

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	4 Jun 1993	<p>CRC/C/LBR/CO/2-4</p> <p>11 December 2012</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fLBR%2fCO%2f2-4&Lang=en</p> <p>IV. Main areas of concern and recommendations</p> <p>A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44, para. 6 of the Convention)</p> <p>Data collection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee notes the State party's intention to create a central data collection system in areas concerning children together with the Child Protection Network. However, it reiterates its concern about the lack of information and the inability to access disaggregated data about children on most areas covered under the Convention (CRC/C/15/Add/236, para. 19, 2004), in particular children in poverty, children subjected to violence, children with disabilities, children deprived of a family environment and children engaged in child labour. 2. The Committee encourages the State party to set up a comprehensive data collection system with the support of its partners and to analyse the data collected on children as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of child rights and to help design appropriate policies and programmes to implement the Convention. The data collection should focus in particular on the aforementioned children. The data should also be disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, ethnicity, nationality and socio-economic background to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children.

		<p>Training</p> <p>25. While commending the increase in the amount of training provided to the child welfare committees, the Committee remains concerned that training is ad hoc, dispersed and not systematic; and in particular that judges and other personnel involved in juvenile justice are not trained on how to deal properly with young persons in conflict with the law.</p> <p>26. The Committee recommends that all professional groups working for and with children be adequately and systematically trained on children’s rights, including law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, teachers, health workers, social workers and personnel working in all forms of alternative care.</p> <p>C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the Convention)</p> <p>Respect for the views of the child</p> <p>1. 1. While commending the State party for establishing a Children’s Parliament as well as child clubs at all county levels by virtue of the Children’s Law, the Committee is concerned that the views of children on decisions affecting them are rarely given due weight, especially in the home, and in particular that girls are expected to be less participative than boys. Children are not provided with the opportunity to be heard in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, including in cases of deprivation of parental rights.</p> <p>2. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that children, in particular girls, have the right to express their views, and that these are given due weight in all matters affecting them in both the public and private spheres, including through the effective operationalization of all county clubs/assemblies. It further recommends the State party to ensure that children are able to participate in judicial and administrative proceedings and make their views known, including through relevant legislative amendments. In this regard, the Committee draws the State party’s attention to its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard (CRC/C/GC/12).</p> <p>G. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (para. 3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (paras. 1-3) of the Convention)</p>
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		<p>violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and alternative forms of discipline to corporal punishment. In this endeavour the State party should introduce public education on the harmful effects of corporal punishment on children and establish a confidential reporting system in schools and childcare settings for children who are victims of corporal punishment.</p> <p>F. 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>53. The Committee commends the State party for incorporating many provisions on parents' responsibilities into the Children's Law and developing the National Social Welfare Policy in 2009, which attaches high importance to the family unit. However, it remains concerned at the insufficient resources and measures to enhance the capacities of parents, especially teenage parents, in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. It is particularly concerned about the unequal roles of men and women in sharing child-rearing and parental responsibilities; and about the large number of fathers not providing for their children and the difficulties in the recovery of child maintenance allowance despite the existence of a legal obligation to do so.</p> <p>54. In accordance with articles 9 and 18 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to provide support services and facilities to parents and caregivers, including parenting education, in order to enhance their capacities for better childcare and child-rearing. To realize this goal the State party should, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Consider activating the child welfare committees and take measures to implement the National Social Welfare Policy effectively;(b) Step up its efforts, in close cooperation with civil society and community leaders, to sensitize men and women on their shared responsibilities to children under articles 18 and 27 of the Convention and to change gender-stereotyping of the role of women and girls in the family and society; and(c) Take effective measures to inform parents of the provisions of domestic legislation concerning
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		<p>the recovery of children’s maintenance allowance, and consider providing free legal aid and social work assistance in the recovery of child maintenance allowance for parents in need.</p> <p>Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>53. While noting as positive the development of programmes to decrease the number of children in residential facilities, as well as the State party’s efforts to offer foster homes instead of residential care for children deprived of a family environment, the Committee remains concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) A large number of children remain in residential care and in orphanages, where many of the children are not orphans;(b) Despite the development of rules in 2010 to govern standards in care institutions, their implementation is ineffective and the conditions in most institutions remain poor; and(c) There is slow progress in the accreditation process for residential care institutions and the fate of the children in institutions which are not accredited is vulnerable and insecure. <p>56. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Increase its efforts to ensure that children in need of alternative care are placed in family-type care rather than in institutions, and that they maintain contact with, or are returned to, their families whenever possible;(b) Close immediately all sub-standard orphanages while ensuring the relocation of affected children into safe living arrangements, preferably community-based and family-type arrangements; and(c) Ensure a comprehensive monitoring and periodic review system as well as a complaints
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		<p style="text-align: center;">mechanism for children placed in alternative care throughout the State party.</p> <p>Adoption</p> <p>57. While noting the establishment of a National Commission on Adoption in 2008 to examine domestic and intercountry adoptions, and the issuance of a moratorium on intercountry adoption due to identified malpractices, the Committee is highly concerned at the persistence of informal domestic adoption and intercountry adoption in the State party where in many cases the parents' informed consent is not provided. It is also concerned about the exploitation of children as a consequence of informal adoption, and at the lack of legislation on adoption.</p> <p>58. The Committee recommends that, in all cases of adoption, the State party ensure that the best interests of the child are of paramount consideration, and that the parents or legal guardians have given their informed consent to the adoption. It further recommends that the State party take urgent measures to abolish informal adoptions and to expedite the enactment of the Adoption Bill, and to ratify the 1993 Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.</p> <p>I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-36, 38-40 and 37 (b) and (d) of the Convention)</p> <p>Children in street situations</p> <p>78. The Committee is highly concerned at the large number of children living in the streets, especially in Monrovia, including former child combatants, internally displaced children, children who have been sent by their parents for better opportunities and end up being used for vending on Monrovia's streets, or children who have fled orphanages and other residential care. It is further concerned at the extreme vulnerability of such children to becoming victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.</p> <p>79. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p>
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		Country Report
		<p>CRC/C/LBR/2-3</p> <p>9 November, 2011</p> <p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fLBR%2f2-4&Lang=en</p>
OPSC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	N/A	
OPAC to CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	N/A	
ICCPR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	22 Sept 2004	

ICESCR	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	22 Sept 2004	
CEDAW	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	17 Jul 1984	
CRPD	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	26 Jul 2012	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	1 Nov 2010	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/LRSession9.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

Better Care Network
www.bettercarenetwork.org

Country Care Review:
Liberia

UN United Nations
UPR Universal Periodic Review