

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRC/C/GRC/CO/2-3	11 May 1993	<p>13 August 2012</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGRC%2fCO%2f2-3&Lang=en</p> <p>A. General measures of implementations (arts. 4, 42 and 44 para. 6, of the Convention)</p> <p>Training</p> <p>24. The Committee expresses its concern at the lack of training for professionals working for or with children, including social workers, law enforcement officials, healthcare personnel, professionals and staff working in all forms of alternative care, and the media.</p> <p>25. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure systematic, mandatory and ongoing training on child rights for all professionals working with and for children, in particular social workers, law enforcement officials, health-care personnel, professionals and staff working in all forms of alternative care, and the media.</p> <p>D. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 18 (paras. 1-2), 9-11, 19-21, 25, 27 (para. 4) and 39 of the Convention)</p> <p>Family environment</p> <p>40. The Committee notes with concern that due to the current economic hardship facing families, children may increasingly be deprived of their family environment, accentuating a tendency towards the</p>

		<p>institutionalization of children, which was already of concern to the Committee in the past.</p> <p>41. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place measures to prevent a worsening of the trend towards depriving children of their family environment, in particular with regard to improved understanding and knowledge of parental responsibilities, and to provide all forms of support to families to increase their parenting capacities, as well as to search for family-type alternatives when necessary.</p> <p>Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>42. While noting the measures taken by the State party with regard to foster care, the Committee expresses its concern at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The still widespread use of institutionalization and the low rates of foster care in the State party;(b) The lack of data on institutions, as well as the lack of systematic monitoring of the situation of children in institutions or in foster care;(c) The lack of review of placement of children in institutions and the long period spent there; and(d) The shortage of staff and resources, which is worsening in the context of the current crisis. <p>43. Additionally, the Committee notes with concern that in the context of the current crisis an increasing number of children are removed from their families or are placed in institutions because the parents no longer have the means to support them.</p>
--	--	--

		<p>44. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Develop a clear policy of deinstitutionalization and foster care to ensure that children deprived of a family environment receive adequate care and protection, and introduce measures to ensure the effective functioning, monitoring and evaluation of the existing institutional and foster care programmes;(b) Ensure that institutionalization is used only as a measure of last resort;(c) Develop additional programmes to strengthen its alternative foster care facilities, and provide them with sufficient human and financial resources; and(d) Strengthen its policies in order to assist parents to properly provide for their children so they are not obliged to put the children in care. <p>Adoption</p> <p>45. While noting the information provided by the State party in its replies of 2012 to the list of issues (CRC/C/GRC/Q/2-3/Add.1, paras. 80-83) on the legislation in force for adoptions, the Committee is concerned at the lengthy procedures and delays in adoption processes, which has a grave impact on the children who remain in institutions for a long time instead of being integrated into adoptive families in due time. The Committee is further concerned at the persistence of private adoption, which could increase the risk of sale of children.</p> <p>46. In the light of article 21, the Committee recommends that all necessary measures be taken to solve the problems of slow procedures so that the decisions on adoption are taken in due time, and that the State</p>
--	--	---

		<p>party review its adoption legislation, in particular with regard to the practice of private adoption, to bring it into line with the Convention as well as with the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.</p> <p>Violence against children, including abuse and neglect</p> <p>47. The Committee welcomes the establishment in 2011 of a network against violence in schools, of which the Ministry of Education is a founding member, for the prevention and treatment of violence and bullying in schools. While noting the adoption of Law No. 3500/2006 on domestic violence and other provisions, which protects women, children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities, as well as of several legislative measures to protect children against abuse and neglect, the Committee is concerned at the general lack of information on all these phenomena, of reliable statistical data collected by the State party to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the legislation, and of information on sanctions imposed on the perpetrators, as well as at the lack of information with regard to the complaint mechanism for child victims. It is also concerned at the inadequacy of the staff and services dealing with child victims of abuse and neglect.</p> <p>48. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the number of cases and the extent of violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including within the family, in schools and in institutional and other care;(b) Ensure that professionals working with and for children (including teachers, social workers, medical professionals, members of the police and the judiciary) receive training on their obligation to report and take appropriate action in suspected cases of abuse, domestic violence and neglect affecting children;(c) Strengthen support for victims of violence, abuse, neglect and maltreatment in order to ensure
--	--	---

		<p>that they are not victimized once again during legal proceedings; and</p> <p>(d) Provide access to adequate services for recovery, counselling and other forms of integration in all parts of the country.</p> <p>49. The Committee draws the State party's attention to general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and recommends that the State party:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) Provide information concerning the implementation by the State party of the recommendations of the above-mentioned study in its next periodic report, particularly those highlighted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, in particular:</p> <p>(i) The development of a national comprehensive strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence and ill-treatment against children;</p> <p>(ii) The introduction of an explicit national legal ban on all forms of violence against children in all settings; and</p> <p>(iii) The consolidation of a national system of data collection, analysis and dissemination, and a research agenda on violence and ill-treatment against children.</p>
--	--	--

		<p>E. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (para. 3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (paras. 1-3) of the Convention)</p> <p>Children with disabilities</p> <p>50. The Committee notes that the State party has adopted laws and established services and institutions with the aim of supporting children with disabilities, promoting their social participation, including joint learning in schools, and developing their independence. However, the Committee remains concerned that deep-rooted discrimination still exists and that measures for children with disabilities are not carefully monitored, as well as that statistical data on children with disabilities in the State party is still unavailable. It is deeply concerned at the widespread use of institutionalization, which is mainly because of a lack of day-care and community services for children with the most serious forms of disabilities.</p> <p>The Committee is further deeply concerned about the recently reported case of the Children’s Care Centre in Lechaina, regarding children with disabilities living under inhumane and unacceptable conditions, including being systematically sedated and subject to practices such as being tied to their beds, and the use of cage beds due to a shortage of staff.</p> <p>51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Committee’s general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Revise and adopt specific legislation in order to fully protect all children with disabilities, and establish a monitoring system that carefully records progress made and identifies shortcomings in implementation;(b) Provide community-based services that focus on enhancing the quality of life of children with disabilities, meeting their basic needs and ensuring their inclusion and participation;
--	--	---

		<p>(c) Make every effort to provide programmes and services for children with disabilities with adequate human and financial resources and periodic monitoring of placement of children with disabilities, and to adopt, as a matter of priority, measures to ensure that no children with disabilities are placed under such inhumane conditions. Furthermore, placement in residential institutions should be the last resort, depending on the needs of the child; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>(f) Ensure that residential centres for children and persons with disabilities are adequately staffed and that training is provided for professional staff working with children with disabilities, such as teachers, social workers, and health, medical, therapeutic and care personnel.</p> <p>G. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 38, 39, 40, 37 (b)-(d), 32-36 of the Convention)</p> <p>Asylum-seeking and refugee children</p> <p>62. The Committee notes that, according to article 19 of Presidential Decree No. 220/2007, transposing the European Union directive on reception conditions, the Public Prosecutor for minors or, where not present, the competent First Instance Public Prosecutor, will act as a temporary guardian and will take all actions necessary for the appointment of a guardian for each asylum-seeking or refugee child, and that the State party's legislation (Presidential decree No. 114/2010 on the Greek Asylum Procedure) provides for the possibility of determining an individual's age, when it is disputed, through medical examinations. The Committee also notes the programme initiated by the State party in cooperation with Frontex, on screening and briefing, aimed at the determination of age and nationality of asylum-seeking and refugee children. However the Committee expresses its concern that the public prosecutors either are unable to assign the</p>
--	--	---

	<p>guardianship to a responsible person or agency, or transfer the guardianship to directors of the reception centres for minors, and that the duties of the temporary guardian are vague and unclear.</p> <p>63. The Committee calls upon the State party to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Introduce appropriate legislative amendments to the national legislation, to enable the establishment of a functional, substantial and effective guardianship system for unaccompanied and separated minors;</p> <p>64. While noting the efforts made by the State party since the consideration of the previous report in 2002, regarding the increase of reception facilities for unaccompanied and/or separated children, as well as the new Law No. 3928/2011 on the establishment of new initial reception centres, which is supposed to be fully operational in autumn 2012 and will provide screening and accommodation for migrant and unaccompanied children, the Committee reiterates its previous concern at the substandard conditions of reception of unaccompanied and/or separated children.</p> <p>65. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Ensure that children, either separated or together with their families, who enter the country in an irregular manner, are not detained, or remain in detention only in very exceptional circumstances and for the shortest period of time necessary;</p> <p>Children in street situations</p> <p>66. In the light of the Aghia Varvara case, where 502 out of 661 Albanian Roma children reportedly went missing following their placement during 1998–2001 in the Aghia Varvara children’s institution, the Committee expresses its serious concern that the State party did not develop an integrated approach to deal with children in street situations. It is particularly concerned at the limited availability and accessibility of social services for the protection and social reintegration of children in street situations, including the insufficient holding capacity of shelters.</p>
--	---

		<p>67. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Undertake a systematic assessment of the situation of children in street situations in order to obtain an accurate picture of the root causes and magnitude; (b) Develop and implement a national strategy for children living and/or working on the streets, aimed at prevention, support and social integration, as well as holistic programmes for children in street situations; (c) Increase the number and quality of available shelters and psychosocial rehabilitation centres for children in street situations, equipped with trained personnel and adequate resources; (d) In coordination with NGOs, provide children in street situations with the necessary protection, including a family environment, adequate health-care services, the possibility to attend school and other social services; and (e) Support family reunification programmes, when that is in the best interests of the child. <p style="text-align: center;">Country Report</p> <p>CRC/C/GRC/2-3</p> <p>11 April 2011</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGRC%2f2-3&Lang=en</p>
--	--	--

OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	22 Feb 2008	
OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	22 Oct 2003	
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	5 May 1997	
ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
E/1990/5/Add.56	16 May 1985	23 October 2002 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2f1%2fAdd.97&Lang=en
CEDAW	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CEDAW/C/GRC/CO/6	7 Jun 1983	2 February 2007 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fGRC%2fCO%2f7&Lang=en Principal areas of concern and recommendations 31. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of information on the situation of immigrant women

		who are unable to obtain birth certificates for their children. 32. The Committee calls upon the State party to take measures in order to ensure that children of immigrant women are provided with birth certificates.
CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	31 May 2012	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	9 May 2011	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/PAGES/GRSession11.aspx
Hague Intercountry Adoption	Ratification Date	Link to Country Profile
	2 September 2009	http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=states.details&sid=42

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