a justification for domestic violence,



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especially against girls;

- a.) Encourage community-based programmes aimed at preventing and tackling domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, including by involving former victims, volunteers and community members, and providing training support to them;
- b.) Ensure that children and women victims of domestic violence are provided with appropriate medical, legal and psychological assistance and housing support, and increase the number of home shelters in conformity with the commitment during the 2009 Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/11/29 para 92 (21)); and
- c.) Provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the measures taken to address domestic violence and their outcome.

F.Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (paras. 1 and 2), 20-21, 25 and 27 (para. 4))

Family environment

- 37. The Committee reiterates its concern (CRC/C/JOR/CO/3 para.49) that parental responsibilities are still not assigned equally under law to fathers and mothers due to the continuous application of discriminatory provisions contained in the Interim Status Code Act of 2010. The Committee is also concerned that:
 - a.) Despite certain restrictions introduced in the law, polygamy remains permissible, a situation which is contrary to the dignity of women and girls entering these marriages and which negatively affects children:
 - b.) Children born of a marriage between a Muslim woman and a non-Muslim man may not be legally recognized, what prevents them from enjoying all their rights in conditions of equality with other children; and
 - c.) In case of divorce, article 173 of the Interim Status Code Act grants the mother custody of her children until they reach 15 years old and until 7 years old only if the mother is non-Muslim.
- 38. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that mothers and fathers equally share the legal responsibility for their children in accordance with article 18 1) of the Convention and that laws do not



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discriminate against the girl child. The Committee also urges the State party to:

- a.) Revise the Interim Status Code Act and ensure that all provisions that discriminate against women and girls and negatively impact their children be repealed, such as those which authorize polygamy;
- b.) Prevent and Eliminate any form of discrimination against children born of marriages between a Muslim woman and a non-Muslim man; and
- c.) Review its legislation relating to the custody of the child with a view to ensuring that all decisions taken are based on the principle of the best interests of the child in line with articles 3 and 12 of the Convention and removing provisions that discriminate against children of non-Muslim mothers.

Children deprived of a family environment

- 39. The Committee welcomes the adoption of Regulation No. 49 of 2009 on the licensing and management of children's homes as well as the establishment of the first foster care programme for children in Zarqa governorate. The Committee is however concerned that the number of institutionalized children has not decreased over the reporting period and that children of unmarried mothers are often placed in institutions. The Committee is also concerned that the foster care programme has still not been properly regulated, a situation which places children deprived of their family environment at risk of abuse and neglect.
- 40. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children (General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party take active measures to accelerate the transition from institutionalization to family-based care for children and to this aim, strengthen efforts towards the establishment of a well regulated system of foster care for children deprived of their families. The State party should also:
 - a.) 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;
 - b.) Provide unmarried mothers with support to enable them to take care of their child and conduct awareness raising campaigns to eliminate the stigma attached to out of wedlock pregnancy;



- 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; and
- d.) Ensure periodic review 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.

I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 37 (b)-(d), 38, 39 and 40)

Asylum-seeking and refugee children

- 55. The Committee commends the State party for all the measures it has put in place to cope with the massive arrival of Syrian refugees, half of them being children, including the creation of a Sub Committee on Syrian Refugee Child Labour. The Committee is however concerned that most of Syrian refugee children remain without access to education and experience malnutrition, labour exploitation, widespread domestic violence, forced marriages and some reported cases of violence attributed to Jordanian police. The Committee is also deeply concerned about the treatment of Palestinian refugee families and children fleeing Syria and especially about:
 - a.) The position of the authorities adopted since January 2013 consisting in the systematic denial of entrance of Palestinian refugee families fleeing Syria as well as the deportation back to Syria of dozens of Palestinian children who had entered the country;
 - b.) Cases of Palestinian mothers fleeing Syria being prevented from entering Jordan while their Syrian husband and children were allowed to do so; and
 - c.) Cases of Palestinian children injured in Syria who were allowed to enter Jordan for medical treatment but whose family was not authorized to do so and cases of wounded Palestinian children who were deported back to Syria while their Jordanian mothers were allowed to stay in the State party.
- 56. The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures and specific programs to improve the living conditions of Syrian refugee children, ensuring inter alia their access to education, to healthcare and to a good nutrition, and protecting them from various forms of labour exploitation, violence and, with regard to young girls, forced or early marriage practices. The Committee also urges the



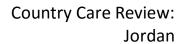
State party to ensure that no Palestinian refugee children fleeing Syria be prevented from entering Jordan or deported back to Syria and that they receive the same treatment as Syrian children in the State party. The Committee also recommends that the State party ratify the 1951 on the Status of Refugee and its Protocol of 1967.

Children in street situations

- 59. The Committee regrets that in spite of its previous recommendations, knowledge of the extent of the phenomenon and situation of children working on the streets remains limited. The Committee is particularly concerned that children in street situations are still arrested by the police and detained for short period of time until their parents bail them out and that there is still no clear strategy in place to rehabilitate and respond to the needs of these children.
- 60. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that no child in street situations be arrested and detained but assisted by trained street counsellors, provided with adequate nutrition, clothing and shelter as well as with social and health services, including recovery and social reintegration services, and educational opportunities, including vocational and life-skills training, in order to support their full development as previously recommended.

Sale, trafficking and abduction

- 61. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Human Trafficking Act No. 9 of 2009 and the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking launched in March 2010, together with a framework for action. While noting the indication provided during the dialogue that child victims of trafficking cannot be considered as offenders, the Committee is seriously concerned about the recognition by the delegation that child victims might be placed in detention facilities due to lack of available shelter. The Committee is also concerned that the State party remains a destination and transit country for children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking, that the number of trafficking offenders convicted over the reporting period has been low and that protection provided to victims of trafficking has been insufficient, most of them being referred to NGO-run shelter services.
- 62. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its efforts for an effective implementation of the Human Trafficking Act No. 9 of 2009 and to effectively prosecute, convict, and punish child traffickers with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime. The State party should ensure that no child victims be placed in detention facilities but provided with comprehensive protective and rehabilitation





		services, including adequate shelter.
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OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date 4 Dec 2006	Care-Related Concluding Observations
OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date 23 May 2007	Care-Related Concluding Observations
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
ICESCR	28 May 1975 Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CEDAW	28 May 1975 Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRPD	1 Jul 1992 Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
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II. Positive aspects

- 5. The Committee welcomes:
 - (a) Government decision No. 44 (3 March 2016), approving the action plan for the implementation of reforms relating to deinstitutionalization;
- III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations
- B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

- 16. The Committee is concerned about stigmatizing attitudes towards children with disabilities which are reinforced by a lack of community services. It is also concerned that children with disabilities do not systematically participate in making decisions that affect their lives and lack opportunities to express their opinion on matters pertaining to them directly. It is particularly concerned about the life-long institutionalization, from early childhood, of children with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in inhumane conditions, where they are exposed to neglect and segregated from the community.
- 17. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble efforts to promote a positive image of children with disabilities and increase the availability of mainstream support services to children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party adopt safeguards to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee disability- and age-appropriate support to realize that right. The Committee also recommends that the State party develop a national strategy for the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities, which encompasses alternative



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care in family settings and inclusive support services and facilities in the community.

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

- 32. The Committee is concerned by reported cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, including cases of neglect resulting in the deaths of children and adults with disabilities and cases of gender-based violence against women with disabilities.
- 33. The Committee urges the State party to:
- (a) Implement legislative and practical measures, which take into account gender and age considerations, to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and to eliminate any risk of neglect, violence or abuse;
 - (b) Ensure that all reported cases are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted;
 - (c) Provide regular and mandatory training to staff in institutions on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities;
 - (d) Ensure effective, independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential institutions.

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

- 42. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory laws and policies that restrict the rights of persons with disabilities relating to marriage, the family and parenthood, and that:
 - (a) The lack of services for families that have members with disabilities, particularly persons with autistic spectrum disorders, places an undue burden on families, especially single female-headed families, increasing their risk of poverty and social exclusion;
 - (b) Prejudice against persons with disabilities persists, particularly against women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in matters relating to family and parenthood;
 - (c) There are reports that child protection authorities request that mothers with disabilities be deprived of their legal capacity and separated from their children.
- 43. The Committee recommends that the State party take the measures, including the repeal of legislation,



		necessary to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in all matters relating to marriage, family and parenthood. It also recommends that the State party: (a) Develop the inclusive support measures necessary in this regard, including personal assistance and respite care services, for families that have a member with a disability, to ensure an adequate standard of living and social participation; (b) Take measures to ensure that parents with disabilities have the means necessary to exercise their rights, including the right to motherhood.
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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

Better Care Network www.bettercarenetwork.org



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UN United Nations

UPR Universal Periodic Review