



**Global Progress Survey on Violence against children**

**2011**

## **Introduction to the Global Survey**

The United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299), released in 2006, provided a comprehensive picture of the nature, extent and causes of violence against children, and proposed a set of strategic recommendations for action to prevent and respond to this phenomenon.

To promote dissemination of the Study and ensure effective follow up to its recommendations, the General Assembly called for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG). On 1 May 2009, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Marta Santos Pais (Portugal) as his Special Representative on Violence against Children, a position she took on 1 September 2009.

General Assembly Resolution 62/141 of 22 February 2008 establishes the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The Special Representative is a global independent advocate in favour of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children. She acts as a bridge builder and a catalyst of actions in all regions, and across sectors and settings where violence against children may occur. She mobilizes action and political support to maintain momentum around this agenda and generate renewed concern at the harmful effects of violence on children; to promote behavioural and social change, and to achieve effective progress.

The third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Brazil in 2008, agreed on an important agenda for action framed by the UN Study.

The year 2011 marks five years since the review of the Study by the General Assembly. It is a strategic occasion to gain perspective on progress achieved, reflect on good practices and factors of success, and boost efforts to overcome persisting challenges and promote a paradigm shift in children's protection from violence.

Pursuant to her mandate, the Special Representative is conducting the present global survey to help map and assess progress in the implementation of the UN Study recommendations, and inform future priorities. This global progress survey builds upon the 2004 questionnaire sent to Governments for the preparation of the UN Study on Violence against Children. Governments are encouraged in their replies to share information on developments that have taken place since.

## **How to contribute to the Global Survey**

The questionnaire is divided into twelve clusters, aligned with the twelve overarching Recommendations of the UN Study. Governments are requested to include all the necessary information which would reflect the situation both in law and in practice. This should include in general, for the responses under each Recommendation,

- a list of relevant legislation and policies or other measures adopted as a follow up to the UN Study and copies of the relevant provisions of such legislation or policy documents.
- information on the authorities or institutions responsible for implementation, and methods by which application is supervised and enforced;
- relevant decisions of courts of law or other tribunals; and

- statistical information and other relevant data, such as extracts or copies from reports of relevant services and offices, and the number and nature of recorded contraventions, to assess the magnitude and incidence of violence.

In as far as possible, information should be provided in English, French or Spanish, or should be accompanied by explanatory text.

In providing responses to the questionnaire, Governments are encouraged to include measures adopted at national level with respect to violence generally, and towards children in particular. They are also asked to take account of the fact that responses to all forms of violence against children might not be the task of one Government department only, and depending on the government structure may be within the competence of the federal, state, provincial or municipal authorities.

Governments are encouraged to provide examples of good practices and innovative approaches for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against children, as well as to highlight challenges encountered in addressing this phenomenon.

Governments that have already provided information on certain issues raised in this survey under another reporting procedure, such as in periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, or under the Universal Period Review of the Human Rights Council, may wish to refer to the specific information provided thereunder and need not repeat it in their responses to this survey.

### **Definition of child**

For the purpose of this global survey, and in the light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 1, a child is defined as [e]very human being below the age of eighteen years.

### **Definition of violence against children**

The UN Study defines violence against children in line with article 19 of the CRC: “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.”

### **Submission**

Governments are requested to submit their replies to this questionnaire by 30 October 2011 by email ([vacsurvey@unicef.org](mailto:vacsurvey@unicef.org)) or by mail to the following address:

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children  
633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Supporting documentation complementing replies sent by email which are not available in electronic format can also be forwarded to the above address.

The survey can also be downloaded at the web site of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children: <http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org>.

## **Overall question: General assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study**

1. In the light of the process of implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study in your country, what do you consider are the most important developments?
2. Which are the most serious gaps and persisting challenges? How do you anticipate to overcome them?

Please add any additional information you may wish to provide.

## Recommendation 1

### Strengthen national and local commitment and action

#### *General questions*

I recommend that all States develop a multi-faceted and systematic framework to respond to violence against children which is integrated into national planning processes. A national strategy, policy or plan of action on violence against children with realistic and time-bound targets, coordinated by an agency with the capacity to involve multiple sectors in a broad-based implementation strategy, should be formulated. National laws, policies, plans and programmes should fully comply with international human rights and current scientific knowledge. The implementation of the national strategy, policy or plan should be systematically evaluated according to established targets and timetables, and provided with adequate human and financial resources to support its implementation.

1. Please provide your country's policy framework to prevent and respond to incidents of violence against children. Please describe the main initiatives promoted, and in what way they address violence against children. Please include information on coordination with significant civil society initiatives addressing violence against children in your country, including the types of institutions involved<sup>1</sup>, and whether your Government provided support for such activities. Please provide information on existing obstacles, if any, to the adoption and implementation of measures to respond to violence against children and on measures taken or envisaged to overcome them.
2. Please describe any progress made in the implementation of the three time-bound goals adopted in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, namely the establishment by 2013 of
  - a) an effective and accessible system for reporting, follow up and support for child victims of suspected or actual incidents of sexual exploitation;
  - b) concrete mechanisms and/or processes to facilitate coordination at national, regional and international levels for enhanced cooperation among government ministries, funding bodies, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations, the media, children's organizations and other representatives of civil society with a view to enabling and supporting concrete action to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
  - c) independent children's rights institutions such as children's ombudspersons or equivalents or focal points on children's rights in existing human rights institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as academic institutions, professional associations, women's associations, student associations, community-based groups, faith-based groups, child and youth-led groups, trade unions, employers organizations, national non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations.

*Specific questions (please attach any relevant information in support of your replies)*

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Short detail (please attach relevant documentation)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Do not know</b>
3. <i>Does your country have a comprehensive policy, strategy or plan of action on violence against children?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. <i>Are there sectoral policies or plans dealing with violence against children in the five key settings identified by the UN Study?<sup>2</sup></i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. <i>Is there a lead Government institution or authority tasked with the coordination of action addressing violence against children, including cross departmental cooperation and coordination between central and subnational authorities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. <i>Are there any other governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local level which are currently responsible for addressing violence against children? Which, and at which level?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. <i>Has there been an evaluation of the impact of policies and programmes directed towards violence against children? Please indicate relevant monitoring mechanisms to assess progress in this area.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. <i>Are there specific financial and/or human resources allocated to address violence against children?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. <i>Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) or initiatives to address violence against children?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. <i>Is there an independent national institution on children's rights dealing with incidents of violence?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<sup>2</sup> The five key settings are: the family and home environment; educational settings; institutional care and juvenile justice institutions; workplaces, and the community.

## Recommendation 2

### Prohibit by law all violence against children

I urge States to ensure that no person below 18 years of age should be subjected to the death penalty and sentences of life imprisonment without possibility of release. I recommend that States take all necessary measures to immediately suspend the execution of all death penalties imposed on persons for having committed a crime before the age of 18, and take the appropriate legal measures to convert them into penalties in conformity with international human rights standards. Death penalty as a sentence imposed on persons for crimes committed before the age of 18 should be abolished as a matter of highest priority. I urge States to prohibit all forms of violence against children, in all settings, including all corporal punishment, harmful traditional practices, such as early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called honour crimes, sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment, as required by international treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. I draw attention to General Comment No. 8 (2006) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (articles 19, 28, para 2 and 37, inter alia) (CRC/C/GC/8).

#### *General questions*

1. Please describe how violence against children is addressed in your country's legal framework, including in the constitution, legislation and subsidiary legislation, and, where appropriate, religious and customary law. Please include any information on challenges identified towards the adoption of a comprehensive legal ban of all forms of violence against children and measures taken or envisaged to overcome them.
2. Please provide information on any studies and surveys which have been undertaken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children.

#### *Specific questions (please attach any relevant information in support of your replies)*

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Short detail (please attach relevant documentation)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Do not know</b>
11. Does the legal framework contain any specific legislative provisions on:				
a. Prohibition of all forms of violence, including physical, mental, and sexual violence, injury on abuse, neglect or negligent or negligent treatment and exploitation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	Short detail (please attach relevant documentation)	No	Do not know
b. <i>Prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, and exploitation?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. <i>Protection of children from all forms of violence, including child victims and witnesses?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. <i>Redress, including compensation, for child victims of violence?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. <i>Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. <i>Recovery and reintegration of child victims of violence?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. <i>Does the legal framework contain any specific legislative provisions which address all forms of violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and sexual exploitation against children which take place in:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. <i>the family and home environment?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. <i>schools, including pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private, and including sexual violence and bullying)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. <i>residential care institutions, including for health and mental health?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. <i>juvenile justice institutions and other detention centres, or centres where migrant, asylum seeking and refugee children may be placed?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. <i>the community, including in neighbourhoods, rural areas, and including armed violence?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. <i>the workplace (informal and formal, both concerning child labour and legitimate work by children above the legal minimum working age)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. <i>Is corporal punishment of children, in all or some settings, including in the home, explicitly prohibited by law?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. <i>Does the penal code permit corporal punishment, life imprisonment and/or capital</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	Short detail (please attach relevant documentation)	No	Do not know
<i>punishment as a sentence for crimes committed by children under 18 years?</i>				
15. <i>Does the legal framework address or prohibit harmful/violent traditional practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation, early or forced marriage, witchcraft rituals or honour crimes?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. <i>Does the law apply equally to all children, including non-citizens and stateless children?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. <i>Does the law prohibit the sexual exploitation of children, including through prostitution and other unlawful sexual activities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. <i>Does the law prohibit the use of children in criminal activities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. <i>Does the law prohibit all forms of sale or trafficking in children?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. <i>Does the law prohibit the use, procuring or offering of a child for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. <i>Does the law prohibit the possession and dissemination of child pornography, including via the internet?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Recommendation 3

I recommend that States prioritise preventing violence against children by addressing its underlying causes. Just as resources devoted to intervening after violence has occurred are essential, States should allocate adequate resources to address risk factors and prevent violence before it occurs. Policies and programmes should address immediate risk and factors such as lack of parent–child attachment, family breakdown, abuse of alcohol or drugs, and reducing access to guns and other weapons. In line with the Millennium Development Goals, attention should be focused on economic and social policies that address poverty, gender and other forms of inequality, income gaps, unemployment, urban overcrowding, and other factors which undermine society.

### Prioritize prevention

1. Please provide an overview of programmes delivered by your Government aimed at preventing violence against children focusing on the risks and factors identified in this Recommendation, and / or programmes directly supported by the Government for delivery by other agencies. Please provide details, including on resource allocation (in national currency) to ensure universal access to basic social services of quality, and targeted social protection for those at risk.
2. Please provide information on any policy, legislation or guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, internet, videos, electronic games, and to empower children to prevent such risks.

## Recommendation 4

I recommend that States and civil society should strive to transform attitudes that condone or normalise violence against children, including stereotypical gender roles and discrimination, acceptance of corporal punishment, and other harmful traditional practices. States should ensure that children's rights are disseminated and understood, including by children. Public information campaigns should be used to sensitize the public about the harmful effects that violence has on children. States should encourage the media to promote non-violent values and implement guidelines to ensure full respect for the rights of the child in all media coverage.

### **Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising**

1. Has your Government conducted or commissioned any campaigns for raising awareness of children's right to freedom from violence, and preventing violence against children? If YES, please describe any recent campaigns, the settings and types of violence covered and the target audience (general public, caregivers, teachers, etc.), including specific initiatives for children, as well as the impact measured.
2. Please indicate how the campaign messages and information were disseminated (e.g, printed media, radio and television, theatre, schools, etc.). Describe the role played by the media in addressing violence against children.
3. Please provide any information on programmes implemented aimed at parents and other direct caregivers designed to promote parenting skills and non-violent child rearing, and where available, information on impact and results. Please provide copies of evaluations if conducted.

## Recommendation 5

I recommend that the capacity of all those who work with and for children to contribute to eliminate all violence against them must be developed. Initial and in-service training which imparts knowledge and respect for children's rights should be provided. States should invest in systematic education and training programmes both for professionals and non-professionals who work with or for children and families to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children. Codes of conduct and clear standards of practice, incorporating the prohibition and rejection of all forms of violence, should be formulated and implemented.

### Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children

1. Please indicate and describe efforts made to improve the capacity of professionals who work with and for children to detect, refer and follow up on incidents of violence against children. Please also indicate any measures taken to build capacity to ensure child-sensitive support to children in the context of counseling, complaint and reporting mechanisms, including through the adoption of codes of conducts and standards of practice.
2. Please indicate whether your Government has commissioned or sponsored training programmes in the area of violence against children? If YES, indicate which provider groups were targeted by such training programmes and received training (check all that apply).

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Medical professionals (including pediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists and dentists)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Public health practitioners</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Social workers and Psychologists</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Teachers and other educators, and other school staff</i>                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Court officials (including judges)</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Law enforcement officials, including police</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Prison officers</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Juvenile offenders personnel</i>  |                          |
| <i>Residential care personnel</i>  |                          |
| <i>Migration officers</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Families and Caregivers</i>   |                          |
| <i>Border control and migration personnel</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Other (please specify)</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide details.

## Recommendation 6

I recommend that States provide accessible, child-sensitive and universal health and social services, including pre-hospital and emergency care, legal assistance to children and, where appropriate, their families when violence is detected or disclosed. Health, criminal justice, and social service systems should be designed to meet the special needs of children.

### Provide recovery and social reintegration services

1. Please describe any initiatives, programmes and services to provide support for children who have been victims of violence, whether these programmes and services are delivered by governmental services, non-governmental organizations or national independent institutions, and whether these services are available throughout the country, or only in certain cities or regions. Where available, please provide relevant reports and internet links of these programmes and services.
2. Indicate whether these services cover the settings and forms of violence listed in the box below:

	<i>Physical</i>	<i>Sexual</i>	<i>Psychological</i>	<i>Neglect</i>	<i>HTPs<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Family / Home</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Schools</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Institutions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Neighbourhood / Community</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Workplace</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Law enforcement</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Please indicate whether there are data on the percentage of children utilizing these services, if possible disaggregated by sex.

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<sup>3</sup> Harmful traditional practices.

## Recommendation 7

I recommend that States actively engage with children and respect their views in all aspects of prevention, response and monitoring of violence against them, taking into account article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children's organisations and child-led initiatives to address violence, guided by the best interests of the child, should be supported and encouraged.

### Ensure the participation of children

1. Please provide information on the involvement and consultation of children in advocacy, and in designing and in implementing laws and activities, programmes and policies to prevent and respond to violence against them. Is consultation of children mandatory in such cases? Please provide details, including age groups and other details of the children involved and contexts within which such activities have been promoted (for example, schools, the community, regional or national levels).
2. Describe any public or official support given to the creation and maintenance of special children's organizations and forums for the protection of children's rights.
3. Describe the amount and type of resources made available to support children's participation in activities to address violence against children.
4. Describe the involvement, if any, of children in the development of child-friendly materials to raise awareness on violence against children, and to provide information on counseling, reporting and complaints mechanisms, including court proceedings.

## Recommendation 8

### Create accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and

I recommend that States should establish safe, well-publicised, confidential and accessible mechanisms for children, their representatives and others to report violence against children. All children, including those in care and justice institutions, should be aware of the existence of mechanisms of complaint. Mechanisms such as telephone helplines through which children can report violence, speak to a trained counselor in confidence and ask for support and advice should be established and the creation of other ways of reporting violence through new technologies should be considered.

#### services

1. Please describe the legal, policy and institutional arrangements in place for providing child-sensitive counseling, complaint and reporting mechanisms, including in confined spaces such as orphanages, residential care institutions and prisons. Provide details or references, or attach.
2. Has there been any guidance issued for professionals involved in counseling and reporting mechanisms? Have any complaints procedures, reporting procedures or counseling programmes been evaluated for effectiveness and/or child-sensitivity? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

#### *Reporting of violence (by third persons, not the victim)*

3. Is mandatory reporting of violence against children foreseen in the law? If YES indicate for whom mandatory reporting is foreseen (e.g., teachers, health workers, social or child welfare workers, law enforcement officers, the public) and provide relevant documentation. Please also indicate which types of violence are subject to mandatory reporting (e.g., sexual abuse, physical violence, or other).

#### *Complaints mechanisms*

4. Please indicate any existing mechanisms or institutions specifically designed to receive complaints about acts of violence against children and whether children can access these procedures or persons acting on their behalf. Please indicate whether legal aid is available to facilitate submission of complaints, and the circumstances in which legal aid will be available.

#### *Counseling of child victims*

5. Do children who have experienced physical, sexual, psychological or other violence have a legal right to counseling? Have any changes to the law or operational protocols been made with a view to making investigations by relevant institutions, including social workers, law enforcement officers or forensic specialists child-sensitive? Please provide relevant information, including on whether these mechanisms exist at the national level and/or in specific departments, how they can be assessed and how these mechanisms are funded.

## Recommendation 9

### Ensure accountability and end impunity

I recommend that States should build community confidence in the justice system by, inter alia, bringing all perpetrators of violence against children to justice and ensure that they are held accountable through appropriate criminal, civil, administrative and professional proceedings and sanctions. Persons convicted of violent offences and sexual abuse of children should be prevented from working with children.

1. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published providing statistical and analytical information on reported cases of violence against children? If YES, please provide details or references, or attach.
2. Please provide the total number of reported cases and conviction of crimes of violence recorded against children since 2009. Where possible, provide a breakdown by types of crime or by setting (home, community, school, workplace, institutions), and by age and gender of the victim.
3. Please indicate measures taken or envisaged to prevent persons convicted of violent offences and sexual abuse of children from working with children.

## Recommendation 10

I recommend that States ensure that anti-violence policies and programmes are designed and implemented from a gender perspective, taking into account the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence. States should promote and protect the human rights of women and girls, and address all forms of gender discrimination as part of a comprehensive violence prevention strategy.

### Address the gender dimension of violence against children

1. Please indicate any gender-specific provisions included in national initiatives – e.g. laws, policies and advocacy efforts – concerning violence against children, and any special measures taken to address violence against girls.
2. Indicate whether these policies address harmful traditional practices affecting girls such as FGM/C, forced and/or early marriage, and/or other harmful traditional practices.
3. Indicate whether since 2009 there has been made any change in the following:
  - Minimum age of marriage for women and men, to prevent early and/or forced marriage and overcome discrimination on the basis of gender?
  - Minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity. Is this age different for girls and boys?
4. Please provide any existing data on violence against children disaggregated by sex, and attach relevant documentation.
5. Please provide information on existing research released since 2009 on violence against children taking into account the special characteristics and vulnerabilities of girls and boys, and attach relevant documentation.

## Recommendation 11

I recommend that States improve data collection and information systems in order to identify vulnerable sub-groups, inform policy and programming at all levels, and track progress towards the goal of preventing violence against children. States should use national indicators based on internationally agreed standards, and ensure that data are compiled, analysed and disseminated to monitor progress over time. Where not currently in place, birth, death and marriage data registries with full national coverage should be created and maintained. States should also create and maintain data on children without parental care, and on children in the criminal justice system. Data should be disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, household and family characteristics, education and ethnicity. States should also develop a national research agenda on violence against children across settings where violence occurs, including through interview studies with children and parents, with particular attention to vulnerable groups of girls and boys.

### Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research efforts

1. Does your country maintain any national, regional, or local data system on violence against children? How and how often is information made public? What kind of information can be obtained in these systems?
2. Is the available information disaggregated by:

	Yes	No
<i>Sex</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Age</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ethnicity</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Nature of injury or death</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Cause of injury or death</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Geographical location of incidents of violence</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Context of the incident</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Date and time of the incident</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Relationship between the victim and perpetrator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other information, namely ....</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please indicate whether your country maintains any of the following :
  - registries for birth, death and marriage
  - systems to capture data on children without parental care

- systems to capture data on children deprived of liberty, including in the criminal justice system, administrative detention, and pretrial detention.
  - systems to capture data on specific forms of violence against children
4. Please indicate whether since 2009, any of the following data collection and research activities have been carried on violence against children:
- population-based surveys of any form
  - qualitative studies or surveys based on interviews with parents/caregivers and children
  - studies or surveys to assess the impact of legal measures
  - any other scientific research on violence against children, including on particularly vulnerable groups?

If YES, indicate the subject of this research and where the findings of these projects may be consulted in more detail.

5. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published providing statistical information on violence against children? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.
6. Please indicate any measures taken since 2009 or envisaged to implement the use of indicators based on internationally agreed standards on violence against children, and the responsible agency.
7. Is there a research agenda on violence against children, across settings? How are vulnerable children addressed?
8. Have national studies been developed on violence against children, or on violence against children in a particular setting (the family and home environment; educational settings; institutional care and juvenile justice institutions; workplaces, and the community)

## Recommendation 12

### Strengthen international commitment

I recommend that all States should ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. All reservations which are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and the Optional Protocols should be withdrawn in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993. States should ratify all relevant international and regional human rights instruments that provide protection for children including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol; ILO Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour; and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. States should implement all their international legal obligations and strengthen their cooperation with the treaty bodies. I recommend that States act in conformity with their commitments on the prevention of violence made at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, and in the context of the WHO Health Assembly resolution on implementing the recommendations of the World Report on Violence and Health and other regional public health resolutions that reinforce this resolution.

1. In as far as your country has not already ratified the instruments below, please indicate any steps taken or envisaged towards ratifying the following instruments:

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</i></li> <li>• <i>Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
<i>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
<i>and its Optional Protocol</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
<i>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
<i>and its Optional Protocol</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
<i>ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....

*Admission to Employment*

*ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*  .....

*Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*  .....

*Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*  .....

2. Please indicate if any reservations made at the time of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols have since been withdrawn, or whether any steps have been taken or are envisaged to withdraw such reservations.
3. Please indicate any activities undertaken in cooperation with treaty bodies listed below, and any responses given to their recommendations, with concrete examples of how these affect the elimination at the national level of violence against children.
  - Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
  - Human Rights Committee (CCPR)
  - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
  - Committee against Torture (CAT)
  - Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
  - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
  - Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)
  - Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
  - ILO Committee of Experts, overseeing the implementation of ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182
4. Please indicate any activities undertaken or envisaged to promote implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study – including allocated resources – through cooperation with other partner(s) at the:
  - international level
  - regional level
  - bilateral level
5. Please indicate whether any multilateral, regional or bilateral arrangements have been developed to prevent and address violence against children.