

United Nations Human Rights Council
36st Session
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Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

Consideration of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report of The Netherlands

Mr President,

Defence for Children International welcomes the report of the Working Group on the UPR of the Netherlands, especially the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the government's efforts to continuously improve the protection of children's rights through improved legislation, policies and national strategies.

In particular, we welcome the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the continuous support of the Netherlands' Ombudsman for Children and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights in 2013.

To further strengthen the effective realization of children's rights, we would like to strongly encourage the implementation of the UPR recommendations concerning:

- The Signing and Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure¹
- The withdrawal of reservations to articles 26, 37 and 40 to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child²
- The inclusion of human rights education as an integral part of the curriculum for primary and secondary schools³
- The continuous efforts to protect unaccompanied children from disappearance⁴
- To provide adequate healthcare for undocumented children⁵
- The elimination of all forms of discrimination against refugee children, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants⁶
- The continuous efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation⁷, trafficking and sex tourism⁸
- The total abolition of the Baby Box initiatives, which allow the anonymous abandonment of children⁹

We appreciate the Government's willingness to consult civil society in the UPR process and we look forward to continued collaboration in the follow-up thereof.

Thank you.

¹ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Netherlands, 18 July 2017, A/HRC/36/15: UPR recommendations 131.9, 131.10, 131.11, 131.12, 131.13, 131.14, 131.19, 131.20, 131.23, 131.153, 131.154.

² UPR recommendations: 131.21, 131.22, 131.23.

³ UPR recommendations: 131.137, 131.138, 131.139.

⁴ UPR Recommendations: 131.157, 131.158, 131.159.

⁵ UPR Recommendation: 131.160.

⁶ UPR Recommendation: 131.162.

⁷ UPR Recommendation: 131.157.

⁸ UPR Recommendation: 131.158.

⁹ UPR Recommendation: 131.161.