

For participants only

CRC/C/Q/NOR/2

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Twenty-fourth session

Pre-sessional Working Group

31 January-4 February 2000

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration  
of the second periodic report of Norway  
(CRC/C/70/Add.2)

General measures of implementation  
(Articles 4, 42 and 44, paragraph 6 of the Convention)

1. Please provide information on any recent decisions or deliberations concerning the incorporation of the Convention into legislation, in a manner comparable to the incorporation of other regional and international human rights instruments by the 21 May 1999 Human Rights Act.
2. In light of article 4, please describe what measures the State party has taken to ensure budget allocations “to the maximum extent of (...) available resources with regard to economic, social and cultural rights, in order to prevent the adverse economy of some local authorities causing inequalities between different rural areas with regard to services for children within the health, education, culture and leisure domains”. Please also indicate the efforts made to ensure adequate resources for the Office of the Ombudsperson.
3. Please indicate the efforts made to provide training on the provisions and principles of the Convention at municipal levels throughout the country including, inter alia, members of the municipal authorities themselves, judges, the police, health and social workers, administrative officials, and teachers. Please also indicate to what extent municipal authorities apply the Convention with a holistic perspective and one which considers children as the subjects of rights.

General principles  
(Articles 2, 3, 6 and 12)

4. With particular reference to Article 2 of the Convention, please indicate whether under Norwegian law, policy and administrative practice children residing in the State party, but who are not Norwegian nationals and who may not be in complete respect of State immigration, asylum or other related requirements are considered to have an equal right to respect for the provisions of the Convention as other children whose residence situation is in accordance with all legal standards? Please indicate efforts made to ensure the equal enjoyment by such children of their rights under the Convention.

5. Please give information on the State party's evaluation of efforts at the municipal level to encourage the participation of children and adolescents in municipal and local planning.

Civil rights and freedoms  
(Articles 7-8, 13-17, 37 (a) and 39 of the Convention)

6. Please indicate the number of children in the State party who do not have a nationality and the effects of this situation on such "stateless" children. Please describe the reasons which discourage or prevent the parents of stateless children who are eligible to apply for a nationality, from doing so, or who delay such an application for a substantial period of time. Please also indicate any efforts being made by the State party to address the issue of, and the difficulties faced by, stateless children.

7. Please provide information addressing concerns that the new curriculum for the provision of religious education in primary and secondary schools may infringe upon children's rights to religious freedom including, notably, because of the focus of the course on one religion and because of the system chosen for the request for exemptions from parts of the teaching.

Family environment and alternative care  
(Articles 5, 18 (1) and (2), 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27 (4) and 39)

8. Please explain, if possible with examples, the emphasis placed on determining and respecting the best interests of the child when establishing rules governing the contact of imprisoned persons with their children. Please provide similar explanations with regard to decisions to deport a parent from the State party, and when the deportation will severely limit a child's opportunities to maintain contact with the parent.

9. Please explain the process through which a foreign child, legally present in Norway, can initiate a request for family reunification. In particular, is any effort made by the State party to facilitate this process by discussing the subject with the child or person close to the child? Please indicate, in addition, the estimated time between an initial request for family reunification and the communication of a decision by the State party. Please also explain whether any established investigatory procedures are used in determining whether or not the reunification request will be accepted.

10. With regard to the placement of children in an environment other than a child's biological family, please indicate whether the number of such placements has risen or decreased since the State party's initial report. Please indicate the reasons for any changes and indicate, in particular, the role thought to be played in influencing such changes of the revised Child Welfare Services Act.

Basic health and welfare

(Articles 6 (para. 2), 23, 24, 26, 18 (para. 3) and 27 (paras. 1-3))

11. Please describe the possibilities and limitations for children with disabilities to participate socially in the life of their local communities, indicating also an assessment of the opinions of children with disabilities on their situation. To what extent do the State party's efforts in favour of children with disabilities provide for the integration of these children with children without disabilities?

12. Please indicate the progress made towards achieving the Government's objective, set in 1998, to provide day-care places for all children in need of them by the year 2000. Please also explain how the system of State grants to a parent who remains at home to care for a child rather than using day-care facilities has affected the Government's year 2000 objective and whether this policy has been evaluated from the perspective of the best interests of the child.

13. Please indicate the strategy adopted by the suicide prevention programme referred to in paragraph 108 of the State party report. Please provide information on the results of the programme's implementation and of any plans to extend the programme after the end of its intended six-year duration. Please describe any efforts to address the issue through international cooperation.

Education, leisure and cultural activities

(Articles 28, 29 and 31)

14. Please provide an overall assessment of the environment at primary and secondary schools including, inter alia, the incidence and effects of bullying.

15. Please describe State policy on the formal education of children from Roma and other itinerant groups, with regard specifically to the travelling aspect of the culture of these groups.

Special protection measures

(Articles 22, 30 and 32-40)

16. With regard to the asylum application process, please indicate the means through which the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are respected during the asylum application process. Please indicate, in particular, the procedures which ensure that child applicants including, notably, unaccompanied children are able to participate in the process and have their views taken into consideration.

17. In light of article 39 of the Convention, please provide details of the psychosocial assistance made available to refugee and asylum seeking children upon arrival in Norway, indicating also the numbers of children who benefit from such assistance each year and how these children are identified as being in need of such assistance.

18. Please explain the procedures for responding to victims of sexual abuse and indicate the length of time required between a confirmed report of abuse and an intervention which brings the abuse to an end and establishes a stable future for the victim.

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