

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	7 Jul 1993	<p>CRC/C/VUT/CO/2</p> <p>29 September 2017</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/VUT/CRC_C_VUT_CO_2_29112_E.pdf</p> <p>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1) and (2), 20-21, 25 and 27 (4))</p> <p>Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>30. The Committee is concerned that there are no legal framework, policy or minimum standards for regulating the alternative care of children and that most children in alternative care are placed under kinship care or with extended family due to the absence of social welfare services. The Committee is also concerned that there is no monitoring mechanisms for alternative care institutions run by non-governmental organisations and family-based care for children.</p> <p>31. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children (General Assembly resolution 64/142), the Committee recommends that the State party :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Establish a legal framework, policy and minimum standards for monitoring family-based care for children and alternative care institutions run by non-governmental organisations; (b) Establish a system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, ensuring that institutionalisation is used as a last resort; (c) Provide all necessary social welfare services and support to families and alternative care providers; (d) Establish quality standards for all available forms of alternative care options and take children's views into consideration in any decision made about alternative care;

		<p>(e) 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.</p> <p>Adoption</p> <p>32. The Committee welcomes the progress made for speeding up the process of formal adoption. However, it is concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Adoption Act of 1958 has not been reviewed yet; (b) Children are often adopted through informal arrangements (kastom) by their extended family or members of the same community; (c) There are no proper guidelines for the adoption process and no required police check from the country of origin of adoptive parents to complete the administrative process via the court, which can lead to sale or trafficking of children. <p>33. The Committee urges the State party to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Expedite the Vanuatu Law Commission’s review of the Adoption Act (1958) and adopt without delay a comprehensive Family Law Reform; (b) Develop regulations and guidelines for all stakeholders in matters of adoption; (c) Establish a unit to oversee formal adoption processes with adequate resources including liaising with child adoption agencies in other countries in case of inter-country adoption; (d) Increase awareness of formal adoption at the community level and promote and encourage formal domestic adoption; (e) Establish intervention and monitoring mechanisms to monitor the system of “informal adoptions” (kastom) within the extended family; (f) Consider ratifying the 1993 Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.
Country Report		
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24 October 2016		

OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRC/C/OPSC/VUT/CO/1	17 May 2007	<p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fVUT%2f2&Lang=en</p> <p>3 November 2017</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPSC%2fVUT%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en</p> <p>V. Prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ((art. 9 (1) and (2))</p> <p>A. Measures adopted to prevent offences prohibited under the Optional Protocol</p> <p>19. The Committee is concerned that:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(e) There is only limited information available on the efforts to protect children in vulnerable situations, including asylum-seeking and refugee children, unaccompanied migrant and undocumented children.</p> <p>20. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its preventive measures to cover all areas of the Optional Protocol and in particular that it:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(e) Strengthen its efforts to ensure that prevention efforts also target children in vulnerable situations, including asylum-seeking and refugee children, unaccompanied migrant and undocumented children.</p>

OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRC/C/OPAC/VUT/CO/1	26 Sep 2007	<p>25 October 2017</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPAC%2fVUT%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en</p> <p>VI. Protection, recovery and reintegration</p> <p>Measures adopted to protect the rights of child victims</p> <p>16. The Committee is concerned at the lack of effective mechanisms to identify, at an early stage, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children who enter the State party and may have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad.</p> <p>17. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Put in place mechanisms to identify, at an early stage, refugee, asylumseeking and migrant children, including unaccompanied children, coming from countries with past or current armed conflicts and who may have been involved in hostilities; (b) Ensure that the personnel responsible for such identification are trained in children’s rights, child protection and interviewing skills; (c) Develop protocols and specialized services to ensure that such children are provided with appropriate assistance for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	21 Nov 2008	

ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	N/A	
CEDAW	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	8 Sep 1995	
CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRPD/C/VUT/CO/1	23 Oct 2008	<p>9 April 2019</p> <p>https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2fC%2fVUT%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en</p> <p>III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)</p> <p>Children with disabilities (art. 7)</p> <p>14. The Committee is concerned at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The absence of information on the measures taken to improve access to early identification and intervention programs by children with disabilities and the expiration of the National Disabilities Policy and Plan of Action (2008-2015), which has not been renewed; (b) The lack of participation of children with disabilities in awareness raising events due to discrimination against them. <p>15. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p>

		<p>(a) Take the necessary measures to renew the National Disabilities Policy and Plan of Action (2008-2015) and ensure its implementation, especially to provide children with disabilities and their families with adequate assistance and support, including early identification and intervention programs, as foreseen in the Policy and Plan of Action;</p> <p>(b) Adopt measure to combat discrimination against children with disabilities as well as strengthen its efforts to raise awareness among children with disabilities, their parents, families and the community, on the rights of children with disabilities.</p> <p>Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)</p> <p>28. The Committee is concerned at the incidence of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially women and children, both in the home and in the community. In particular, it is concerned that:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) The abuse and violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment;</p> <p>Respect for home and the family (art. 23)</p> <p>38. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory legislation on family and marriage, including sections 1 and 2 of the Matrimonial Causes Act (1986) that prohibit marriage on grounds of disability including psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and the insufficient support services provided for children with disabilities and their families, especially in rural areas.</p> <p>39. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) Provide adequate support for parents and families of children with disabilities, including counselling services, to ensure that children with disabilities are not separated from their family on the grounds of disability and that children are not separated from their parents with disabilities.</p>
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UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	24 Jan 2019	https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/VUIndex.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