



child rights connect
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STATE PARTY EXAMINATION OF JORDAN'S INITIAL REPORT ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

66TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
26 MAY – 13 JUNE 2014

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Jordan ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) on 4 December 2006. On 27 May 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) examined the initial periodic report of Jordan.

Opening Comments

The delegation of Jordan was led by Dr. Rajab Sukayri, Permanent Representative. He was supported by a delegation composed of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Shariah court, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Interior and the National Council for Family affairs.

Dr. Sukayri explained that the State party had criminalised the offences covered in the OPSC as it considered them to affect the right to life of the victims.

Mr. Bernard Gastaud, the Country Rapporteur for the OPSC, welcomed the fact that no reservations had been made to the Protocol.

General Measures of Implementation

Legislation

The Committee underlined that Articles 2 and 3 of the OPSC had not been fully incorporated into national legislation. It noted that the legislation criminalised trafficking but not sale and that it sanctioned debauchery but not prostitution. The delegation explained that the crime of slavery, which is now called trafficking, had been criminalized since 1927. It underlined that the texts evolved in accordance with changes in attitudes. The delegation added that the sale

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of children was criminalised in Article 3 of the Human Trafficking Prevention Act No.9 of 2009.

Data collection

The Committee noted that it had received no information on cases of trafficking and sexual exploitation. The delegation listed 29 cases of exploitation for the sale of organs between 2009 and 2013, 2 cases of child exploitation and 18 cases of forced labour.

Dissemination and training

The Committee asked if sufficient information was provided on reproductive health. The delegation explained that there was awareness raising on the risks of prostitution for students and newly arrived persons. Parents were also given lessons on how to use the internet safely.

Prevention

The Committee welcomed the existence of a helpline and asked for detailed statistics. The delegation explained that a unit had been created to fight trafficking and its members had received specialised training.

The Committee enquired about measures taken to prevent Syrian refugee girls from being kidnapped.

Prohibition and related matters

The Committee highlighted that sanctions were weak for crimes of forced labour. It also asked what had been done in relation to sexual tourism. The delegation said that it was a punishable offence to withhold someone's passport. It also underlined that the sale of organs was prohibited and that the State party had ratified the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. The delegation said that there was a police unit dedicated to fighting sexual tourism.

The Committee commented on the sanction (3 months of prison) for the diffusion of child pornography and said that it was not appropriate. The delegation answered that Article 8 of the Temporary Information System Act of 2010 also provided a fine.

The Committee noted provisions in the Criminal Code which waived sanctions for cases where the girl was of an "immoral nature". The delegation responded that if the woman had been coerced, she was considered to be a victim, independently of her behaviour. It added that, even if the woman had cooperated with the perpetrator, she would not be charged.

Protection of the rights of victims

The Committee asked what measures were in place for the rehabilitation of children victim of trafficking and pornography. The delegation responded that the trafficker was punished and the victim protected. It underlined that a trafficked girl was only considered as a victim and would be supported and not prosecuted. The protection measures included legal aid, healthcare support, psychosocial support and rehabilitation. The delegation added that the State party was intending to have separate centres for victims of trafficking.

Concluding remarks

Mr. Gastaud welcomed the good will of the delegation and noted that some questions remained unanswered.

The delegation said that it had listened with attention to the questions of the Committee. It underlined that this was an opportunity to review a number of issues and that the Concluding Observations would be used as guidelines. The delegation also emphasised the constant efforts of the State party to improve its human rights record and children's rights.