

Country session: Barbados

Date: 74th session -17 and 18 January 2017

Background information

OHCHR press release: <http://bit.ly/2kDZsD5>

Webcast: <http://bit.ly/2lmuRXT>

Audio file: <http://bit.ly/2kPQLB6>

Reporting

Reporting methodology

Regular reporting procedure

Simplified reporting procedure

Concluding Observations with urgent measures

State report:

CRC		OPAC		OPSC	
No. of report	Second periodic report	No. of report	Not ratified	No. of report	Not ratified
Due date	06 November 2012	Due date	-	Due date	-
Submission	25 February 2014	Submission	-	Submission	-

[Written replies to List of Issues](#)

Due date	1 June 2016
Submission	13 January 2017

Public reports from children's rights defenders

Alternative reports	
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiative to end all forms of corporal punishment ▪ Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights

State delegation:

High level delegation led by Steven Blackett, Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development. He was supported by high level and technical functionaries from the Child Care Board, the Coordinating Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

List of State delegation representatives on [OHCHR site](#)

Committee's Task Force members

Name & Last name	Country
Kirsten SANBERG	Norway
Yasmeen Muhamad SHARIFF	Malaysia

Dialogue description:

i. Character of the dialogue

The atmosphere during the session was cooperative and constructive. The answers of the State to the Committee's questions were focused mainly on law implementation.

ii. General assessment made by the Committee

The Committee welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013 and the reform of the juvenile justice system, as well as the significant progress made by the State party in the areas of health and education. Committee members noted that corporal punishment and education for children with disabilities are the most important issues to address in Barbados.

iii. Main issues raised

- **Respect for the views of the child:** Committee members expressed their concerns about the position of children in society and their right to be heard. The delegation replied that there has been a positive shift on the way children were viewed. There have been education programs in schools and within communities to encourage child participation and promote children as rights holders.
- **Sexual exploitation and abuse:** The Committee was concerned about the prevalent cases of sexual abuse and exploitation against children resulting from the lack of a comprehensive policy framework preventing child abuse and neglect. Committee members also pointed out the need of an effective reporting mechanism, as well as effective measures to protect and provide rehabilitation services for child victims of sexual abuse, especially for girls. The delegation stressed that when an abuse happened, the victim was taken to the hospital, removed from the reach of the perpetrator and the case would be reported to the police. Despite the campaigns conducted by the government on this matter, underreporting was an issue because of fear of stigmatization
- **Corporal punishment:** Committee members were worried about the prevalence of corporal punishment in both private and public settings, including institutions for children in conflict with the law, and the absence of legal provisions prohibiting this practice. The delegation replied that corporal punishment has become widespread and accepted, but awareness raising activities on positive forms of discipline were being conducted to change the attitude towards this practice within governmental institutions and communities.

Recommendations of the Committee

In its [Concluding Observations](#), the Committee recommended, inter alia:

- **Respect for the views of the child:** The State should ensure the effective implementation of the right of the child to be heard, while undertaking a study identifying the most important issues for children and the existing participation channels within family, school and at the local level. Moreover, trainings and awareness raising activities on participation must be conducted with children and communities and consultation tools need to be developed.
- **Sexual exploitation and abuse:** The State should adopt laws explicitly prohibiting sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as setting up a child-friendly reporting system for cases on this matter. It should bring perpetrators to justice, develop a comprehensive prevention policy and reintegration and rehabilitation programs for child victims. Finally, awareness-raising activities within communities to destigmatize child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse must be conducted.
- **Corporal punishment:** The State should prohibit by law all forms of corporal punishment in both private and public settings, while fostering alternative methods of discipline with teachers and educators. It should establish a child-friendly complaints mechanism in all schools to monitor cases of corporal punishment and ensure that perpetrators receive proper administrative and judicial sanctions. Awareness-raising programs and campaigns must be conducted to promote a change in the mindset of the population.
- Committee members highly recommended the State party to ratify the three Optional Protocols to the CRC.

Next State report

CRC	
No. of report	Third to seventh periodic report
Due date	6 November 2022

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