

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRC/C/FJI/CO/2-4	13 Aug 1993	<p>CRC/C/FJI/CO/2-4 13 October 2014 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fFJI%2fCO%2f2-4&Lang=en</p> <p>F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9–11, 18 (paras. 1 and 2), 20–21, 25 and 27 (para. 4)) Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>35. The Committee regrets the limited monitoring of the implementation of the minimum standards of care in institutions, and the reports indicating difficulties faced by the Ministry for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation in managing the homes, which lead to the outsourcing of such services.</p> <p>36. 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:</p> <p>(a) 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 the maltreatment of children, while making sure that residential homes are allocated adequate human, technical and financial resources;</p> <p>(b) Take all appropriate measures to provide the Ministry for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation with the necessary resources to effectively manage, as well as monitor residential homes.</p> <p>Adoption</p> <p>37. The Committee notes the draft adoption decree, aligning domestic legislation with the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. However, the Committee regrets that the draft has been pending approval by the Cabinet since June 2012. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about:</p> <p>(a) The lack of a national authority officially in charge of monitoring adoption;</p>

		<p>(b) The ongoing practice of informal domestic interfamily adoption, with children adopted via an informal arrangement not being guaranteed the same protection as children adopted via a formal arrangement;</p> <p>(c) Reports of an increase in the adoption of children from China, India and Pakistan in the past five years, which is not being appropriately monitored or followed up.</p> <p>38. The Committee recommends that the State party review adoption rules and procedures and ensure that they are in full conformity with the Convention, and particularly:</p> <p>(a) To accelerate the adoption of the draft adoption decree and strengthen bilateral arrangements with other countries on the issue of international adoption;</p> <p>(b) To take and effectively implement measures to monitor informal adoptions and ensure that all adoptions are subject to judicial authorization by a clearly mandated central authority and are adequately followed up;CRC/C/FJI/CO/2-49</p> <p>(c) To establish a centralized system of data collection on children adopted, disaggregated by age, sex and origin;</p> <p>(d) To provide all professionals responsible for adoption cases with the training needed to assess, review and process cases.</p> <p>I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32–33, 35–36, 37 (b)–(d) and 38–40)</p> <p>Asylum-seeking and refugee children</p> <p>63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of particular provisions in the Immigration Act addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of refugee and asylum-seeking children, and that the Immigration Act does not contain any provisions on family reunification.</p> <p>64. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Amend part 6 of the Immigration Act in order to provide for special provisions protecting accompanied and unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children;</p> <p>(b) Introduce provisions on family reunification into the Immigration Act.</p> <p>Children in street situations</p>
--	--	--

		<p>67. The Committee notes with serious concern that a number of children from the age of 5 live and work on the streets, live at home and regularly work on the streets, or work on the streets during seasonal periods such as cane-crushing off-season or school holidays. The Committee is furthermore deeply concerned about:</p> <p>(a) The high number of children in street situations working as wheelbarrow boys in the markets or shoe-shiners, as well as the significant number who fall victim to prostitution, pornography and sex trafficking; (b) Instances of caregivers engaging children in street-begging.</p> <p>68. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Undertake a systematic assessment of the conditions of children in street situations in order to obtain an accurate picture of the root causes and magnitude thereof, and develop and implement a comprehensive policy to address the root causes; (b) Take all the necessary measures to ensure that child protection laws, in particular those relating to the responsibility of parents and caregivers, are always implemented; (c) In coordination with civil society, provide children in street situations with the necessary protection, including access to nutrition and shelter, a family environment, adequate health-care services, the possibility to attend school and other social services.</p> <p>Sale, trafficking and abduction</p> <p>69. The Committee welcomes the National Plan of Action to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons and Child Trafficking in Fiji, launched by the Department of Immigration in February 2011. However, the Committee regrets the lack of disaggregated data and information about the prevalence and root causes of trafficking, as well as about training for law enforcement personnel in that regard. The Committee is furthermore gravely concerned about:</p> <p>(a) The practice among families of selling their daughters into marriage; (b) The State party being a source country for children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour, with child trafficking victims being exploited in illegal brothels, local hotels, private homes and other rural and urban locations; (c) The traditional practice of sending children to live with relatives or families in larger cities, where they might be subjected to domestic servitude or may be coerced to engage in sexual activity in exchange for food, clothing, shelter, or school fees, putting them at risk of human trafficking;</p>
--	--	--

		<p>(d) Lack of resources to effectively investigate and prosecute child trafficking, in particular international trafficking.</p> <p>70. The Committee urges the State party to:</p> <p>(a) Undertake research into the root causes and the extent of child trafficking, in particular child trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, within the State party, to identify children at risk and develop targeted policies and programmes;</p> <p>(b) Raise awareness among at-risk populations of the dangers of trafficking, including the connection between the practice of sending children to live in the cities and child trafficking, and develop information campaigns targeted at families and children, in particular children in vulnerable situations, on how to protect themselves;</p> <p>(c) Increase human, technical and financial resources allocated to the investigation of, prosecution of and follow-up on child-trafficking cases, and provide specialized training to law enforcement officers in that regard;</p> <p>(d) Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.</p>
Country Report		
<p>CRC/C/FJI/CO/2-4 13 October 2014 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fFJI%2fCO%2f2-4&Lang=en</p>		
OPSC to CRC	Signature Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	16 Sep 2005	

OPAC to CRC	Signature Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	26 May 1998	
ICCPR	Succession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
		NA
ICESCR	Succession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
		NA
CEDAW	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	28 Aug 1995	
CRPD	Signature Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	2 Jun 2010	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	29 October 2014	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/FJSession20.aspx
Hague Inter-country Adoption	Accession Date	Link to Country Profile
	29 April 2012	

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