

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

What do NGOs know?
What do NGOs say?

**An analysis of information relating to violence
available in NGO reports to the UN Committee on the
Rights of the Child from 1990 to 2005**

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1. Introduction

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) sets a unique framework to address violence against children. Article 3 establishes that “*in all actions concerning children, (...) the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration*”. While taking into account the rights and duties of any individual legally responsible for the child, States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being.

Article 19 further specifies State accountability to take appropriate measures to protect the child from *all forms of violence* in whoever’s care the child may be. A number of articles address the specific rights and needs of children already victims or at high risk of becoming victims of violence, such as children at work (Art. 32), sexually exploited children (Art. 34), children in the justice system (Art. 37 and 40) and in armed conflict (Art. 22 and 38). Article 39 emphasises the duty to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim.

Beyond this normative framework, it is through its monitoring activities that the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereafter “the Committee”) has been exposed to the many facets of violence against children. Throughout its 15 years of operation, it as been confronted by revelations of acts of extreme brutality in settings such as home and school which the CRC did not anticipate or acknowledge to be violent. The Committee has had to refine its approach to systemic causes of torture or inhuman and degrading treatments endemic to certain work situations and certain care institutions and judiciary systems. Finally, the CRC itself had to be appended with Optional Protocols in order to better protect children in the community at large from sophisticated degrees of horror to which sexual exploiters and parties to armed conflict expose them.

It is certainly not through State Party reporting that the Committee has received most information on these issues. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) invited to submit alternative information have had to break taboos. Coming from the human rights’ movement, they have concentrated their energy on revealing facts behind figures, on denouncing state violence or lack of due diligence. Coming from the development or childcare fields, they have testified on the state in which they find some children, on the inadequacy of available services, on the responsibility of the various agents in the chain of violence. Throughout the past 15 years, NGOs have joined forces and built partnerships (international/national; human rights/childcare; medical/legal, NGOs/IGOs, etc.) in order to provide the Committee with useful information and to become a legitimate source of information, complementary to the State in reporting on the implementation of the CRC.

As the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence Against Children was commissioned in 2003¹, NGOs were bound to be among the most active respondents to calls for information. In particular, for international NGOs, this was an occasion to take stock of accumulated knowledge and data on the issue of violence against children. For example, the Global Initiative to End All Forms of Corporal Punishment² has taken this opportunity to produce reports on the status of corporal punishment in national legislations throughout the world. Organizations specialized on documenting state violence against children such as Human

¹ All official documentation on the UN Study on Violence Against Children is available at: www.violencestudy.org

² See: www.endcorporalpunishment.org

Rights Watch³ have drawn key findings from their investigation in a critical number of countries. Broad networks such as the International Save the Children Alliance⁴ have mainstreamed violence-related research and child participation into their programmes across the globe.

For local or national child rights NGOs, reporting violence against children is often only one aspect of their work. International research and advocacy is not a priority if it does not have an immediate impact on the situation in their country. Yet a wealth of information on violence against children can be found in the alternative reports to the Committee produced by these organizations.

Since the NGO Group for the CRC has been the facilitator of this reporting process over 15 years, it was natural for it to bring back to light this treasure of information and analyse it so as to contribute to the global findings and recommendations of the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

³ See : <http://www.hrw.org/children/>

⁴ See: <http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/resources/publications>

2. Executive summary

- **It is clear that violence against children is a critical issue present in nearly all NGO reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, yet each specific issue is only addressed on average in about one third of the 140 reports reviewed (from sexual exploitation being addressed in over 60% of the reports to violence in military schools being addressed in less than 10%).**
- **The absence of data on violence in different settings or on different types of violence is a key issue. This absence does not necessarily mean a low incidence of violence. The low reporting can be due to many factors: problems of definition, lack of information, lack of awareness, cultural values, or indeed low incidence of violence. This issue should be addressed systematically as each national alternative report is prepared.**
- **Great care must be exercised in interpreting the data that has been submitted. In certain regions, some types of violence are so prevalent that other forms may not receive adequate attention.**
- **In the past, NGO reports have not reflected a systematic collection, synthesis and analysis of information. While the quality varies among the countries and regions, there is a compelling need to improve the reporting function as a whole.**
- **Considerable differences exist among the regions, not only in terms of the quality of reporting, but also in terms of what types of violence and in which settings violence is considered prevalent. This study provides a broad outline, with the aid of graphics, of how violence is reported in different settings according to regions. More details are provided in the extracts of the country reports available in a separate annex. This information can also be usefully exploited by providing examples of good practices of reporting.**

3. Recommendations to Child Rights NGO coalitions

1. Improve reporting process

- Review checklist of violence-related issues to ensure that these are taken into account in information gathering and reporting.
- Review the definitions, settings and sub-themes related to violence as provided by the UNSGVAC Study to ensure coherence and consistency in information gathering and reporting.
- Broaden the base of participation in reporting. Include representatives of parents, pupils and teachers' associations, as well as other professional groups, into the reporting process.
- Review alternative reports from countries noted for good practices in reporting; consider forms of bilateral exchanges and collaboration to share expertise.

2. According to region/country, devote specific attention information gathering and reporting on:

- Children with disabilities in institutions and at home;
- Peer violence at school and in other settings;
- Harmful traditional practices with separate reporting on female genital mutilation and early and coerced marriages.

3. Expand monitoring activities

- Develop permanent monitoring of institutions, with particular attention to the use of protection and complaint mechanisms available.
- Monitor non-State run institutions, such as shelters and private boarding schools.

4. Strengthen NGO capacity

- Support the development of child rights coalitions and alternative reporting in countries which do not have such experience.
- Undertake national advocacy campaigns to raise awareness among the public and the authorities on the urgency of addressing violence against children.
- Capitalise on expertise on violence to engage in policy planning and implementation.

4. Methodology

Selection and availability of research material

The NGO Group favours and supports the formation of national child rights coalitions as a means of building legitimacy, democratic practice and strong advocacy in the service of children's rights. Whenever a national coalition exists, it receives priority in terms of technical and financial support from the NGO Group to participate in a CRC pre-session. Similarly, as the research had to be limited to the analysis of one report per country, as a general rule the report of a national coalition was used. When no coalition report was available, the national NGO report having the broadest scope would be selected. For instance, between the report of a national NGO specialized in pre-school education and the report of a national human rights NGO, the latter would be selected. In principle, the research did not include reports of international NGOs. It was assumed that international NGOs that regularly report on violence-related issues to the Committee could compile and analyse their data themselves. More importantly, the underlying aim of the research was to assess to what extent violence against children is being acknowledged in each society. Denunciations of violations by external observers are indispensable and can trigger mobilization at the national level, but they do not necessarily reflect it.

When a country has come several times before the Committee, the report would be selected from the latest session, except when it was not yet available in electronic form on the CRIN website. Indeed, one of the aspects of partnership between the NGO Group for the CRC and CRIN (the Child Rights Information Network) is that all NGO reports received by the NGO Group are placed on the CRIN website where they can be searched by session, country or date. This was a unique tool for the present research. Most of the reports used in the research are therefore publicly available at:

<http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.25/annex-vi-crin.shtml>.

Occasionally, an organization would not authorize the publication of its report on the CRIN website, or the report would not exist in electronic form (this is the case for some of the oldest reports). In all cases when the report was not available electronically but the NGO Group did have a printed copy in its documentation system, the report was researched and its information integrated into the statistical data, but not in the compilation of extracts.

The extracts used for the present research have been gathered into one separate annex available on the CRIN website on the UN Study on Violence:

<http://www.crin.org/violence/>

The settings approach and the identification of sub-themes

The UN Study on Violence Against Children seeks to provide an understanding of the nature, extent, causes and consequences of different forms of violence taking place in the various settings in which children live and grow up: the **family**, the **school**, **institutions**, the

community and the **workplace**⁵. Violence against children in the context of armed conflict is not covered since the UN Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children⁶, known as the Machel study, has already addressed this theme in-depth. The present research adopts the same limitation.

The family is addressed through a broad and comprehensive approach, including such issues as: female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices; child sexual abuse in the family, including in the context of early and forced marriages; honour killings; and interpersonal violence inflicted by siblings and peers. The meaning of “family” adopted by the study includes the extended family or even broader communal ties, in view of Article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Violence against children in schools includes violence inflicted by teachers on students, as well as among students, including bullying/hazing. All forms of schools or educational settings were examined, including military schools.

The institutional setting mainly questions the situation in care and residential institutions, but also in detention facilities and boarding religious institutions. Violence in the context of the administration of justice is addressed, with emphasis on corporal and capital punishment as well as maltreatment and torture by the judiciary.

Physical, sexual or mental violence and neglect of children by individuals and groups in the course of organized crime, including drug-related organized crime, commercial sexual exploitation and the sale and trafficking of children is examined under the “community” setting. It also includes less organized but nonetheless systematic forms of violence in the street, such as police violence, community discrimination or certain types of violence during leisure activities.

Finally, the workplace was identified as a setting where many children do spend time and are prone to violence. The problem here is that certain types of child labour are perceived as a form of violence in themselves. Both aspects of the problem were therefore covered, in line with the interpretations expressed in each NGO report.

In order to record and classify the types of violence addressed, it was necessary to establish a common format based on these five settings. Some information had to be recorded in several settings. For instance, violence in the juvenile justice system often meant police brutality against children in the street (“community”) as well as maltreatment in pre-trial detention (“institutions”). Sub-themes also had to be established. Some appeared to be too broad (e.g. child abuse) and others, too narrow (e.g. military schools). It was important to keep close to the agenda of the regional consultations undertaken around the world as a preparatory and mobilizing phase in the study process⁷. Hence, the following sub-themes were selected:

- Violence in Home and Family
 - Corporal punishment
 - Child abuse
 - Harmful traditional practices

⁵ See: Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, *Concept Paper for the Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children*, 7 July 2003, available at:

http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/UNSVAC_concept_paper_with_heading_1_.doc.pdf

⁶ A/51/306 and Add. 1

⁷ See: www.childrenandviolence.org

- Neglect
- Violence in Institutional Settings
 - Violence in the care system
 - Violence in correctional institutions
 - Violence in shelters
 - Violence against children with disabilities (in institutions)
- Violence in Schools
 - Violent discipline
 - Verbal abuse
 - Violence in military schools
 - Peer bullying
- Violence in the Community
 - Trafficking
 - Violence by law enforcement
 - Violence in the judiciary process
 - Sexual exploitation
- Violence in the Workplace
 - Violence in domestic work
 - Child labour
 - Trafficking for labour
 - Violence in street work.

As for the regional format adopted for the classification of the information, it corresponds to that of the regional consultations led by UNICEF. Canada stands alone as North America since the United States has not ratified the CRC.

Statistical data

The statistical data emerging from the research is quantitative and organized along two main lines: thematic and geographic. It is aimed at revealing the degree of coverage of violence-related issues, but it does not provide qualitative data on the nature of this information. The fact that one issue is covered does not tell us whether this is positive or negative. For example, two country reports could be identified as covering “*violence in the judiciary process*”, but one could be denouncing the increase of physical abuses in the juvenile justice system while the second would be mentioning that reform is under way in order to better prevent violence in detention. Still, the great majority of reports are about violations of children’s rights and, in any case, addressing violence is in itself a sign – that there is awareness, that there are elements to measure CRC implementation and that some foundations exist for policy planning.

As for qualitative data, substantive information has been summarized in the annex to this paper. Research needs are so varied that it is left up to the reader to check this data and go back if necessary to the “raw material” on the CRIN website on the UN Study on Violence:

<http://www.crin.org/violence/>

One of the greatest challenges of this research was to interpret the absence of data. Some alternative reports to the Committee do not contain information on violence against children at all. What does this mean? Violence is not seen as a priority issue? The incidence of violence is perceived to be low? Or rather, NGOs have no access to violence-related information, and it is a serious taboo?

For some countries, no NGO alternative reports were actually available. This is either because the Committee had not examined the State party report yet, or because civil society was not organized or authorized to develop alternative reports at the time of the examination of the State party report. This is particularly dramatic in the Middle East and North Africa where, out of 22 State parties, we only had access to nine national NGO reports which corresponds to 41 per cent of the countries in the region. This means that the data gathered for this region is less relevant. It is interesting to note, however, that this region also has some of the lowest coverage rates of violence issues when reports have been submitted. The second least-covered region in terms of NGO reporting to the Committee is East Asia and the Pacific. There it appears to be mainly related to the great number of small State parties, notably the Pacific Islands. It is a concern that small communities do not have child rights NGOs or focus groups able to produce alternative reports, but as will be shown in Section 3, in this region this does not coincide with a general level of under-reporting on violence. In all other regions of the world, the level of alternative reporting to the Committee is famously high, with a notable 100 per cent coverage in the Americas. The average coverage rate is 73 per cent. Hence, for the present research, 140 reports were reviewed.

Regions	Number of countries having ratified the CRC	Number of reports available / researched	% of countries where information was available
Middle East and North Africa	22	9	41%
East Asia and Pacific	30	16	53%
Eastern and Southern Africa	21	15	71%
South Asia	8	6	75%
Europe and Central Asia	53	41	77%
The Caribbean	16	13	81%
West and Central Africa	24	22	92%
Americas (Central and Latin America + Canada)	18	18	100%
TOTAL	192	140	73%

5. Trends in NGO reporting on violence against children

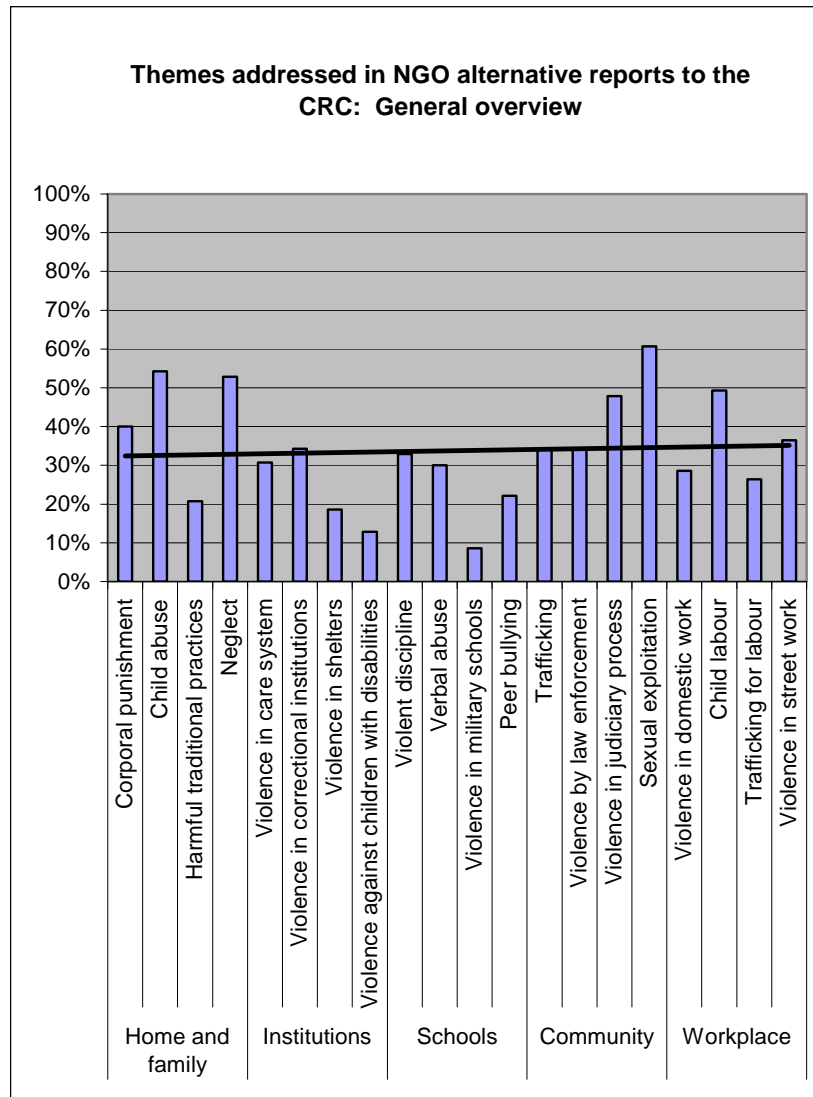
Global trends

The low level of systematic NGO reporting on violence against children to the Committee on the Rights of the Child is shocking. Any aspect of violence is on average addressed in only one third of the reports. While all forms of violence against children may not be prevalent in all countries, it is the role of civil society to keep a vigilant eye on all violations of human rights, including even the mildest forms of violence against children.

This general trend reveals, of course, some disparities. On the one hand, violence in institutions such as military schools or homes for children with disabilities is reported in less than 20 per cent of reports, which could be explained by the fact that either such institutions do not exist in certain countries or they are not accessible to NGOs. On the other hand, child abuse and neglect, violence in juvenile justice, sexual exploitation and child labour are present in about half of the reports. This reflects both a high level of incidence and a strong awareness on the part of NGOs. These aspects of violence are also addressed in specific articles of the CRC. Hence, the CRC itself and the reporting format influence the nature of the information gathered by NGOs. The issues best covered are also generally perceived as the most extreme forms of violence.

We can ask what should be most reported – the most extreme or the most widespread forms of violence? Both, of course. And, between the extremes already mentioned, there stand some universal issues such as corporal punishment in the home, violence in the care system, violent discipline and peer bullying at school. Is there a single country where none of these issues is worth mentioning in a report under the CRC?

An analysis of reporting on each setting is presented below, but it can already be noted that schools and institutions are the least covered. Although significant from a statistical standpoint, the 23 per cent of reports addressing violence in these settings is relatively low when compared to other settings (workplace 35 per cent, community 44 per cent and family 42 per cent). Two interpretations could be put forward. The first is that there is not much violence to report or address, or secondly that civil society representatives have limited information and access to these settings. The first interpretation is invalidated by reports from UN agencies and international NGO on the vulnerability and victimization of children in such settings, notably in correctional institutions, institutions for disabled children, as well as violence in mainstream schools across the globe. Schools and institutions generally remain the realm of State welfare, but also of State violence in some cases. In addition, where the responsibility lies with private actors, these settings are mainly monitored by the State. This suggests that certain groups, which are often not part of NGO networks (parent groups, media), do not play a sufficient role in reporting the conditions of children in these settings. Finally, as the following sections show, some strong regional disparities exist. In particular, there are North/South divides as regards harmful traditional practices and labour-related violence, which appear more prevalent in developing countries, and peer bullying which only appears to be strongly present – or considered as violence – in the North.



Trends by setting

Violence in the home and family

Except in West and Central Africa where awareness – or prevalence – appears to be low, corporal punishment is addressed in more than one third of the reports coming from any part of the world. Some reports highlight the prevalence of punishment administered by the man in the family as part of the patriarchal tradition. Others refer mainly to mothers using corporal punishment, as they spend most of the time with the children, often in difficult situations: being young, single or simply having to cope with the household while the father is absent, they become abusive. Whatever the justification may be for this form of violence, many reports reveal societal or political resistance to legislation or intervention against corporal punishment.

Reporting on child abuse is far less homogeneous. Extremely high reporting rates can be observed in the Americas and the Caribbean (more than 80 per cent) and South Asia (67 per cent). On the contrary, reporting is strikingly low in the whole of Africa and the Middle East, except Eastern and Southern Africa which is closer to South Asia in terms of civil society mobilization on such issues. Similarly, many reports argue that child abuse is hidden, with no official data available, while others quote a wealth of studies and figures. Still, there appears to be a universal consensus that much of the phenomenon is related to stress and/or poverty of families, especially young and isolated ones. Divorce, separation, but also the absence of the husband while married, are often mentioned as causes. Sexual abuse is universally covered up for a series of reasons and children are not treated as victims in many countries. Substance use (mainly alcohol) is seen as both a cause and a consequence of abuse.

Reports highlight the vulnerability of small children (especially boys) and adolescent girls. When men are singled out as perpetrators, violence against the mother is usually associated. Only one report, from Israel, mentioned children as being themselves aggressive.

Harmful traditional practices are mainly reported in East and Southern Africa and South Asia. Again, coverage of the issue in the rest of Africa and the Middle East appears abnormally low (27 per cent and 33 per cent). Female genital mutilation is addressed, but most of the reports focus on early and coerced marriages and their consequences.

Violence in schools

The data reveals that there are no “bridges” between violent discipline and verbal abuse. In regions where violent discipline is highest (Eastern and Southern Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean), verbal abuse is just as prevalent. Strong discipline, including physical punishment, does not reduce the use of insults or threats. Logically, in Europe and Central Asia where strong discipline is less of an option for teachers due to legislation and cultural norms, verbal abuse is not higher than in other regions. Verbal abuse in schools is, in fact, a very stable variable across the globe with about one third of NGO reports mentioning it everywhere.

Violence in military schools is only strongly addressed in South Asia, but since the number of countries and reports reviewed in this region is low, this only corresponds to three country reports mentioning it. The issue is too specific and limited for this data to be fully relevant, but it does confirm that the problem exists and should be further researched.

A North/South divide can be observed with peer bullying. One may argue that peer bullying is low where discipline is strong, but Latin America challenges this interpretation. Would violence between peers be a collateral damage of industrialization?

Violence in institutions

Violence in the care system is revealed everywhere in between one fifth and one third of the reports. Reporting on violence in correctional institutions is also homogenous, but often much higher than in the care system, with a few exceptions where the level of reporting in both types of structures is similar. Information on violence in shelters and against children with disabilities is patchy. This may be explained by disparities, even within regions, in the proportion of children in such institutions, in the type of management and ownership of the different ones, and in the degree of access of NGOs to such places.

The contents of the reports which do mention institutions are, however, quite consensual. Over-representation of ethnic minorities is a universal trend. Lack of separation from adults in prisons is still a major violation in many regions. Inhuman and degrading treatments continue to plague penal institutions. Loss of individuality, identity and freedom, even in non-correctional settings, is often mentioned. There is a general protection vacuum in all institutions.

In the great majority of cases, this is an issue of direct State responsibility. A few reports also mention religious and NGO institutions.

Institutionalization is both a consequence of violence and an extreme act of violence in itself. In most cases, it is perceived as re-victimization of children.

Violence in the community

South Asia has the highest reporting – and presumably prevalence – of child trafficking, with 67 per cent of reports addressing it. However, all other regions are not so far behind. Trafficking having become a global practice and an area of interest for most governments, about one third of reports from all regions mention it, usually without details but rather echoing governmental information or decisions. Eastern and Southern Africa is a notable exception as the issue is only reported in a minority of reports.

Violence by law enforcement and during the judiciary process is extremely high. More than 50 per cent of reports address the issue, and most of them provide a wealth of details and figures. Police brutality and torture is both widespread and extreme. Still, it has not received as much attention from governments as trafficking. NGOs have been reporting this for years yet no strong reaction has come from the UN system. Europe and Central Asia has a low figure on violence by law enforcement, but violence in the judiciary process is still present in one third of the reports from this region.

On the contrary, intense NGO reporting has fostered international mobilization against sexual exploitation and the international agenda has in turn triggered a wealth of NGO activities. Together with child abuse, which includes sexual abuse, this is the best covered issue of all (mentioned in around 60 per cent of all reports). One cannot be enthusiastic about such figures in the sense that they represent a grim reality, but civil society mobilization across the globe has matched the seriousness of the phenomenon with some success. Yet most reports also reveal that government policies are not oriented to the needs of victims.

Reports from the Middle East and North Africa addressing sexual exploitation are notably fewer (33 per cent), which is both an indication of awareness and prevalence being lower in this region. West and Central Africa presents strangely low figures on all aspects of violence in the community (with only 5 per cent reporting violence by law enforcement personnel) which will be discussed in the next section.

Violence at the workplace

Data on violence in domestic work stands out quite specifically: it is mildly present in most regions but strikingly strong in South Asia and West and Central Africa. Child labour – as

abusive child work perceived as violence in itself – is, on the contrary, strongly reported in all developing regions.

Trends in reporting trafficking for labour roughly follow those of trafficking as a whole (see above: *Violence in the community*). However, the Americas and Middle East and North Africa are notably lower when it comes to labour, meaning that most of the trafficking in these regions is perceived to be for other purposes (sexual exploitation, organs, illegal adoption). It is interesting to note, however, that trafficking for organized begging is referred to in some reports as trafficking for labour.

Data on violence in street work shows some surprising trends. Together with South Asia (67 per cent) and the Americas (47 per cent), the Europe and Central Asia region (46 per cent) is among the most affected. Transition in CEE-CIS countries, growing economic disparities in Western Europe and the decay of State welfare across the region certainly explain the growth in the number of children working in the street. Still, a growth in street work should not automatically mean an increase in violence against them. As shown above, violence by law enforcement is present in Europe and Central Asia but not to the same degree as elsewhere. It can therefore be deduced that much of the violence committed by the police is concentrated on children working in the street. It can also be deduced that law enforcement personnel are not the only perpetrators. Society at large is also responsible for this violence against children.

Trends by region

Latin and Central America

This region is a model of NGO reporting under the CRC. All countries are covered and reports are very comprehensive. Violence against children across the region is well documented and alarmingly widespread. In particular, the great majority of alternative reports contain extensive information on violence in the family, in the community and at work. Violence in institutions and schools is addressed to a lesser extent, but is still present in one third of the reports, with the notable exception of military schools and peer bullying as explained in previous sections.

It would be necessary to research regional data on the incidence and nature of violence in schools and institutions – or initiate the research if the data does not exist – in order to verify whether these settings are really comparatively “safer” than other environments. A special focus on peer bullying would of course be needed to understand whether it is under-reported or whether schools are indeed free of peer violence. School enrolment statistics, discriminatory access to school and trivialization of violence could partly explain this good result, but participatory approaches, good pedagogical standards and a culture of tolerance and mediation could maybe also be put forward. Children’s views would be particularly crucial in addressing these questions.

Overall, however, the time appears to have come in this region for participative policy planning on violence prevention, intervention and rehabilitation in all settings. The problems are known. Civil society has reached a high level of professional monitoring, awareness and mobilization. New governments across the regions are increasingly open to collaboration with NGOs. In addition, with the exception of Brazil, the region is linguistically and culturally

quite homogeneous, which enables regional approaches. Action has already started on some themes examined here, but a systematic policy on all aspects of violence against children would reinforce all current efforts.

East Asia and the Pacific

Violence in the community, in the judiciary system and child labour appear to be the priority area in terms of policy planning. The situation has been well assessed by different entities, including NGOs, and strong programmes have been developed for a long time. However, taking violence prevention as a new paradigm could possibly enhance the efficiency of these thematic programmes. For instance, juvenile justice reform in most countries of the region is an enormous challenge and must remain an overarching goal, with alternatives to imprisonment being vital: this is the key to reducing the systemic violence against children in conflict with the law. Yet interpersonal violence could be addressed without delay by implementing current legislation against perpetrators, who benefit today from a total impunity in many countries.

For other issues, NGOs should be encouraged to continue exploring and reporting. The availability of reports varies greatly across the region. Countries not covered should be given priority in terms of civil society development support. Violence in the home receives some attention, but more information on what is being done is needed.

Eastern and Southern Africa

NGO data from this region is much contrasted: extremely high coverage rates on most issues make one think that the few low ones do correspond to low prevalence, rather than absence of NGO competence in monitoring them. Hence, shelters, military schools and institutions for children with disabilities are not a strong issue. Violence against children with disabilities is rather to be explored within the home and the community. NGOs and authorities must inquire and be able to provide data on the situation of these children within their homes, so that protection and support mechanisms be established.

Peer bullying is not much of an issue in Eastern and Southern Africa, but unlike in Latin and Central America, it can be explained here by the very high presence of strong discipline at school. Violent discipline must come to an end through legislation reform and adequate implementation of violence free methods. In order to prevent the rise of peer bullying, a strong presence of educational personnel should however be preserved.

Trafficking is low in NGO reports. This should be checked against governmental information in order to clarify whether the issue is indeed limited, or whether NGOs are simply excluded from governmental policy around trafficking. If this is the case, NGO involvement should be considered.

On well-documented issues such as very widespread violence in the family and in the judiciary system, as well as sexual exploitation and street violence, action must be taken urgently and reported to the Committee. Governments in Eastern and Southern Africa must engage in broad-based violence prevention campaigns, free training in parenting skills and socio-economic support to vulnerable families. Positive experiences in juvenile justice, including alternatives to imprisonment and efficient rehabilitation schemes, must be developed and funded.

Europe and Central Asia

In this region, violence in the family appears as the growing concern of NGOs, calling for more preventive and non-stigmatizing supportive action towards all families. Without encouraging mass institutionalization of abused children (which they have denounced as re-victimization for years), NGOs are seeing the diminution of both State welfare and State intervention as a programmed disaster. This advocacy role is crucial and should continue, but information to the Committee on positive models and experiences will also be useful.

Violence in institutions and in the judiciary system is constantly reported but NGO monitoring is not at all systematic. NGOs in most countries across the region are sufficiently developed to give themselves the task and the means to ensure permanent monitoring of institutions. Erratic NGO reporting and denunciations create scandals which oblige governments to give attention to the issue but, until now, institutions remain the realm of the State. Constant NGO vigilance and partnership will be more constructive in the long run.

The same applies to schools. Child rights NGOs play their role of watchdog unevenly across the region and over time. It is important that national NGO coalitions ensure systematic and balanced representation of teachers, pupils and parents' associations in their networks, in order to develop well-informed reports on violence in schools to the Committee.

Trafficking and exploitation are well covered, mostly as a reaction to governmental and international agendas. Alternative information is still very much needed as a follow-up to political commitments.

Middle East and North Africa

Juvenile justice stands out as the most problematic issue denounced by NGOs in the region. One must remember that the proportion of countries covered is limited. We can unfortunately suppose that the situation in police stations and jails where no NGOs have been able to report to the Committee is not better.

The violent impact of patriarchal authority can be observed in the family and in schools, but neglect is even more of an issue. To avoid violence in the family setting, socio-economic support to poor households and free socio-educational activities for all children is just as crucial as prevention of excessive authority. Governments must engage in these various directions, with the possibility of delegating some activities to NGOs.

Trafficking and exploitation are high on the NGO agenda, to be checked by the Committee against governmental policy in the region. Have governments signed up to global or regional commitments or treaties (from the Stockholm agenda for action and the ILO convention N°182, to the UN Palermo Protocol) ? If so, what concrete measures have they taken to fulfil these commitments ? Has there been any progress ? What are the indicators ? How could they be taken further ?

In the context of the present research, based on civil society contributions to the documentation of violence against children, the most striking fact remains the lack of alternative reporting. It is urgent that local NGOs in the Middle East and North Africa be

supported and allowed to develop independent child rights monitoring and advocacy. This depends on the openness of governments, but also on the Committee's pressure to receive such information and on the international community involvement in funding and accompanying truly independent initiatives.

North America (Canada)

The research does not provide any regional overview as only one country is represented here. It is worth noting, however, that there is a clear divide in the NGO report between coverage of the issues of violence in the family, at school and in institutions – which are fully addressed – and violence in the community and at work which are not covered, except for sexual exploitation.

Harmful traditional practices and violence in military schools are the only issues not covered under the family and the school settings. As in other Western countries, these sub-themes are not perceived as a problem. Yet an increasing number of West European countries, such as the Nordic States, are beginning to address harmful traditional practices in some immigrant communities as falling under the responsibility of the State party to protect children against ill-treatment. In the framework of traditional and cultural practices, the balance between protection and best interests of the child is particularly difficult to establish. This is why it is essential that alternative reports addressing such issues include representatives of the communities in which these practices take place. Child rights coalitions in Canada may benefit from such an approach in order better cover this aspect of violence.

South Asia

This region has extremely high degrees of coverage of most issues. All issues are addressed in between 50 per cent and 80 per cent of the reports, except violence in the care system including shelters and institutions for children with disabilities, and peer bullying. This reflects both the presence of a very strong child rights NGO community and the extreme nature of violence against children in many settings. Be it in child labour, trafficking, harmful traditional practices or torture by the police, deaths are regularly recorded and brandished by NGOs as unbearable.

One question could be whether there is room also for positive reporting. While continuing to denounce all violations, could NGOs help to identify solutions? They generally do and have indeed contributed to legal reform in various areas, but legal implementation remains the responsibility of the State. Still, when alternative service provision is provided by NGOs, it would be useful to also report on these experiences.

The countries where no alternative reports were available are the Maldives and Afghanistan, which clearly differ from the more homogeneous rest of the region, for obvious geographical, political and historical reasons. Support must be given to sustainable child rights NGO development in these two countries.

The Caribbean

NGO reporting reveals three clear priorities: violence in the home, juvenile justice and sexual exploitation of children. In this region, a strong gender divide is underlying these issues. Girls are not the exclusive victims of violence in the home and sexual exploitation, but laws and

machismo are trivializing the phenomenon and ensuring the impunity of male perpetrators. As for violence in the judiciary system, like everywhere in the world, it particularly affects boys.

With the exception of the invisibility of children with disabilities, because no specialized institutions appear to exist for them in the region, all other issues are also present.

Most countries in the region seem plagued with corruption and a general disinterest of the State in addressing violence against children. It can be hoped that the first rounds of NGO reports to the Committee have helped to break taboos and shed light on the issue as a whole. In future, NGOs could document how governments are performing, now that clear observations have been made by the Committee on many violence-related issues.

West and Central Africa

The proportion of alternative reports from this region addressing violence against children in a comprehensive way is alarmingly low, despite a very good level of NGO reporting to the Committee (22 reports available out of 24 countries, one of which has not yet been examined).

The various forms of child exploitation of children are the only well covered issues: sexual exploitation, violence in domestic work, child labour and trafficking for labour appear in between 40 per cent and 60 per cent of the reports. This could be interpreted as either a cause or a consequence of international mobilization on these issues.

All other issues are under-reported. Some may not be very prevalent, but this general absence of data does not allow us to distinguish low reporting on violence from low incidence of the violence.

Other extreme problems such as malnutrition, access to health and education, or the impact of armed conflict on children certainly overshadow NGO reporting on common violence in West and Central Africa. This is understandable, but it is also vital that NGOs themselves become sensitive to issues such as violence in the family and in the justice system, which have a long-term impact on children and contribute to a culture of violence which must not be perpetuated.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

To Child Right NGO coalitions:

Improve reporting process through:

- Review checklist of violence-related issues to ensure that these are taken into account in information gathering and reporting;
- Review the definitions, settings and sub-themes related to violence as provided by the UNSGVAC Study to ensure coherence and consistency in information gathering and reporting;
- Broaden the base of participation in reporting. Include representatives of parents, pupils and teachers' associations, as well as other professional groups, into the reporting process;
- Review alternative reports from countries noted for good practices in reporting; consider forms of bilateral exchanges and collaboration to share expertise.

According to region/country, devote specific attention information gathering and reporting on children with disabilities in institutions and at home, peer violence at school and in other settings, harmful traditional practices with separate reporting on female genital mutilation and early and coerced marriages.

Develop permanent monitoring of institutions, with particular attention to the use of protection and complaint mechanisms available, as well as monitoring of non-State run institutions, such as shelters and private boarding schools.

Support the development of child rights coalitions and alternative reporting in countries which do not have such experience.

Undertake national advocacy campaigns to raise awareness among the public and the authorities on the urgency of addressing violence against children and engage in policy planning and implementation.

To the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Request information to both NGOs and State parties on violence in the various settings under all relevant CRC provisions (ex. Peer bullying under art. 28), in light of the fact that violence may impede the enjoyment of each right enshrined in the CRC.

Develop differentiated and more specific approaches to the examination of reports under Optional Protocols, in light of the fact that they cover issues recognised as violence in themselves.

To the International Community

Encourage and fund child rights coalition development in North Africa & the Middle East, as well as in post conflict areas and micro-countries and support NGO research on violence against children in West & Central Africa.

Support NGO projects of permanent monitoring in care and correctional institutions.

Explore sanctions and cooperation opportunities in light of violence related NGO reports and concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Annexes

Regional groupings

Europe and Central Asia	Maldives*	Morocco	Somalia****
Albania	Nepal	Occupied Palestinian Territory	South Africa
Andorra*	Pakistan	Oman*	Swaziland***
Armenia	Sri Lanka	Qatar*	Tanzania, United Republic of
Austria		Saudi Arabia*	Uganda
Azerbaijan*	East Asia and the Pacific	Sudan*	Zambia
Belarus*	Australia	Syrian Arab Republic*	Zimbabwe
Belgium	Brunei Darussalam*	Tunisia*	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Cambodia	United Arab Emirates***	
Bulgaria*	China (including Hong-Kong and Macao)	Yemen***	
Croatia	Fiji*		Latin and Central America
Cyprus*	Indonesia		Argentina
Czech Republic	Japan	West and Central Africa	Bolivia
Denmark	Kiribati***	Benin	Brazil
Estonia	Korea, Democratic	Burkina Faso	Chile
Finland	People's Republic of	Cameroon	Colombia
France	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Cape Verde*	Costa Rica
Georgia	Malaysia***	Central African Republic***	Ecuador
Germany	Marshall Islands*	Chad	El Salvador
Greece	Micronesia (Federated States of)*	Congo***	Guatemala
Hungary	Mongolia	Congo, Democratic Republic	Honduras
Iceland	Myanmar	Côte d'Ivoire	Mexico
Ireland	Nauru***	Equatorial Guinea*	Nicaragua
Italy	New Zealand	Gabon*	Panama
Kazakhstan	Niue***	Gambia	Paraguay
Kyrgyzstan	Palau***	Ghana	Peru
Latvia	Papua New Guinea***	Guinea	Uruguay
Liechtenstein*	Philippines	Guinea-Bissau**	Venezuela
Lithuania*	Republic of Korea	Liberia	
Luxembourg	Samoa***	Mali	Caribbean
Malta*	Singapore	Mauritania	Antigua and Barbuda
Moldova, Republic of	Solomon Islands***	Niger	Bahamas*
Monaco*	Thailand	Nigeria	Barbados
Netherlands	Timor-Leste***	Sao Tome and Principe*	Belize
Norway	Tonga***	Senegal	Cuba
Poland	Tuvalu***	Sierra Leone	Dominica
Portugal**	Vanuatu**	Togo	Dominican Republic
Romania	Viet Nam		Grenada*
Russian Federation		Eastern and Southern Africa	Guyana
San Marino**	Middle East and Northern Africa	Angola	Haiti
Serbia & Montenegro*	Algeria	Botswana	Jamaica
Slovakia	Bahrain*	Burundi	Saint Kitts and Nevis*
Slovenia	Djibouti*	Comoros*	Saint Lucia*
Spain	Egypt	Eritrea*	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Sweden	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ethiopia	Suriname
Switzerland	Iraq*	Kenya	Trinidad and Tobago
Tajikistan	Israel	Lesotho	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Jordan*	Madagascar	North America
Turkey*	Kuwait***	Malawi*	Canada
Turkmenistan***	Lebanon**	Mauritius	United States of America****
Ukraine	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya***	Mozambique	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*		Namibia*	
Uzbekistan		Rwanda	
		Seychelles*	

* No national NGO report available until end 2005 (including the UK, where only regional reports exist)

** No or extremely limited information on violence *per se* available in the NGO coalition report

*** No CRC session held before end 2005

**** No ratification of the CRC

(Please, check the CRIN website for countries having come before the Committee since January 2006)

Tables

VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY	% of countries in the region on which information is available	Latin and Central America	East Asia & the Pacific	Eastern & Southern Africa	Europe & Central Asia	Middle East & Northern Africa	North America (Canada only)	South Asia	The Caribbean	West & Central Africa
Corporal punishment	53%	53%	44%	47%	34%	33%	100%	50%	54%	23%
Child abuse	82%	82%	38%	60%	49%	33%	100%	67%	85%	36%
Harmful traditional practices	0%	0%	25%	60%	2%	33%	0%	67%	15%	27%
Neglect	71%	71%	44%	60%	49%	44%	100%	67%	69%	36%

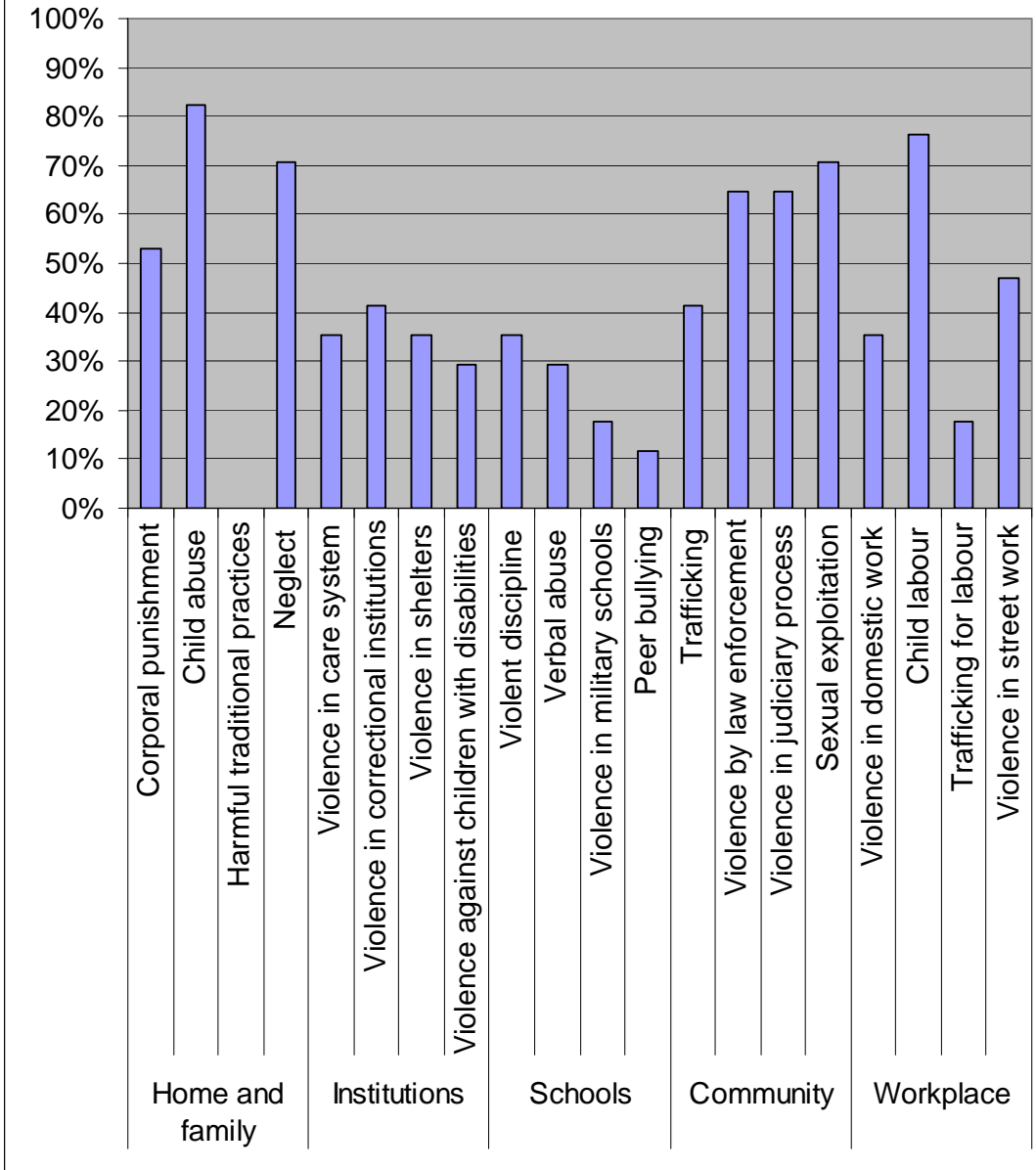
VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS	% of countries in the region on which information is available	Latin and Central America	East Asia & the Pacific	Eastern & Southern Africa	Europe & Central Asia	Middle East & Northern Africa	North America (Canada only)	South Asia	The Caribbean	West & Central Africa
Violent discipline	35%	35%	31%	60%	17%	44%	100%	50%	46%	23%
Verbal abuse	29%	29%	31%	33%	32%	44%	100%	33%	38%	9%
Violence in military schools	18%	18%	13%	13%	0%	11%	0%	50%	0%	5%
Peer bullying	12%	12%	25%	13%	37%	11%	100%	0%	31%	9%

VIOLENCE IN INSTITUTIONS	% of countries in the region on which information is available	Latin and Central America	East Asia & the Pacific	Eastern Europe & Southern Africa	Europe & Central Asia	Middle East & Northern Africa	North America (Canada only)	South America	The Caribbean	West & Central Africa
Violence in care system	35%	35%	25%	40%	27%	22%	100%	33%	38%	27%
Violence in correctional institutions	41%	41%	38%	53%	22%	56%	100%	67%	31%	18%
Violence in shelters	35%	35%	13%	13%	20%	33%	100%	0%	23%	5%
Violence against children with disabilities	29%	29%	13%	13%	15%	11%	100%	17%	0%	0%

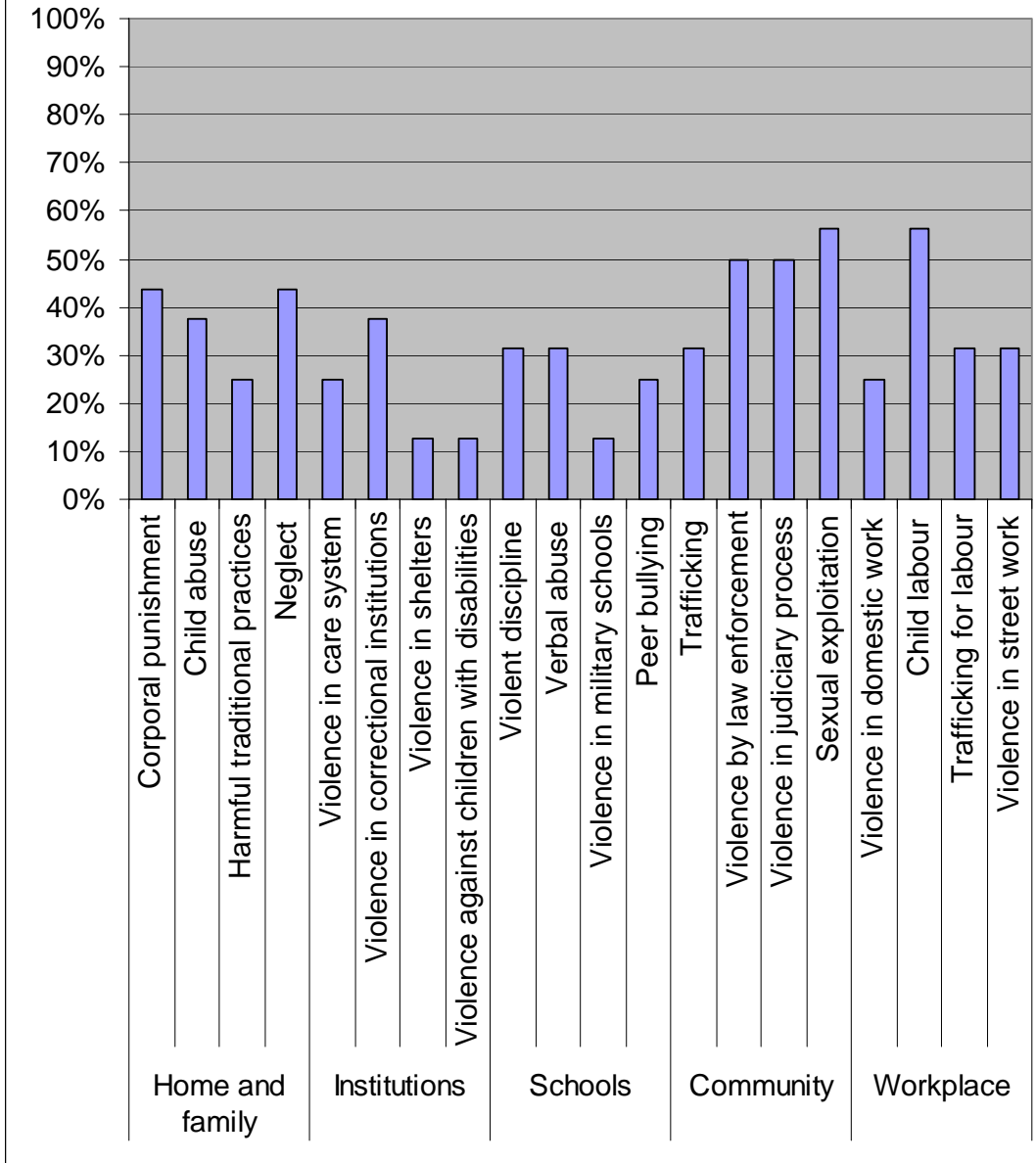
VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY	% of countries in the region on which information is available	Latin and Central America	East Asia & the Pacific	Eastern Europe & Southern Africa	Europe & Central Asia	Middle East & Northern Africa	North America (Canada only)	South America	The Caribbean	West & Central Africa
Trafficking	41%	41%	31%	13%	37%	33%	0%	67%	38%	32%
Violence by law enforcement	65%	65%	50%	47%	15%	44%	0%	67%	54%	5%
Violence in judiciary process	65%	65%	50%	67%	37%	56%	0%	67%	54%	32%
Sexual exploitation	71%	71%	56%	60%	61%	33%	100%	67%	62%	64%

VIOLENCE AT THE WORKPLACE	% of countries in the region on which information is available	Latin and Central America	East Asia & the Pacific	Eastern Europe & Southern Africa	Europe & Central Asia	Middle East & Northern Africa	North America (Canada only)	South America	The Caribbean	West & Central Africa
Violence in domestic work	35%	35%	25%	27%	10%	33%	0%	83%	15%	55%
Child labour	76%	76%	56%	53%	27%	33%	0%	83%	46%	64%
Trafficking for labour	18%	18%	31%	7%	29%	11%	0%	50%	23%	41%
Violence in street work	47%	47%	31%	53%	46%	22%	0%	67%	38%	0%

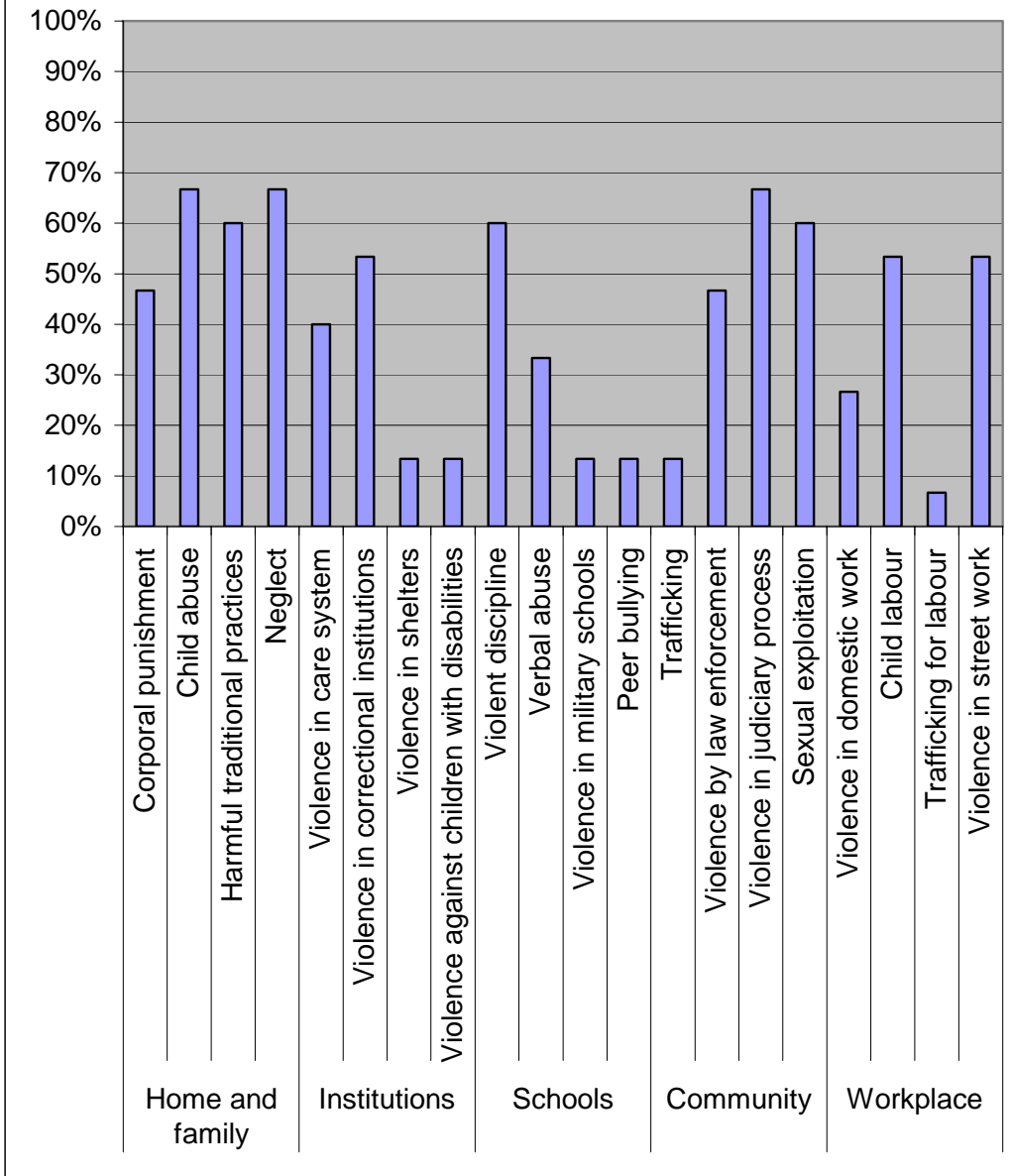
Themes addressed in NGO alternative reports to
the CRC
Latin and Central America



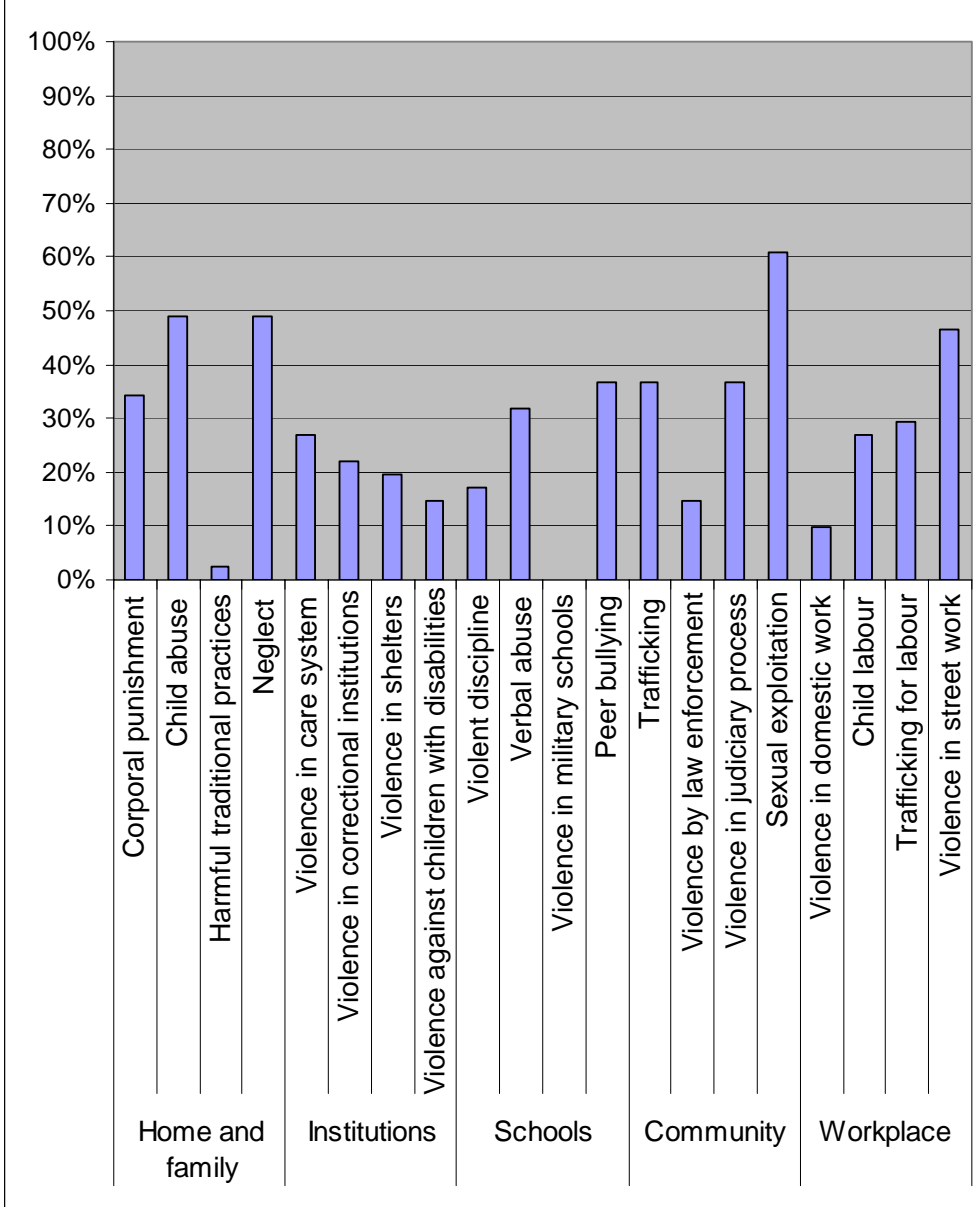
Themes addressed in NGO alternative reports to the CRC East Asia and the Pacific



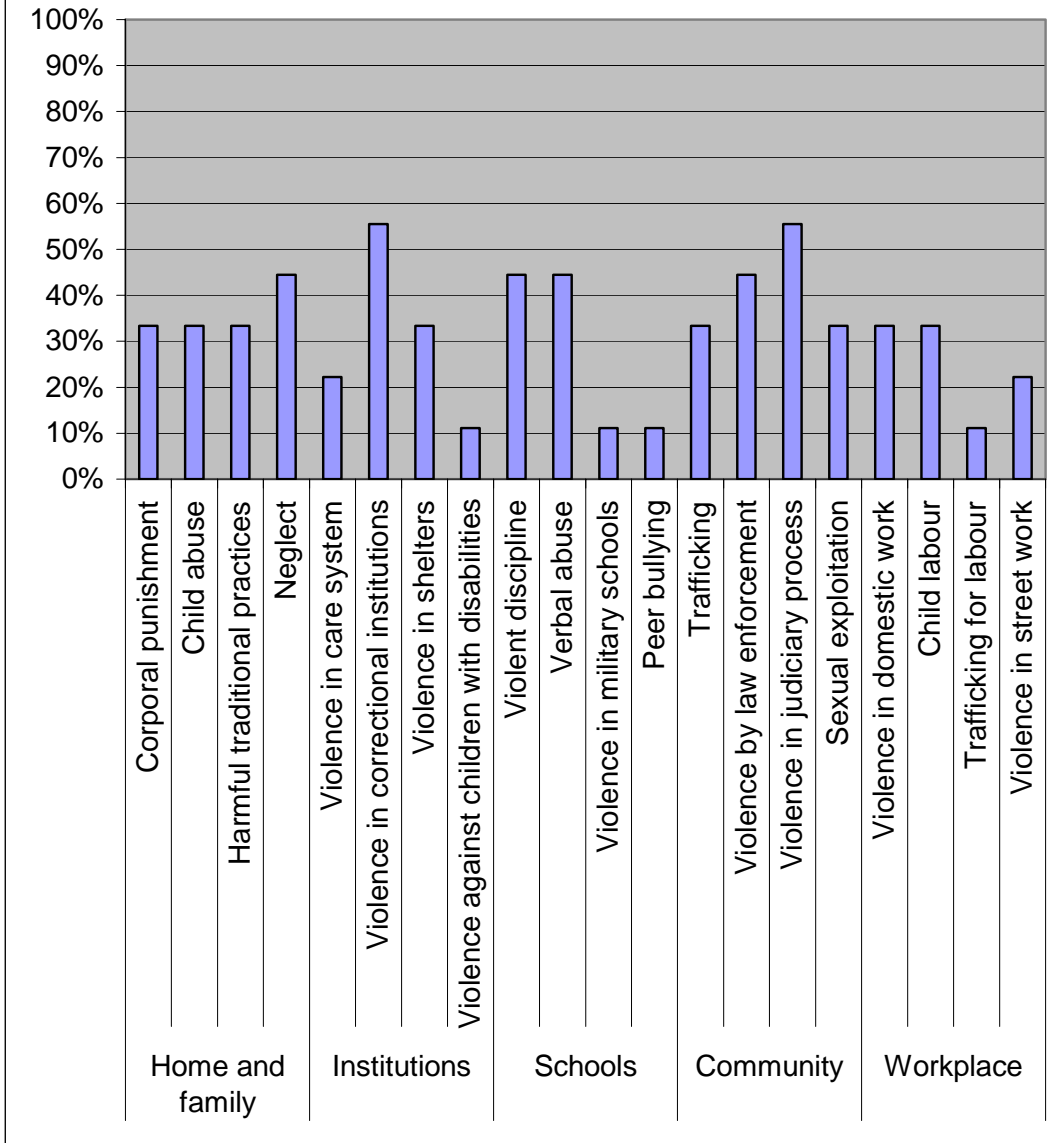
Themes addressed in NGO alternatives reports to the CRC Eastern and Southern Africa



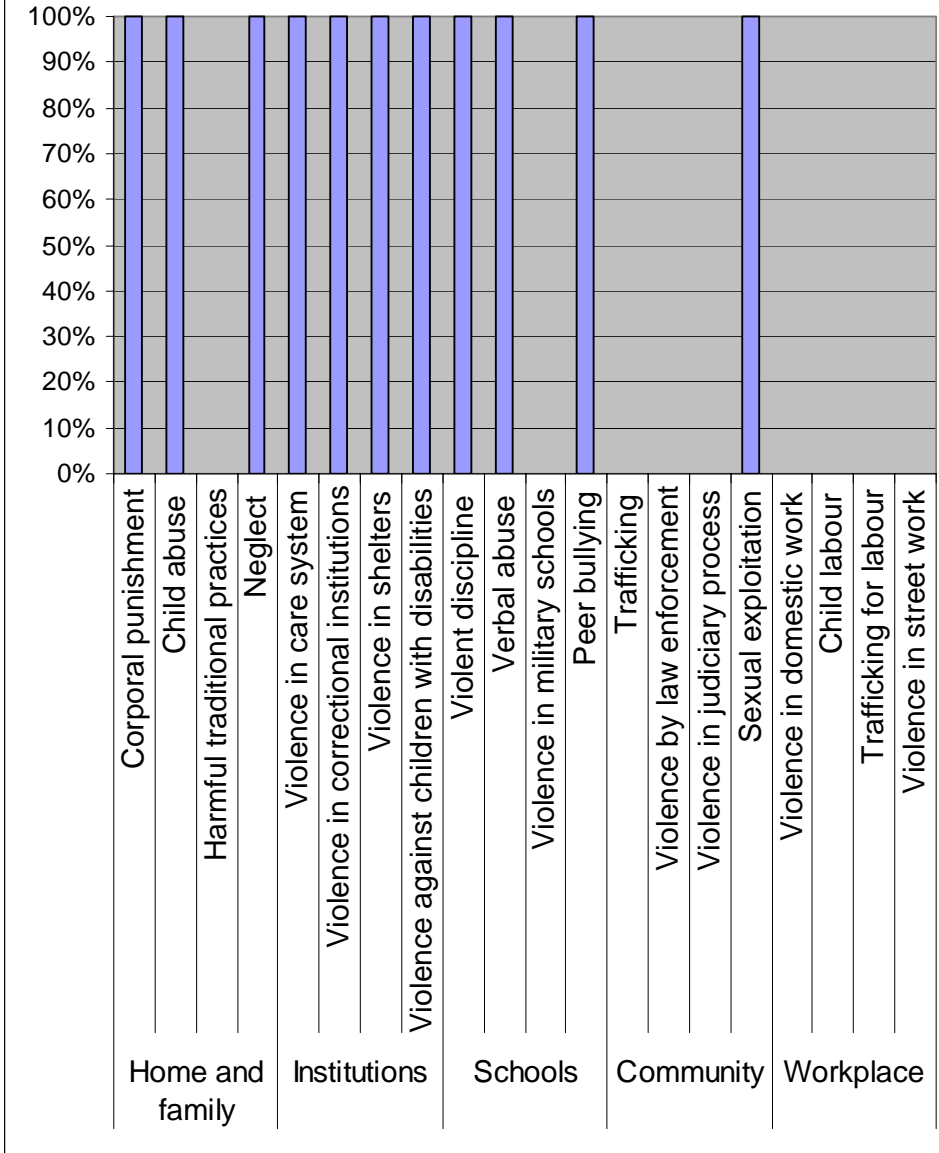
Themes addressed in NGO alternative reports to
the CRC
Europe and Central Asia



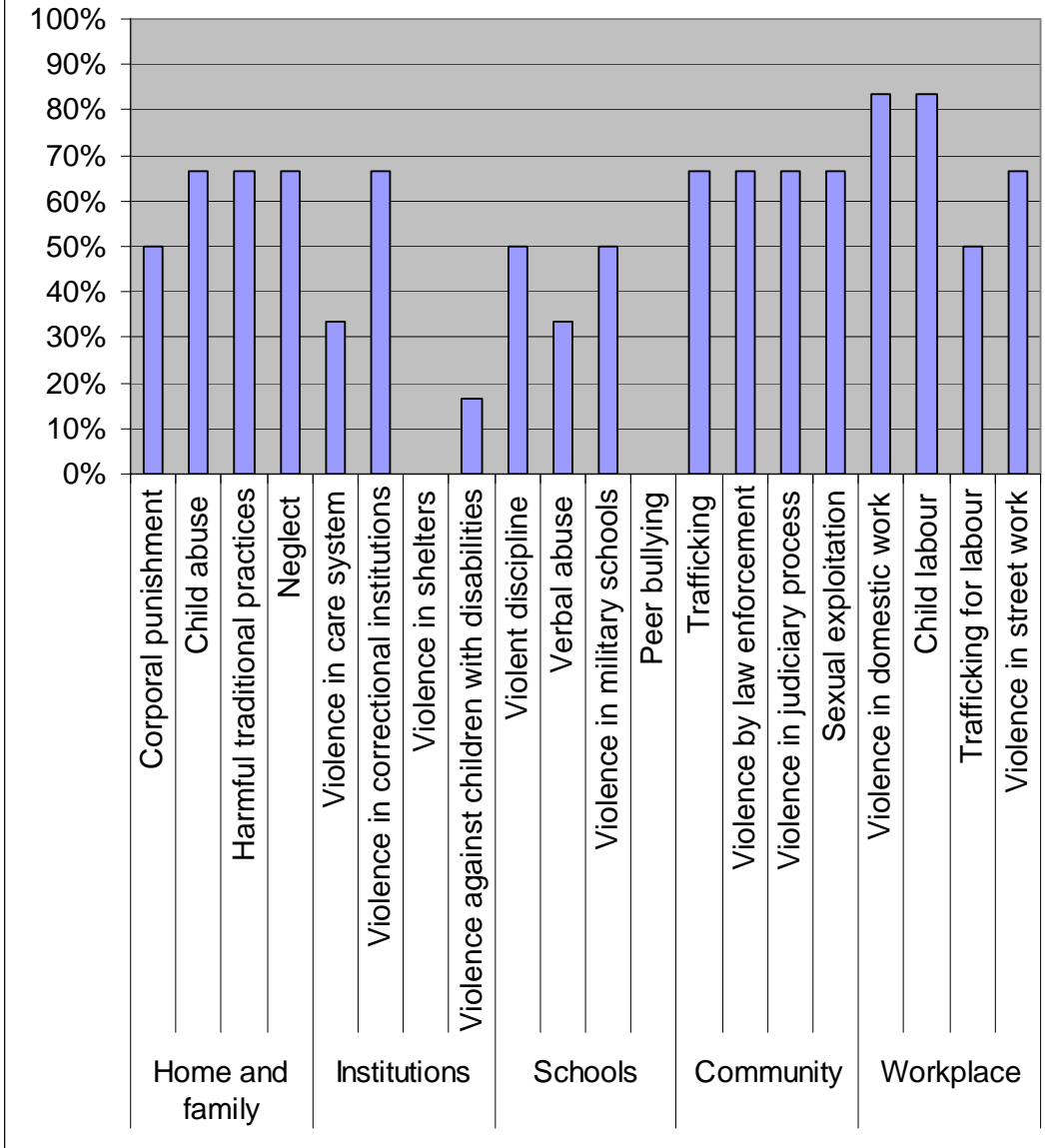
Themes addressed in alternative reports to the CRC Middle East and North Africa



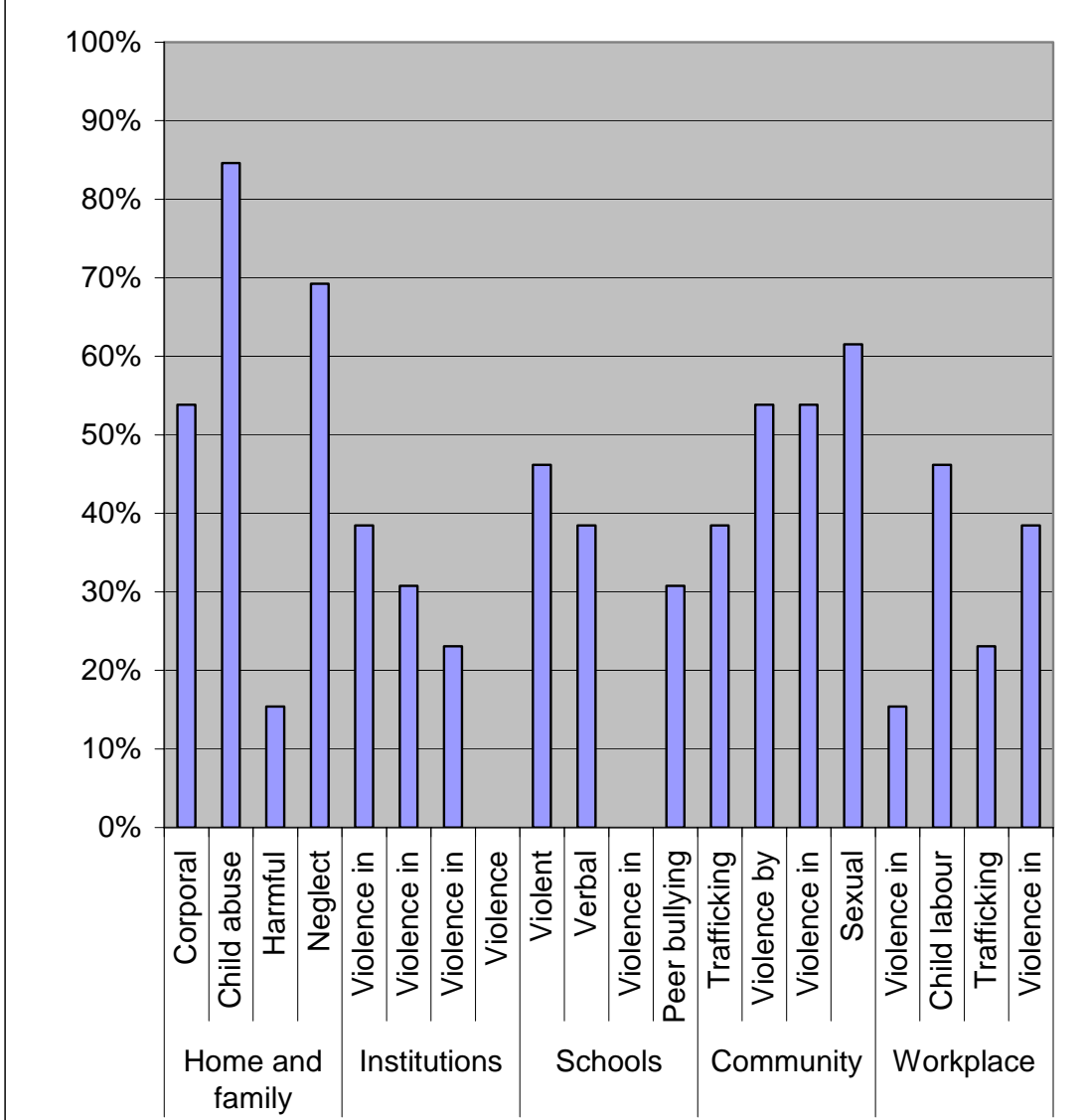
Themes addressed in NGO alternative reports to the CRC North America (Canada)



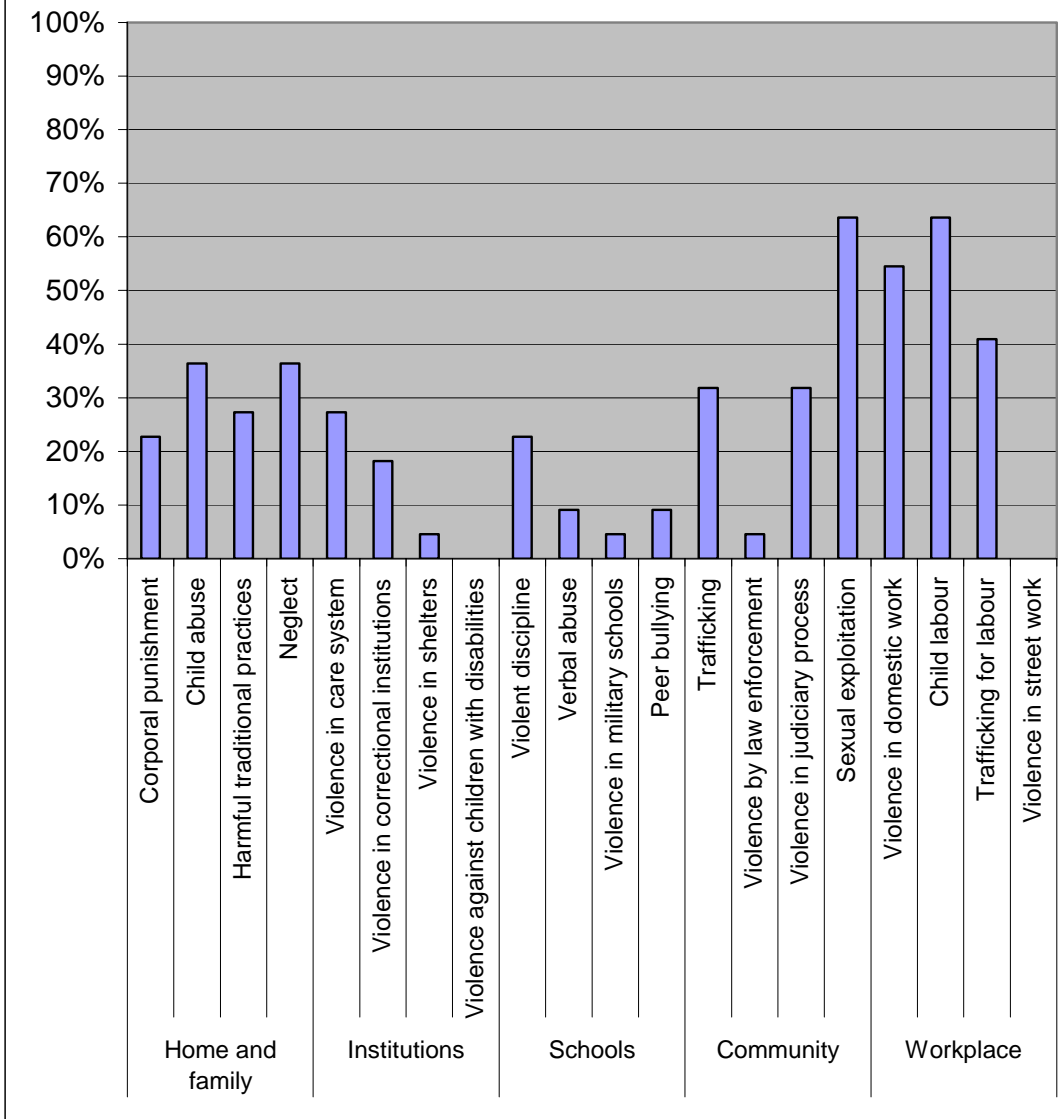
Themes addressed in NGO alternative reports to the CRC South Asia



Themes addressed in NGO alternatives reports to the CRC The Carribean



Themes addressed in NGO alternative reports to the CRC West & Central Africa



Summary of Violence-Related Information available in NGO Reports

The entries are organized alphabetically by countries: the country title is followed by the date on which the country reported to the Committee and the hotlink to the text of the full NGO country report on the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN).

The full extracts from the country reports used as the basis for this summary are available for further research in a separate annex on CRIN website on the UN Study on Violence:

<http://www.crin.org/violence/>

ALBANIA

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Albania_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. According to the report, child labour and child trafficking, street children, children in conflict with the law and child abuse are the most striking phenomena in Albania, one of the poorest countries in Europe, with between 40 and 60 per cent of the population living on less than US\$1 per day.

Home and family. The report reflects that in the family “the child should be seen but not heard”.

Institutions. Children in orphanages often become victims of neglect, physical abuse or trafficking.

Schools. Physical abuse of children by teachers is largely accepted by the families of children and teachers themselves as a “good method of education”. In schools, there is discrimination against children by their teachers according to their socio-economic situation or origin. There has been a case of rape of a female child deprived of family environment, when she was living in a boarding school in the north.

Community. Children in police stations, pre-trial detention centres and prisons often become victims of abuse or torture by police forces, adults or other children. Poverty has brought about an increase in the number of female minors being sexually exploited in the sex trade.

Workplace. The number of the Albanian children trafficked in Europe for sexual and economical exploitation is estimated at between 3000 – 5000 children. Child labourers and street children are prominent in the country: 17 per cent of dropouts needed to work to support their families. Approximately 50 thousand children work at least part or full time.

ALGERIA

12 - 30 September 2005

http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/Algeria_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report provides a very comprehensive legal review and analysis, including one specific chapter on child protection. This chapter includes data on the prevalence of violence in the family.

Home and family. 80 per cent of registered cases are related to physical harm (mainly corporal punishment) and 25 per cent to psychological factors associated with physical harm, sexual abuse (10 per cent) or negligence (8 per cent). Perpetrators are parents 77 per cent (father 40 per cent, mother 20 per cent, both 17 per cent) or other family members (17 per cent, except for sexual abuse where other family members amount to 55 per cent).

Community. The report provides the details of legal provisions applicable in cases of violence in the community but not specifically by state agents. It concludes that the child protection system is strong but allows little child participation and does not address all dangers that children face.

ANGOLA

13 September - 1 October 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Angola_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Most children in Angola are at risk, and according to UNICEF, Angola has some of the worst indicators in the world when it comes to children’s rights violations and non-fulfillment of these rights. There has been an increase in the number of people who live below the

extreme poverty line (11 per cent in 1995 and 25 per cent in 2000). Community education is needed on the danger of landmines and explosive devices. Families in Angola would not normally encourage their children to express their opinions openly or to participate in decisions affecting their own lives.

Home and family. Some 45 per cent of the country's children suffer chronic malnutrition. One in four dies before their fifth birthday. There are many reported cases where children are tortured and mistreated in schools and their own homes, by their tutors and guardians for insignificant offences, normal for their age and the circumstances in which they live.

Schools. Almost half of Angola's children are out of school. The children of the SAN were teased, called names, beaten and ridiculed when attending school for not having clean clothes and are sometimes dirty and told "you are animals, you are nothing". There are many reported cases where children are tortured and mistreated in schools and their own homes, by their tutors and guardians for insignificant offences, normal for their age and the circumstances in which they live.

Community. There is still a certain lack of professional ethics in the media with exposure and victimization of children who have had their rights violated, such as in the case of sexual abuse or rape. Children were forced to fight and were conscripted into the armed forces. Girls were abducted and used as porters to carry weapons, forced to be wives to soldiers, irrespective of their age. Physical punishment and violence against children is also carried out by police, who instead of giving guidance on social norms, often behave with intolerance and aggression against defenceless children. Many were victims of torture and others witnessed the death of their loved ones during the armed conflict. As a result of poverty, parents and relatives may encourage the girls to go into prostitution.

Workplace. Children are often left unattended because parents and older siblings need to go out to work. The deepening poverty in Angola is pushing many children out to work to help sustain families. Some of this work is done under harmful conditions, children are being exploited by being underpaid and expected to perform tasks beyond their physical endurance. Exploitation also occurs within the family unit.

Parents may carry around their small children when begging as a way to attract sympathy and thereby raise more money, but exposing them to various risks, such as bright sunshine, thirst, hunger and nudity, all factors, which are prejudicial to their physical and mental development. Some people are coerced into paying debt services in kind.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

13 September - 1 October 2004

http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Antigua_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Children in Antigua and Barbuda are exposed to a variety of violent acts including physical and sexual abuse, verbal abuse and harassment.

Home and family. The report addresses the need for a better child protection system but it is not specific about its potential work with families.

Schools. Corporal punishment is supported in the school system.

ARGENTINA

16 September - 4 October 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.31/Argentina_ngo_report_eng.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence is reported to be pervasive in many areas. The Supreme Court of Justice of the Province of Buenos Areas has acknowledged severe violations of human rights against children and adolescents perpetuated in that territory.

Home and family. Poverty may stress families into violence and abuse. Absence of parents who are working leaves schoolchildren at risk in the street.

Institutions. Institutional violence is used as a form of social regulation both through penal and administrative (protection) measures. Some care-giving institutions do not have the necessary resources to care for children.

Community. Police: arbitrary detentions, maltreatment and torture targeted at youth and poor. The number of children who are victims of crime is alarming. The Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires has, on several occasions, condemned the violation of children's rights perpetuated by police forces. Police have arbitrarily killed children in detention.

ARMENIA

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/armenia_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This report is very focused on legislative advances and needs. The report does not include information on cases of violence against children. Armenians struggle financially.

Workplace. Limited information on violence though poverty drives some to begging on the streets or into other compromising situations.

AUSTRALIA

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/Australia_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed In this Report. The report documents domestic violence and corporal punishment in the home and at school.

Home and family. Corporal punishment is prevalent and attempts to legislate against it have met resistance. Domestic violence is now recognized as violence against children.

Institutions. It is recognized that indigenous children are over-represented in child protection programmes.

Schools. Corporal punishment is no longer used in some regions but is supported in others. Peer bullying is an issue in many areas.

Workplace. It was noted that one in three young people experience harassment or violence at work.

AUSTRIA

10 - 28 January 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Austria_ngo_report\(E\).doc](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Austria_ngo_report(E).doc)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There is still urgent need for improvement in several child rights areas, such as: treatment of child refugees, juveniles in conflict with the law, (risk of) child poverty and prevention of violence and abuse.

Institutions. Many institutions are financially strained. Prisons are overcrowded. Child refugees are intimidated in the interview process which is crowded and rushed.

Schools. The so-called "behaviour agreements" ("Verhaltensvereinbarungen") at school did not establish democracy, but instead increased repression in schools. The "Schulunfähigkeit" ("non-capability of attending school") should be abolished as all children have the right to education.

Community. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive implementation of international instruments to fight against the sexual exploitation of children. The juvenile justice system has been abolished, while there is not enough supervision to ensure safety.

Workplace. Better assistance and support should be provided to child victims of trafficking.

BANGLADESH

15 September - 3 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/Bangladesh_BSAF_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on violence against children regarding trafficking and work environments. There are also references to early marriages.

Home and family. Early marriages are still being conducted even though illegal. Sexual abuse of female children is not reported in order to maintain their ability to marry later.

Community. The report denounces extensive trafficking to Pakistan, as well as sexual exploitation of refugees within Bangladesh.

Workplace. This is the main setting where violence is addressed in this report. Poverty both of nationals and refugees contributes to this disturbing trend.

BARBADOS

17 May - 4 June 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.21/Barbados_PAREDOS_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report reveals little about VAC and focuses on what NGOs, not the state, have been doing.

Home and family. Trafficking and abuse within families are reported.

Community. Trafficking is organized by fathers. No information is provided on the role of the police or

the judiciary. "Barbados has affirmed its commitment to reduce sexual exploitation of children in Barbados, by implementing legislation which makes all forms of sexual exploitation illegal in Barbados". Despite these efforts, violations continue.

BELGIUM

20 May - 7 June 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.30/belgium_coal_ngo_report_eng.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report is very law oriented and contains little information on actual violence against children.

Community. Concern is expressed about proper representation of a minor in court in his/her best interests. Trafficking of minors is equally of concern. There is an arbitrary "disparity in services": a youth can be designated to a "devoted fighter for children's rights" or to a trainee in fiscal law who has no notion of children's rights and no incentive to remedy this.

BELIZE

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Belize_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This is a very extensive report focusing on violence, indicating that the State has been slow to implement the CRC.

Home and family. Alcoholism is a problem that contributes to abuse. The low marriage age limit of 14 sends a wrong message about teenagers being sexually ready females. Husbands are often much older and young wives are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, as it is hard to leave an abusive husband. Children are neglected by their families as well as by the state. Belize has not acceded to the Hague Convention on intercountry adoption. Corporal punishment is legal.

Institutions. The report states that children are neglected by the state.

Schools. Unfriendly schools do not attract children back from work/labour situations. There exists discrimination against children who are born out of wedlock, sexually abused, trafficked, etc. Discrimination denies children access to school and good quality education. Rural schools are disadvantaged, only receiving young, inexperienced teachers. Corporal punishment is institutionally accepted and widely practiced throughout the society. There may be a correlation between violence and absenteeism. There is a need for reproductive health education so that young mothers do not fall into the trap of repeating the abuse cycle, beating their children when they misbehave or are sick. Registration fees make schools accessible to a limited number of people. Pregnant girls are expelled.

Community. Fear of prostitution grows with cruise ships that come into town. Police brutality and misconduct regularly occurs, within a "zero tolerance" policy. There is a public outcry about street homicide. Silence is only beginning to be broken about domestic violence. Militarization of the police force is increasing and there is an increasing number of injured and killed minors. Children have very little protection from violence in law. Hardly any mention of the CRC in court proceedings. Public awareness is not enough to stop sexual abuse when there are so few successful prosecutions. Sometimes the abuser is friendly with the judge, etc. Boys are targeting younger and younger girls, assuming that they are "virgins" and thus "clean".

Workplace. Children work long hours, often unpaid. Parents and poverty are the main reasons. Unfriendly schools do not attract working children back. Reliance of schoolgirls on an older man for school support in exchange for sex in the guise of a relationship.

BENIN

17 May - 4 June 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.21/Benin_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) Children are often mistreated but a level of ignorance about the CRC prevents them from reporting abuse.

Home and family. The solidarity of families prevents research on the prevalence of child abuse, although it does exist.

Institutions. Children placed in homes by the state frequently face physical violence.

Community. Benin is sometimes used for smuggling trafficked children from neighbouring countries to other countries in the region. Sexual exploitation is prevalent, though statistics are not available.

Workplace. Some children have been harmed by working with pesticides. Some children are victims of trafficking (800 children were intercepted in 1997). Some families send their children to work away from home where they are sometimes neglected.

BHUTAN

21 May - 8 June 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.27/Bhutan.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The entire report documented the exodus of up to 120,000 Lhotshampas due to the unfair treatment and discrimination by the Bhutanese State.

Schools. The Department of Education expelled Lhotshampa children from schools in southern Bhutan. Children of people considered dissidents by government authorities were not allowed to attend school.

Community. Some fled fearing arrest and torture, others were evicted by government forces and forfeited their right to citizenship.

BOLIVIA

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Bolivia_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This report has a strong focus on VAC which is culturally accepted and institutionalized. The report denounces a general lack of child protection, state policy and budgets, the absence of a specialized juvenile justice system, and the structural discrimination and ill-treatment of certain groups of children (indigenous, disabled, girls).

Home and family. The report contains specific data on corporal punishment in the home, at all levels of society, as well as on sexual abuse in the family. Legislation is in place but (especially sexually) abused children are stigmatized and not recognized as victims. It also argues that illegal international adoption leads to situations of violence against both biological parents and their children.

Institutions. Extra resources have been invested in institutions and shelters over the past years. Living conditions have improved but the lack of monitoring and the absence of individualized programmes for institutionalized children remains a source of vulnerability. The report also highlights that some 1000 children are put at risk by being kept in adult prisons with their parents.

Schools. The report presents specific data on corporal punishment and ill-treatment in schools: 85 per cent of teachers admit to ill-treatment and most children find it normal, having suffered from teachers' violence at school.

Community. Street children are at risk of all forms of violence. The lack of specialized judges and alternatives to imprisonment for children in conflict with the law means that they are either held in detention or "dealt with" by the community itself without protection. Worst forms of child labour are widespread (data available). Children in drug-trafficking areas are victims of all sorts of violent abuse by state agents (illegal detention, sexual abuse, threats, etc.) who operate with total impunity. Some interdisciplinary commissions are formed to address the situation.

Workplace. Child labour is widespread and better working conditions are being requested. The worst forms of child labour/slavery-like practices are mainly in the sugar industry, mines, and prostitution. Trafficking for labour in the textile industry in Brazil and Argentina is reported.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

May-June 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/BosniaHerzegovina_ngo_report\[2\].pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/BosniaHerzegovina_ngo_report[2].pdf)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report indicates that violence continues after the war. Some children have died or been injured due to remaining landmines. There is much intra-familial violence and abuse.

Home and family. There is an increase in various kinds of child abuse (physical abuse in the family, the neglect of children by parents and disregard of parents' duties and different forms of child exploitation).

Schools. There is an increase of abuse in school. Children from minority groups are singled out.

Community. The results of the study "Child Trafficking in Bosnia-Herzegovina" also revealed problems of child trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation with 100 - 150 victims noted.

Workplace. There is an increase of street children with most being under the age of 14. Children are exploited and punished in work situations by their parents.

BOTSWANA

13 September – 1 October 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Botswana_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There is a weak enforcement of existing child protection laws and a lack of consolidated data on violence related issues.

Home and family. A child is likely to be deprived of a family environment due to a number of factors, including child abuse and neglect. Like other vulnerable children, children with disabilities have also been victims of abuse and neglect. Of the 218 reported cases of sexual abuse, 15 (7%) involved children with disabilities. Of these 15 cases, only two convictions were secured and the rest of the cases were either withdrawn or closed for various reasons or acquitted.

Institutions Discretionary reporting is a major concern particularly in public healthcare facilities where health workers assist children under 16 years of age to deliver babies and yet rarely report such cases to law enforcement for appropriate legal action.

Community. According to the 2003 Botswana Police Annual Report, there is a steady increase in sexual offences, but low conviction rates.

BRAZIL

13 September - 1 October 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Brazil_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on street violence and reveals little about sexual exploitation or abuse.

Institutions. Refugee centres are perceived as real prisons. In many cases, the Special Police Station for Protection of the Child Adolescent (DPCA) is perceived as a "torture place" or a "rubbish dump". Torture of internees is a routine practice. Inmates are humiliated and forced to silence. In Rio de Janeiro adolescents pretend they are over 18 to avoid serving their sentence in a socio-educational institution appropriate for their age because torture seems less likely. In treatment units overcrowding, abuse, torture, lack of staff, etc., pose difficulties.

Schools. The pressure to work from an early age contributes to school dropouts.

Community. Despite the Candelaria 1993 massacre, there are no standard statistics on violence in Brazil. The number of youth murders has increased.

Workplace. Herlon, aged 12: "The streets are more difficult for girls, because men want to get them".

BURKINA FASO

April 1994

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.6/Burkina_Faso_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) Extreme poverty plagues the country. There are cases of family crisis, brutality, neglect, sexual exploitation in families and communities. Of particular concern is the exploitation of child labour in the informal sector.

Home and family. 46 per cent of the population is under the age of 15. Extreme poverty plagues the country.

Community. Annually, 2-3 million children disappear to neighbouring countries and never come back. In urban areas children are exposed to prostitution and drug usage. There is still a need to develop an independent juvenile justice system.

Workplace. A particular concern is the exploitation of child workers in the informal sector.

BURUNDI

18 September - 6 October 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.25/burundiNGOreport.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Life has been especially difficult since outbreak of civil war in 1993. Child soldiers and a general neglect for social needs pertaining to children are worrisome.

Home and family. There is little information on violence in the home but some about poverty and the complications created by war. Girls are traditionally married very young.

Community. There is suspicion that girls who are placed in international adoption are actually sold to the sexual tourism industry. Specialized detention centres for children and women were shut down in 1993 with the outbreak of Civil War, creating opportunities for abuse in the judicial system.

Workplace. Children who work in houses (called "boys" and "bonnes") work many additional hours without pay.

CAMBODIA,

15 May - 2 June 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.24/cambodiaNGOreport.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The primary focus is the rampant sexual exploitation of children by local and foreign men. Also some information on labour exploitation.

Home and family. Children are coerced into marriage or sold into labour by their families. Others are neglected by their families and fall into the "Big Brother" gangs which further exploit them.

Institutions. Children from 7 to 17 are imprisoned with adults.

Community. Children are trafficked and sexually exploited locally and abroad. They are not protected by the judiciary, and police also often abuse them.

Workplace. There are many street children, plus those trafficked and exploited sexually and for labour. In labour situations they are often abused.

CAMEROON

24 September - 12 October 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.28/cameroon.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) Corporal punishment, female genital mutilation, incest, child labour are all challenges being faced by Cameroon.

Home and family. Female genital mutilation is something that the NGOs hope to educate people about and eradicate. Sexual exploitation, particularly incest, is on the rise.

Schools. Providing free, obligatory schooling is a challenge still to be met. Corporal punishment in the school system has been a topic of discussion among leaders. Illiteracy is a national obstacle.

Community. Sexually exploited children can be seen on the streets. There is a need for judges for minors and correctional facilities for minors.

Workplace. Children often work and exploitation is prevalent.

CANADA

15 September - 03 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/canada_coalitionupdate_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on the lack of protective services for inority groups, the attempted repeal of corporal punishment, and research provided by child death reviews. Aboriginal children are over-represented in the protection system.

Home and family. Canadian legislation allows parents, teachers and persons "standing in the place of a parent" to use corporal punishment against children, even though physical punishment has been strongly linked to physical abuse.

Institutions. Investigations of deaths of children indicated that the system failed to protect children at risk. Negative perceptions of quality of life of persons with disabilities undermine their fundamental right to life.

Schools. Corporal punishment and restraint are still allowed in some schools. Peer bullying is being dealt with in most communities. Some deaths have occurred.

Community. Aboriginal children are over-represented in sexual exploitation and suffer from abuse on the streets. There has been some progress in decriminalizing sexually exploited children and providing support services.

CHAD

17 May - 4 June 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.21/Chad_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) Neglect in families and institutions, violence in schools and the community, and heavy, dangerous labour are all challenges faced by children in Chad.

Home and family. Economic hardship strains families and often forces parents to send children to work.

Institutions. One orphanage, which theoretically has a capacity of 50, houses 400 children. Conditions are horrible: the institution only has enough money to open its doors to children who want to stay the night – during the day they are sent to the street to steal and sift through rubbish.

Schools. Despite laws stating that education is free and obligatory, fees are charged at all levels due to a lack of enforcement measures. In 1996 a child was beaten to death in an Islamic school. In a separate incident a boy was killed by a classmate after a dispute.

Community. Children in Chad are physically and sexually exploited. One story tells of a girl having a hot knife thrust into her vagina. Street children are routinely beaten and tortured by police. The

massacres of 1998 also robbed children of their human rights.

Workplace. Children are frequently subject to heavy labour, similar to slavery, carrying more than their personal body weight thus stunting their growth – all without remuneration. The tough economic situation forces children into labour and keeps them away from school.

CHILE

14 January-1 February 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.29/chileeng_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. A comprehensive report with extra attention paid to institutions.

Home and family. Home life is seen as a private sphere of life that the state does not control. Thus there is a very “hands off” approach by the state to regulating violence against children in the family. There is equally very little information provided. Forty per cent of ill-treated children are those of adolescent mothers.

Institutions. There is discrimination within centres – and not enough of them for the children who must temporarily leave their homes. While awaiting a verdict or a report, the child may be deprived of freedom for an indeterminate time, in a Diagnostic Centre. Children are commonly found in rehabilitation systems for protective reasons or while facing unconfirmed accusations. Although legislation forbids all forms of physical or mental violence in private or public institutions, such practices still persist.

Schools. The educational system is discriminatory and exclusive despite denunciations of racial discrimination and exclusion. Despite policies destined to improve quality and equity in education, deep differences persist between private and public education. At school, physical and psychological violence by teachers is frequent, as well as the concealed expulsion of children with behavioural problems.

Community. In relation to sexual offences, particularly those committed against persons under 18, the Penal Code was adequately reformed. The Minors Law does not determine a minimum age for deprivation of liberty when establishing that any child in “material or moral danger” is under the protection of this law, which includes the undetermined deprivation of freedom. The police (Carabineros and Investigaciones) practice torture to secure information self inculcation; also, arrests without legal support are practiced. When such situations are denounced, there are no consequences or sanctions for the responsible parties, who usually claim lack of proof. The offences of child trafficking or undue payment for adoption are not included in the Penal Law, which makes it impossible to control these actions. Official figures register 183 cases of children under 18 in repressive situations which resulted in death.

Workplace. The lack of coordination on childhood policies hinders advances in dealing with working children, on which further investigation is needed.

CHINA

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/China_HRC_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence against girls continues, sexual exploitation and corporal punishment are prevalent. The systematic assaults against Tibetan children continue.

Home and family. The report indicates that sex-selective abortions continue to be used. Corporal punishment is still widely practised and accepted in the community. Babies are abandoned. Family violence is on the increase.

Institutions. Doctors and activists note that children affected by HIV/AIDS in China are vulnerable to abuse by guardians or in foster homes. Young prisoners and adults alike are subjected to beatings, electric shocks, solitary confinement and deprivation of sleep, food or drink as punishment.

Schools. Tibetan students are discriminated against.

Community. Large numbers of children are trafficked through China for sexual exploitation. Reportedly, Tibetan children even as young as six years old may be detained for political offences, held in harsh conditions without charge or access to family, and suffer beatings, electric shocks, and psychological forms of torture.

Workplace. Some school-run factories have focused more on using labour for income than providing education, and have often become unsafe worksites, sometimes resulting in fatalities.

COLOMBIA

18 September - 6 October 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.25/colombiaNGOreport-en.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report indicates that 60 per cent of Colombian children were physically, psychologically or socially abused. The state does not help the lives, education, culture or future of these adolescents, so they are forced to seek survival on the street.

Home and family. Poverty haunts effective family operation. There have been government campaigns to reduce social and family violence, but these have been sporadic, with the emphasis on advertising and symbolic acts, with a consequent lack of continuity or mechanisms for follow-up.

Institutions. In institutions adolescents are subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, such as confinement in disgraceful little cells ironically known as "reflection rooms", and the imposition of corporal punishment. There are 34 re-education centres for juvenile offenders in the country, which, in 1996 were overcrowded by 330 per cent.

Schools. 38 per cent of the children have no access to education and few details are available to assess the condition of schools that operate. Education for war is institutionalized through military schools: children who complete secondary education in these schools then join the army.

Community. Since 1995, there have been almost 2 million internally displaced people as a result of violence, 75 per cent being children. Minors are retained for hours or days, subjected to physical violence and obliged to undertake household chores in police stations. The authorities believe the fact that a person under 18 cannot be held responsible for criminal action is a problem, and thus consider such people as delinquents who should receive harsher treatment, including death. Although such deaths of young people have been shown to be the result of the actions or omissions of the police, the most immediate official response has been to reject the existence of "social cleansing" or "death squad" groups, and to attribute the deaths to "gang warfare or revenge".

Workplace. Economic exploitation is suffered by some 2.5 million boys and girls. Official information is contradictory, since the National Planning Department estimated in 1997 that at least 2,447,900 children aged 9-17 were at work, of whom only 1.2 per cent had minimum guarantees and conditions of employment, and 850,000 were the subject of severe abuse – working in at-risk occupations such as flower-growing, where they were exposed to toxic substances without protection, or mining, where they were exposed to toxic gases, dust, and the risk of collapse.

CONGO (Democratic Republic of)

21 May - 8 June 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.27/dcidrc.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) This alternative report brings child abuse, corporal punishment and sexual exploitation to light.

Home and family. The report is pushing for the government to take more seriously laws concerning the prevention of child abuse and corporal punishment (thus implying that abuse is present).

Community. The report also pushes for reinforcement of mechanisms to counter sexual exploitation.

COSTA RICA

May-June 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Costa_Rica_ngo_report\(S\).doc](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Costa_Rica_ngo_report(S).doc)

How is Violence Addressed In this Report. This report documents the overall legislation and implementation of CRC but provides little specific info on violence against children. Yet there is emphasis on cross-cutting discrimination (gender, ethnic, socio-economic).

Home and family. The report highlights problems of sexual violence being covered up by marriage and the precarious situation of adolescent mothers.

Community. Social violence and discrimination are a problem and some trends of exploitation have been researched and revealed.

Workplace. Extensive information on working children, but little on violence in this context.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

21 May - 8 June 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.27/d'Ivoire.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) Violence in the judicial sector and child labour are the two areas of reported violence.

Community. There is a need for a children's justice system. Currently they are left to fend for themselves in an adult world. They are exposed to sexual abuse in jail and sleep in fear.

Workplace. 75 per cent of child workers slip by the regulations designed to protect them. Child labour is exploited in mines and in domestic work and on the street. In 1998 it was discovered that boys (minors) were being trafficked to Mali for agricultural work. In 1995 there were 175,000 street children, a 5.4 per cent rise from 1991.

CROATIA

13 September - 1 October 2004

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Croatia_ngo_report\(E\).doc](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Croatia_ngo_report(E).doc)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Education is a hot topic regarding the equal inclusion of ethnic minorities and disabled persons. Violence is present. Less information is provided on violence in other spheres of life.

Institutions. Little information about violence against children in institutional settings other than education. Many disabled minors go without education.

School. "The children of Croatia declared to UNICEF that they are being physically punished." Discrimination towards Roma children. Frustration over ethnic divides. Few disabled persons enter education. Although teachers declared that they have the same attitude towards all children CHC activists noted a case of physical violence by a teacher towards a Roma child.

Community. Little information is given about violence by law enforcement personnel and in the judicial process.

Workplace. The report provides no information about violence at work, but there is a likelihood that children who enter and exit the country without parents are trafficked for labour or exploitation.

CUBA

20 May - 6 June 1997

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.15/Cuba_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This is an analytical report on whether a socialist state can implement the holistic characteristics and features of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including an analysis of "farm schools" as the base of many problems of sexual abuse, education, forced labour, etc.

Schools. Children who do not attend the "farm programmes" are denied by the state the right to continue their education. The state asks children for mindless and submissive integration into its educational system without taking into account the idea of individual freedom and individual responsibility within a civic organization. The farm schools programmes recognize the right of education but disregard the right to the possession of fundamental rights.

Community. Children with behavioural problems find themselves in trouble with the law. They cannot find the necessary support in rehabilitation centres.

Workplace. Students are expected to devote their summer vacation to farm labouring. Adolescent boys or girls might be forced into prostitution which many believe is the best source of income for the family at present in Cuba. Many first-hand observers consider that part of the production of child labour had been shipped to foreign countries, and part to State-owned stores where it is sold for hard currency.

CZECH REPUBLIC

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/Czech_LHR_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence in the family, institutions and schools is prevalent and in many cases preventable. The report includes numerous case studies.

Home and family. There is an alarmingly high divorce rate which results in physical and verbal abuse towards children along with painfully long custody trials and even kidnappings by the other parent.

Institutions. In some institutions 9 per cent of children were exposed to verbal insults from the staff and 18 per cent of children said they had been the object of physical violence by institute staff. Professional researches said that residential care guarantees neither quality of life or development for children nor their integration into society.

Schools. Discrimination against the Roma minority. One in two teachers physically punish students and peer bullying is prevalent.

Community. Each third girl or woman and every fourth to fifth man had been confronted by sexual abuse, which had included sexual contact for two thirds of these people. Approximately half of the contact sexual abuse included intercourse. In cases of sexual abuse of girls, the perpetrator was a man from their own family in half of the cases, somebody known to them (e.g. teacher) in one third of

cases, and a stranger in one fourth of cases. On the contrary, in boys' cases, half of the perpetrators were strangers. The study described a growing tendency of commercial sexual abuse of boys.

Workplace. Child prostitution is a problem in the sex trade industry.

DENMARK

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.27/Denmark-Nat-Council-for-Children.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on issues of children suffering hectic everyday life, divorces, abuse and social marginalization. There is some documentation of sexual abuse although statistics are few.

Home and family. About one in three children experience divorce of their parents. Child abuse is being reported and addressed on a large scale.

Institutions. It has become public that an employee sexually abused a number of children in the day-care facility where he worked. The incident led to a nation-wide discussion about the extent of the problem in the family and in child care facilities, preventive strategies, treatment, documentation of abuse, investigation methods, criminal processes, etc.

Schools. 25 per cent of Danish children aged 11-15 years are being bullied often or very often during a school year.

Community. The report is not specific about violence against children in the community but highlights the importance of a positive environment to prevent such violence.

DOMINICA

17 May - 4 June 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/Dominica_CCF_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report highlights the use of corporal punishment and the programmes in place to combat this. Abuse was reported in the juvenile justice system.

Home and family. Corporal punishment continues to be used in the home. Carib Indians were reportedly very abusive to their children and viewed them negatively.

Institutions. Children are housed with adults in the correctional system and abused. Children are also abused in homes where they are placed.

Community. Children are inappropriately jailed with adults and often abused.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

8-26 January 2001

Not available on CRIN. A printed copy is available at the NGO Group

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There is information on violence against children throughout the report. Low empowerment of families and communities induces lack of reporting or material settlements/corruption in cases of child abuse. Some programmes aim at reducing violence, especially intra-family, but there is a strong need for decentralization, better coordination and specialization of the judiciary. State violence against children is usually covered up.

Home and family. Some data and programmes exist (e.g. a helpline) but are insufficient and isolated. Lack of child care services lead to de facto neglect. Disincentive to report abuses. Children born out of wedlock and of single mothers are especially vulnerable. Problems with separation procedures.

Schools. Violence against children is found especially in under-funded public schools. Lack of global prevention/intervention policies by the educational system. Interference of law enforcement in cases of violence in schools. There is discrimination and problems of access for pregnant teenagers, children with disabilities and unregistered children.

Community. Haitian children face general discrimination and vulnerability. There are problems of due Process in the legal system and abusive length of pre-trial detention of children in conflict with the law. Sexual exploitation, including within the judiciary, is reported.

Workplace. There is government commitment to eradicate child labour but 19 per cent of 7-17 year olds still work. Lack of labour rights and protection from harmful conditions, especially in rural areas.

ECUADOR

May/June 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Ecuador_Forum_summary\(E\)\[1\].doc](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Ecuador_Forum_summary(E)[1].doc)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There is a general lack of special protection policies and social investment to prevent violence against children. There is no political will and institutional capacity to address these issues.

Home and family. 2000 and 2004 surveys revealed 52 per cent children said their parents were mistreating them and 4 per cent found them indifferent to their problems. The abuse diminishes as the children grow.

Schools. A survey revealed that 36 per cent of children (6-11) thought their teachers were mistreating them and 16 per cent found them indifferent to their problems. The educational system favours the impunity of teachers, notably in cases of sexual abuse.

Community. Both NGOs and the government are unable to face sensitive topics such as child trafficking, child prostitution, child labour, and the educational impunity. There is a lack of clear policies to assist refugees, especially Colombian children. There is a general trend to criminalize adolescents.

Workplace. There is no specific information about the incidence of violence at work but child labour is an issue in itself.

EGYPT

8-26 January 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/CRC.26/egypt_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report indicates violence in almost every area of life with harmful traditional practices being prevalent.

Home and family. Girls are more at risk of being beaten in the home especially around puberty. Practices such as forcing girls to marry with unknown suitors, marriage night traditions and FGM (affecting most women) persist.

Institutions. Street children reported violence – insults, beating and torture – from authorities, including the police and juvenile institutions.

Schools. Despite legal prohibition, 54 per cent of youths in schools state that teachers usually beat them in school.

Community. Street children are very badly treated in police stations with constant and endless movement from one police station to the other until they are released.

Workplace. There are cases of girl servants killed by their masters or having committed suicide. They are treated in an inhumane fashion, such as being physically abused and beaten as well as deprived of food, clothing or cover.

EL SALVADOR

17 May - 4 June 2004

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/El_Salvador_ngo_report_CLADEM\(E\).doc](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/El_Salvador_ngo_report_CLADEM(E).doc)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report points out the need for protection instruments.

Home and family. Domestic Violence is very high in all sectors: physical violence is prevalent among poor households, but emotional abuse is prevalent among the affluent. Some 1.5 million boys and girls are reported as being undernourished. More than 50 per cent of homes are lead by women because of many reasons – paternal irresponsibility, emigration of the father or the mother to other countries searching for jobs, or by lack of education of the parents.

Institutions. In the arrest centres for minors, children who do not belong to gangs are mixed with others who are, which causes irreparable damage.

Schools. Parents are asked to pay "voluntarily". This is an obstacle for the poorest children who are thus discriminated against.

Community. Examples of violence by state agents (hitting, kicking, exploitation, arbitrary detention, etc.) are denounced in the newspapers, as well as cases of abuse (e.g. rape) committed by youth gang members in detention. Trafficking of girls for sexual exploitation purposes and drug trafficking are issues.

Workplace. Some minors are involved in dangerous and unhealthy work in the fireworks and fishing industries. Girls as young as 9 years work in domestic service, often for more than 12 hours a day, six days a week, for \$40 to \$100 dollars a month.

ESTONIA

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/Estonia_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This report indicates that 5.3 per cent of the respondents in a study had experienced abuse – from general taunting to sexual harassment.

Home and family. Tartu Support Centre for Abused Children received 525 children, 18 per cent of whom had family problems (including domestic violence).

Institutions. Conditions of children in the institutions are not good. The overall number of children in social welfare institutions is large and new children are being institutionalized at an intensive rate.

Schools. 54 per cent of students surveyed had complaints about school bullying. Most school dropouts had experienced abuse from teacher(s) and/or schoolmates. Education is not always made accessible to all children. Education in native language is made accessible to the Russian speaking population, but other minor ethnic groups (e.g. Poles, Lithuanians, and Finns) have not been guaranteed education in their native language. As Estonian schools are not adapted to disabled children, most of them are sent to special residential schools.

Community. 70 per cent of children attending the Support Centre had experienced some form of sexual abuse (verbal, physical and serious physical sexual abuse). No special courts have been established for criminal proceedings against juveniles. There are over 130 juveniles detained in 32 cells (23 hours a day) in the main pre-trial detention centre for minors. They have no possibility of learning or working; the prison does not offer pro-social relations or positive role models.

ETHIOPIA

6 - 24 January 1997

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.14/Ethiopia_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Poverty combined with harmful traditional views of females amounts to violence, especially sexual exploitation, against children in the home, community, and work place.

Home and family. It has been difficult to change the minimum age for contracting marriage. Custom poses a challenge as in many rural communities girls are often betrothed before age 10 and get married in their early teens. In the urban centres alone, it is estimated that there are over one million children whose families live below the poverty line. Child abuse and neglect appears to be widespread.

Community. Judges are not aware of the provisions in the CRC. There is also an absence of courts designed for handling child cases. In practice children sentenced to imprisonment serve their sentence in prison cells along with adults. There is a large number of juvenile delinquents. Abduction, often accompanied by rape, is practiced in many rural areas where law enforcement is counteracted by tradition. In urban areas, street life exposes many female children to sexual abuse. Estimates based on 1985 data suggest that the number of children in prostitution grew from about 8,000 in 1985 to approximately 14,000 in 1992, and to roughly 17,000 in 1995.

Workplace. It has been difficult to get young prostitutes off the street. Full-fledged child employment is carried on in the taxi business, tea rooms, restaurants and other contexts filling the needy pockets of extremely poor children.

FINLAND

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/Finland_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. A study found that minor incidents of physical violence had been experienced by 72 per cent of respondents, and serious violence (at least punches or violence in excess of punches) by 8 per cent of respondents.

Home and family. Some physical abuse and neglect contributed to mental health issues and alcoholism. One third of Finns believe in corporal punishment.

Schools. There is some mention of bullying in schools.

FRANCE

17 May - 4 June 2004

www.globenet.org/enfant/dei_france_rapport_2002.zip

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. A very global and over-arching report with information pertaining directly to the French situation occasionally interjected. In 2001, 18,000 children were abused and a total of 85,500 children were declared at risk.

Home and family Violence in the family exists and in 2001, 4,700 cases of neglect were reported.

Institutions. There is also violence in certain institutions, including those designed for sheltering children.

Schools. There was an example of strip searching in an elementary school after a theft. The education system does not integrate groups, but rather reinforces social inequalities. School bullying, along with sexist, racist language is at times reported.

Community. There is street violence. In 2001, 5,900 children were reportedly sexually abused.

Workplace. Some children work in the agricultural sector. There are street children in France, some who openly admit to having to send 50 Euros back to their home country each month. There are an estimated 8,000 minors who prostitute themselves. A modern form of slavery is found in do-it-all house maids who are often minors.

GAMBIA

24 September - 12 October 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.28/Gambia.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on harmful traditional practices and on issues of family disintegration resulting in abuse, neglect and exploitation of children by their parents, extended family and religious caregivers.

Home and family. Children living within extended families are often abused and neglected. Infanticide and abandonment is prevalent. Traditional practices of FGM and forced early marriage are also detrimental.

Institutions. The practice of sending children (Almudus) to learn Islamic religious training from Marabouts often results in abuse and neglect and to some degree is an offloading of parental responsibility.

Schools. Almudus, children who are sent to live with Marabouts for Islamic religious training, are often abused and neglected.

Community. The use of child pornography is reported.

Workplace. Children from poor families are exploited as labourers and at times have to resort to sexual exploitation and theft.

GEORGIA

15 September - 3 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/georgia_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Children's rights are not protected and proper legislative acts are not realised. The economic crisis and conflicts caused fragmentation of the community, weakness of social protection system and destruction of social services.

Home and family. Children of impoverished and vulnerable families especially suffer from economic hardship, exploitation, and sexual abuse. Not every child is provided with food. There are some cases of family violence, physical, sexual, psychical abuse of children, though they are not massive. Abduction of children from wealthy families

Community. Children go to the streets with parental permission "to make money", as well as so-called "street children" – children living completely independent and always in search of shelter. There are, officially registered nearly 4000 of them, but based on unofficial sources their number is twice as much. The law doesn't restrict child sex-tourism. This contributes to commercial exploitation of children, abduction, trafficking, especially in the existing severe economic situation. Half of the total number of prostitutes are adolescents. Juvenile justice and particularly the criminal code are not in compliance with the CRC.

Workplace. Extremely impoverished families sometimes force their children to earn their living by begging, carry out unsuitable work of markets or nightclubs.

GERMANY

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/Germany_Coalition_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The National Coalition is concerned that the majority of recommendations and suggestions expressed in the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on Germany's First Report have not yet been implemented and, in some areas, the Federal Government has not acknowledged the deficits mentioned there.

Schools. Parents, children and teachers all complain about the growth of violence in schools. In this context, the discussion increasingly includes issues focusing on the lack of participation and the

phenomenon of structural and verbal violence.

Community. Growing numbers of juveniles are being committed on remand for comparatively minor offences, such as theft or fraudulent misappropriation, and sentenced to youth custody. The exceptionally high number of juveniles who are remanded without finally being sentenced to custody is extremely disquieting and leads to conjecture that, in many cases, remand might be being illegally misused as a covert form of short-term imprisonment. Generally speaking, juvenile prisons do not practice separating younger prisoners under 18 from those over 18, which, in certain instances, can lead to grave problems, especially for very young prisoners, where older prisoners may, for example, subject them to threatening behaviour, blackmail or even rape. Despite the improvements in legislation protecting children as victims of sexual abuse, this problem remains widespread since the legal provisions are not being sufficiently applied in practice.

GHANA

January 2006

www.crin.org/docs/Ghana_GNCRRC_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This report focuses on harmful traditional practices, child abuse in the family home and abuse by the police.

Home and family. Legislation is not being enforced, parents abuse children and use corporal punishment. FGM and enslaving girls to priests for adult crimes (Trokosi) are practiced.

Institutions. Parents inflate the ages of their children so that they receive adult sentences which are shorter than juvenile ones, but they are therefore housed with adults. Custom extended family placements are abusive at times.

Schools. Corporal punishment is allowed in schools.

Community. The practice of enslaving virgin girls to priests as payment for an adult member of the family's crime is common. These girls get no education and have little chance of marriage after enslavement.

Workplace. The sexual and labour enslavement of virgins with priests for adult family members' crime is common. Children on the street and trafficking of children is not being addressed.

GREECE

14 January - 1 February 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.29/greece_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence in the home, neglect of disabled children, trafficking and sexual abuse are issues covered. It should be noted that 19.5 per cent of Greeks live under the minimum poverty level.

Home and family. The results of a study show that 65.5 per cent of parents use physical punishment, while younger children (first graders) are three times more likely to be punished than older children (sixth graders). Moreover, children with siblings are physically punished twice as often as only children. In 6 per cent of the cases, spanking led to physical injury, while 1.8 per cent were injured severely enough to need medical treatment or hospitalization. Nine out of ten parents believe that physical punishment is negatively affecting parent-child relations and also has severe effects on the child. Sexual abuse is still a social taboo.

Institutions. Children who are both handicapped and rejected by their families are in the worst situation, mainly because they are under the complete responsibility of the state – the “parent” – and without natural parents to advocate for their rights. There is a great need for de-institutionalization of children abandoned by their families. Detention places for asylum seekers are not appropriately designed and equipped to accommodate minors.

Community. Illicit transfer of minors could involve trafficking of minors, sexual and/or labour exploitation. Efforts are being made to implement the ratified Hague Convention (1980) concerning civil law issues on child abduction, but there are still a lot of difficulties in practice. Sexual abuse is still a social taboo but there are around 3,000 children and young persons involved in prostitution and the forced provision of sexual services. The alleged recorded cases of torture and ill-treatment, as well as arbitrary detention, of minors by law enforcement officials are not so rare as to be considered “accidental”.

Workplace. Child labour exists in Greece, but it is very hard even to estimate how many child labourers exist, since in Greece, as in the rest of Europe, child labour is not “in the public eye”.

GUATEMALA

21 May - 8 June 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.27/Guatemala-english.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report reveals little about the current violence against children. Guatemala lacks a human rights culture, and it is widely believed that the judicial system defends criminals, an opinion from human rights organizations defending cases of lynching in communities in the interior of the country. The nation's children were traumatized by the effects of the armed conflict and violence in society.

Home and family. The most common type of abuse is physical (48 per cent), followed by neglect (32 per cent), sexual abuse (12 per cent) and emotional abuse (8 per cent). The mothers, in almost half the cases, are the aggressors, and the place of aggression is the home.

Community. With the armed conflict and the prevalence of violence in the community, the most frequently reported violations to children's rights are: 43 per cent arbitrary executions, 14 per cent torture, 14 per cent deprivation of freedom, 19 per cent disappearances, and 3 per cent rape. Girls and young women are often introduced to the different modalities of commercial sexual exploitation in Guatemala – prostitution, child pornography, sexual tourism and child trafficking for prostitution. There is a large, complex network for trafficking of babies and small children for adoption.

Workplace. The total of working children (aged 7-17 years) in the economically active population is 756,711, which is 17 per cent of the Total Economically Active Population. In addition, hidden child work takes place in the traditional rural sector, the informal sector and domestic labour. Other issues are recreation spaces; job conditions; lack of security; discrimination; physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; and the "invisibility" of child participation in the labour market.

GUINEA

11-29 January 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.20/Guinea_COGUIDE_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report is not specific about violence-related issues but highlights a series of shortcomings in the child care, community and justice system.

Institutions. Jailed children continue to serve their punishment in the same room as adults hardened by crimes of every kind.

Community. Many parents sacrifice their daughters into dubious marriages.

GUYANA

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/Guyana_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Children in Guyana live in an environment where violence is pervasive. Since violence is accepted as normal, children are subjected to different forms of abuse at home, at school and in the wider society. That they have rights is rarely accepted by the public, as well as by the official structures intended to protect those rights.

Home and family. Corporal punishment, abuse and neglect are prevalent. The report presents extensive data on sexual abuse, notably in the family.

Institutions. Institutional care is limited in the number of facilities and capacity of care.

Schools. There is widespread violence, physical, verbal, and sexual, in the education system. Many teachers provoke and take part in sexual activity.

Community. The legal system is inadequate for dealing with sexual abuse cases due to archaic laws. The report provides extensive details of cases. Sexual exploitation is also addressed at length, with data on both victims (boys and girls) and perpetrators. The juvenile justice system is inadequate, including the lack of prevention of serious violence in detention.

Workplace. The report is not specific about violence at work.

HAITI

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/Haiti_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The country is very poor and 48.3 per cent of the population is under 18 years of age.

Home and family. The State has no policy vis a vis families. Hence, there is a total lack of State intervention in this field.

Schools. Half a million children are excluded from education. Girls have suffered from sexual harassment and abuse in the school system.

Community. Sexual exploitation exists at all levels of society-underprivileged children suffer most. Children who are arrested may be placed in detention with other adults and held for an undetermined period of time.

Workplace. Since 1991 the number of street children has tripled. Street children are maltreated and exploited by gangs. As for domestic workers, 250,000 children, or 14 per cent of Haitian children, are involved.

HONDURAS

17 May - 4 June 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.21/Honduras_COIPRODEN_ngo_report_sp.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There is a predominant subculture of violence and intolerance. The state is disengaging itself, except in repressive policy, although there is a general increase of at risk children in need of protection.

Home and family. Patriarchal/feudal dominance prevails. Structural adjustments have a negative impact on families.

Community. Penalizing adult-oriented policies are the norm. Children are both victims and perpetrators of violence. There is a lack of space for children's expression.

HUNGARY

18 May - 5 June 1998

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.18/Hungary_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report is particularly comprehensive about discrimination of Roma students, especially in the education system, but provides little information about other sectors, such as life in the family or at work.

Schools. Roma (Gypsy) children in Hungary suffer from unremitting discrimination in schools and in the general community.

Community. The most immediate and dramatic threat to Roma comes from attacks and harassment by racist groups. Roma are frequent victims of community violence: many have been subjected to physical attack or to the threat of physical attack. Many of the attacks in recent years have involved not only the acquiescence of local police, but even their active involvement.

ICELAND

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/Iceland_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report mentions sexual abuse and discrimination.

Community. A report on prostitution published in spring 2001 by the Ministry of Justice shows evidence of child prostitution. Efforts are needed to increase the awareness of the public, as well as of all public officials who come into contact with children who may be victims of sexual violence.

INDIA

12 - 30 January 2004

Not available on CRIN. A printed copy is available at the NGO Group.

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Minority communities are targets of at least social exclusion and often of violence. Family abuse, the largest child labour force in the world and trafficking are all mentioned.

Home and family. Available information indicates that the prevalence of domestic sexual abuse is not small. Child marriage continues and female infanticide and foeticide continues.

Institutions. NGOs tell of children facing torture and violence in the government's custodial homes. Arrested children are on occasions housed with adults.

Community. Available information suggests that as many as 25 per cent of those lured or trafficked into the commercial sex trade are below 15 years of age. Children as young as seven can be prosecuted.

Workplace. The report refers to bonded sex trade, domestic maltreatment, maiming of children for begging and mistreatment of *dalit* children as all being parts of the child labour issue. Children are bought and sold.

INDONESIA

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/Indonesia_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Brutality of police forces on street children, prostitution, and trafficking are all urgent issues in Indonesia.

Institutions. Conditions in jails and the lack of care for those whose parents are jailed are serious issues. The report highlights that the State is primarily responsible for children deprived of parental, especially where such deprivation is the direct result of State action (such as deportation, detention or imprisonment of parents).

Community. Municipal and national police are violent, brutal and arbitrary in their proceedings and arrests, especially with street children, during sweeping operations. Police training is needed and special units for minors should be created. Children constitute 60 per cent of all victims of rape. Furthermore, the Penal Code does not recognize the vulnerability of boys from sex abuse in general or from "statutory rape" in particular.

Workplace. The "underground" economy is particularly dangerous. For instance, domestic helpers do not appear in statistics and cannot be monitored.

IRAN (Islamic Republic of)

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Iran_SPRC_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report primarily focused on family violence related to harmful traditional practices.

Home and family. 80 per cent of child abuse cases are within families. A review of the legal status of fathers as abusers is necessary.

Institutions. There is a need for shelters for abused children. 600 children are staying in prisons together with their mothers.

Schools. Despite the legal prohibition of physical punishment in schools, it is still practiced.

Community. Street children, child victims of violence, sexually abused, runaways, and children involved in drug deals all need protection. Capital punishment and life imprisonment are executed when the child turns 18.

Workplace. Children under 15 in small factories, doing domestic work, or agriculture, are working without monitoring and control of their working conditions.

IRELAND

5- 23 January 1998

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.17/Ireland_SmallVoices_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The financial situation of many families in Ireland can become dangerous to a child's welfare. Prostitution is on the rise and 14 per cent of children aged 15 -19 leave school to work.

Home and family. Under Irish law, children may be physically punished by parents. According to 1992 figures, the principal reasons for the admission of children into care were: parent or parents "unable to cope" (31 per cent), "neglect" (20 per cent), "parental illness" (12 per cent) and "physical or sexual abuse" (8 per cent and 5 per cent).

Community. There is evidence of an increasing number of children as young as 12 being prostituted on the streets of Dublin and the problem has also emerged in Dundalk, north of Dublin. The problem is linked to issues of poverty and homelessness.

Workplace. The 1996 Labour Force Survey indicated that there are 61,700 persons aged between 15 and 19 in the labour force (14 per cent of the age group). Although there is legislation in place to protect young people in employment from exploitation there are no effective measures of enforcement in place.

ISRAEL

19 May - 6 June 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.31/IsraelCoal_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. According to the report, violence is the result of the Israeli occupation of Palestine involving suicide bombings and military attacks all that harm and kill children.

Home and family. Psychologists have noted that Israeli children are becoming more aggressive.

Institutions. Palestinian children attain penal majority at 13 and are detained with adults.

Schools. Israeli youth must serve time in the military and Israel has become a "nation of warriors". It

ranks high for aggression on the school yard and abusive behaviour by faculty.

Community. Palestinian children in conflict with the law are not afforded proper judiciary process and are routinely abused by the police.

ITALY

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/Italy_ngowg_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Child abuse, prostitution, and working children are serious issues in Italy. Much work is being done to combat sexual tourism and harmful traditional practices outside Italian borders.

Home and family. Child abuse is still too common, and the existing public rehabilitation and family support measures are still inadequate.

Schools. Bullying is a complex phenomenon arising from multiple causes. The most worrying finding is its widespread existence. The rate of school truancy or non-attendance is also very high. Schools are too often perceived by children as an “unfriendly” environment, especially in the most vulnerable social groups.

Community. Based on reported crimes, the judicial authorities state that on average 3,418 sexual abuse crimes are committed on children annually in Italy. The number of reported cases of sexual abuse on children under 14 from 1984 to 1999 has increased by 98 per cent. The public perception of juvenile prostitution in Italy is informed by the presence of girls walking the streets of almost all towns. There is also a significant problem of male child prostitution, and girls working in clubs, night clubs or private apartments. The Italian legal system has not yet introduced the crime of torture and the ratification of the Convention against torture in 1984 does not resolve the problem. It is not sufficient to “cover” this crime under different headings as defined in Italian law as lesions, private violence, etc.

Workplace. It is not easy to identify the precise number of child workers because they operate in a hidden and unstable world. The practice of begging, which is also acknowledged as one of the worst forms of exploitative child labour, is widespread among Gypsy and East European children at traffic lights.

JAMAICA

19 May - 6 June 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/Jamaica_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report points out the need for improvement – mainly in the areas of coverage, enforcement and sustainability.

Home and family. Violence is so pervasive, it is “being accepted as natural and normal”. There is widespread neglect and abuse, including sexual abuse and reliance on authoritarian practices [in child rearing] including harsh physical punishment and verbal abuse. Parenting strategies and styles in Jamaica have been described in several studies as erratic, neglectful of intellectual stimulation, and abusive. Teenage pregnancies are numerous and many, if not most, teenage mothers end up being single parents. Furthermore, many of these single parents lack education or skills and are either unemployed or engaged in low paying jobs.

Schools. There still is a very high rate of violence, and there is concern that children in schools are arming themselves to perpetuate violence or to protect themselves from attacks, both on and off campuses.

Community. Children have repeatedly complained of abuse by transport workers, those in the public sector who are supposed to provide information to children, the police, gang leaders, older men and parents. Abused children are not comfortable going to the police. Cases where the police have protected sex offenders who are their friends have been reported. On some occasions when teenage girls go to report that they were raped, the police take advantage of them.

Workplace. Some families find the “opportunity cost” of primary education to be very high. Some parents in rural areas find it far more profitable, in the long-run, to involve their child in the planting of yams rather than send him to school.

JAPAN

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/01.Main.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report indicates that physical violence in the home is on the increase and that teachers also abuse students.

Home and family. The tradition of father as the ruler of the household reportedly perpetuates physical violence within the home under the guise of discipline.

Institutions. The report documents abuses that occurred in a group home.

Schools. Teachers reportedly use humiliating verbal and physical abuse against students. Bullying is declining but violence between students is increasing.

Community. Adults are accessing children for sexual exploitation through websites and the police are working on ensuring the children do not have access to these sites.

KAZAKHSTAN

19 May - 6 June 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/Kazakhstan_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. According to sociological research, the vast majority of experts believe that the level of violence against children had reached a critically high level. From 60 to 80 per cent of children fall victims to violent actions of parents, adults, police officers or stronger children. Violence is so widespread that it is out of control.

Home and family. There are a number of officially registered cases where parents or legal guardians have treated children cruelly. Children have been beaten at home, starved, left in cold houses for several days without supervision and help. Some children are forced into prostitution or begging. Sometimes children are exploited to plant crops. Cases of incest and sexual abuse are also more common. There are cases where fathers sexually abuse their children but the mothers do nothing, saying that the father is the only source of income for the family: if he left or was jailed, the family would lose its income.

Institutions. Hazing, violence and humiliation of younger children are part of daily life in children's institutions. The arbitrary nature of the administration and staff at such schools results in punishment without reason, rude behaviour, humiliation, beatings, forcing children to do strenuous work, and sexual harassment.

Schools. Various forms of punishment are widely used in schools, including corporal and other types of degrading punishment and humiliation. Verbal abuse of students in class is widespread.

KENYA

24 September - 12 October 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.28/Kenya.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Kenya has a population of 15 million children, 54 per cent of the 28 million total. Over 12.6 million Kenyans, the majority of whom are children, live in absolute poverty.

Institutions. The Juvenile Remand Home in Nairobi has a capacity for 80 children, but it was found to be accommodating 369 (322 boys and 47 girls), and more were expected later that day from the court. The home has only 15 staff members. There are an estimated 1.5 million children with disabilities in Kenya. These children are most neglected in terms of policy efforts and direct programming. Institutional facilities for juvenile delinquents hold two to three times their capacity.

Community. Up to 85 per cent of the children who go through the Kenyan juvenile justice system do not deserve to be exposed to the criminal justice process. Consequently, more harm than good is occasioned to them. Personnel do not possess specialized child-handling skills.

Workplace. Conservative estimates indicate that 300,000 children live and work on the streets in Kenya, with over 50 per cent of them concentrated in and around the capital Nairobi.

KOREA (Democratic People's Republic)

17 May-4 June 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/dprk_CSCS_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers is the only alternative report available. It speaks to the militarization of children through the Red Guard and military training in schools.

Schools. The report describes the militarization of children in school from a young age and at summer camps.

KOREA (Republic of)

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/South.Korea_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Corporal punishment remains common in home and school.
Home and family. Corporal punishment continues in the home.
Institutions. About 1,000 disabled children are abandoned annually. The lack of state supervision of child welfare facilities leads to the neglect of child abuse in the large childcare facilities.
Schools. Extensive corporal punishment is used.
Community. It is thought that one third of people in the sex trade are juveniles. The criminal justice system relies heavily on suspects' confessions and there were reports of torture, beatings, threats, imprisonment of unjustified duration, long interrogations and barring attorneys from interrogations.
Workplace. 10.5 per cent of children reportedly experienced physical ill-treatment or sexual harassment at work.

KYRGYZSTAN

13 September - 1 October 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/kyrgyzstan_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Torture is widespread. There is wide mistrust of the police. Access to information by civil society is limited. "The government proclaims human rights as a basis of national policy, but in practice it makes no real effort to implement these claims." International law is only defined as "part" of national legislation in the Constitution. Government has no rehabilitation programme for children who are victims of violence.
Home and family. Only 25 per cent of children in institutional care do not have parents; others are so-called "orphans". Beating is seen as normal. Abuse and neglect is a serious problem.
Institutions. Conditions of care have been so poor that the inadequate conditions have caused patients to suffer serious and irreparable harm.
Schools. Lack of clear definition of rules and punishments equates with chaos. Collective punishment is often used, especially in orphanages.
Community. There are violations of the right to peaceful assembly, and 95 per cent of children report having been assaulted in the days following their arrest. Police press for false confessions and are also suspected, with other legal officers, of sexually exploiting children.
Workplace. Street children have a hard time finding a safe place to live. Many girls end up in prostitution after institutional care.

LAO (People's Democratic Republic)

22 September-10 October 1997

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.16/Laos_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The under-five mortality and malnutrition rates remain among the highest in the region and there is an absence of a juvenile justice system.
Community. There is lack of appropriate resources to respond to juvenile offenders. Should courts wish to impose a custodial sentence on young people aged between 15-18 years there is no special facility and young people are held in adult prisons where there are few opportunities for separation on the basis of age or gender or to provide therapeutic work. As a consequence, courts are reluctant to make custodial sentences and young offenders are returned to the community for re-education. In the absence of data it is impossible to show whether the numbers of young people involved in the sex trade is increasing, however it is present.
Workplace. The incidence of exploitation in neighbouring countries, the changing expectations and behaviour of young people, the development of a highway infrastructure in the Lao PDR and the length and porous nature of borders (1700 km border with Thailand) must be causes for concern both for Lao children within the country and those who are tempted by promises of work in other countries.

LATVIA

8-26 January 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/CRC.26/Latvia_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Although only about 10-20 per cent of children in the country are practically healthy, adequate food is provided only for 20-30 per cent of children. Thousands of children do not attend school and are not even officially registered as being out of school. For thousands of children (10-15) their health and life is endangered in their own families, and there is no real movement towards policies to eliminate such gross violations of children's rights, which is in contradiction with all international standards of human rights.

Home and family. Life is especially hard for those groups who do not receive state allowances or receive such allowances in insufficient amounts. Sexual abuse exists.

Institutions. Living conditions of refugees, including children, placed in the temporary camp for illegal refugees in Latvia do not correspond to international standards. Conditions in penal institutions for juvenile offenders do not comply with the Beijing rules. Treatment of children in such institutions in no way promotes the child's sense of human dignity and self-respect.

Community. Sexual exploitation of children has developed over the past years.

LESOTHO

8-26 January 2001

http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.26/lesotho_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS are most at risk from the weakening of extended family structures. Traditional practices and all levels of the judicial system are abusive.

Home and family. Corporal punishment is used. There is little legal deterrent against severe physical or sexual abuse. Neglect of children, especially orphans, and early marriages for girls are an issue.

Institutions. Correctional institutions place children with adults and use harsh physical abuse.

Schools. Corporal punishment is used in schools.

Community. Police brutality is common in arrests and interrogation.

LIBERIA

17 May - 4 June 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/liberia_CSCS_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The Liberian army forcibly abducted and recruited child soldiers as young as nine. War crimes against women and children included killings, rape and sexual assault, abduction, torture, forced labour.

Schools. Children are forcibly removed from families who cannot pay for their freedom and victimized and made to commit atrocities by the warring factions. There is no education for these children.

Community. Women and girls are raped and forced to become "wives" to soldiers.

Workplace. Children are forced to become soldiers and provide domestic duties.

LUXEMBOURG

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Luxembourg_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) The report highlights violence in educational settings. In other settings, the report only mentions discrimination as a prevalent phenomenon and that better support to families in difficulty would avoid some placements in institutions.

Schools. The school system is reportedly a permanent source of discrimination, conflicts and violations of children's rights.

MACEDONIA (The Former Yugoslav Republic of), 10 - 28 Jan 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.23/Macedonia_MNC_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report mainly contains recommendations to the government to improve implementation of existing laws and prioritize child protection.

Home and family. Parental abduction and support of foster families are issues to be addressed. General recommendations are based on the recognition that child abuse exists in the country.

Institutions. Without being specific about violence, the report indicates that a review of placements and improvement of the system for children with disabilities should be undertaken.

MADAGASCAR

15 September-3 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/Madagascar_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence against children is present in the home, school,

streets, media and community.

Home and family. Violence is prevalent in families, although silence is generally kept due to social norms and tradition.

Institutions. Orphanages are mainly private; the state is encouraged to put more money and energy into public orphanages.

Schools. Often there is one teacher for 80 students. Corporal punishment is practiced. A lack of education about violence and abuse leaves the door wide open to abuse.

Community. The legislative system is not properly prepared for dealing with children. Poverty drives girls to the street to be sexually exploited.

Workplace. Existing laws against child labour are not enforced or respected: 50 per cent of labourers are women and children.

MALI

20 September - 8 October 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.22/Mali_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) This report touches on issues including female genital mutilation, corporal punishment, heavy trafficking of children, child labour and prostitution.

Home and family. Having many children is traditionally a source of pride. Female genital mutilation is still common practice (93 per cent) and traditionally accepted and encouraged. Children and women are beaten in private.

Institutions. Except for one detention centre, minors are not separated from adults in jails.

Community. Prostitution is becoming more and more common in urban centres. Sexual exploitation is rarely punished. Trafficking, while taken seriously by authorities, is still prevalent; up to 10,000 children have been sold, a situation reminiscent of slavery. There is very little protection for street children, prostitutes, and handicapped people.

Workplace. The informal sector recruits children who are not always of legal working age: 25 per cent of workers are under 15 years old.

MAURITANIA

24 September - 12 October 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.28/Mauritania-Conamaf.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) The large size of the country and the low population density spreads resources and enforcement mechanisms thin and 40 per cent of the population lives in poverty. There is little child-oriented legislation and great gender disparities exist in education despite some improvements. Violence is poorly addressed.

Institutions. The separation of adults and minors in prisons, as well as separate education, is still under consideration.

Community. The report seeks the strengthening of protection for street children, handicapped children, children in conflict with the law and child workers as particularly vulnerable groups.

Workplace. The protection of child workers is an issue.

MAURITIUS

23 September-11 October 1996

http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.13/Mauritius_SCF_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report is succinct and provides limited information on violence-related issues.

Home and family. Corporal punishment is legal. There is a total absence of prevention or information on sexual abuse.

Institutions. All juvenile institutions are repressive rather than rehabilitative. Children are housed with adults in prison.

Schools. Corporal punishment is legal.

Community. Arrests are often abusive. Boys are not protected by the legislation against sexual abuse as well as girls.

MEXICO

10 - 28 January 1994

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.5/mexico-1.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report dates from 1993 and provides many suggestions for research into violence against children: it provides very little information about violence, but states that generally 40 per cent of Mexican children lack adequate conditions for development.

Institutions. There is an urgent need to change the social protection policy to one which contemplates incorporation of people with disabilities.

Community. The report proposes that legislation related to the welfare of children and teenagers be reviewed. At present it is scattered through approximately 54 laws, regulations, decrees, codes, etc.

MOLDOVA

16 September-4 October 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.31/Moldova_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. 67.4 per cent of children have been exposed to at least one form of abuse. Children with disabilities, children of the street, children with HIV/AIDS are the categories that are most frequently exposed to discrimination, because they have no or only limited access to education, health care and social integration. At end 1997, it was calculated that almost one-quarter of the population lived below the food poverty line.

Home and family. A large number of families are exposed to severe degradation of their living standards, which generates isolation and destabilization and induces violence, – including against minors – such as intentional beating, severe physical punishment, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, forced prostitution, educational neglect, etc. The economic conditions and the distortion of the social institution of the family are the primary causes of the increasing number of children left without parental care, neglected, abused, who are not enrolled into school and are affected by developmental deficiencies and health problems.

Institutions. Institutionalization continues to be the main means for providing protection to children in difficulty. Continuing economic crisis has led to a chronic under-financing of the system of residential care institutions. This led to a decrease in the quality of care, protection and education, which led to a failure in the respect given to the rights of institutionalized children.

Community. Cases involving juveniles are examined in courts along with other criminal cases. Proceedings may last several months or years, while juveniles are held in pre-trial detention, often not separated from the adults and thus exposed to torture and abuse. Authorities are identifying a growing number of cases of prostitution among minors. During these last years, Moldova has been included in the international network of illegal trafficking in human beings, mainly women.

Workplace. 37 per cent of children in Moldova perform some kind of work. Working children are less likely to attend school and more likely to drop out of school. Because of this, children may fall into a vicious circle of poverty and dependency.

MONGOLIA

May/June 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Mongolia_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Much of the violence and exploitation is due to poverty and occurs across all areas of family and community.

Home and family. Children are abused, neglected and forced to do traditional work by their families due to poverty. The report points out that the abuse can come from any family member.

Institutions. Most children in prison are orphans or illiterate. Girls are sentenced to adult facilities.

Schools. Violent discipline, verbal abuse and blaming the children for the abuse in school and at home is common. There is much peer bullying even to the extreme of forcing peers into prostitution.

Community. Children are sexually abused and commercial sexual exploitation is rapidly increasing. Foreign business and tourist visitors may soon further increase this situation.

Workplace. Due to poverty children are being exploited in all work situations to support the family. Many situations are dangerous to their safety and health.

MOROCCO

19 May - 6 June 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/Morocco_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report mainly focuses on state responsibility and structural violence against children (living conditions, state violence, lack of protection and resources, etc.)

Home and family. Violence in the family is not directly addressed in the report but early marriage and abandonment are acknowledged as important problems.

Institutions. Criminalization of street children, incidence of torture and excessive deprivation of liberty are highlighted. Human rights violations on parents also affect their children. Generally the lack of resources for the care system is abusive.

Community. Recommendations highlight risks related to clandestine emigration and the lack of sensitization on the issue of sexual exploitation by the government. Violence against street children is suggested throughout the report. Juvenile justice is often inadequate.

Workplace. The report denounces the permissive legislation and the lack of data provided by the state. Violence and exploitation are highest among girl domestic workers, but children are exploited in all sectors of the economy.

MOZAMBIQUE

14 January -1 February 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.29/mozambique_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Traditional roles of masculinity perpetuate violence against women and children. Changes are needed in the treatment and imprisonment of children in conflict with the law – and in media ethics.

Home and family. It is a common understanding that the man is the head of the family and that this gives him the right to practice different types of violence against women and children – which includes premature marriages and the impossibility of a woman or girl saying no to sexual relationships whenever a man demands. Many children living on the streets tell stories about how their situation changed drastically when their mother or father re-married and the new partner was not interested in taking responsibility for the children.

Institutions. About 25 per cent of the general prison population are minors between the age of 16-18 who are mixed in with adults. The situation of these children is far from acceptable.

Community. There are constant examples in national television and the press of young people who are suspected of criminal activities and that are shown with their faces and names, guilty or not.

MYANMAR

17 May - 4 June 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/myanmar_ForumAsia_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This report only addresses the situation of Rohingya children in Myanmar. The Muslim population of Rakhine State, known as Rohingya and closely related to the Chittagonian people of Southern Bangladesh, is being discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity.

Home and family. More than 60 per cent of Rohingya are suffering from chronic malnutrition. Limiting access to food through a series of constraints is the main strategy of the military regime to encourage departure and is a major cause of the ongoing exodus.

Community. Rohingya children bear the full brunt of the military regime's policies of exclusion and discrimination towards the Muslim population of Rakhine State.

Workplace. As documented by the ILO in early 2003, forced labour is far from being eradicated in Northern Rakhine State. Compulsory labour continues to be exacted by the army and the NaSaKa for construction and maintenance of their camps, portering, sentry duty, the establishment of villages for new settlers, for military-owned shrimp farms and plantations, for brick-baking and more.

NEPAL

May/June 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Nepal_CWIN_summary.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The primary violence cited in this report is that of the Maoist insurgency which dismisses the right to life. Discrimination has led to this uprising. Tradition faith healers have killed children.

Home and family. Discrimination against certain groups of children, particularly girls, is harmful. Early marriages and sexual exploitation among some social classes exist. Domestic violence is also an issue. Due to a lack of resources, parents tie up their disabled children so they will not wander off while parents are at work. Orphaned children live with relatives but are exploited there as well.

Institutions. The absence of adequate day care leaves children in neglect.

Schools. 203 incidents of abuse and torture in schools were documented in one year. Children are

forced to join the Maoist insurgents, tortured and forced to harm others.

Community. In one year over 6,000 cases of sexual exploitation of children were documented. Children were often beaten by police during interrogation and jailed with adults for survival theft.

Workplace. High numbers of children are being severely exploited in child labour due to poverty. Many children are trafficked in and out of the country and many live on the street.

NETHERLANDS

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/Netherlands_coalition_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The Netherlands is one of the world's wealthiest countries and, at the same time, one of the most densely populated. This thorough report exposes the multitude of harsh realities present in even the wealthiest of countries.

Home and family. Dutch parents are spending more money on their children, but less time. An estimated 50,000 to 80,000 children in the Netherlands are severely abused, physically and/or sexually, or neglected each year. These cases often involve forms of "transgenerational" violence.

Schools. A research showed that four out of ten teachers have observed severe forms of bullying in class; there are more bullies than victims of bullying (i.e. bullying takes place in groups). According to teachers, approximately 7 per cent of 100 children engage in severe bullying.

Community. Estimates are that 1,500 girls and 1,500 boys are prostituting themselves.

Workplace. Some minors are sometimes imported into the Netherlands sex market.

NEW ZEALAND

15 September-03 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/ChildrenYouthAotearoa2003_FullReport.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report has limited information on violence but does indicate increased child abuse reports, inappropriate juvenile justice actions and child labour.

Home and family. Corporal punishment remains legal. The number of recorded notifications to Child Youth and Family Services rose from below 25,000 in 1996/97 to 26,588 in 2002.

Institutions. Children are sentenced to adult jails and detained in police cells for lengthy periods.

Community. Although there has been progress in addressing sexual exploitation of children, major problems still exist (data collection, support services for sexually exploited children, prevention, addressing root causes, etc.).

NICARAGUA

May/June 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Nicaragua_ngo_report\(S\).pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Nicaragua_ngo_report(S).pdf)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This comprehensive report highlights the culture of violence and discrimination (especially against women) together with positive trends exercised both by the government and some NGOs.

Home and family. 50 per cent of families are estimated to be abusive. Domestic violence particularly affects pregnant women and child witnesses. Neglect is related to poverty. Legal contradictions hamper better support and protection being developed.

Schools. There is discrimination related to cost of education.

Community. Legal and other measures are still needed to protect children from sexual exploitation. Anti-personnel mines are still a serious danger. There have been some improvements in juvenile justice.

Workplace. There has been an increase of child labour. Legal instruments fail to protect girls from abuse in contexts of domestic work.

NIGER

20 May - 7 June 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.30/niger_ngo_report_eng.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on reintegration of child soldiers from previous conflicts and the current issue of child trafficking.

Community. The report encouraged government to take a tough but sensitive approach to trafficking and for NGOs to assist with this issue.

Workplace. The report highlighted risks of trafficking for labour purposes.

NIGERIA

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Nigeria_ANPPCAN_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Poverty and high rates of AIDS have taken a toll on Nigerian families and communities, putting children at risk of being exploited by their extended families for labour and sexual exploitation.

Home and family. It is projected that the number of children who will lose one or both parents to AIDS will climb to 2.5 million.

Institutions. In view of the adverse economic situation facing Nigerian families, it should be expected that most of the orphans would not receive the same care and attention from relatives as they would have got from their own parents.

Community. Destitute families can be found living under bridges, in public toilets and in markets. Their children are in extremely precarious condition and urgently require assistance.

Workplace. There has been some confusion between commercial trafficking and migration through traditional fostering arrangements, which have traditionally been a common practice in Nigeria. Trafficking is a relatively new phenomenon. Children are being smuggled across international frontiers, mainly for the heavily immigration-dependent economy of Gabon, plantation work in Cameroon and commercial sex work in Europe.

NORWAY

May/June 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Norway_ngo_report\(E\).pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Norway_ngo_report(E).pdf)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Sexual abuse is the primary issue documented in this report along with FMG and bullying.

Home and family. Some new immigrants practice FMG. The report focuses largely on sexual abuse within the family.

Institutions. Narratives are given of individual children's lives, which are characterized by deficient care, violence and abuse in the institutions.

Schools. Children are concerned about bullying in the schools.

Community. There are many sexual abuse cases that do not result in convictions and were not reported in the state report. Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation is on the increase.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

16 September-4 October 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.31/Israel_PalestineCoal_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report provided extensive information on community and institutional violence by the Israeli state against Palestinian children.

Institutions. Since 1967, the Israeli occupation authorities have arrested, interrogated, tortured and incarcerated Palestinian children for their political activity. Virtually every detained child DCI/PS represents reports having been subjected to torture.

Schools. Reports of the occupation's impact include: killing and maiming of school-age children; widespread destruction of schools and school property; forced closure of schools; the ever-present danger faced by staff and students while attempting to fulfill their right to education; the arrest of students and teachers, all demonstrating the disdain of the Israeli government towards the educational future of Palestinian children.

Community. Incidents are cited of Israeli settlers killing Palestinian children. Palestinian children are routinely tortured, detained outside the occupied territories, and denied access to family visits (as a result of the policy of closure) and often lawyers. Children are often detained with adult criminals and frequently subjected to attacks by both prison staff and criminal prisoners.

PAKISTAN

15 September - 3 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/pakistan_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report provides information on corporal punishment, the

death penalty for children and extremist schools teaching jihad.

Home and family. Corporal punishment is used extensively at home.

Institutions. Children can be sentenced to death and detained with adults, with the risk of abuse.

Schools. Corporal punishment and extreme discipline are institutionalized in schools. 45,000 extremist schools reportedly teach jihad.

Workplace. Large numbers of children work in unsafe situations. Girls in domestic work are the most likely to be abused.

PANAMA

17 May - 4 June 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/Panama_CLADEM_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report provides updates on laws, as well as some disturbing statistics, although it provides little information on violence against children.

Home and family. According to the 2000 census, 24.3 per cent of Panamanian homes comprised single women with their children. There is an increasing tendency for mothers alone to register their children under the maternal family name – as the absence of fathers may create and perpetuate problems. 20 per cent of the children born to adolescents.

Community. Data from August 2000 shows 51 rapes denounced, 98 per cent against women. Among these victims, one was between 5 and 9 years old; 44 per cent were aged from 10 to 14, and 16 per cent from 15 to 17; thus, 62 per cent of the victims were under age.

Workplace. Agricultural and domestic labour are the two largest employers of children.

PARAGUAY

24 September-12 October 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.28/Paraguay_fr.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This comprehensive report focuses on the public sector. Over half of the children are unaware of their rights according to the CRC.

Home and family. Most cases of sexual abuse occur in the family. The aggressor is either a family member or a friend. In many cases the victim, not the aggressor, is expelled from the house. 55 per cent of children report being maltreated at home.

Institutions. There are no adequate facilities for children with disabilities.

Schools. 37 per cent of children report being maltreated at school. Enrolment in school is not free and uniforms and materials must be purchased thus rendering education discriminatory based on financial means. Some children have died from extreme abuses while in military service.

Community. 50 per cent of children report being maltreated. Police have been reported to threaten minors, deprived them of liberty and physically abusing them. Police are the primary abusers of street children: 55 per cent of children say that their right to freedom of association is not respected.

Workplace. In 1995, 449,897 children between the ages of 7-17 worked. Domestic workers are subject to economic exploitation. Children work at night, picking up bits of food. Girls become subject to sexual attack.

PERU

10 - 28 January 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.23/peruNGOreport.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. More than half the population and 60 per cent of children live in poverty, that is, they subsist on US\$1 a day.

Home and family. Poverty, limited housing and poor education plague families – with an increase in intra-family violence against children and women.

Institutions. Little information. Many children and teenagers with some type of disability are still being badly treated or are physically and psychologically ill treated.

Schools. There are multiple reports of ill-treatment in schools. There were reports of forced military service for teenagers, some of whom reported ill-treatment in the barracks. There has been no comprehensive reform of the educational system since the 1970s.

Community. Estimates are that between 1,500 and 2,000 boys and girls, aged seven to 13, live on the streets, exposed to multiple risks. All of them started inhaling drugs and consuming alcohol: many developed anti-social behaviour and girls were introduced to prostitution. The major causes of their expulsion to the streets were extreme poverty and continuing family violence.

Workplace. More than half a million children in primary education combine schooling with labour, a

serious educational drawback. Paid work was a major cause of school dropouts.

PHILIPPINES,

May/June 2005

[www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Philippines_Coalition_update\[1\].pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Philippines_Coalition_update[1].pdf)

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Poverty has created a situation where children are vulnerable to all types of abuse and neglect.

Home and family. Corporal punishment is still used in homes, although interventions may be reducing prevalence. Many children are left on their own due to their mothers working overseas.

Institutions. Legislation for juvenile justice is inadequate. The situation of children in detention, including those held without evidence for prolonged periods, is deplorable. Residential or rehabilitation programmes for abused children inadequate in number while many existing ones need to improve their services.

Schools. Corporal punishment is used in schools. Students harass each other through gang hazing and intimidation.

Community. There are extra-judicial executions, torture and harassment. A series of summary executions in Davao City remain unpunished: depositions mostly from street children and youth gang members who were also harassed by unidentified men point the blame at armed vigilantes, operating with the implied consent of people in power. Demolition of family homes traumatizes many children.

Workplace. Many children are exploited in all areas of labour, including being trafficked in and out of the country.

POLAND

16 September - 4 October 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.31/Poland_ngo_report_eng.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. A central issue in Poland is violence at home and state helplessness towards providing protection for children. Sexual abuse, fear in the education system, overflow of institutions, and discrimination towards handicapped persons and minorities is also prominent.

Home and family. More than 60 per cent of parents reportedly use corporal punishment as a form of discipline (Czyz, 1992). In one year 200,000 children experience violence but only 10 per cent of these cases are registered with the police. Some 35 per cent of women and 29 per cent of men were found to have been sexually abused in their childhood. Almost 17 per cent of women and 9 per cent of men were abused by family members. It is estimated that only 5 per cent of cases of sexual abuse of children are revealed. Many children are placed in institutions because of the poverty of their parents or mother. The system replaces parents in their functions and obligations, but this situation leads to abuse and suffering.

Schools. Violence from school staff included pulling by the ears and striking hands with a ruler: 33 per cent of surveyed children were victims or witnesses of such actions. In 1999, one in ten families decided not to buy necessary textbooks for children, one in nine families did not pay their parent's committee fees, and one in five gave up any courses outside school. The number of people starting education at high school and technical school level is decreasing. Reasons for this are the increasing costs of education.

Community. The Network "Blue Line" service (against violence) registered 7,000 phone calls, two-thirds of which came from victims of violence and 500 of which came from children. The Emergency Care Units structure needs elementary changes, i.e. separating victims from perpetrators and creating emergency intervention units. Courts sometimes rule against the child's best interests. Child prostitution is present. "La Strada" Foundation and "A Child" Foundation have data confirming child trafficking.

Workplace. Child labour is typical in rural regions, where children are working beyond their capabilities on farms, but this is considered normal by their parents.

ROMANIA

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/Romania_Federation_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. In 1999, 41.2 per cent of Romania's population was living under the poverty line, which is defined as households where less than 60 per cent of basic needs are met: in 2000 the rate increased to 43 per cent. This negative indicator has direct repercussions on

children; 80 per cent of families with more than three children live under the poverty line, as do half of all Romanian children.

Home and family. Little information is given on violence in the home other than the high rate of poverty. Abuse and neglect hotlines operate.

Community. There were 582 child victims of sexual offences in 2000, which increased to 745 in the first nine months of 2001. The phenomenon of street children is spreading nationally and not only in Bucharest, often associated with juvenile delinquency, child sexual exploitation and school dropouts. Studies by NGOs report 600 children living on the street in Bucharest and 2,500 nationally. NGOs have become conscious of the illegal travelling and kidnapping of unaccompanied minors.

Workplace. Romanian legislation on child labour prohibits any employment of children under 15. The unemployment rate for young people is still high: unemployed people aged under 25 were 44.6 per cent of total unemployed in 1998. Children were recorded begging, prostituting themselves, stealing, and selling drugs.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/Russia_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Children are exposed to violence in their homes and the child welfare network is poorly equipped to meet demand. Violence is reported in the street, by law enforcement officers and in institutions.

Home and family. According to wide-scale research ordered in 2001 by the Committee of the State Duma on Women's Affairs, Families and Youth, about two million Russian children under 14 are exposed annually to beating in families. Boys are beaten three times more often than girls. Two thirds of those beaten are pre-school children.

Institutions. A general lack of quality child welfare care means that many children subjected to violence at home are put into institutions, which they often leave for the street. Children are badly treated in correctional institutions as well.

Community. Torture and severe, brutal, humiliating treatment towards minors are widespread in the law-enforcement system. Many children are sexually exploited in the community.

Workplace. Children are involved in the worst forms of child labour (forced labour, distribution of drugs, prostitution, pornography).

RWANDA

17 May - 4 June 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/rwanda_CSCS_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers report was the only report available and spoke to the violent recruitment practices and post-genocide incarceration that does not follow international juvenile justice standards.

Home and family. Some children are abandoned due to their parents' incarceration for acts of genocide.

Institutions. Some children are detained with adults for acts of genocide and for much longer than international standards allow.

Schools. Children as young as 14 have been recruited in government forces and much younger children were also recruited by force by rebel groups.

Community. Thousands of Rwandan children accused of participation in the genocide were held in detention until their release on bail in January 2003. Under the Rwandan criminal code children below the age of 14 at the time the crime was committed cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. However, many under 14s were held in detention following the genocide.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

20 May - 7 June 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.30/st.vincent_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The focus of this report is on family violence and abuses by the police and during judicial processes.

Home and family. Children are abused in different ways: physically, psychologically, verbally, sexually, and by way of neglect and abandonment. Girls are married as young as 15.

Schools. Corporal punishment is allowed in the schools.

Community. Children are sometimes forced to confess to criminal offences by the police when they are

held in custody at police stations. They are imprisoned with adults and the Corporal Punishment of Juveniles Act (Cap. 123) allows for the caning of juveniles who have been found guilty of crime. This punishment is delivered on the bare buttocks and up to twelve (12) strokes can be given – usually by a policeman in a police station.

SENEGAL

30 October - 17 November 1995

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.10/Senegal_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Children who work and low enrolment in school are addressed as well as the need for better sanitation, clean water, etc.

Schools. Less than 60 per cent of children enter primary school and very few girls have access to education. There are Koranic schools in which it is estimated that 100,000 children pass their school years separate from parents, often subject to cruel treatment in unsanitary environments.

Workplace. Children work in the informal sector as apprentices, selling goods, washing and watching cars, and as domestic helpers. Street children live rough.

SIERRA LEONE

10 - 28 January 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.23/SierraLeone_WorldFederation_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Poverty and the ongoing rebel war continue to affect children and orphans making them more vulnerable.

Home and family. The rebel war has orphaned many children, putting them at risk. Girls are often married at 13, before being physically ready for child bearing.

Institutions. Children are often housed with adults in correctional centres putting them further at risk.

Community. Girls receive little protection.

Workplace. Girls as young as 12 are employed as domestic servants by some ethnic groups in the country. At other times they are exported as domestic servants suffering humiliating treatment.

SINGAPORE

15 September - 3 October 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.34/singapore_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Legislation is adequate and the government is committed.

Home and family. The government funds and co-ordinates social services for victims of family violence. It should continue to commit resources on early detection, specialised training and rehabilitation of perpetrators.

SLOVAKIA

18 September - 6 October 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.25/slovakNGOreport1.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The objective of this report was to stress the problems which should be tackled step by step in the near future. Some problems were hinted at through suggestions for improvement, but little information was actually provided on the state of children.

Home and family. Physical punishment is still used. Little other information is provided about home and family.

Schools. Bullying is present in schools. Handicapped students need to be better integrated.

SLOVENIA

12 - 30 January 2004

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.35/Slovenia_ngo_report.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Poverty, legal barriers for asylum seekers, and discrimination against Roma children plague the country. Little information is provided about violence against children.

Home and family. Every fourth child lives in poverty. In 2001 there were 167 reports of suspected offences of neglect or violence.

Community/ Workplace. Unaccompanied children risk becoming part of the slave trade and sexually

exploited.

SOUTH AFRICA

10 - 28 January 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.23/southafricaINGOreport.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The effects of apartheid, the insurrection that overthrew it and the transition have all involved extreme forms of violence against children.

Home and family. The impact of apartheid pressures caused many families to become dysfunctional. Customary practices of circumcision of boys and girls continues.

Institutions. Black children are often humiliated in the juvenile justice system, families have broken down with little support and disabled children are abandoned by their families.

Schools. Schools promote violent discipline, students rally against each other (at times with parental support), children became involved in military conflict and do not easily fit back into society.

Community. Children are abused in the juvenile justice system. Many children are sexually exploited due to poverty. Refugee children from other countries are at risk of being trafficked.

Workplace. Children can be found working in industries such as agriculture, prostitution, tourism and taxis as well as domestic work.

SPAIN

20 May - 7 June 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.30/spain_plataforma_ngo_report_eng.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. This report contains little information specific to violence against children.

Home and family. Explicit clarification is required that parents, in the exercise of their rights or fulfilment of their duties, are not allowed to use any type of physical or mental violence.

Community. Sexual tourism is a threat to minors.

Workplace. Some children complement family income with small activities in various jobs such as street trading, harassing tourists, begging. Family-run agricultural businesses keep children from attending school regularly.

SRI LANKA

May-June 1995

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.9/Sri_Lanka_Forum_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence and exploitation in the home, in the sex trade and for labour are present in the country. Corporal punishment is used at home, in schools and as sentencing for children in conflict with the law.

Home and family. Parents use physical abuse in the guise of discipline. Child marriages are still promoted and corporal punishment used. Sexual abuse is prevalent.

Institutions. Children are often sentenced or disciplined with corporal punishment when in jail.

Schools. Corporal punishment is used in schools. Due to internal conflict some children are indoctrinated into rebel forces.

Community. Sexual exploitation of children is widespread (both local and touristic demand).

Workplace. Estimates of 500,000 children being exploited for labour in all sectors, with girls being particularly vulnerable. There are large numbers of street children and no programmes for them.

SURINAME

15 May - 2 June 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.24/Suriname_FHD_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report is concise and provides clear data. It draws attention to the lack of services rendered by the government, lack of qualified assistance given, lack of transportation, no legislation for the supervision of institutional care, immunity granted to governmental workers, and an overall lack of trained personnel and use of old, inefficient methodologies.

Home and family. Many families are disrupted, with one of the legal guardians living abroad. Some parents leave (mostly to the Netherlands) to seek better financial possibilities for their family.

Institutions. There is no government policy to render shelter to the homeless. Only some religious institutions offer services, but most of these are too full. For the young over the age of 18 there is no shelter. There have been reports of physical abuse and neglect in day care centres, sexual abuse,

physical abuse, extreme disciplinary measures, neglect, illicit transfer of children, and a lack of education and freedom in children's homes.

Schools. Physical abuse, extreme disciplinary measures and violation of privacy have been reported in schools.

Community. The police have used physical violence and carried out other extreme disciplinary measures.

SWEDEN

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Sweden_ngo_report_NC.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report provides insight and questions from children, with some limited information on violence against children.

Home and family. Some parents do not want to or, for different reasons, are not capable of giving their children the care and support needed. This can result in neglect, exploitation, and physical and psychological abuse.

Schools. "There is so much bullying in Sweden and bullying often leads to suicide." In the hearing reports of 2000 and 2002 the young had commented on and shown concern over foul and crude language, crude words and insulting comments at school.

SWITZERLAND

20 May - 7 June 2002

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.30/swiss_ngo_report_eng.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Due to lack of supplementary benefits increasing numbers of families in Switzerland are being pushed close to the poverty line. The child is turning more and more into a poverty risk for the family. Between 100,000 and 190,000 children (between 7 and 12 per cent of all minors) are affected by the shortage of financial means.

Home and family. In Switzerland a certain level of corporal punishment of children is permitted. Even today, the country does not have any decree or regulation prohibiting corporal punishment or similar humiliating treatment of children.

TAJIKISTAN

18 September - 6 October 2000

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.25/tajikistanNGOreport.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Poverty and the civil war of 1992 still haunt the country. Children are forced to work and give up education to help their families who are often not able to support or care for their children.

Home and family. Domestic violence against children is not given full attention. Girls are increasingly being forced to marry at an early age.

Institutions. Children's full-time care institutions are drastically underfunded by the State. The balance is sometimes provided by humanitarian aid organizations. Repair work, medical staff and caregivers are scarce. Hard conditions in pre-trial detention are aggravated by the tyranny of the administration; it can, for example, send a 15-year-old detainee to a cold, dark and damp room for 5-10 days. Over half of young prisoners suffer from chronic pneumonia, tuberculosis, or gastritis upon release (or transfer to post-trial detention).

Community. Girls are increasingly at risk of sexual violence in the streets and public places. Socio-economic hardships are thought to create aggression in society: sexual promiscuity, growing physical and verbal abuse, and cruel treatment of women – by women and by men. Some parents, fearing that their daughters might be subjected to sexual harassment, try to marry them as early as possible. Teenagers in conflict with the law (e.g. for begging, petty crime, etc.), are subjected to all kinds of violence and humiliation, both physical and psychological, by the militia: this includes being beaten with rubber batons, being forced to stand on one foot, and being threatened by firearms (i.e. shooting at the floor near their feet).

Workplace. By unofficial data, 45 to 55 per cent of children aged 10-14 years do physical work. In rural areas the percentage of such children is 60 to 75. Oppressed by hard work and the poor living conditions, children leave their homes, mostly for the large cities in the country, and sometimes out of the country, in search of a better life. Once in a city, they take to begging or street trade.

TANZANIA

21 May - 8 June 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.27/Tanzania.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The focus of this report is primarily abuse in schools and sexual exploitation.

Home and family. Children are coerced to marry young.

Schools. Excessive beating takes place in the schools even resulting in some deaths.

Community. Children are coerced into having sex and risk being infected with HIV/AIDS. Police harass street children.

Workplace. Many children work in unsafe conditions. Street children who are working are harassed by police.

THAILAND

21 September - 9 October 1998

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.19/Thailand_FocalPoint_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There was an NGO coalition report produced, along with several alternative reports, often referring to the issues faced by then 100,000-plus refugees "from Burma's Shan State in Thailand". The alternative report used here reports on sexual exploitation.

Home and family. In the village of Mai, in the famous Golden Triangle where the drug trade has been a primary source of income, some parents abuse drugs and neglect their children or sell them to finance their addiction to drugs.

Community. Although prostitution is illegal, 2.5 million women and children prostitute themselves; 800,000 under age 18; 30,000 under age 15.

Workplace. Sexual exploitation of children is perceived as child labour.

TOGO

10 - 28 January 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Togo_ngo_report_revised.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. (Published in French.) 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 20. The report is detailed on legal aspects; few examples of violence are provided, though the judicial consequences for violence were made clear.

Home and family. The phenomenon of newborns being left in boxes on street sides or fetuses being left in latrines is growing, especially in the capital, Lome.

Community. There is only one judge for minors. There is only one juvenile detention centre in the entire country. In prisons, adults and minors are mixed. The ample amount of under-age labour has led to the trafficking of children. There are no statistics available on sexual exploitation, though an increasing amount of prostitution can be witnessed.

Workplace. There are children working in poor conditions in the informal sector who are under the legal age to work. There are also street children trying to make a living.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO,

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/Trinidad_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. There are concerns about the lack of government protection of younger children which leads to their involvement and criminalization later and also child labour issues.

Home and family. The number of abandoned, neglected, abused and institutionalized children is alarming.

Institutions. Children are jailed with adults.

Community. Failure on the part of the state to provide quality care for children and young people is resulting in their criminalization and detention.

Workplace. Some children work at two landfill sites and there are street children.

UGANDA

12 - 30 September 2005

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.40/Uganda_UCRNN_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Violence is generated by the armed conflict and by abusive practices of the nuclear and extended family. Orphans due to war and HIV/AIDS are most at risk.

Home and family. Some children are severely abused in homes, neglected, abandoned and many are married at a young age.

Institutions. Orphans are most at risk including within their extended family care system. Children are brutally abused in correctional institutions. Those who are sentenced to detention are sent to adult facilities where they are abused by guards and inmates.

Schools. Corporal punishment is allowed in schools.

Community. Girls are exploited sexually with total impunity for the abusers.

Workplace. Children, especially orphans are exploited for their labour in all areas. There are many street children due to the abuse and few resources.

UKRAINE

30 October-17 November 1995

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.10/Ukraine_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report and information was published a decade ago. Every year, Ukraine loses 16,000 children aged 14 and under as a result of trauma, suicide, murder, and so on. Institutionalization is a central issue.

Home and family. Every day, an average of 32 children (i.e. 12,000 children per year) are found abandoned, lost or forgotten. Almost half of them are under the age of seven. As a result, 84,500 orphans and children are placed in state institutions.

Institutions. Children are held for periods of over three years in special reform schools for juvenile delinquents where their mail is censored and where other forms of violence are prevalent.

Schools. There have been multiple incidents of child beatings in schools by teachers. Thus far, there is no law regulating the right of the child to be heard and to act as plaintiff in court; this makes it impossible to investigate such cases, thus limiting the possibility of restraining teachers.

Community. Juvenile delinquency is becoming a social evil. Almost 10,000 minors serve sentences in conditions not conducive to their rehabilitation. The number of offences committed by minors is rising. Any activity to prevent offences is usually conducted by inhuman methods and consequently proves ineffective.

Workplace. There is an increasing number of children in the streets and railway stations who beg or who are in the presence of adult beggars.

URUGUAY

23 September-11 October 1996

Not available on CRIN. A printed copy is available at the NGO Group for the CRC.

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report highlights the challenges of a deteriorating socio-economic situation: lack of concrete measures by the state to protect and support children, lack of disaggregated data. Difficulties of social and legal status increase risks of discrimination (children born out of wedlock, children who disappear, etc.). Children in conflict with the law are most vulnerable to state violence.

Home and family. Legal reform has addressed the issue, but there remains a lack of direct and adequate state services for children and women victims of domestic violence. Abandoned or neglected children on the street are increasingly criminalized.

Institutions. So-called educational high-security institutions for children in conflict with the law (the minimum age of criminal responsibility being 18) are in fact prisons, with totally inadequate living conditions, where serious acts of violence by staff and some cases of death in detention have been reported. Little information on care institutions and institutions for children with disabilities, which appear to be lacking.

Workplace. Formal and informal forms of child labour are increasing. There is a lack of coordinated state policy to address the phenomenon. But the report is not specific on violence in this context.

UZBEKISTAN

24 September-12 October 2001

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.28/Uzbekistan.doc

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Extreme poverty influences everything from malnutrition to violence in Uzbekistan.

Home and family. Corporal punishment is found in families, especially in dysfunctional families, schools

and children's institutions, e.g. orphanages, where parents, teachers or other staff physically and psychologically abuse children by beating them considering it an educational norm. There are cases of sexually abused girls being sent to detention institutions to cover up the abuser in the family.

Institutions. There are cases of torture (beatings) noted, particularly towards juveniles held in temporary isolators (special prisons for detainees and suspects), penitentiary colonies and prisons. Children deprived of the family environment are usually placed in children's institutions, such as orphanages, where they can stay until the age of 16. Afterwards, they must leave the institutional care but the majority of them have nowhere to go and therefore often end on the street. An infringement of children's rights takes place in the two detention institutions in Samarkand and Kokand where children are detained for uncertain periods. Torture of children in prisons, colonies or other similar institutions are reported to be common. There are known cases of torture of children by the staff, officials and, worst of all, by other children whose behaviour is initiated by the so-called informal code of behaviour common to juvenile prisons. Children in prisons can often be subject to sexual abuse by the prison staff or by their elder peers.

Schools. Corporal punishment is found in schools.

Community. Child prostitution is an existing problem in Uzbekistan. However, there is no official data about the age or the percentage of children involved. Street children and children in institutions, such as orphanages, are often coerced into prostitution.

Workplace. Child economic exploitation in Uzbekistan was and still is mainly associated with the cotton harvesting season when children are taken from schools to work in cotton fields. During the cotton harvesting season classes in rural schools and provincial higher educational institutions are usually cancelled and those who refuse to work in the fields are subject to academic punishment.

VANUATU

20 September – 8 October 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.22/Vanuatu_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report does not address violence but highlights areas of concern for the future.

Community. There are no known cases of child prostitution but the growth of the phenomenon in the region is a threat.

VENEZUELA

20 September - 8 October 1999

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.22/Venezuela_ComiteInforme_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. Information given focuses primarily on community and institutional settings. According to the Ministry of the Family (Ministerio de la Familia), in 1997, 47.3 per cent of children under 13 years of age were living in poverty, and 21.9 per cent in extreme poverty.

Home and family. Many families are very poor, which may lead to some forms of violence.

Institutions. A 17-year-old child died at a minors detention centre after being subjected to torture and not receiving adequate medical care. The reduction of the time for visits or meals, or even its total suppression, are usually considered and applied as sanctions in closed centres (for the protection of children at risk and the observation of children in conflict with the law). Other coercive measures, such as sedation and/or physical mistreatment, are also known to be used.

Community. Children are victims of basic human rights violations including extra-judicial executions and other violations following arrest or inflicted at police stations. Cases of arbitrary detention and cruel treatment are also present: 70 cases of killings of children were registered for the period 1993-97, in which the alleged responsible killers were members of state security forces. The definition of the offence of sexual abuse in the Penal Code drives the authorities to take measures based on custody, decency, honour and morality, rather than on the child victims' rights and interests. This ends up in penalization of the victim.

Workplace. In article 404, the Labour Organic Law (Ley Organica del Trabajo --LOT) denies child workers the right to form and to join trade unions. This article deprives child workers (14 to 17 years old) of protection and benefits. The State recognizes the existence of a significant number of child workers under the minimum legal age, many of whom have to endure working days longer than is legally established.

VIET NAM

January 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.32/vietnam_indigenous_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. No NGO coalition report was produced. This report focuses on discrimination against the children of the indigenous Degar people.

Community. Ethnic minorities are discriminated against and whole families, children included, have "disappeared".

ZAMBIA

19 May - 6 June 2003

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/Zambia_ngo_report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. The report focuses on the effects of the breakdown of the traditional family.

Home and family, Breakdown in Zambia's traditional family system has caused neglect, abuse and many street children. Children are still married young.

Institutionsin Family breakdown also results in children being imprisoned, where they are housed with adults. Children are abused in prison, shelters and care facilities.

Community. Some children are sent to prison with their mothers. Some are trafficked across borders with their fathers. Sexual exploitation occurs.

ZIMBABWE

May - June 1996

www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.12/Zimbabwe_NGO_Report.pdf

How Violence is Addressed in this Report. As a general comment, poverty is a cause of child exploitation, inadequate access to educational and health services and poor housing, etc.

Home and family Early betrothal and marriages are still very frequent in some areas. Abuse under the guise of legitimate corporal punishment is widespread.

Schools. Corporal punishment is still used in schools. The need for payment of an education levy excludes many children from schools.

Community. Laws on sexual abuse are relatively superficial. Currently there is no legal channel through which children themselves can request for review of their situation (e.g. in alternative home care or in an institution).

Workplace. A more comprehensive legal framework is needed to protect children who work.
