

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	12 Nov 1990	<p>CRC/C/PAK/CO/5 11 Jul 2016</p> <p>F.Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4))</p> <p>Family environment</p> <p>41. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency of the assistance provided to families with children living in poverty and the absence of psychosocial support and guidance for families in need, which lead to the abandonment and institutionalization of children. The Committee is also concerned about the persistent practice of polygamy in the country, which, although permitted by law, has a negative impact on children.</p> <p>42. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, 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:</p> <p>(a) Strengthen its efforts to provide financial assistance to families living in poverty and psychological and social support and guidance to help them fulfil their parental responsibilities, in order to prevent the abandonment and institutionalization of children;</p> <p>(b) Review the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance of 1961 to ensure that all provisions that have a negative impact on children, particularly those which authorize polygamy, be repealed.</p> <p>Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>43. The Committee notes the establishment of national and provincial child protection centres, national rehabilitation centres for child labourers and the Pakistan Sweet Homes</p>

		<p>project, which aim to provide children with alternative care, but regrets that the State party does not provide foster care for children deprived of a family environment. It is concerned that many children without parental care reside in private orphanages, institutions, including religious institutions (madrasas), and shelters that are sometimes registered with the national or provincial governments, but are not provided with any benchmarks for quality of care or monitored by the State party. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that such institutions lack appropriate medical, psychological and educational facilities, and have no complaint mechanisms to ensure that children's rights are not violated.</p> <p>44. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Strengthen its promotion of and support for family-type and community-based alternative care for children deprived of parental care, in order to reduce reliance on institutional care;</p> <p>(b) Establish a clear regulation on alternative care for children, including provisions for quality care standards, a periodic review of placements and the right of the child to be heard at all stages of the procedure;</p> <p>(c) Provide training for staff in care settings, provide children with accessible channels for reporting ill-treatment, including through complaints mechanisms, and implement measures to monitor and remedy the ill-treatment of children;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, as well as medical, psychological and educational services, in order to facilitate to the greatest extent possible the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children resident therein.</p> <p>I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 37 (b)-(d) and 38-40)</p> <p>66. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to:</p> <p>(d) Provide refugees, in particular families with children, with adequate housing and provide shelter to those who live in the streets;</p> <p>Internally displaced children</p> <p>67. The Committee notes that, since its previous concluding observations in 2009, the internal displacement of children has not ceased. It continues to take place as a result of</p>
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		<p>natural disasters and ongoing law enforcement operations. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not taken sufficient measures to prepare a contingency plan and that many internally displaced children and their families live in harsh conditions with no access to shelter, sanitation and health-care or education services. The Committee is also seriously concerned about reports of sexual abuse, harassment, abduction and trafficking of internally displaced children following each emergency and the lack of measures to provide them with adequate security.</p> <p>68. The Committee, recalling its previous concluding observations, recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Pursue efforts to address the immediate humanitarian needs and protect the human rights of internally displaced children in the country; (b) Take all necessary precautions and adapt its military tactics to limit civilian casualties in military operations; (c) Ensure that displaced children are provided with shelter, food, sanitation, health care and education, as well as with physical and psychological rehabilitation services, paying specific attention to particularly vulnerable groups, especially unaccompanied and separated children, children with disabilities and children suffering from malnutrition and disease; (d) Take special measures to protect internally displaced children from sexual abuse, harassment, abduction and trafficking following any emergency situation. <p>Children in armed groups</p> <p>69. The Committee is gravely concerned that children continue to be targeted for recruitment and training by armed groups for military activities, which include suicide bombing and detonating landmines, and are transferred to the front lines of conflict areas, where they are exposed to mortal danger and risk of physical harm, and that insufficient measures have been taken by the State party to prevent such recruitment. While noting the Sabawoon Centre, and other centres established for the rehabilitation of children recruited by armed groups, the Committee is concerned about the inadequacy of such centres as well as the lack of other measures to ensure the reintegration and rehabilitation of such children.</p> <p>70. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to prevent and prohibit non-State armed groups from recruiting children and using them in armed</p>
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		<p>those responsible, in particular employers, to justice;</p> <p>(d) Conduct a survey or study to assess the prevalence of child labour, including the worst forms of child labour such as bonded and forced labour, and inform the Committee about the findings in its next periodic report;</p> <p>(e) Develop programmes and mechanisms to identify and protect child victims of forced labour, particularly bonded labour, and child labour in the informal sector, including domestic work;</p> <p>(f) Strengthen the labour inspectorate by eradicating corruption and providing labour inspectors with all the support necessary, including child labour expertise, to enable them to monitor effectively, at the national and local levels, the implementation of labour law standards and to receive, investigate and address complaints of alleged violations;</p> <p>(g) Expedite the harmonization of the labour laws in order to establish minimum ages for employment in accordance with international standards, notably the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and vigorously pursue the enforcement of minimum age standards, including by requiring employers to possess, and to produce on demand, proof of the age of all children working on their premises;</p> <p>(h) Seek technical assistance from the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization in this regard.</p> <p>Children in street situations</p> <p>73. The Committee is alarmed by reports that a large number of children live in street situations and are deprived of their basic rights, including access to health care, education and shelter, and are subjected to hazardous forms of labour, sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking. It is also concerned that children living or working on the streets, or whose parents are in conflict with the law, are often dealt with by the police rather than trained staff in child protection centres.</p> <p>74. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Carry out a systematic assessment of children in street situations in order to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy, which should address the root causes of the problem, in order to prevent children from leaving families and schools for the</p>
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		<p>streets;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that children in street situations are provided with adequate protection and assistance, nutrition and shelter, as well as health care and educational opportunities, in order to support their full development;</p> <p>(c) Respect the right of children in street situations to be heard when developing programmes and measures designed to protect and assist them.</p> <p>Sale, trafficking and abduction</p> <p>75. The Committee is seriously concerned that the State party remains a significant source, destination and transit country for children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced or bonded labour. In particular, it is concerned that children are bought, rented and sold into domestic servitude, bonded labour and sexual exploitation or forced marriages abroad and in Pakistan. The Committee regrets the lack of clarity in the State party's laws on internal trafficking and the lack of information about specific shelters Enforced disappearances</p> <p>77. The Committee is seriously concerned about reports of enforced disappearances of children in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, who were allegedly abducted by law enforcement agencies, which are authorized to arbitrarily detain any person, including those below the age of 18 years.</p> <p>for child victims of trafficking and prostitution.</p>
		<p>Country Report</p> <p>CRC/C/PAK/5 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fPAK%2f5&Lang=en</p>
OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	5 Jul 2011	

OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	26 Sep 2001	
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	23 Jun 2010	
ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	17 Apr 2008	
CEDAW	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	12 Mar 1996	
CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	5 Jul 2011	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	30 Oct 2012	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/PKSession14.aspx
Hague Intercountry Adoption	Accession Date	Link to Country Profile
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