

INFORMATION NOTE

2nd Universal Periodic Review of Jordan (24.10.2013)

Previous UPR of Jordan in: 11 February 2009 (4th session of the UPR)

17th session of the UPR – Human Rights Council

Summary of child related issues

Troika: Libya, Thailand, Montenegro

I- Issues pertaining to juvenile justice and the rights of the child in general

1. Issue n°1: juvenile justice

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Jordan
Uruguay.	Raise the age of criminal responsibility, and use judiciary system for juveniles only as a measure of last resort.	The draft Juveniles Bill raised the age of criminal responsibility to 12 (it is currently 7).
United Arab Emirates.	Prepare appropriate court cases for juveniles and train judges to deal with cases involving juveniles.	Provisions on alternative sentences were added to the final draft of the Juveniles Bill, and language on conflict resolution in criminal cases and provisions on the establishment of an independent judiciary, an independent prosecution service and a juvenile police force were also added to the text.

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2. Issue n°2 : child trafficking, exploitation and labour

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Jordan
Nigeria, USA, Cambodia, Ecuador, Chile.	Strengthen the protection against child labour.	Articles on protecting children from exploitation in work that could endanger their lives and health were included in the Labour Code. They state that children may not work more than six hours [per day] and that it is prohibited to employ children below the age of 16 in any kind of work. Children are not allowed to work at night or in hazardous occupations.
Greece, Kyrgyzstan.	Continue to fight trafficking in children.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Kyrgyzstan	Include in the Human Trafficking Act a definition of trafficking, and ensure that trafficked girls have access to quality medical care, counselling and shelter.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Sierra Leone, Canada.	Eliminate the practice of early/forced marriage	The Personal Status Law of 2010 was amended and the age for marriage has been raised to 18, but there is an exception: the limit is 15 if the marriage is in the girl's interest. The number of early marriages has declined.

3. Issue n°3: Education and health

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Jordan
Netherlands, Chile, Vietnam, Singapore, Mauritania.	Continue efforts for the access to basic education.	Amendments were made to the Jordanian Constitution of 2011 to bring it into line with international norms, and education is compulsory and free.
Pakistan, Thailand, Norway.	Continue awareness raising campaigns for education for girls.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Argentina, USA.	Ensure that children with disabilities have access to education.	An information plan has been drawn up to provide news on disability issues and steps have been taken to promote the enjoyment of rights relating to education, inclusion, work, vocational training and accessibility.

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Cuba, Mauritania.	Improve the health care system.	A pioneering policy was established on the delivery of health services at 677 health centres, 435 mother-and-child centres, 377 dental clinics and 31 hospitals. In 2012, these figures look set to increase, with the establishment of a further 10 health centres and 2 hospitals.
Thailand.	Ensure access to health services for rural girls.	The Ministry of Health supports the World Health Organization and the entities involved in the introduction of a community health development programme that was set up to support local communities in deprived parts of Jordan and to improve the quality of life there at all levels.

4. Issue n°4: Violence and poverty

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Jordan
Nigeria, Estonia, Mauritania.	Intensify efforts to protect children from violence	Efforts to protect children from all forms of violence are being pursued and a number of successes have been scored. For example, a regulation was introduced on controlling the quality of services that are provided to protect families from domestic violence.
Slovenia.	Withdraw the provision of the new Children's Bill stipulating that corporal punishment is lawful at home and in alternative care.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>
Canada.	Strengthen the Penal Code regarding rape.	The authorities took steps to increase the penalties prescribed in the Jordanian Criminal Code for acts of sexual violence (art. 292).
Sri Lanka, Cuba	Continue measures to combat poverty.	Notwithstanding multiple initiatives and continuous efforts by the Government, the elimination of poverty and unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges that the country faces, particularly given the challenges posed by the global financial and economic crisis, rising energy prices and the spiralling costs of hosting refugees on Jordanian soil.

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5. Issue n°5: Convention on the Rights of the Child and other legislation

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Jordan
Slovenia, Costa Rica.	Withdraw reservations to the CRC (art. 14, 20, 21).	The reservations do not impinge on the rights of Jordanian children. The country's laws, notably the Constitution, offer protection in respect of the matters covered in these articles.
Tunisia, Algeria.	Implement the draft children's Bill.	The Bill was transmitted to the Prime Minister at the end of 2012, but civil society organisations have requested to stop the procedure to review it together to strengthen it: a committee was set up to finalise the draft law.
Netherlands.	Amend the current Nationality Act to grant women the right to confer their citizenship on their children.	<i>*not mentioned*</i>

II- **Other relevant issues with positive feedbacks by the States present at the review:**

- 42 articles of the Constitution that deal with the separation of powers and the promotion of political and civil rights were amended
- Amendments were made to several laws in order to promote women's rights
- Amendments were made to article 340 of the Criminal Code pursuant to Act No. 8 of 2011 to put an end to customary practices, such as "honour crimes"
- Constitutional amendments that were introduced in 2011 include provisions on the prohibition of torture

III- **Adoption of the report :**

- **173 recommendations were made. 126 were accepted; 13 will be examined by Jordan which will provide responses no later than the 25th session of the HRC. 34 recommendations were not accepted by Jordan.**
- **Recommendations pertaining to children's rights:**
 - Fast-track the issuance of newly proposed laws such as the Child rights law, and the laws regulating centres and institutions for disabled persons [118.7]
 - Review all executive laws relevant to juveniles [118.8]
 - Strengthen legislation protecting women and girls from forced or underage marriage and strengthen its penal code regarding rape, in particular by removing article 308 and amending the Penal Code to

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remove the exemption of those accused of honour crimes from prosecution, and strengthen the enforcement of this legislation, particularly in refugee camps [118.9]

- Further promote the respect of human rights by executing public awareness campaigns on issues such as equal treatment between women and men, combating child labour, human trafficking and domestic violence [118.15]
- Take measures aimed at the further strengthening of national human rights institutions and continue its policy of aligning national legislations with international obligations [118.16]
- Continue to devote special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and the elderly [118.22]
- Guarantee the protection of child rights and provide adequate juvenile justice facilities [118.24]
- Ensure proper implementation of and execution of legal provisions relevant to the protection of women's rights, and child rights specifically and family in general [118.25]
- Continue with the efforts to fight against discrimination suffered by children, especially girls with disabilities [118.36]
- Continue to take measures to protect children against economic exploitation and violence [118.39]
- Continue efforts to eradicate child labour within the framework of protection and promotion of the rights of the child [118.40]
- Reduce all forms of violence against women and children [118.45]
- Pay attention to the trafficking in women and children for sexual and other exploitative purposes, preventing and combating such trafficking, also by means of including in the Human Trafficking Act a definition of trafficking, and ensure that trafficked women and girls have access to quality medical care, counselling and shelter [118.54]
- Work towards the elimination of early, forced and child marriage, in particular taking steps to further limit the circumstances in which those under 18 years of age can marry [118.55]
- **Continue training and capacity building for judges and specialists to deal with vulnerable persons [118.57]**
- **Take necessary measures to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in order to align that it is in line with international human rights standards [118.58]**
- **Put in practice a broad system of alternative measures to deprivation of liberty of minors so that it is used only as a last resort, for the shortest time possible and in the appropriate conditions [118.59]**
- Strengthen labour protections for all workers in Jordan, with special emphasis on migrants, children, and domestic workers [118.95]
- Continue the efforts to promote and protect the right to health and the right to education for its people in order to further improve the standard of living for all [118.101]

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- Continue efforts to improve the health care system, especially for girls and boys [118.108]
- Continue its efforts to improve access to quality education for all [118.109]
- Improve access for persons with disabilities to public facilities, including schools [118.114]

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