

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRC/C/CHN/CO/3-4	2 March 1992	29 October 2013
CRC/C/CHN/CO/3-4  Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of China, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session (16 September–4 October 2013)	2 March 1992	http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/ layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx  E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 18 (paras. 1–2), 9–11, 19-21, 25, 27 (para. 4) and 39 of the Convention)  Family environment  48. The Committee notes with concern that due to the restrictive hukou policy, many migrant parents face the difficult choice of leaving their children behind, resulting in 55 million children growing up without one or both parents in rural mainland China. In this regard, the Committee expresses concern that instead of tackling the root causes of abandonment of children, the State party continues to adopt policies that often promote institutionalization of left-behind children, including in boarding schools.  50. The Committee is concerned that women from mainland China who are married to residents of Hong Kong, China and also have children who are residents of Hong Kong, China are not able to obtain residence permits in Hong Kong, China, and thus regularly have to go to mainland China to renew their one-way entry permits, and that they are not entitled to work or family support in Hong
		Kong, China, creating an unstable and vulnerable family situation for their children.  51. In accordance with article 9, the Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China take all necessary measures to facilitate family reunification, including by granting these mothers residence permits in Hong Kong, China.



### Children deprived of a family environment

- 52. The Committee is seriously concerned about the widespread abandonment of children in mainland China, particularly children with disabilities and girls, mainly due to the State party's family planning policy and discrimination and stigma attached to children with disabilities and girls. Furthermore, while it notes that the NPCD calls for an increase in qualified child welfare professionals by 2020, the Committee is concerned that the NPCD and other new policies advocate for the establishment of children's homes and offer greater funding for such institutions than for kinship and community-based care, which could unintentionally create incentives for government agencies to institutionalize children rather than seek community-based alternative care options.
- 53. The Committee is concerned about the absence of procedures for regular review of the placement of children in care in Hong Kong, China and the lack of legislation on the termination of parental rights when necessary. It is also concerned about the insufficient professional support and care provided to families and children in Hong Kong, China and that the best interests of the child and the right of the child to be heard are not sufficiently considered in family crisis situations. The Committee is concerned that in Hong Kong, China and Macao, China, children deprived of family care are placed in residential institutions rather than in family-based care.
- 54. The Committee urges the State party to take immediate steps in mainland China to eliminate the widespread stigma in relation to girls and children with disabilities and reform its family planning policy, in an effort to address the root causes of the abandonment of girls and children with disabilities. It further recommends that, in all areas under the State party's jurisdiction, the best interests of the child be prioritized in all decisions about alternative care for children and that community-based, family-type care be preferred over institutionalization. The Committee further recommends that the State party continue to increase the number of professionals working with children and provide training to all professionals, including through allocation of additional government resources.
- 55. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China implement the Law Reform Commission's



recommendations concerning law and procedural reforms in this area and that Macao, China and Hong Kong, China increase resources and services, including family and psychosocial counselling and parent education, and train all professionals working with children. It further recommends that the rights of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration and to be heard are fully taken into account in all decisions regarding custody, residence, contact or other issues which have an important impact on the life and development of the child.

#### Adoption

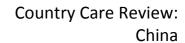
56. While the Committee notes that the State has made efforts in mainland China to combat unlawful adoptions, it is deeply concerned that thousands of children are estimated to be abducted, trafficked and sold every year, including for illegal adoption purposes. It is particularly concerned about reports that some family planning officials coerce parents to give up their children born in excess of the parents' birth quotas, and sell them or transfer them into the care of local orphanages for domestic or international adoption or forced labour. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of information and public statistics, in particular regarding the number of children in mainland China reportedly sold into adoption for domestic and intercountry adoptions and the number of cases that have been investigated and prosecuted.

### **57.** The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Urgently review the current mechanisms and procedures for domestic and intercountry adoption in all areas of the State party and ensure that professionals responsible for adoption cases are fully equipped with the expertise needed to assess, review and process cases, in a timely manner, in light of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- (b) Create a transparent and effective system for assessment and review of the adoption process in all areas of the State party;



		<ul> <li>(c) Investigate all cases of abductions and unlawful adoptions of children in mainland China, including from hospitals and "orphanages", and ensure that perpetrators of such crimes, including the government officials involved, are held accountable;</li> <li>(d) Establish a central data collection system to identify the number of children abducted, including for adoption purposes, and children who have been rescued and reintegrated into their families and communities in mainland China.</li> </ul> Country Report
		http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details.asp?id=31811&themeID=1001&topicID=1006
OPSC to CRC	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	3 December	
	2002	
OPAC to CRC	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	20 February	
	2008	
ICCPR	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
ICESCR	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	27 March 2001	
CEDAW	Ratification	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	Date	
	4 November	
	1980	





CRPD	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	1 August 2008	15 October 2012
		http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Session8.aspx
		III. Principle areas of concern and recommendations B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30) Children with disabilities (art. 7)
		13. The Committee fears that children with disabilities in the State party are at a high risk of abandonment by their parents and are often placed in isolated institutions. For those children with disabilities living at home in rural areas, the Committee is concerned at the lack of community-based services and assistance.
		14. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to fight the widespread stigma in relation to boys and girls with disabilities and revise their strict family planning policy, so as to combat the root causes for the abandonment of boys and girls with disabilities. It asks the State party to provide sufficient community-based services and assistance also in rural areas.
		Right to life (art. 10)
		19. The Committee expresses its utmost concern about the abduction of persons with intellectual disabilities, most of them children, and the staging of "mining accidents" in Hebei, Fujian, Liaoning and Sichuan, resulting in the victim's death in order to claim compensation from the mine owners.
		20. The Committee strongly urges the State party to continue investigating these incidents and prosecute all those responsible, and impose appropriate sanctions. It also asks the State party to implement comprehensive measures to prevent further abductions of boys with intellectual disabilities and provide remedies to the victims.



## Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

- 25. The Committee is concerned that the deprivation of liberty on the grounds of disability is allowed in the State party, and that involuntary civil commitment is perceived as a tool to maintain the public order. In this context, the Committee finds it disturbing that many persons with actual or perceived impairments are involuntarily committed to psychiatric institutions for various reasons, such as being petitioners. In addition, the Committee is concerned that many persons who indeed live with intellectual and psychosocial impairments and require a high level of support lack the adequate resources for their medical and social care and are thus permanently confined at home.
- 26. The Committee recommends the abolishment of the practice of involuntary civil commitment based on actual or perceived impairment. In addition, the Committee asks the State party to allocate more financial resources to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities who require a high level of support, in order to ensure social support and medical treatment outside their own home when necessary.

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

- 29. The Committee is deeply troubled by the reported incidents of abduction and forced labour of thousands of persons with intellectual disabilities, especially children, such as the occurrence of slave labour in Shanxi and Henan.
- 30. The Committee strongly urges the State party to continue investigating these incidents and prosecute the perpetrators. The Committee asks the State party to implement comprehensive measures to prevent further abductions of persons with intellectual disabilities and provide remedies to the victims, by including data collection on the prevalence of exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities.

## Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

- 33. The Committee is deeply concerned that both the State party's laws and its society accept the practice of forced sterilization and forced abortion on women with disabilities without free and informed consent.
- 34. The Committee calls upon the State party to revise its laws and policies in order to prohibit compulsory sterilization and forced abortion on women with disabilities.
- IV. Hong Kong, China
- B. Principle areas of concern and recommendations
- 2. Specific Rights (arts. 5-30)

### Children with disabilities (art. 7)

- 59. While commending the assessment and early education service offered by the government of Hong Kong, China, the Committee is concerned that the services provided are not sufficient to match the overwhelming demand.
- 60. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, allocate more resources to the services provided for children with disabilities in order to ensure that they are able to develop to their full potential.

#### Education (art. 24)

35. The Committee is concerned about the high number of special schools and the State party's policy of actively developing these schools. The Committee is especially worried that in practice



only students with certain kinds of impairments (physical disabilities or mild visual disabilities) are able to attend mainstream education, while all other children with disabilities are forced to either enrol in a special school or drop out altogether.

36. The Committee wishes to remind the State party that the concept of inclusion is one of the

key notions of the Convention and should be especially adhered to in the field of education. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party reallocate resources from the special education system to promote the inclusive education in mainstream schools, so as to ensure that more children with disabilities can attend mainstream education.

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

- 65. The Committee is concerned about the incidents of women and girls with intellectual disabilities being subjected to sexual violence.
- 66. The Committee suggests that Hong Kong, China, continue investigating these incidents and prosecute the perpetrators and all those responsible. It also recommends that sex education be taught to children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and that the law enforcement personnel be trained on handling violence against women and girls with disabilities.



		V. Macao, China  B. Principle areas of concern and recommendations  1. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)  Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)
		<ul> <li>90. The Committee is concerned about the heightened risk of violence against women and girls with disabilities becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse.</li> <li>91. The Committee recommends that services and information are made accessible to these victims. It specifically encourages Macao, China, to set up a complaint mechanism and conduct</li> </ul>
UPR	Date of Consideration	mandatory training for the police force on this issue.  Link to Page
	22 October 2013	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CNSession17.aspx
Hague Intercountry Adoption	Accession Date	Link to Country Profile
	3 July 1987	http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=states.details&sid=30

# **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



Country Care Review: China

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