



**United Nations Sub-Regional Team report for the  
Universal Periodic Review of SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS  
4th cycle**

#### **A. Ratification of & Accession to International Instruments Recommendations:**

1. During the period since the last Universal Periodic Review, Saint Kitts and Nevis acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on 1st November 2024.
2. The State has not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW).
3. Additionally, the State has not ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely: the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC), and the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure (OPIC). The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern in its 2025 Concluding Observations about the State's failure to accede to these core instruments for more than two decades since its ratification of the CRC in 1990<sup>1</sup>. The Committee emphasized that this delay undermines the full realization of children's rights and urged the State to take immediate steps toward ratification without further delay.
4. The State has not ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern over the prolonged delay in ratifying these key human rights instruments. It strongly recommended that the State ratify these treaties to ensure stronger protection and fulfillment of children's rights, including in areas of justice, protection from violence, and access to remedies.
5. Recommendations:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/CRC/C/KNA/CO/2>

- a. Saint Kitts and Nevis should ratify all outstanding international human rights treaties and optional protocols.

## **B. Cooperation with Human Rights Mechanisms and Special Procedures**

6. Saint Kitts and Nevis has experienced some delay in submitting its overdue reports to treaty bodies. Those include reports to the Committee on the Against Torture since 2021, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 2021 and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since 2007.
7. Saint Kitts and Nevis has not yet issued a Standing Invitation to the Special Procedures. A request for a country visit from the Special Rapporteur on the Environment is still pending.
8. Recommendations:
  - a. Saint Kitts and Nevis should consider issuing a Standing Invitation to the Special Procedures.
  - b. Saint Kitts and Nevis should continue efforts to submit overdue reports to the Treaty Body Committees.

## **C. Constitutional and Legislative Framework**

9. During the previous cycle, a recommendation was made to fully incorporate the provisions of the Convention of the Rights of the Child into the national legal framework. The State acknowledged the importance of fully incorporating the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into the national legal framework. In this regard, national consultations aimed at reviewing and amending key pieces of child-related legislation—including the Marriage Act (Cap.12.09), the Child Justice Act, the Education Act, and the Defence Force Act—have already been initiated. The State is committed to aligning these laws with the CRC and is also working toward the swift adoption of the Social Protection Bill, which is currently in draft form. Through this process, the State aims to ensure full conformity with the Convention and to establish a more cohesive and rights-based legislative framework for children.
10. Recommendations:

- a. The State should continue its efforts to ensure that its legislative framework conforms with the CRC

#### **D. National Human Rights Institution**

11. Since the last cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, Saint Kitts and Nevis has not made much progress in establishing a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

#### 12. Recommendations:

- a. Saint Kitts and Nevis to consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles to protect and promote human rights.

#### **E. Equality and Non-Discrimination**

13. The Constitution of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in Section 15, prohibits discrimination based on race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, or sex. However, the scope of this protection is narrow and does not explicitly include other grounds such as disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, health status, or economic status.

14. In a landmark ruling in 2022, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) declared sections of the Offences Against the Person Act that criminalized consensual same-sex relations between men unconstitutional. <sup>2</sup>This represented a significant step forward for the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals, recognizing their constitutional rights to protection of personal privacy and freedom of expression.

15. In terms of gender equality, while the Government has demonstrated a commitment to promoting gender equality through the Department of Gender Affairs, current programmes remain largely focused on the rights and needs of women and girls. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the insufficient attention paid to the specific vulnerabilities of boys, including in the context of education. Efforts to promote positive norms of masculinity and address discrimination against boys have not yet been systematically integrated into policy or public

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eccourts.org/judgment/jamal-jeffers-et-al-v-the-attorney-general-of-st-christopher-and-nevis>

awareness initiatives.

16. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the lack of disaggregated data on children in vulnerable situations and raised concerns about inadequate budget allocations for child protection and social services. Further efforts are needed to systematically address discrimination, ensure targeted service delivery, and monitor the impact of interventions on these groups.
17. Saint Kitts and Nevis recently acceded in 2025 to the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. These accessions demonstrate a commitment to eliminating discrimination and guaranteeing equal rights for these vulnerable groups.
18. The National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP) 2022-2027 is currently being implemented and signals the government's strong commitment to fostering gender equality and creating an equitable society. It aims to achieve gender justice for all and emphasizes a human-rights based approach, with equality and non-discrimination at its core. Strategic actions include comprehensive review and amendment/repeal of all discriminatory laws. In 2022, the CEDAW Committee noted the lack of human, technical and financial resources allocated to the national gender machinery in Saint Kitts and the Department of Gender Affairs of Nevis to ensure the effective implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan.
19. The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act 1976 has restricted women from working in certain industries, for example, industrial jobs at night. While some restrictions have been lifted or are not enforced, repeal of the law to align with gender equality is recommended.

20. Recommendations:

- a. Consider the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation;
- b. Strengthen protective measures in the workplace, healthcare settings, and educational institutions.
- c. Amend the Equal Pay Act, in line with ILO Conventions to facilitate women to work in the same industries as men and include the principle of equal remuneration of women and men for work of equal value.

- d. Increase the human, technical, and financial resources allocated to the Department of Gender Affairs in order to implement initiatives to address the specific vulnerabilities of boys and promote positive norms relating to masculinity and to effectively implement the GEPAP.

## **F. Human Rights and Climate Change**

21. The National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP) 2022-2027 specifically recognizes the differential impacts of climate change on women and girls and aims to integrate gender considerations into climate adaptation and resilience-building initiatives.
22. Saint Kitts and Nevis ratified the Escazú Agreement (Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean) in 2019. This treaty is crucial for environmental justice and the protection of environmental human rights defenders, ensuring transparency, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.
23. On August 2, 2024, St Kitts and Nevis's Federal Parliament approved the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (Agreement) Bill, 2024, marking a major environmental milestone. The legislation strengthens the nation's partnership with the CARICOM-based Climate Change Centre. It enables improved access to technical expertise, financial support, and coordinated regional initiatives to enhance climate resilience. The law will support environmental protections and cross Caribbean cooperation to safeguard ecosystems, communities, and sustainable development for current and future generations.
24. The State has taken initial steps toward addressing environmental challenges through policies such as the 2023 National Safe Schools Policy and the establishment of a climate resilience unit. However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the negative impacts of climate change on children's rights, particularly in relation to water scarcity, extreme weather, and damage to coastal infrastructure. While legal and policy efforts are ongoing, there remains a need to develop comprehensive legislative frameworks for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous and local communities in their design and implementation.
25. Recommendations:

- a. Develop comprehensive legislative frameworks for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, and local communities in their design and implementation.
- b. Strengthen efforts to ensure that women are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction policies.
- c. Integrate human rights principles, including participation, accountability, and non-discrimination, into all climate policies and adaptation plans
- d. Continue regional and international cooperation, particularly with other SIDS, to share best practices and build institutional resilience.
- e. Expand access to climate finance for vulnerable groups, including small-scale farmers and women-led households, to support adaptation and green livelihoods.

## **G. Conditions of Detention/ Access to Justice**

26. The Constitution of Saint Kitts and Nevis (1983) enshrines the right to a fair trial (Section 8), protection from arbitrary arrest and detention (Section 6), and the presumption of innocence (Section 10). It guarantees access to legal counsel and protection against inhumane or degrading treatment.
27. Overcrowding remains a significant challenge as HMP Basseterre, designed for approximately 60 inmates, consistently holds a population far exceeding this capacity. Recent reports indicate numbers ranging from 260 to 320 inmates. This severe overcrowding has direct negative impacts on sanitation, access to basic necessities, and the overall well-being of prisoners. A notable concern is the commingling of pretrial detainees with convicted prisoners at HMP Basseterre. This practice is contrary to international standards, which advocate for the separation of those awaiting trial from those who have been convicted. Pretrial detainees constitute a significant portion (around 30%) of the prison population, and the length of pretrial detention can vary.
28. The Committee on the Rights of the Child raised concerns that children do not have access to confidential, child-friendly and independent complaint

mechanisms in schools, foster care systems, alternative care and detention settings.

#### 29. Recommendations:

- a. Ensure that all children have access to: (i) confidential, child-friendly and independent complaint mechanisms in schools, foster care systems and alternative care and detention settings for reporting all forms of violence, abuse, discrimination and other violations of their rights; and (ii) legal support and age-appropriate information on access to counselling and remedies, including compensation and rehabilitation.
- b. Raise awareness among children of their right to file a complaint under existing mechanisms.
- c. Ensure systematic and mandatory training for all relevant professionals working with children on child-friendly procedures and remedies, children's rights and the Convention.
- d. Upgrade detention infrastructure to address overcrowding, sanitation, and safety concerns.
- e. Ensure strict separation of juveniles, pre-trial detainees, and vulnerable inmates in accordance with international standards.
- f. Reduce pre-trial detention by improving judicial efficiency, expanding access to bail, and legal aid services
- g. Strengthen access to healthcare, including mental health and regular medical assessments for detainees.

#### **H. Human Trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery:**

30. While the State has conducted a rapid assessment on child labour and initiated dialogue through the National Tripartite Committee, there is currently no comprehensive national strategy or action plan in place to support the implementation of SDG target 8.7. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern over the legal allowance for part-time employment of children from the age of 12, and the lack of reliable data on child labour and child trafficking. A coordinated and time-bound national plan is urgently needed to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking, in line with international commitments.

#### **I. Human Rights and Poverty**

31. According to the Voluntary National Review of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in St. Kitts And Nevis 2023<sup>3</sup>, approximately 17.1% of the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.kn/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/St-Kitts-Nevis-Goals-VNR-Report-2023-Final-1.pdf>

population classified as poor in 2018. Poverty is concentrated in female-headed households and in households with higher numbers of children. Female-headed households comprised over 40% of all households but represent 57% of all households living in poverty. Further, children are over-represented among those living in poverty.

32. The prevalence of child labour in St. Kitts and Nevis is negligible but it is a growing social issue and without the necessary economic and social support system it may become worse. The pathways into child labour have been highlighted as weak parental practices; prolonged school absenteeism; household poverty; child maltreatment as well as the education system not meeting the needs of its students.<sup>4</sup>
33. In collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Protection and Gender Affairs, over 4,390 households received assistance from the Livelihood Improvement for Family Transformation (LIFT) programme launched in 2024. LIFT delivers monthly cash transfers with case management to empower recipients to stabilize finances, manage debt, pursue home ownership, and weather emergencies.

34. Recommendations:

- a. Continue strengthening its social programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion.

## **J. Right to Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

35. The State party recognizes the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory access to health care services for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, as well as children and adolescents. Efforts are being made to strengthen the legal and policy framework to ensure that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, age or other status, have free and timely access to appropriate health care. Measures are also being explored to recognize the evolving capacities of adolescents and to enable them to provide informed consent for medical treatment where sufficient maturity is demonstrated, in line with the principles of the

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<https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/PresentationFindingsRecommendationsRapid%20AssessmentSKN03072024.pdf>

## Convention on the Rights of the Child.

36. St. Kitts and Nevis supported the recommendation from the previous UPR cycle to take steps to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy, including by removing barriers to safe and confidential access to family planning services and information for those adolescents that have reached the legal age of consent - and noted various recommendations related to developing national legislation to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services and to continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information.
37. In 2024, UNFPA supported the development of a midwifery country profile for St. Kitts and Nevis to enable stakeholders to identify gaps and develop a plan to close those gaps; strengthen midwifery; and subsequently improve sexual and reproductive health services. Further capacity building in midwifery is expected in 2025. UNFPA has further shared information and tools which were developed in other Eastern Caribbean countries in collaboration with national governments to strengthen the enabling environment for sexual and reproductive health services and rights, ensure comprehensive access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal health, and gender-based violence response, with a strong rights-based approach. The tools included the Standards for Quality Healthcare Services for Adolescents (approved in Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia).
38. Moreover, the Minister of Health, Gender Affairs and Social Empowerment in the Nevis Island Administration, has been engaged with UNFPA initiatives, particularly around youth empowerment and population development. These included the Caribbean Forum on Population and Development: Accelerating the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean held in Antigua and Barbuda in September 2023 where discussions and conclusions focused on issues including high external migration, aging populations, climate change, adolescent pregnancy, youth unemployment, crime and violence, and gender-based violence. Furthermore, the Minister participated in the April 2024 ICPD30 Global Youth Dialogue in Cotonou, Benin, hosted by UNFPA, where the Minister served as a panelist. She was notably the only Caribbean parliamentarian selected for the

event and spoke about the role of youth in shaping population and development policies. She served as advocate for inclusive decision-making and emphasized that youth engagement must be supported by enabling environments. This contribution aligns with UNFPA's goals to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, engage youth as changemakers in sustainable development and advance gender equality through policy and advocacy.

39. While there is an absence of specific recommendation on data, it is worth noting that UNFPA has facilitated capacity building/technical assistance on census and statistics and is engaging in dialogue to scale up engagement in this regard.

40. Recommendations:

- a. Continue efforts to reduce the rate of teenage truancy, including by removing barriers to safe and confidential access to family planning services and information for those adolescents that have reached the legal age of consent.
- b. Strengthen the enabling environment for sexual and reproductive health services and rights, ensure comprehensive access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal health, and gender-based violence response, with a strong rights-based approach.
- c. Continue efforts to strengthen collection of disaggregated data

**K. Rights related to marriage and family**

41. The State noted the recommendation to set the minimum legal age for marriage at 18 years without exceptions. In line with this, efforts are currently underway to review and amend the relevant legislation, including the Marriage Act (Cap.12.09), to ensure full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, marriage is currently permitted in exceptional cases for children under the age of 15, highlighting a legal loophole that remains a significant challenge.

42. Recommendation:

- a. Prioritize legal reforms to remove all legal exceptions that permit marriage under 18.

- b. Implement public awareness initiatives to eliminate child marriage and protect the rights and well-being of all children.

## **L. Right to Education**

43. The State provides access to free primary and secondary education; however, the right to education is not constitutionally guaranteed. Legislative and policy frameworks still fall short of explicitly committing to 12 years of free education for all children, especially for marginalized groups.
44. While policy measures exist to support adolescent mothers' continued education, there is no binding legal guarantee of access or protection for this group, and support remains inconsistent across institutions.
45. Comprehensive sexuality education is not yet fully integrated into the Strengthen the Health and Family Life Education curriculum (HFLE) curriculum, and there is minimal outreach to adolescents and youth who are out of school. Programmes targeting this group are fragmented and often dependent on external partners or donor support, lacking national coordination.
46. The HFLE curriculum is under review, and elements of sexuality education have been introduced. However, alignment with international technical guidance remains incomplete, and implementation is inconsistent across schools. Structured and ongoing teacher training is limited in both frequency and reach.
47. The State has continued efforts to reform the education sector through the implementation of a new national curriculum and the revision of the Education Sector Act. However, concerns remain regarding access, retention, and equity, particularly for vulnerable groups such as boys, adolescent mothers, children with disabilities, and migrant children. There is no clear evidence of the Education Sector Plan being extended beyond 2021. Inclusive education remains underdeveloped, with the absence of a national policy and insufficient support services. Moreover, while climate resilience is addressed in the Safe Schools Policy, the role of the education sector in disaster preparedness and response requires further institutionalization and funding.

48. Recommendations:

- a. Develop policies that focus on reducing disparities in educational access and outcomes between different socioeconomic groups.
- b. Fully integrate comprehensive sexuality education into the Health and Family Life Education curriculum and develop social programmes for out-of-school adolescents and youth

#### **M. Violence against Women**

49. The State has taken positive steps by adopting the Domestic Violence Act and launching the Domestic Violence Complaints and Response Protocol in 2018. The Domestic Violence Act 2022 expanded the definition of economic abuse, to enhance the scope of protection for persons within domestic settings. The launch of the Complaints and Response Protocol improves the quality of domestic violence programmes nationally. The Department of Gender Affairs continues to lead the rollout of the protocol including building the capacity of service providers and the police force who are now obligated to be trained in gender-sensitive interviewing and evidence collection which is an ongoing process. However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern over the absence of a comprehensive national strategy for preventing and addressing child abuse, the sharp increase in reported cases, and the continued exposure of children to stigma, bullying, and violence. To meaningfully strengthen measures, the State must finalize and implement the National Protection Protocol for children and ensure that domestic violence interventions are integrated into broader child protection systems with adequate resources and coordination.

50. COVID-19 was a major setback to progress, which saw an increase in the cases of domestic violence as women were confined to their homes with perpetrators during periods of lockdown. This was noted as the shadow pandemic. The closure of workplaces, and schools increased caregiving responsibilities for women. The impact of COVID-19 and social distancing requirements hindered the consultation process during the development of the policy. In the period 2019 to 2022 women represented over 74% of all complainants of domestic violence matters. Between 2020 to 2023, there were 429 reported cases of domestic related violence. Due to the existing culture of silence, many incidents are not officially reported to the police.

51. Additionally, the State has made efforts to improve its social protection framework, including the development of child-related programmes and the enactment of relevant legislation, the overall system remains limited in scope and coverage. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted insufficient budget allocations for social protection and a lack of disaggregated data to inform targeted interventions for vulnerable children. There are notably significant gaps in data surrounding violence against women and girls, primarily data indicating the prevalence, including in intimate partner relationship. There is also limited evidence of systematic measures to address the specific needs of women and children facing discrimination and violence. Greater investment and institutional coordination are required to operationalize an inclusive and rights-based social protection framework.

52. The State, in its Beijing+30 Report, has noted that the special Victims Unit of the police force no longer deals primarily with cases of domestic violence, and complainants are now required to report incidents to their nearest police station. An emerging concern is the need to sensitise all police officers on matters of gender-based violence and a victim or survivor centred approach. An additional gap in the national response is the lack of state-provided housing for victims of violence. Currently, this service is solely provided by civil society organisations. In 2023, the Government entered into an updated Memorandum of Understanding with a privately-run shelter to provide short-term accommodation for female victims of gender-based violence (including their children aged under 5 years). These accommodations do not consider the full range of women who may be victims of violence and their children and do not provide for long term housing support. In 2023, 22 cases of domestic violence were documented by the Department of Gender Affairs with the majority of the requests being for support with food, counseling, and housing.

53. There is currently no legislation specific to sexual harassment, but complaints may fall under the Protection of Employment Act, 1986. However, work is ongoing with the government to draft a sexual harassment legislation.

54. Recommendations:

- a. Strengthen the legislative framework to respond to violence against women and other vulnerable groups including through developing a Sexual Harassment Act and finalizing the National Protection Protocol for Child Protection.
- b. Continued investment in public education efforts will be necessary to shift societal attitudes toward GBV, including addressing harmful social norms and masculinities that enable GBV.
- c. Strengthen the national GBV referral pathways by improving collaboration among the health, social protection, and justice sectors to ensure the provision of holistic, survivor-centered support.
- d. Provide continuous and gender-responsive training for the judiciary, law enforcement personnel, health professionals, social workers and the education sector to enhance their capacity to respond to GBV.
- e. Ensure the systematic compilation of statistical data on all forms of gender-based violence, disaggregated by sex, age and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator to support the development of effective policies and programmes to end VAWG, and to monitor progress toward ending VAWG.
- f. Strengthen victim support services, including by developing a sufficient number of adequately funded state-run emergency shelters and long-term housing for victims of GBV and their children.
- g. Develop and implement a comprehensive GBV National Action Plan, integrating data, successes and lessons learned from the GEPAP.

#### **N. Persons with Disabilities: Definition, General Principles**

55. The government has signalled its intention to increase the protection of persons with disabilities while strengthening empowerment opportunities with the review of the 2017 Disabilities policy and drafting of a Disabilities Bill. The Disabilities Bill is anticipated to come to fruition in 2025.
56. In May 2025, Saint Kitts and Nevis acceded to the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS).
57. Physical accessibility in the built environment remains a significant barrier. There are currently no comprehensive rules or consistent measures to ensure accessibility, with attitudinal factors, lack of specific legislation, and

enforcement mechanisms being identified obstacles. Public transportation also largely lacks accessibility.

58. Persons with disabilities, particularly youth, face challenges in accessing quality and inclusive education. The existing schools lack trained special education personnel and infrastructure to accommodate diverse needs, leading to a high risk of educational exclusion or dropout.
59. Women living with disabilities are also a concern, particularly concerning their access to health information and health services and risk of developing non-communicable disease which is likely to be higher because of the barriers that they experience.
60. High rates of unemployment and underemployment disproportionately affect persons with disabilities, impacting their economic independence and contributing to higher poverty levels.
61. Recommendations:
  - a. Enhance the national census to accurately capture the number and needs of persons with disabilities
  - b. Continue public awareness campaigns and initiatives to promote inclusivity
  - c. Develop targeted strategies to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
  - d. Review the 2017 Disabilities Policy and take measures towards adopting the Disabilities Bill
  - e. Develop and rigorously enforce national building codes and accessibility standards for all public and private infrastructure, including transportation.
  - f. Implement robust policies and programs for inclusive education that cater to the diverse learning needs of students with disabilities.

## **O. Children**

62. The State has made efforts to advance children's rights through the adoption of a new education curriculum and policies promoting early childhood development. However, gaps remain in ensuring equitable access, particularly for marginalized groups such as children with disabilities, adolescent mothers, and migrant children. The lack of an inclusive education policy, insufficient support services, and limited financial resources continue to hinder full enjoyment of the right to education. In the health sector, while basic services are in place, targeted strategies and disaggregated data are needed to ensure

the right to health for all children, especially those from low-income or vulnerable backgrounds.

63. While the Child Justice Act of 2013 abolished corporal punishment as a judicial sentence for children, corporal punishment remains lawful in other settings such as the home and schools, indicating partial implementation. Furthermore, no legislative measure has yet been adopted to explicitly criminalize marital rape, and marital rape remains permitted under existing legal exceptions. Additional legislative reforms are needed to ensure full compliance with international child protection and gender equality standards.

64. There is no comprehensive national strategy in place to address gang prevention through education and social inclusion. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern about the lack of evaluation of the Gang (Prohibition and Prevention) Act and the absence of a dedicated steering committee to guide gang prevention efforts. Furthermore, school retention, particularly for boys and marginalized adolescents, remains a challenge, with limited targeted programmes to address the root causes of school dropout and youth involvement in gangs.

65. Recommendations:

- a. Take measures to fully prohibit corporal punishment.
- b. Adopt an inclusive education policy.
- c. Develop a comprehensive strategy to address gang prevention through education and social inclusion.
- d. Take efforts to criminalize marital/spousal rape

## **P. Death Penalty**

66. Saint Kitts and Nevis previously noted recommendations with respect to abolishing the death penalty and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The last execution took place in 2008; however, the death penalty has not been abolished.

67. Recommendations:

- a. Abolish the death penalty and accede to the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the

Second Optional Protocol.