



Save the Children

**Human Rights Council
13th Session
1-26 March 2010**

Consideration of the UPR-report of Norway, 17 March 2010

Thank you Mr. President.

The Following Statement is made on behalf of the International Save the Children Alliance and the *Norwegian Forum on the Rights of the Child (without consultative ECOSOC Status)*

Mr. President,

We welcome the outcome report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Norway (A/HRC/13/5) and appreciate the open and self critical approach of the Norwegian Government and the willingness to engage the Civil Society in the process.

Noting with interest the response of the Government of Norway in the final outcome document and the scope of the recommendations enjoying the support of Norway and bearing in mind the very recent Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to Norway (CRC/C/NOR/CO/4) we expect the highest commitment from the Norwegian Government on the following issues of critical importance regarding current violations of the Rights of the Child in Norway;

Trafficking: We welcome the support from Norway to the recommendations on the evaluation of the action plan against trafficking and strengthened efforts through follow-up measures. In this regard we urge the Norwegian Government to act on the recommendations given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to set focus on child victims of trafficking and identify and competently treat child victims of trafficking. (ref.CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, 54),

Asylum seeking children: We regret the limited focus that has been given to the protection of the rights of asylum seeking children in Norway through the dialogue. We therefore recall the recent recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child calling on the Norwegian Government to give primary consideration to the best interest of the child whenever decisions about the child's future are under consideration (ref.CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, 52 ;)

Violence: We welcome the strong focus on domestic violence; violence against women and children throughout the dialogue. We highly appreciate the continued focus from the Norwegian government to combat violence against children and special attention should be given to adequate legal provisions and regulations ensuring that children victims and or witness of crime are protected against both physical and psychological violence. This calls for a stronger holistic approach and amendments to the penal code.

Juvenile Justice; Recalling the strong recommendations, also given by the Committee on the rights of the Child(Ref. CRC/C/NOR/CO/4,58), we expect further action to guarantee that juvenile justice standards are fully implemented. Further measures are needed to ensure that children shall be deprived of their liberty only as a measure of last resort and national legislation to prohibit isolation of children is called for.

Mr. President,

We expect an immediate elimination of these gaps in the fulfillment of the Rights of the Child in Norway and trust that Civil Society will not have to call again for the above mentioned concerns in the next Universal Periodic Review of Norway.

Thank you.

¹ Save the Children Norway is a member of Save the Children International. Save the Children Norway is currently chairing The Norwegian Forum for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (FFB) which was inaugurated in 1994, and is a network of organizations, institutions and individuals who are interested in children's rights in Norway and internationally. The network currently consists of nearly 50 participants.