

**CYPRUS
SECOND PERIODIC REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE
DATED 7 FEBRUARY 2003
CRC/C/Q/CYP/2**

**OFFICE OF THE
LAW COMMISSIONER**

9 April 2003

Part I

A. Data and Statistics, if available

1. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age groups, minority groups, urban or rural areas) covering the period between 2000 and 2002 on the:

1(a) Number and proportion of children under 18 living in the State party

The population of Cyprus increased from 690.509 in 1999 to 705.539 in 2001. However, the percentage of children aged under 18 decreased from 192.204 (or 27,8% of the population) in 1999 to 185.168 (or 26,2%) in 2001 due to decreases in the birth rate. The following tables provide disaggregated data by gender and age group for each of the years 1999-2001.

Children by age and sex 1999-2001 (end of year)

Age	1999					
	Number			%		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
0-4	47352	24241	23111	6,9	7,1	6,6
5-9	54829	28166	26663	7,9	8,3	7,6
10-14	55226	28471	26755	8,0	8,4	7,6
15-17	34797	17741	17056	5,0	5,2	4,9
0-17	192204	98619	93585	27,8	29,0	26,7
Total	690509	339653	350856	100,0	100,0	100,0

Age	2000					
	Number			%		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
0-4	46077	23565	22512	6,6	6,9	6,3
5-9	53948	27804	26144	7,7	8,1	7,4
10-14	55534	28507	27027	8,0	8,3	7,6
15-17	34999	17895	17104	5,0	5,2	4,8
0-17	190558	97771	92787	27,3	28,5	26,2
Total	697584	342762	354822	100,0	100,0	100,0

Age	2001					
	Number			%		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
0-4	44081	22448	21633	6,2	6,5	6,0
5-9	53528	27420	26108	7,6	7,9	7,3
10-14	54120	27968	16152	7,7	8,1	4,5
15-17	33439	17215	16224	4,7	5,0	4,5
0-17	185168	95051	80117	26,2	27,5	22,3
Total	705539	346178	359361	100,0	101,0	101,3

Most of the children i.e. 124.350 out of the 185.168 (or 67,2%) lived in urban areas during 2001. The remaining 60.818 (or 32,8%) lived in rural areas.

In the following table more information is given concerning the age groups and the gender of the children living in each area and their percentage with respect to the total population of the urban and rural areas

Children by age, sex and usual residence (urban/rural, 2001)

Age	2001					
	Urban			Rural		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
	Number					
0-4	29836	15138	14698	14245	7310	6935
5-9	35411	18059	17352	18117	9361	8756
10-14	36509	18769	17740	17611	9199	8412
15-17	22594	11662	10932	10845	5553	5292
0-17	124350	63628	60722	60818	31423	29395
Total	486691	236988	249704	218848	109190	109657
	%					
0-4	6,1	6,4	5,9	6,5	6,7	6,3
5-9	7,3	7,6	6,9	8,3	8,6	8,0
10-14	7,5	7,9	7,1	8,0	8,4	7,7
15-17	4,6	4,9	4,4	5,0	5,1	4,8
0-17	25,6	26,8	24,3	27,8	28,8	26,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

1(b) Number and proportion of children belonging to minority, refugee and internally displaced groups

Not applicable

2. In light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide additional disaggregated data for 2001 – 2003, on budget allocations and trends (in percentages of the national and regional budgets or GDP) allocated to the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:

The funds that the Government of Cyprus has spent on the social sectors out of budget allocations comprised 19,5% of GDP in 2001 (C£ 1149 mln) compared to 13,5% in 1992 (C£417,8 mln) indicating a significant increasing trend during the decade. (Details in the following table)

Trends in Public Social Expenditure in C£ (million) for the years 1992, 2000 and 2001

Year	1992		2000		2001		% Increase 2001/1992 Funds
	C£ mln	% of GDP	C£ mln	% of GDP	C£ mln	% of GDP	
Education	121,5	3,9	309,4	5,6	344,1	5,9	183%
Health	60,1	1,9	130	2,4	143,8	2,4	139%
Social Security and Public Assistance	201,9	6,5	530	9,6	563,8	9,6	179%
Housing	34,3	1,1	78,9	1,4	97,4	1,7	184%
TOTAL public social expenditure	417,8	13,5	1048,3	19,0	1149,1	19,5	175%
GDP	3105	100,0	5511,8	100,0	5880	100,0	89%

Note: 1. The figures include direct payments only and do not include wages of civil servants in the respective sectors, or interest charges on public loans for infrastructure or equipment.

2. This is the most recent available date.

Source: Planning Bureau

Out of this amount a considerable part involves expenditure on programmes for children but unfortunately there is no data concerning specifically the amounts allocated to the implementation of the Convention. The breakdown per social domain in 2001 was 5,9% on education, 2,4% on health, 9,6% on social security and public assistance to the most needy, and 1,7% on housing.

2(a) Concerning education, more analytically the percentage spent on the different levels was as follows: 0,28% of GDP was spent on pre-primary, 1,55% on primary, and 2,84% on secondary education.

(b) For health , the public (budgetary) expenditure was C£120,3 mln in 2001 or 2,4% of GDP . In addition to that, private expenditure on health was C£239,8 or 3,7% of GDP thus giving a total of 6,1% of GDP spent on health by both the public and the private sector. The table below gives the amounts spent for the period 1999-2001.

2(a) education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary education);

Public (Budgetary) Expenditure for Education as a % of GDP, by level of education, 2000

Level	% of GDP
Preprimary	0,28
Primary	1,55
Secondary	2,84
Tertiary	0,97
Total	5,64

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

2(b) health care (different types of health, services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care and other health care services for children);

In addition to the public expenditure on health (see table 2(a) and (b) on public social expenditure) the health expenditure of the private sector is as follows:

Private Health Expenditure (million pounds)

Year	Private
1999	186,9
2000	213,5
2001	239,8

Note: There are no separate figures for the different types of health services.

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

2(c) programmes and services for children with disabilities;

Programmes and services	2001 (C£)	2002 (C£)	2003 (C£)
“Nea Eleousa” Home for Severely Mentally Retarded Persons	328,300	343,350	368,900

2(d) support programmes for families;

Support programmes for families	2001 (C£)	2002 (C£)	2003 (C£)
Social Benefit Scheme for the Improvement of Housing Conditions	200,000	210,000	230,000
Support of Families in the Internal Care of their Elderly and Disabled Members	80,000	80,000	80,000
Family Guidance Centres	12,400	30,000	7,000
Financial Support of Couples with Insufficient Resources who Proceed to an Inter-Country Adoption	0,000	9,000	9,000

2(e) support for children living below the poverty line;

Year	Children recipient of Public Assistance	Children recipient of Public Assistance within the Family
2001	n.a.	n.a.
2002 (only for December)	473.461	628.701
2003 (only for March)	543.364	772.824

2(f) the protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions;

Alternative care	2001 (C£)	2002 (C£)	2003 (C£)
Homes for children and adolescents			
(a) Hostels for adolescent boys	58,450	60,950	65,327
(b) Hostels for adolescent girls	61,040	61,380	58,330
(c) Specialized Home for Adolescents	93,000	93,000	100,000
(d) Children's Homes	132,620	132,050	144,500
Foster Care			
(a) Foster Families	472,290	453,028	465,000
(b) Group Foster Homes	40,000	50,000	50,000- 65,000

2(g) programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;

Programmes and activities	2001 (C£)	2002 C£)	2003 C£)	Comments
State Day care centres	297,770	228,030	299,100	
Day centres for school-aged children	440,800	480,500	N/A	Grants-in-aid

2(h) programmes and services for street children and abandoned children.

Programmes and Services for street children: do not exist

2(i) juvenile justice

According to the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000 (Law 119(1)/2000) in all police divisional headquarters specially designed rooms have been set up for video taping interviews for victims of domestic violence. The total cost of renovating and furnishing is £24.354.

The total cost of the interview videotaping equipment (5 units is £43.700) (including installation and training).

The use of closed circuit television links during court proceedings is estimated to cost approximately £105.000.

The budget allocations of the Ministry of Education and Culture for the programmes and services for children with disabilities are as follows:

Year	Budget for programmes and services for children with disabilities (C£)
2001	7.022.676
2002	9.387.559
2003	10.493.479

(Source: Ministry of Education and Culture)

Budget Allocations

YEAR	Total of National Budget – Development (C£mln)	Total of Social Services (C£mln)	Total % of National Budget for Social Services	Total % for programs for children deriving from the Total % of the Social Services
2001	223,6	3,962	1,77%	33 – 40%
2002	247,7	4,000	1,62%	33 – 40%
2003	375,3	4,701	1,25%	33 – 40%

Note: The table corresponds to the answers 2c through 2h in accordance with the percentages of the national budget.

Please also indicate the percentages of these allocations derived from international expenses for children's rights, and also expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

See 2(b)

3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and Separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by age and gender) for the last three years on the number of children:

3(a) separated from their parents;

3(b) placed in institutions;

3(c) placed with foster families;

3(d) adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions.

Children separated from parents and where placed

YEAR	AGE			ADOPTIONS		CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS	CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
	0-5	6-12	13-18		INTER - COUNTRY		
2000	N/A	N/A	N/A	53	105	27	163
2001	N/A	N/A	N/A	51	165	34	150
2002	22	61	63	N/A	N/A	43	158
2003	25	70	54	N/A	N/A	89	149

4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex and age, covering the period 2000 –2002;

4(a) living with their families;

Not available

4(b) in institutions;

YEAR	CHILDREN LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS			
	AGE	T	M	F
2000	0-7	2	1	1
	8-18	12	6	6
2001	0-8	2	1	1
	9-18	12	6	6
2002	0-9	2	1	1
	10-18	11	6	5

4(c) attending regular schools and

4(d) attending special schools

4(c) & (d) Special schools and special education in Primary Education, for the period 2000-2003

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Number of special schools	9	9	9
Number of children that attend special schools	323	325	355
Number of children with special needs that are included in the primary schools	3 105	3 574	2 893
Number of teachers in the special schools	117	115	116,6
Number of teachers of special education in the primary schools	164	230	286,6

Respectively, the number of students of special education in Secondary Education, according to data of the Educational Psychology Service, amounts in the present school year (2002-2003) to 700.

5. With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by age, gender and types of violations reported) over the period 2000 – 2002 on the:

5(a) Cases reported to the Social Welfare Services:

YEAR	GENDER		AGE				FORM OF ABUSE			TOTAL number of reports
	M	F	0-5	5-10	10-15	15+	Physi cal	Sexual	Psycholo gical	
2000										102
2001	105	138	48	81	77	37	137	27	46	233
2002	142	164	63	96	84	62	180	53	37	259

Source: Social Welfare Services

5(b) number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up.

Not Available

6. Please provide disaggregated data (including by gender, age, and urban/rural areas) covering the period between 2000 and 2002 on:

6(a) the enrolment and completion rates in percentages of the relevant group in pre-primary schools, in primary schools and in secondary schools;

Gross Enrolment Ratios in % by level of education, age group and sex 2000. There are no available statistics for the years, 2001-2002

Level	Boys	Girls	Total
Preprimary (ages 3-5)	78	77	77
Primary (ages 6-11)	96	97	96
Secondary (ages 12-17)	93	94	93

Completion Rates in % by level of education year 2000

Level	%
Primary	98,4
Secondary, Lower	90,7
Secondary, Upper	79,8

6(b) number and percentage of drop-outs and repetitions;

Number and percentage of Drop-outs and Repetitions, by level of education and sex, 2000/2001

Level	Drop-outs			Repetitions			
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Primary	Absolute Numbers	61	67	128	113	89	202
	%	0,19	0,22	0,20	0,35	0,29	0,32
Secondary	Absolute Numbers	1103	518	1621	988	317	1305
	%	3,4	1,6	2,5	3,03	1,01	2,04

6(c) ratio teacher per children

Ratio of teacher per children by level of education 2000/2001

Level	Ratio teacher/children
Preprimary	0,06
Primary	0,06
Secondary	0,09

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

7. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age, region) on adolescent health, including early pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) mental health, suicide, drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse as well as rates of infant and child mortality and of malnutrition covering the period between 2000 and 2002. Also, please provide numbers of health professionals working in the health care services for children.

Pancyprian Research for Juvenile delinquency of Students of High Schools and Lycea, 2000

Children using	Educational Institution	%
Legal and illegal substances	High School and Lyceum	1,24
Strong alcoholic drinks during nightly exits (brandy, vodka etc.)		59
Legal drugs	"	3
Cigarettes at school	High School	22,5
Pills and other substances	Luceum	8,5
Hard narcotics (cocaine, heroine etc.)	"	1
Proportion of boys to girls (apart from the use of pills where girls come first)		3:1

Source: Ministry of Education and Culture

The percentage of primary and secondary students displaying severe problematic behaviour (they constitute a threat for themselves and others), amounts roughly to the 2% of the total school population. The Educational Psychology Service accepts each year around 2 800 referrals of students from all the levels of education, mainly for subjects of learning and behaviour.

According to the Vocational Education and Counseling Service data on subjects of use of addictive substances by students we have the following:

Level	School year 2000-2001			School year 2001-2002		
	Number of students	Total number of students	Percentage	Number of students	Total number of students	Percentage
High school	121	15 589	0.77	0	28 146	0
Lyceum	85	19 410	0.43	53	27 155	0.19
Total	206	34 999	0.58	53	55 301	0.09

Source: Ministry of Education and Culture

Infant mortality (infant deaths per 1000 live births)

Year	deaths per 1000 live births
1999	6,0
2000	5,6
2001	4,9

Child mortality

Age	Age- specific mortality rate (per 1000 population)					
	1999		2000		2001	
	males	females	males	females	males	females
0-4	1,3	1,3	1,3	1,2	1,1	1,1
5-9	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,2
10-14	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,2
15-19	0,9	0,4	0,9	0,4	0,9	0,3

Source: Statistical Service of Cyprus

Health professionals working in the health care services for children

Paediatricians	
Public	42
Private	178
Total	220
Nurses	179
General Practitioners offering primary care to children (rural areas)	36
At school Health Services;	
General Practitioners	6
Paediatricians	4
Health Visitors in public sector (urban and rural areas)	69
Mental Health	
Child Psychiatrists	4
Clinical Psychologists	4

Source: Ministry of Health

Paediatricians working in the private sector offer outpatient clinic services only, that include immunization and developmental assessment.

The majority of general practitioners based in the rural health centers also undertake to deliver school health services in their catchment area.

The services of the health visitors are provided through the Maternal and Child Health Centres as well as the School Health Services both in the urban and rural areas of Cyprus.

In the public sector there are four main hospitals providing in-patient paediatric care as well as outpatient general paediatric clinics where children can attend directly or be referred for paediatric consultation. In addition, out of these, the one in Nicosia works as a referral paediatric clinic. This clinic offers specialized paediatric services in the fields of paediatric oncology, paediatric cardiology, endocrinology, neurology and prematurity and intensive care.

Although no central statistical data can be provided, since 1999 a Center for primary and secondary prevention for drug and alcohol abuse, Perseas, has been established by the Mental health services. At present it covers the Nicosia district, and it offers programs for individuals and families, including high risk groups.

8. Please provide disaggregated statistical data including by gender, age groups, region on children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as information on programmes implementation to address the problems of these children.

Children diagnosed as infected by HIV

Age	Boys	Girls
9	1	0
13	0	1

Residence	Boys	Girls
Urban	0	1
Rural	1	0

Children diagnosed as infected by HIV (Now they are older than 18 years of age)

Year	Boys	Girls
1986	1	0
1987	1	1

Year	14 years old		15 years old	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1986	1	0	0	0
1987	1	0	0	1

Out of five known pregnancies in HIV infected women only one resulted in the birth of an infected child, since the other four women received timely antiretroviral treatment.

The HIV infected children are normally attending school. The right to attend school has been safeguarded through the joint campaign that was led through the cooperation of the Ministries of Health and Education and the Attorney General's Office.

The staff, parents and school children have received extensive briefing from the relevant services, so that they are now in a position to accept the two HIV infected children in their midst, without any problems of discrimination arising. In each school, a member of staff has been appointed responsible for the management of any problems, which may arise, and to liaise with the health services. The health visitors who have the two schools under their responsibility are regularly monitoring the situation. On each occasion, when there is need, a member of staff of the health services (either the health visitor or the school health doctor or an official from the National AIDS Program) delivers talks to the parents, staff and children, and offer any other help which may be needed, so that any problems arising have until now been successfully dealt with.

As all other HIV infected Cypriots living in Cyprus, both children are benefiting from free medical care and treatment, including counseling and social support according to their needs. The boy has reached the stage of symptomatic disease and receives antiretroviral treatment.

Twenty children aged less than 18 years were orphaned by AIDS since 1986 (year at which was recorded the first AIDS cases in Cyprus). Four more children were

orphaned when their HIV infected mothers died in car accidents. Two of them are living abroad with their father. Of those orphans, seventeen are today aged less than 18 and living in Cyprus, including the children whose mother died in an accident. They receive support from the State, in the form of benefits and students' grants or insurances.

9. Please provide appropriate disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age, and type of crime) covering the period between 2000- 2002, in particular on the number of:

9.a. Juveniles (below 16) involved in the commission of an offence, reported to the Police

(i) Juveniles involved by prosecution or non-prosecution (cases dealt in 2000)

Offence	Both sexes			Males			Females		
	Involved	Procecuted	Not Procecuted	Involved	Procecuted	Not Procecuted	Involved	Procecuted	Not Procecuted
Serious Offences									
I. Against public order									
Explosives substances law	5	1	4	5	1	4	0	0	0
Firearms law	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0
III. Injurious to the public in general									
Narcotic drugs law	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
V. Against the person									
Causing grievous bodily harm	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
VI. Against property									
Thefts (over 100 pounds)	52	20	32	52	20	32	0	0	0
Burglary, housebreaking & similar	89	17	72	89	17	72	0	0	0
Obtaining credit etc by false pretences	4	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
Attempt breaking	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
VII. Malicious injuries to property									
Arson etc att. to commit arson	5	0	5	4	0	4	1	0	1
Malicious injury (over 100 pounds)	6	0	6	6	0	6	0	0	0
VIII. Forgery, coining, personation etc.									
Forgery etc	9	0	9	9	0	9	0	0	0
Total	177	44	133	176	44	132	1	0	1
Minor Offences									
I. Against public order									
Knives and daggers	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Affray	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Public insult	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0

Offence	Both sexes			Males			Females		
	Involved	Procecuted	Not Procecuted	Involved	Procecuted	Not Procecuted	Involved	Procecuted	Not Procecuted
Firearms law	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Explosive substances law	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
II. Agaist lawful authority									
Escape from lawful custody	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
III. Injurious to the public in general									
Nuisances	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
V. Against the person									
Common assault	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Assaults causing actual bodily harm	20	20	0	19	19	0	1	1	0
VI. Against property									
Stealing property (under 100 pounds)	12	10	2	12	10	2	0	0	0
Criminal tresspass	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Total	49	47	2	45	43	2	4	4	0
Total Serious and Minor	226	91	135	221	87	134	5	4	1

Source: Statistical Service

(ii) CASES REPORTED AND JUVENILES INVOLVED BY SEX, 2000 - 2002

Offence	2000			2001			2002		
	Cases	Persons involved		Cases	Persons involved		Cases	Persons involved	
		Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females
Serious Offences									
I. Against public order									
Explosives substances law	4	8		2	7	0	2	4	0
Firearms law	8	9		3	4	0	3	3	0
III. Injurious to the public in general									
Narcotic drugs law				1	1	0	9	9	3
IV. Sexual offences									
Rape				1	1	0	0	0	0
Annatural offences (within the family)				0	0	0	1	3	0
V. Against the person									
Causing grievous bodily harm	7	8	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Wounding and similar acts				4	9	0	0	0	0
VI. Against property									
Thefts (over 250 pounds)	89	146	2	40	63	0			
Burglary, housebreaking & similar	138	254	5	160	246	2	156	202	0
Obtaining credit etc by false pretences				0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempt breaking				0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery and extortion	2	2		1	1	0	1	5	0
Receiving	2	2		7	10	1	55	94	1
VII. Malicious injuries to property									
Arson etc att. to commit arson	3	5		2	3	0	4	10	0
Setting fire to crops/plants	2	3		1	3	0	0	0	0
Malicious injury (over 250 pounds)	11	15		3	7	0	10	30	0
Attempt to destroy property by explosives				1	2	0	1	2	0
VIII. Forgery, coining, personation etc									
Forgery etc	2	1	1	8	16	0	5	5	0

Offence	2000			2001			2002		
	Cases	Persons involved		Cases	Persons involved		Cases	Persons involved	
		Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females
XI. Micellaneous offences									
Violence on sport grounds law				1	3	0	0	0	0
Cyprus sport organisation law				0	0	0	2	7	1
Total	268	453	8	235	376	3	252	377	5
Minor Offences									
I. Against public order									
Knives and daggers				1	1	0	0	0	0
Affray	1	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Public insult	4	4	0	3	2	1	2	1	1
Firearms law	2	4		0	0	0	1	1	0
Explosive substances law	1	2	0	6	6	0	2	2	0
Challenge to fight a duel	1	2	0						
Carrying arms to terrorise	2	4							
II. Against lawful authority									
Escape from lawful custody				0	0	0	0	0	0
III. Injurious to public in general									
Nuisances	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
IV. Sexual offences									
Common assault against female				2	2	0	1	1	0
Common assault against male				0	0	0	2	3	0
Common assault							2	2	0
V. Against the person									
Common assault	4	5	2	8	6	2	3	1	2
Common assault (family law)				0	0	0	1	1	0
Assaults causing actual bodily harm	13	19	0	9	12	0	13	15	7
Reckless and negligent acts				2	7	0	2	4	0
Unlawful compulsory labour				0	0	0	2	2	0

Offence	2000			2001			2002		
	Cases	Persons involved		Cases	Persons involved		Cases	Persons involved	
		Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females
VI. Against property									
Stealing property (under 250 pounds)	16	21	2	40	80	0	67	102	1
Criminal trespass	3	5		2	8	0	2	5	0
Receiving etc				3	4	0	7	12	0
VII. Malicious injuries to property									
Malicious damage (up to 250 pounds)	4	5		6	12	0	21	41	0
X. Regulatory offences									
Wireless telegraphy law							2	1	2
Game and wild bird law	4	4		2	2	0	1	1	0
XI. Miscellaneous									
Bets and gambling							2	2	0
Violence on sport grounds	16	18		9	9	0	9	11	0
Various minor offences	3	3		1	1	0			
Conspiracy and attempt to commit crime	1	1							
Total	76	99	4	96	156	3	143	210	13
Total Serious and Minor	344	552	12	331	532	6	395	587	18

Source: Police

(iii) JUVENILES INVOLVED, 2001-2002

Characteristics	2001	2002
Age		
10-14	128	107
14-16	410	498
Total	538	605
Pupil	400	484
Apprentices	94	68
Unemployed	44	53
Total	538	605
Living in Urban areas	384	408
Living in Rural areas	154	197
Total	538	605
Living with parents	480	484
Living with other persons	58	121
Total	538	605

Source: Police

NOTE

Table (i) is not strictly comparable with tables (ii) and (iii).

Table (i) presents the number of juveniles involved in cases **dealt** during the year, irrespective of when the offence was reported.

If the same person was involved in more than one offence committed on a different occasion but taken into consideration at the same time, is **counted only once**.

Tables (ii) and (iii), present the number of cases **reported** during the year and corresponding persons involved.

If the same person was involved in more than one offence committed on a different occasion but taken into consideration at the same time, is **counted separately on each occasion**.

9.b. Juveniles (below 16) convicted

CONVICTED JUVENILES BY SENTENCE IMPOSED AND OFFENCE, 2000

Offence	Convicted			
	Sentence			
	Total	Probation order	Fine	Suspended term of Imprisonment
Serious Offences				
I. Against public order				
Explosives substances law	1	0	1	0
Firearms law	0	0	0	0
III. Injurious to public in general				
Narcotic drugs law	1	0	0	1
V. Against the person				
Causing grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0
VI. Against property				
Thefts (over 100 pounds)	16	1	15	0
Burglary, housebreaking & similar	16	1	13	2
Obtaining credit etc by false pretences	0	0	0	0
Attempt breaking	0	0	0	0
VII. Malicious injuries to property				
Arson etc att. to commit arson	0	0	0	0
Malicious injury (over 100 pounds)	0	0	0	0
VIII. Forgery, coining, personation etc.				
Forgery etc	0	0	0	0
Total	34	2	29	3
Minor Offences				
I. Against public order				
Knives and daggers	1	0	1	0
Affray	1	0	1	0
Public insult	1	0	1	0
Firearms law	1	0	1	0
Explosive substances law	3	0	3	0
II. Against lawful authority				
Escape from lawful custody	1	0	1	0
III. Injurious to public in general				
Nuisances	1	1	0	0
V. Against the person				
Common assault	2	1	1	0
Assaults causing actual bodily harm	17	0	17	0
VI. Against property				
Stealing property (under 100 pounds)	3	1	2	0
Criminal trespass	0	0	0	0
Total	31	3	28	0
Total Serious and Minor	65	5	57	3

Source: Statistical Service

CONVICTED JUVENILES BY SENTENCE IMPOSED, AGE AND SEX, 2000

Sentence	Total	Males	Females	Age					
				10-11		12-13		14-15	
				Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Probation order	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
Fine	57	54	3	0	0	2	0	52	3
Suspended term of imprisonment	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Total	65	61	4	0	0	2	0	59	4

Source: Statistical Service

NOTE

The tables present the number of juveniles convicted during the year, irrespective of when the offence was committed.

If the same person is convicted for more than one offence committed on a different occasion but taken into consideration at the same time, is counted only once.

If the same person is convicted on different occasions during the same year, is counted for each separate occasion.

9(c) detention facilities for juvenile delinquents and their capacity;

9(d) minors detained in these facilities and minors detained in adult facilities;

All young prisoners are detained in the same establishment with adult prisoners.

The separation of young prisoners will be achieved soon after the new wings, which are under renovation, will be ready for operation hopefully by the beginning of next summer.

By that time all young prisoners will be staying in single cells, they will have better living conditions and more facilities, and they will continue to participate in all vocational, educational, recreational and rehabilitation programs, applied in the prison service.

9(e) minors kept in pre-trial detention and the average length of their detention;

9(f) reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of children occurred during their arrest and detention.

No cases were reported to the Police regarding abuse and maltreatment of children during their arrest and detention, for the years 2000 – 2002.

10. With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by gender, age, urban/rural areas) per year between 2000 and 2002 on:

10(a) the number of children involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking;

Reported Cases of Sexual Exploitation with Minors (Up to the age of 18) as Victims, for the year 2000

Classification No.	OFFENCES	No. Of Offences	Cases							Persons Involved				Number Of Individuals That Were Accused And Sentences																			
			Results							Cypriot		Aliens		Acquitted	Suspension & Nolle prosequi	Imprisonment			Imprisonment With Suspension		Fine			Engagement With Guarantee		Supervision Order							
		Reported Cases	Undetected	Otherwise Disposed	Withdraw	Unsubstantial	Awaiting Trail	Under Investigation (Pending)	Nolle prosequi or Withdrawn	Convicted	Total Of Persons Involved	Men	Women	Men	Women			Men	Women	Minors	Men	Women	Minors	Men	Women	Minors	Men	Women	Minors	Men	Women	Minors	
	Serious Offences																																
23	Rape	3				2	1				2	2																					
26	Abduction	1						1			1		1				1																
28	Delifement of girls under 13 years of age	2					1				2	1			1																		
29	Delifement of girls between 13 and 16 years of age	15		11			2		2	1	14	4	11				1	2															
41	Marriage ceremony, Fraudulently gone through, without lawful marriage	2				1				1	8	8						1															
98	Protection scheme of persons, victims of	1								1	8	8					1																

Reported Cases of Sexual Exploitation with Minors (Up to the age of 18) as Offenders, for the year 2000

Classification No.	OFFENCES	Cases								Persons Involved				Number Of Individuals That Were Accused And Sentences													
		No. Of Offences	Results								Cypriot		Aliens		Acquitted	Suspension & Nolle prosequi	Imprisonment		Imprisonment With Suspension		Fine		Engagement With Guarantee		Supervision Order		
		Reported Cases	Undetected	Otherwise Disposed	Withdraw	Unsubstantial	Awaiting Trail	Under Investigation (Pending)	Nolle prosequi or Withdrawn	Convicted	Total Of Persons Involved	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	Minor Cases																										
30	Abduction of girls under 16 years old	5		1	1			1	2		13	6	7														
31	Indecent assault against a Female	1							1		3	3					1								2		
	TOTAL	6		1	1			1	2	1	16	9	7				1								2		

- 10(b) *the number of children involved in sexual exploitation who received rehabilitation treatments;***
- 10(c) *the number of children involved in child labour who are under16 in particular domestic servants;***
- 10(d) *the number of street children.***

Not applicable for Cyprus

B. General Measures of Implementation

- 1. Please provide up-dated information on the process of raising public awareness of children’s participatory rights and the updating of the relevant legislation and administrative procedures to ensure children’s participation in decisions which concern them, as noted in the Statement by the representative of Cyprus to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children**

A. In the field of public awareness on children’s participatory rights:

(1) At NGO level-

(a) The Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of the Child (PCCPWC), devoted its annual children’s week, in November 2001, to “the participation of children”. This included –

(i) a National Conference with the participation of children, parents, NGOs and representatives of relevant Ministries; and

(ii) a meeting of the “*children’s parliament*”. The establishment, since 2001, of the “children’s parliament” ensures the involvement of children in the decision-making process. That is, children meet to discuss the issues derived from the National Conference, prepare reports with their own views, which are then discussed at a special meeting of the House of Representatives at which the President of the House presides the “children’s parliament” meeting.

(b) The Child Support Association runs among its other programmes, a child line. The purpose of the child line is to identify problems concerning

children and also to provide a mechanism for children to express their views on violation of their rights in the family, in school and in their community.

(2) At the Government level-

(a) Children in the care of the State's Social Welfare Services, who are considered to have sufficient understanding and ability to express their wishes and feelings, are strongly encouraged to participate in child conferences where decisions will be taken for his/her life.

The encouragement of children's participation is incorporated in the Social Welfare Services guidelines for the protection of children.

(b) To enable children to participate in Court hearings, the **Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000 (Law 119(I)/2000)** (an English translation is submitted herewith as **Appendix 1**), makes provision for the taking of the victims' testimony by electronic means and the protection of victims in court while giving testimony with sight screens (see sections 10-13).

(c) The Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence, which is appointed by the Council of Ministers and financially supported by the Government, pursuant to the **Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000, (first Law 47(I)/94 and now Law 119(I)/2000)**, recognizing the need to enable abused children to participate in Court hearings, submitted specific proposals to the President of the Supreme Court. The suggestions included the setting up of child friendly waiting rooms for children, for

professionals accompanying children and for witnesses. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 2**).

(d) The Social Welfare Services support and subsidize the efforts of the NGOs, such as those mentioned in paragraph (1) above, within the framework of its grant-in-aid scheme.

B. In the field of updating the relevant legislation, the Council of Ministers by a Decision (No. 56.462) dated 18.9.2002, decided the setting up of an interministerial committee with the task to update the existing legislation concerning children and to incorporate the provisions of the CRC. The Committee consists of representatives of the Law Office of the Republic (e.g. office of the Attorney-General), the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, and the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The committee will have its first meeting in April 2003 where it will discuss their terms of reference and set up a work plan.

2. Please provide information on the reasons some of the recommendations contained in the Committee's previous observations (CRC/C/15/Add.59) have not yet been fully implemented, in particular those related to data collection (ibid para.21); administration of juvenile justice (ibid para/ 31); dissemination of the report, summary records and concluding observations.

Paragraph 21 of the recommendations: The Committee further recommends that the State party gather all necessary information, appropriate indicators and disaggregated data on the situation of children in the various areas covered by the

Convention and in relation to all groups of children, including children belonging to the most vulnerable groups .

Each Ministry collects its own data according to its individual needs. The Central Committee for the Implementation of the CRC, having in mind the recommendation under paragraph 21 decided, in its plan of action for 2003 to give priority to the design of a data bank on the situation of children in Cyprus. To achieve this, the Central Committee decided to engage the services of an expert (on the Central Committee see question 4).

Paragraph 31 of the recommendations: In the field of the administration of juvenile justice, the Committee recommends that legal reform be pursued and take fully into account the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular articles 37, 39, and 40, and other relevant international standards in this field, such as the “Beijing Rules”, the “Riyadh Guidelines” and the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty. Particular attention should be paid to raising the age of criminal responsibility and ensuring that persons between 16 and 18 years of age enjoy all the rights recognized in the Convention.

See answer to question 15.

Paragraph 32 of the recommendations: The Committee encourages the State party to disseminate widely the State party’s report, the summary records of the discussion of the report within the Committee and the concluding observations adopted by the Committee following its consideration of the report. The committee suggests that these documents be brought to the attention of Parliament and that the suggestions and recommendations for action contained therein be followed up.

The Cyprus initial report and the concluding observations adopted by the Committee were translated into Greek, published and disseminated widely in all relevant Government Ministries, NGOs, Local Welfare Councils, and the House of Representatives. The summary records were not included in the publication as it was assessed that they did not interest the public. Copies are available to give to interested professionals and others.

3. Please indicate whether the Convention of Rights of the Child has been invoked directly in domestic courts, and if it has, please provide examples of such cases.

There is no data base to provide accurate information on these. Nevertheless, the Convention is invoked in all applications to the Court for the removal of a child to be placed under the care of the Director of Social Welfare Services, under the **Children Law (Cap. 352)**, as the Convention allows such removal by administrative action. An example of such application is:

- **Application 1/2001** dated 17.12.2001. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 3**).

Other indicative examples are:

- **Application 158/95**, decision reported in (1995) 1 CLR at p.851. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 4**).
- **Application 100/97**, decision reported in (1998) 1 CLR, at p.55. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 5**).
- **Revisional Appeal decision No.11224**, dated 24/2/2003, not reported yet. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 6**).

4. Please provide information on the implementation and content of any child rights policy and please also explain how such policies are developed. Please also explain how the Convention's implementation is coordinated across the action of different relevant Ministries, including at national and local levels. Is there a single body with overall responsibility for coordination? If so, what are its mandate, powers and budget?

By a decision of the Council of Ministers (No. 52.255) dated 30/8/2002, the establishment of the Central Committee for the Implementation of the CRC was decided. Its composition and competence are set out in the said decision.

The Central Committees' competence are-

- To submit proposals concerning the updating of legislation and bringing it into conformity with the provisions of the Convention.
- To submit views on draft laws that concern children.
- To collect and provide information and data on the exercise of children's rights.
- To obtain the views of the children and promote their awareness concerning their rights.
- To propose programmes and other measures concerning the safeguarding of the children's rights.
- To contribute to the final compilation of the periodic reports submitted to the UN, in co-operation with the relevant Government body.

The Committee comprises of representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, the Ministry of Finance, the Planning Bureau, NGOs (such as the

Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of the Child, the Pancyprian Welfare Council), the Youth Organization, and two members of the Community interested in the rights of the child. The Committee is chaired by the Director of the Social Welfare Services.

The Committee has its own budget and staff and is financially supported by the Government.

5. Please provide information on the content and implementation of the national plan of action 2000-2004 referred to in the Statement by the Minister of Labor and Social Insurance to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. Please also explain implementation processes and modalities of monitoring and evaluating its implementation.

The National Plan of Action for Children 2000-2004 was prepared on the basis of the aims and goals of the World Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990. This was approved by decision of the Council of Ministers (No. 51.203) dated 16/2/2000. It is expected that a new Plan of Action will be prepared by the end of 2003, based on the guidelines adopted in the Second World Summit for Children in May 2002.

The main objectives of the National Plan of Action for Children 2000- 2004 are:

1. Monitoring the legislation, policy, programmes and services that involve children so as to have them aligned with the principles of the CRC.

Implementing bodies: Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ministry of Health, Law Commissioner, relevant NGOs.

2. Improving the Health Promotion Programme for Children. Implementing bodies: Ministry of Education and Culture, Mental Health Services, Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Health, relevant NGOs.

3. Supporting day-care services from early childhood up to puberty.

Implementing bodies: Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Education and Culture, relevant NGOs.

4. Extension and improvement of educational opportunities for all children.

Implementing bodies: Ministry of Education and Culture, Social Welfare Services, relevant NGOs.

5. Prevention of violence in the family.

Implementing bodies: Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, relevant NGOs.

6. Protection of Children from substance abuse.

Implementing bodies: Ministry of Education and Culture, Mental Health Services, Youth Organization, relevant NGOs.

7. Action against poverty with the aim of promoting the welfare of Children.

Implementing bodies: Social Welfare Services.

8. Promotion of the development and welfare of the Child.

Implementing bodies: Ministry of Education and Culture, Social Welfare Services, NGOs.

9. Promotion of the participation of Children in decision-making.

Implementing bodies: Youth Organization, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Judicial System.

10. Promoting research, data collection on information on Children and sharing of the information.

Implementing bodies: Youth Organization, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Judicial System.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance has competence to coordinate, monitor and follow up the implementation of the Plan of Action, but, only with an advisory status. The relevant implementing bodies, indicated under each of the above objectives, promote the respective objective within their annual budget and budget constrains. Periodical assessments are required to be sent to the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance for monitoring the progress made. Target dates are set for each objective and subdivisions thereof. Estimated costs are stated in the National Plan of Action.

6. Please describe additional information on the mandate of the National Institution with regard to monitoring the implementation of the Convention and receiving individual complaints by children.

- (a) By decision of the Council of Ministers (No. 54.281) dated 19.9.2001 the Council of Ministers, at the request of the Attorney-General of the Republic, decided the setting up of a Committee of experts to coordinate action on the issue of combating trafficking of persons and sexual exploitation of minors. The Committee consists of the representatives of the following:
 - The Law Office of the Republic (Criminal Section, European Union Section).

- Unit for combating money laundering (MOKAS).
- Ministry of Justice and Public Order.
- Ministry of Interior (Immigration Service).
- Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance (Social Welfare Services).
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Police.
- NGOs.

(b) The establishment of the Children's Ombudsman was discussed by a Parliamentary Standing Committee, on the basis of a bill submitted by a member of Parliament. Relevant Ministries and NGOs, as well as the Law Office of the Republic, are expected to express their opinion on the bill in the near future.

(c) By decision of the Council of Ministers (No. 57.241) dated 30.1.2003 the setting up of a Committee was approved, for the purpose of examining the institution of the Ombudsman for Children in general, and the preparation of a relevant framework for the establishment of such institution in Cyprus, on the models operating in other European countries and taking into consideration all other similar action taken in that behalf up to this date. The said Committee is under the chairmanship of the Law Office of the Republic and members are representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Finance and the Service of Public Administration and Personnel.

(d) Today, individual complains by children can be examined by the existing Ombudsman within his power to investigate complaints against the public service and public officers, under the law which created such institution.

7. Please describe measures undertaken to strengthen data collection mechanisms and procedures with regard to the implementation of the whole Convention and current status of the process of modernization of the data collection system.

Each Ministry and Governmental Department collects its own data in a manner, which is most effective and useful to it.

However, the Central Committee for the Implementation of the CRC (see answer to question 4) decided among its objectives for 2003 to engage the services of an expert to design a data bank which will compile data on children and disseminate information in the form of statistics and reports on social conditions of children. This data bank will be available and useful to all Ministries, Governmental Departments and NGOs, for formulating policy and planning services and programmes for children.

8. Please describe measures undertaken to make widely known the discussion of the report with the Committee members and the concluding observations adopted by the Committee following the consideration of the report.

See answer to question 2 in relation to paragraph 32 of the recommendations.

9. Please provide further information on efforts to provide training, awareness and information on the Convention and on human rights in general.

A. Cyprus Police

- (1) The Police has established a “Police Human Rights Office” in 1998, in the Department of Research and Development, at the Police Headquarters, in an effort to be effective and proactive regarding violation of human rights. The aim of this Office is to collect statistical data from all Police Divisions concerning complaints against Police or by Police for ill-treatment. Data concerning complaints against Police for alleged violence or maltreatment of civilians, suspects, accused in criminal cases or prisoners and alleged violence or maltreatment of Police Officers by civilian suspects or persons in custody, are collected and examined at the end of each year and further action, if needed, is taken to address such issues.
- (2) The Cyprus Police is working in close co-operation with Interpol, FBI and other European and International Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as foreign Police Liaison Officers, for the collection and exchange of information and data, regarding various forms of crime, including trafficking and exploitation of human beings. Cyprus is in the process of signing a bilateral agreement with Europol for the improvement of the collaboration on this matter. Cyprus Police is also in the process of setting up a computerized database on cases of sexual exploitation of children.
- (3) Police Officers are trained, in Cyprus and abroad, on issues regarding human rights violations. Seminars on Human Rights are given to all new recruits of the Police by law officers of the Law Office of the Republic at the Police Academy of Cyprus. Manuals regarding Human Rights issues (translated into Greek, if the original is not in Greek) are disseminated to all Police Officers.

- (4) Efforts have been intensified towards the systematic specialized training of the members of the Police and other professionals in handling domestic violence cases. For the purposes of implementing the provisions of the **Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000 (No. 119(I)/2000)**, which, inter alia, provide for the possibility of the use of audio-visual equipment in the taking of evidence for the victims of violence, specialized training programmes have been organized at the Police Academy, to train police officers (men and women), on how to interview, when gathering video evidence from women and children who have been abused.
- (5) The Police Academy provides general sensitization to all its trainees. At the same time, courses, reinforced with the presence of specialists from abroad, are offered to a selected group of police women and men for specialization. It is to be noted that, already a number of Police Officers have been trained and are stationed in selected Police stations in every district to offer their knowledge and experience, on a 24-hour basis, to the victims of domestic violence and in the handling of similar cases. In addition, more Police Officers are trained on such issues and will be appointed to more Police Stations in every district in the future.
- (6) During the last years the Police Human Rights Office translated into Greek and published more than 5,000 leaflets and texts including the Declaration 690 (1979) of the General Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (C.P.T) Standing Orders, which were distributed to all police officers and to the public.

- (7) Other publications of the Council of Europe concerning Human Rights, have been translated and will soon be published and distributed to all members of the Police. These include the following:
- (a) "Discussion Tools – Police and Human Rights Training Manual"
 - (b) "A Pamphlet for the Police Human Rights and their Protection under International Law"
- (8) Cyprus Police has adopted and applied the "Recommendation (2001) 10, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 September 2001 and Explanatory Memorandum on the European Code of Police Ethics" and, at present, is in the process of translating it into Greek, in order to disseminate it to all Police personnel.
- (9) Circular letters are sent by the Minister of Justice and Public Order and by the Chief of Police, directed to Police Divisional/Departmental and Unit Commanders, instructing them and their officers to respect Human Rights during arrest, interrogation and detention of suspects and to always bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic, International Convention and Laws of the Republic requiring respect of human rights.
- (10) Only recently, in November 2002, the United Nations Committee Against Torture reviewed the Third Periodic Report by Cyprus concerning the implementation of the Convention against Torture, and examined the steps taken by Cyprus in order to effectively protect human rights. The Committee made positive remarks and commented Cyprus for the recent legislative, administrative and institutional developments that had taken

place in Cyprus, and noted with satisfaction that there are no reported cases of torture and political prisoners in Cyprus. The review of the report was translated into Greek and was circulated to all Police Commanders, for further dissemination to Police Officers.

- (11) Sexual exploitation of women and children is another important issue addressed by the Police. Many steps have been taken during the past years. Data collection, data exchange and co-operation with other Police organizations, as well as International Associations are considered to be of essence for the Cyprus Police. Only recently, all members of the Police received a translated copy of the speech given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, regarding the issue of “Human Trafficking and the dark side of Europe”. This speech referred to the measures that need to be taken in order to combat this phenomenon and of the future plans of OSCE concerning all types of human trafficking and or anti-trafficking initiatives that will be taken from the day the Netherlands will take the presidency of OSCE.

B. Social Welfare Services:

- (1) The popularized version of the Convention named “The Rights of the Child” has been published by the Social Welfare Services in co-operation with PCCPWC every year, since its first edition in 1993. Since 2000, it is distributed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture to all 4th year elementary students. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 7**).

(2) The principles of the Convention have been embodied in the in-service training of all newly appointed professional personnel of the Social Welfare Services and a copy of the Convention is handed out. After a request from the Social Welfare Services, PCCWPC provides two sessions of introductory training to the Convention to the newly employed social workers.

(3) A copy of the Convention was distributed to the social workers dealing with children with a circular letter asking them to always invoke and apply the provisions of the Convention in their decisions concerning children.

(4) The principles of the Convention will be promoted through seminars of the Pancyprian Welfare Council, which is the coordinating body of all Social Welfare Associations. In addition, the Pancyprian Welfare Council has undertaken the distribution of a book which deals with the training of day-care carers according to the provisions of the Convention to improve the quality of programmes concerning children. (A copy is herewith submitted as **Appendix 8**).

(5) The Social Welfare Services subsidized PCCWPC in 2001 with the sum of £5.000 for the dissemination of the Convention and training of volunteers.

C. Ministry of Education and Culture:

(1) Efforts are made for training of teachers by the Pedagogical Institute in subjects that have direct relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to human rights in general, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (U.N.H.C.R.), in the form of

optional seminars. Moreover, the U.N.H.C.R., in collaboration with the Department of Primary Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture, organised a pan-cyprian drawing competition for primary school students, aiming at sensitising and informing on the refugee problem that affects thousands of people all over the world and to promote understanding on the suffering of those people.

(2) The Ministry of Education and Culture provides, through the curricula of the various subjects and through the school textbooks (e.g. Greek, History, Civics Education, Geography, Philosophy, Social Studies), messages for promoting positive attitudes towards the various classes of population. In addition, subjects relating to human rights are taught in the lessons of Education for Citizenship and Civics in primary and secondary schools, with final objective the transmission of knowledge, skills and attitudes for the rights of children. Each year on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the PCCPWC organises a series of events within the framework of the “Week for Children” and the Minister of Education and Culture, with a relevant circular, calls on the headmasters of schools to encourage the attendance of students at various related events. At the same time, a relevant message for the day from the above Committee is read to the students. During the present school year (2002-2003), educational material on human rights, refugees and the UNHCR has been sent to all primary schools for use by the teachers.

(3) One of the goals of the Greek-Cypriot Primary Education is to help students acquire a deeper understanding and respect towards people of their own as well as of other nationalities, religion and sociocultural status. This develops

communication, co-operation and acceptance of people with different mental and psychological abilities. The national curriculum includes, among its aims and objectives, the students' familiarisation with the basic elements of various religions or confessions of faith and the development of a critical attitude and respect towards these religions and their followers.

D. Mental Health Services:

Education programmes on child and adolescent mental health have been incorporated in a course in the School of Nursing, and in midwife and community nurses training programmes course. Additionally, similar programmes have been addressed to doctors, especially focusing on the rights of children in cases of abuse.

E. Others:

- (1) The Central Committee for the Implementation of the CRC (see answer to question 4) is planning in 2003 a number of training sessions for professionals to promote their awareness of the Convention.
- (2) The Committee for the Restoration of Human Rights in Cyprus (an NGO) has published a handbook in Greek addressed to Children, relating to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights which is being released as from 2000 to all primary schools through the Ministry of Education and Culture. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 9**). The same Committee has organized seminars in 1999 for the teaching of Human Rights to the high school population including the provisions of the CRC. The subjects of the seminars were: "Safeguarding of Human Rights", "Education in relation to

the Rights of Children”, and “The Rights of Women.” Other Publications (in Greek) of the same Committee which are widely distributed are:

(a) A booklet titled “Human Rights Questions and Answers” (A copy of which is submitted herewith as **Appendix 10**).

(b) A booklet on the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A copy of which is submitted herewith as **Appendix 11**).

(3) The Pancyprian Association for the Protection of Human Rights (an NGO) has-

(i) Issued a number of publications on human rights in the Greek and English language, including “The Right of Children in Cyprus, 1979 – Part I The UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child” (in Greek), Part II, the “Violation of the Rights of Cyprus by Turkey – 1979” (in Greek), both, in the framework of the National Committee of the International Year of the Child; and “The Law and the Status of Children in the Republic of Cyprus, 1981” (in English). (Copies of the above three are submitted herewith as **Appendices 12, 13, 14**, respectively).

(ii) Issued publications relating to public discussions.

(iii) Given lectures to a vast number of Gymnasias, Lycea and Parents' Associations from 1980 to this date.

Every school year, upon invitation, educationalist members of the association give a series of lectures in all towns of Cyprus on the subject of “Human Right and Obligations”. Each lecture is followed by discussion with the students. Furthermore, they deliver lectures

at gatherings of Parents' Association of elementary, and secondary schools on the subject "The Rights of the Child". Such lectures are based on the analysis, interpretation and implementation of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and subsequently, the CRC.

(iv) Made translations into Greek, publications and dissemination to schools and other educational or recreational establishments of young people, of booklets and posters on instruments relating to human rights, in general, and, in particular to the right of the Child, such as the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

10. Please provide further information on legislation, policies, programmes and monitoring of programmes to counter discrimination, including against girls.

1. The Constitution of Cyprus prohibits discrimination on, inter alia, grounds of sex and imposes an obligation on the legislative, executive and judicial authorities to secure, within the limits of their respective competence the efficient application of this provision. (Articles 28 and 35 of the Constitution, which are submitted herewith as **Appendix 15**).

Therefore, no legislative or administrative measure can be discriminatory.

2. Primary education in Cyprus is compulsory. About half of the primary school children are female. The endeavors of the Ministry of Education and Culture to enhance non-discriminatory gender education include, for example, the revision of textbooks used in schools and the introduction of the subject of "Domestic Science" – scientific and technological knowledge and achievements – to both boys and girls.

With respect to the subject “Design and Technology”, data show that both girls and boys attend the subject will equal success.

11. Please explain the situation of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse within the family and domestic violence. In particular, the Committee would invite information on the Comprehensive Study to improve the understanding of the nature and scope of child neglect and abuse in Cyprus.

The **Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law**, which was first enacted in 1994, was reformed and re-enacted in July 2000 (**Law 119(I)/2000**). The said Law provides for the protection of victims including the use of audiovisual means to take testimony, the use of screens, the use of closed circuit television links during court proceedings, the establishment of a fund for assistance to victims of violence and the establishment and operation of shelters for victims.

The law does not impose an application to any person to report family violence. However, personnel under the Ministry of Health (including all hospitals), the Ministry of Education and Culture (including all schools), the Ministry of Justice and Public Order (Police) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance (Social Welfare Services) have a mandatory duty to report to the Law Office of the Republic any cases where there is suspicion or evidence of family violence.

A manual of interdepartmental procedures concerning family violence was approved by a Decision of the Council of Ministers (No. 55.646) dated 16.5.2002. The emphasis of this manual is on interdepartmental co-operation and provides a framework on how professionals should work together. It is addressed to those

working in the Social Welfare Services, the Police Force, the Health Services, the Education Services and NGOs and deal with family violence.

The Social Welfare Services' responsibility towards family members who have experienced domestic violence is within the scope of its support services for families and children. They provide counseling, financial assistance, informing the victims of the existing services and making referrals with their consent.

The Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence (see answer I.A.(2)(c)), established under Law 119(I)/2000, has conducted a national study in 2000, which examined the attitudes of Cypriots on the issue of domestic violence and child abuse and ways of resolving conflict among the family members. The study, conducted in October 2000, has covered a sample of 1500 people. The majority of the people asked (97.7%) believe that there is a problem of violence within the Cyprus family. A 15% of the sample believe that spanking does not constitute physical violence and that when parents spank their children they do it for their own good.

The Advisory Committee has announced the conduct of a second research, which will examine the extent of child abuse in Cyprus. The relevant tenders have been invited.

12. Please provide information on family support policy and institutionalization and alternative care mechanisms, procedures and facilities.

The agency primarily responsible for serving vulnerable and at risk children and their families are the Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. Among the main functions of the Services is the strengthening

and support of family life and the quality control of residential institutions and day-care centers for children.

Family policies are based on the premise that the family forms the basic unit of society around which societal institutions are built. Increasing complexity of family problems, family violence, urbanization, break-up and reconstitution of families, the repercussions of the mass media and modern technology and drug abuse, are among the issues of increasing concern for Cyprus.

Preventive services aim to support families in their adjustment to new and changing roles. Counseling and other services are provided for families at risk or families in crisis at the earliest possible stage of problem emergence.

Child protective services aim to provide protection and care on a short or long term basis to children whose physical and psychological integrity is in danger due to inadequate family care or other factors.

Another supportive measure is the day-care service at foster families. Children under 18 years, who cannot benefit from the Children's Homes, either due to long distances or other reasons (age, personal difficulties, multi problem families, etc), can be accepted in the day-care programme at foster families. The aim of the programme is to prevent the total removal of the child from the biological family. Payment to the families is according to the needs of the child and hours of day-care provided.

To lessen the pressure on multi problem families, another supportive measure is the use of the home-care services. Home-care includes house cleaning, meal preparation, and support of families in developing skills for general household keeping.

Where a family cannot cope with the care or protection of a child, the Director of the Social Welfare Services is empowered by legislation to take the child into his care and to assume parental rights. The child may then be removed from the biological family and be placed in a residential institution (a Children's Home or a Youth Home), a foster family or a group foster home.

Residential placements (children's home, boys' hostel, or girls' hostel) are used as a solution of last resort. At the same time, counseling and social work services are provided to the child's family to facilitate the earliest possible return of the child to the family. Within the framework of Children's Homes, a day-care programme is operating for children where the benefit of the child does not require total removal from the home.

The Social Welfare Services operate 4 Children's Homes throughout the island for children under the age of 12. For older children, between 12 and 21 years, there are 3 Youth Hostels, 2 for boys and 1 for girls. The capacity of each Children's Homes is 20, and of each Youth Hostel is 6.

Foster Care is also available. It could be a foster family or a group foster home. There are 149 children in foster families and 2 group foster homes in Limassol and 1 in Nicosia, each accommodating up to 5 children.

Residential care is also provided for children with severe physical and mental disabilities at "Nea Eleousa Home" in Nicosia.

Day-care services are part of the family support network. The Social Welfare Services operate 11 state day-care centers for pre-school children, mainly in estates for displaced persons (from the 1974 Turkish invasion) serving children of working parents. Fees are on a sliding scale so that

families pay according to their income. The Social Welfare Services are empowered, by legislation, to register and supervise all privately owned day-care centers and facilities where children under 18 are provided for.

Day-care centers for school-age children, run by NGOs, are provided with financial and technical assistance through a grants-in-aid government scheme which covers a substantial part of their budget.

The lack of community mental health services has been addressed in the last year, with the planned opening of the first adolescent day centre in Nicosia. Additionally, it is aimed to establish the first in-patient child and adolescents unit in the children's hospital in Nicosia, in order to avoid treatment of adolescents in adult psychiatric clinics.

13. Please indicate the measures taken to counter the exploitation of children, including trafficking of children for such purposes (including economic exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation).

Despite the fact Cyprus is not facing any problems regarding trafficking or other form of sexual exploitation of children, the Government is giving great emphasis on the subject, for reasons of prevention and in order to be in compliance with European and International legislation concerning the issue.

(a) Legislative Measures:

1. The Cyprus Government's commitment to confront the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is recognized by the determination to enforce national law as well as European Aquis and International Conventions on the matter. Cyprus has ratified the U.N. Convention, on

the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and for the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, by Law 57/1983.

2. In addition, the **Criminal Code, (Cap. 154, as amended)**, contains provisions relating to offences against morality, namely sections 144 to 177, which regulate matters and activities regarding the sexual exploitation, sale, trafficking of human beings and abduction of children, men and women.
3. **The Children Law (Cap. 352, section 55)**, criminalizes the causing or encouraging seduction or prostitution of a girl under the age of 16 (This is submitted herewith, as **Appendix 16**).
4. **The Obscene Publications Law {Law 35/1963, as amended by Laws 53/76, 13/91 and 95(1)/99}**, prohibits any publications of obscene matters, the selling, importing or exporting of such material. Any contravention of this is an offence punishable with two years imprisonment and/a fine not exceeding £1500.
5. **The Combating of Trafficking of Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Minors Law of 2000 (Law 3(I)/2000)** was enacted in 2000.

In the context of this Law-

- “Minor” is a person who has not attained the age of 18.
- “Sexual Exploitation of a minor” means-
 - a. procuring or forcing a minor to participate in any sexual activity;
 - b. exploitation of a minor by prostitution or participation in other sexual practices;

- c. exploitation of a minor by participation in pornographic performances and material, including production, sale and distribution or other kind of dealing with similar material and possession of such material.

Section 3 of the Law prohibits the sexual exploitation and the abuse of children. Furthermore, it prohibits any trafficking of children for the purpose of their sexual exploitation or abuse. Contravention of this provision is a criminal offence punishable with imprisonment not exceeding 20 years.

Section 4 of the Law makes the using of children for the purpose of producing pornographic material and the possession, circulation and any form of trading in such material, an offence punishable with imprisonment not exceeding 10 years.

Under section 5 of the Law, the mere transfer of a child from one place to another for the purpose of furthering its sexual exploitation, is an offence punishable with imprisonment not exceeding 15 years or a fine up to £15.000 or both.

Section 6 of the Law contains important provisions relating to criminal proceedings brought in respect of an offence under the Law. An accused person is precluded from raising any of the following defences, namely:

- (a) that he did not know the age of the victim, or he did not believe that the victim was younger than a certain age; or
- (b) that the victim has consented to the illegal act and/or has received money or other remuneration in this respect; or

(c) that the law of the country in which the illegal act was committed does not prohibit or criminalize the said act.

The Law imposes upon the State a duty to provide care to children, victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Section 7 of the Law provides that the said victims are entitled to receive from the state every reasonable protection and support, and the state has a duty to provide this care.

Such protection and support includes arrangements for their subsistence, temporary accommodation and medical and psychiatric care until any consequent trauma has been healed.

Under section 10 of the Law, the Council of Ministers is empowered, to appoint a Guardian responsible for victims of exploitation (see below under (b) 1).

Section 11 of the Law sets out the duties and the powers of the Guardian which include the counseling and support of victims, the provision of medical care, the provision of safe accommodation, e.t.c.

6. The Protection of Witnesses Law of 2001 (Law 95(1)/2001), makes specific provisions for the protection of vulnerable witnesses.

By virtue of section 3 of the Law, any person who has not attained the age of 18 is deemed to be a vulnerable witness.

The Court before which any proceedings take place, is empowered to take measures to protect any vulnerable witnesses.

Such measures include the exclusion of the public from the courtroom and the giving of the child's testimony in circumstances which allow the child not to face the accused (by the use of a special partition or a closed television circuit).

Furthermore provisions are made for the non-disclosure of the particulars of the child or of its testimony to the public.

(b) Administrative Measures:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the **Combating of Trafficking of Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of 2000 (Law 3(I)/2000)**, the Council of Ministers by Decision (No. 52.203), dated 9/8/2000, has appointed the Director of the Social Welfare Service as the Guardian. The duties and powers of the Guardian are set out in section 11 of Law 3(I)/2000 (See above-under (a) 5).

2. Pursuant to the provisions of the **Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000 (Law 119(I)/2000)-**
 - (i) The Supreme Court is taking measures for the reformation of courtrooms by the addition of closed television circuit so that a child will not appear in the courtroom but will give testimony (being examined and cross-examined) while sitting in a different room.

 - (ii) The Ministry of Justice has taken measures so that in all Police Divisional Headquarters, specially designed rooms will be set up for videotaping interviews with victims of family violence.

14. Please provide information on measures taken to implement policies and programs to prevent the phenomenon of street children and to counter it in a child sensitive manner.

No such problem has been identified in Cyprus. The Director of Social Welfare Services is empowered under **the Children Law (Cap. 352)** to take into his care children who are in need of care and protection and place them in foster families of children' s institutions

15. With respect to the system of administration of justice, please indicate measures taken regarding the establishment of a juvenile justice system and the conformity of legislation and practice in the area of juvenile justice with the international juvenile justice standards.

Several provisions, constitutional or legislative, ensure the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as envisaged in international instruments, of every person in the Republic, including provisions specifically applicable to children and young persons offenders.

A. Administrative measures:

Since 1977, Social Welfare Services (Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance) together with the Police (Ministry of Justice and Public Order) and the Law Office of the Republic have developed administrative procedures which aim to decriminalise offences committed by children under the age of 16 years. The emphasis is laid on psychosocial intervention, not on punitive measures. Such measures include:

(a) Juveniles under the age of 14 years are referred by the Police to the Social Welfare Services for evaluation, as well as individual and family counseling. The Police considers the case closed after that.

(b) Juveniles between the ages of 14-16 years are referred by the Police to the Social Welfare Services to prepare a report. The Social Welfare Services submit the report to the Committee of Treating Juveniles Offenders (consisting of members of the Police and the Social Welfare Services) which makes suggestions to the Attorney General of the Republic whether the case should be taken to Court.

Unless the offence is very serious, the case is usually closed by the Police and is followed up for further treatment by the Social Welfare Services, if needed.

In cases tried by the Court and resulting to conviction, the Court, usually, issues a probation order (instead of sentencing the child) whereby a child is required to be under the supervision of a probation officer (of the Social Welfare Services) for a period specified in the order “of not less than one year not more than three years” (**Probation and other Ways of Treatment of Offenders Law of 1996, (46(I)/1996, section 5(I))**).

B. The Administration of Juvenile Justice

1.(a) By the **Criminal Code (Amendment) Law of 1999 (Law 15(I)/1999)**, following a recommendation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, contained in CRC/C/15/Add.59, para 31, the age of absolute non criminal responsibility was raised from 7 to 10 years.

(b) A person between the ages of 10-12 years is not criminally responsible for an act or omission, unless it is proved that, at the time of doing the act or making the omission, he had capacity to know that he ought not to do the act or make the omission. **(The Criminal Code Cap. 154, section 14).**

(c) A male person under the age of twelve years is presumed to be incapable of having carnal knowledge. **(The Criminal Code Cap. 154, section 14).**

2. Several provisions contained in **The Juvenile Offenders Law, (Cap. 157)** aim at dealing with children (under the age of 14) and young persons (between 14-16 years of age) offenders in a manner taking into account their tender age and consistent with the promotion of their best interests.

- Such cases are heard by a judge of the District Court, sitting as a juvenile court.

- It is the duty of the Court to explain, in simple language, to the child or young person brought before it the substance of the alleged offence.

- Privacy is fully respected at all stages of the proceedings. In a juvenile court, no person other than the members and officers of the Court and the parties to the case, their advocates and other persons directly concerned in the case are allowed to attend. The Court may, in its discretion, require the attendance of the parents or guardian.

- The Court may obtain information as to the child's or young person's general conduct, home surroundings, school record and medical history.

3. The distinction between children and young persons refers mainly to the sentencing powers of the juvenile court. By an express provision in the aforementioned Law no child shall, in any case, be sentenced to

imprisonment, and no young person shall be sentenced to imprisonment if he can be suitably dealt with in any other way.

C. Deprivation of Liberty

1. When dealing with cases where children and young persons are suspected of having committed an offence, the Police ensure that the parents or guardians, as well as the Divisional Police Commander are promptly informed. Where the suspect is a pupil, arrest and examination at school is avoided and when such course is absolutely necessary, it is effected only with the consent and in the presence of the schoolmaster. **(Police Regulation no. 5/18: Interrogation and Handling of Cases Involving Juvenile Offenders).**
2. By virtue of section 7 of the **Juvenile Offenders Law (Cap. 157)**, a court on remanding or committing for trial a minor who is not released on bail, shall where practicable, instead of committing him to prison, commit him to custody in a police station. The Police is under the duty to make arrangements for preventing his association with an adult charged with an offence.

D. Sentencing of Juveniles

Sent

1. According to section 12 of the **Juvenile Offenders Law (Cap. 157)**, where the Court before which a child or young person is tried for any offence, is satisfied of his guilt, it may deal with the case in any of the following manners:
 - (a) by dismissing the charge.

- (b) By committing the offender to the supervision of a probation officer under the provisions of **the Probation and Other Ways of Treatment of Offenders Law of 1996 (Law 46(I)/1996)**. The task is entrusted to the Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.
- (c) By committing the offender to the care of a relative or other fit person.
- (d) By sending the offender to a reform school. It should be noted that, within the framework of the policy towards abolition of institutional/custodial treatment of juvenile offenders, was the closing down in 1987 of the only Reform School in Cyprus which had no inmates at the time. Thus, this provision is now obsolete.
- (e) By ordering the offender to pay a fine, damages or costs to which he is liable. The Court may, and where the offender is a child, shall, order that the fine, damages or costs be paid by the parents or guardian.
- (f) By imposing a sentence of imprisonment. By an express provision of this section no child shall, in any case, be sentenced to imprisonment and no young person shall be sentenced to imprisonment, if he can be suitably dealt with in any of the ways as set out above.

2. In cases of crimes, other than trivial ones, involving young persons up to 21 years of age, it is an established practice to obtain a social investigation report before imposing sentence, in order to secure information from a reliable source about the character, upbringing and environment of the

offender so as to evaluate, in an informed way, the accused's prospects of rehabilitation.

3. The Probation and other Ways of Treatment of Offenders Law of 1996 (Law 46(I)/1996)-

(a) provides for the probation order, placing the young offender under the supervision of a probation officer of the Social Welfare Services, which is the most frequently used measure of dealing with young offenders.

(b) introduced community service, as an alternative non-custodial sanction which may be combined, with the consent of the offender, to the probation order. This aims at increasing the rehabilitation chances, especially of young offenders, as they will avoid interruption of their links with society and the stigma of having been sent to prison which, in a small country like Cyprus, cannot be easily erased.

E. Imprisonment of Juveniles

1. Young people in detention are encouraged to improve the level of their education and vocational training by attending classes in or outside prisons or by correspondence courses.

They are all given the opportunity to work as far as possible at a type of work they wish to perform, in order to increase their ability to earn a living after release.

2. Psychological and psychiatric services and support are offered to all young prisoners in need, with personal meetings, group discussions (meetings in group) and meetings in the presence of the prisoner's family. The

psychological services are offered on a daily basis and the psychiatric services once a week.

3. Welfare service and support is also given to all young prisoners with regular visits/contacts with their families and home leave, in order to facilitate the social integration with their families and free society.
4. All young offenders have the opportunity to participate in recreational activities and programmes such as sports, athletics, theatre, music, chess, etc, which keep them mentally and physically active.

16. Please provide information on the role of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the Convention as well as in the process of preparation of the State party report.

As to the implementation of the Convention, NGO's take an active role in the dissemination of information and creating of public awareness. In particular, for the role of PCCWCC, the National Institute for the Protection of Human Rights, the Pancyprian Association of Human Rights, see answer to question 9.

17. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

A National Plan of Action for Children was adopted by the Council of Ministers by a Decision (No.51.203) dated 16/2/2000, on the basis of the aims and goals of the World Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990, for the period of 2000-2004 which indicates the issues affecting

children that Cyprus considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention. For details see answer to question 5.

Part II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages of the State party as well as another languages or dialects, where available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

The Convention was translated into Greek, although the Official Languages are Greek and Turkish, as the number of Turkish-Cypriots living in the Government controlled areas was extremely limited. Due to a recent increasing number of Turkish-Cypriot living in the Government controlled areas, a translation of the Convention in Turkish is in process. (A copy is submitted herewith as **Appendix 17**).

Part III

Under this section, the State party is to briefly (3 pages maximum) update the information provided in its report with regard to-

New bills or enacted legislation

New institutions

Newly implemented policies implemented programmes and projects and their scope.

A. New Legislation

- (1) **The Combating of Trafficking of Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of 2000 (3(I)/2000)** provides for the protection of women and children from exploitation. Acts criminalized under this Law are the sale of children, exploitation of women and children by prostitution and the use of children for the production of pornographic films and other publication.
- (2) By virtue of the **Citizenship Law (Amendment) Law of 2001 (Law 168(I)/2001)**, the children of a female Cypriot citizen born in Cyprus, automatically acquire the Cypriot citizenship. Prior the above amendment, the children of a Cypriot woman did not have this right, but they could become citizens only with the approval of the Minister of Interior and provided that they fulfilled certain criteria.
- (3) **The Protection of Young Persons at Work Law of 2001 (Law 48(I)/2001)** updates the previous legislation and brings it fully inline with the Acquis Communautaire. This new law contains provisions aiming at the protection of children and young persons at work.
- (4) **The Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000 (Law 119(I)/2000)** provides for the protection of witness in Court proceedings e.g use of videotaped evidence, closed television circuit.
- (5) **The Training and Education of Children with Special Needs Law of 1999 (Law 113(I)/1999)** provides for integration of children with special needs into ordinary schools, except for very serious cases of children who are educated in Special Schools.

- (6) **The Aliens and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations of 2000 (P.I. 216/2000)** have harmonised the Cyprus Law with the European Council Resolution on Family Reunification. Aliens who have a valid working permit for a period exceeding five years have the right to apply for family reunification. The notion of the family includes the spouse of the alien, the unmarried minor children under the age of 18 and the unmarried adopted children under the age of 18.
- (7) **By a Council of Ministers Decision (No. 52.375), dated 6.10.2000** the European Resolution on Unaccompanied Minors who are Third Country Nationals was adopted. The Resolution provides for the measures of support and care for unaccompanied minors a member state should take, including psychological care, educational needs and the principle of the non-refoulement of unaccompanied minors to countries where there is a possibility of persecution.
- (8) **The Refugee Law of 2000 (Law 6(I) of 2000)** provides for the right of recognised refugees to family reunification, as well as provisions for unaccompanied minors who are asylum seekers. Unaccompanied minors who are asylum seekers are taken under the care of the Social Welfare Services which act as a representative of the minor for his/her best interests.

B. New Programmes

Social Welfare Services

The responding to child abuse victims is undertaken by the family counselors whose role, as specified by **The Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of**

Victims) Law of 2000 (Law 119(I)/2000), includes the investigation of the complaint, the arrangement of medical examination, the safety and well being of the victim. The role of the family counselors is extremely important for the guidance and support of family members experiencing domestic violence and child abuse.

Cyprus Police

The police have recently organized numerous activities, athletic cultural and informative, that were directed mostly to young people in order to educate them and bring about awareness of issues that deal with children's rights. The main goal of these activities is the protection, welfare and safety of children and young persons. Relevant information can be also found in the answers to questions 9 and 13.

Education

Provision of education to children with special educational needs at home, if children will be absent from school for a long period due to health problems.

Provision of education to children with special educational needs who, for health reasons, are treated at Government Hospitals.

Provision of special schools for children with severe special educational needs, which are staffed with the necessary personnel (speech therapists, special teachers, work therapists, etc).

Operation of All-Day Schools, with the co-operation of the Parents' Association, which provide more time for children with special educational needs to be in the school environment. This is also very helpful for their families.

Subsidization of the Parents' Association of Special Schools for organising programmes to occupy children after the school hours or during the holidays.