



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

Distr.
GENERAL

CRC/C/OPSC/SLE/Q/1

12 October 2009

Advance unedited version

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Fifty-third session

11-29 January 2010

**OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION
AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the initial report of
Sierra Leone (CRC/C/OPSC/SLE/1)**

**The State party is requested to submit in written form additional and updated information,
if possible before 19 November 2009**

1. Please provide (if available) statistical data (including by sex, age group, urban/rural area) for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 on:
 - (a) The number of reported cases of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with additional information on type of follow-up provided on the outcome of the cases, including prosecution, withdrawals and sanctions for perpetrators;
 - (b) The number of children trafficked to and from the Sierra Leone, as well as trafficked within the country;
 - (c) The number of child victims provided with recovery assistance and compensation as indicated in article 9, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Protocol.
2. Please provide more information on measures taken to establish an effective system of data collection on the issues covered by the Optional Protocol. In this respect, please update the Committee on the announced establishment of the National Commission for Children.

3. Please indicate the efforts to make the provisions of the Protocol known and promote awareness in the public at large, including children, through education and training, about the harmful effects of the offences covered therein.
4. Please inform the Committee on measures taken to improve the birth registration system aimed at ensuring that all children are registered, also as a means to reduce the risks of becoming victim of the offences covered by the Optional Protocol.
5. Please update the Committee on recent legislative developments, including a Bill on sexual offences and a new Trafficking Act following the State party's review of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. Does the Bill on sexual offences include all the offences covered by the Optional Protocol?
6. Please inform the Committee on how the State party deals with the contradictions (e.g. in the age of marriage and the age of sexual consent) that seem to exist between the Child Rights Act and the customary law and practices.
7. Please inform the Committee on the moratorium on adoption established by the Government as well as on the result of the announced review of the legislation and procedure regarding adoption in the State party. Will this include a specific provision prohibiting illegal adoption?
8. Please clarify whether the definitions of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as indicated in article 2 of the Protocol have been incorporated under the Sierra Leonean legislation. Please also indicate whether the State party has introduced or intends to introduce into the Criminal Code a specific prohibition for each of the offences covered by article 3 of the Protocol. In this respect, please clarify whether the following acts have been appropriately criminalized:
 - a) sale of children (including sale for adoption purposes; sale for engagement of the child in forced labour; and sale for the purpose of transfer of organs of the child for profit);
 - b) offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for prostitution;
 - c) child pornography, including its possession.
9. Please inform the Committee whether the State party may establish its jurisdiction over all the offences referred to in the Optional Protocol in all cases indicated in article 4, and notably: when the crime is committed abroad against a national of Sierra Leone; when the crime is committed by a national of Sierra Leone against a non-national of Sierra Leone in another country; or when the alleged offender is present on the State party's territory.
10. Please indicate whether the offences listed in the Protocol are included in all bilateral and multilateral extradition treaties entered by the State party. In this respect, does the State party apply the double-criminality rule for such offences?

11. Does the State party have provisions in its legislation to establish - where appropriate – the liability of legal persons for sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography?
12. Please indicate whether special training, in particular legal and psychological, is provided to professionals, such as judges, prosecutors, police officers, social workers and health care, media, and other professionals, who may come into contact with children victims of the offences under the Optional Protocol.
13. Please inform the Committee on the measures taken by the State party to protect the rights and interests of child victims of the offences covered by the Protocol at all stages of the criminal justice process. For instance, are measures taken to protect their privacy, ensure their safety and provide them with appropriate support services?
14. Please provide the Committee with further information on the social reintegration assistance as well as physical and psychosocial recovery measures available for victims of offences covered by the Protocol. Furthermore, please inform the Committee on measures taken to ensure that child victims of the offences covered by the Protocol, and especially child prostitution, are not criminalized. Are measures also taken to avoid the stigmatization and social marginalization of victims?
15. In light of the existing problem of cross-border trafficking for the purpose of economic and sexual exploitation, please provide more information on measures taken to strengthen international assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offences covered by the Optional Protocol.
