

**Sexual Exploitation of Children in Mauritius
Submission
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for the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in Mauritius

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Halley Movement, an ECOSOC registered NGO heading the Pan-Mauritius Coalition, was set up in 1990 and is working for the welfare of children and families in Mauritius and in SADC Africa Region. The main activities of Halley Movement and the Coalition are advocacy, research, training and publication of sensitization materials. Combating CSEC is a major focus of the coalition, which works with other partner NGOs to conduct field activities in the region and Mauritius. Helpline Mauritius (www.helplinemauritius.org) was initiated by Halley Movement in 2012.



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ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations working for the eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation of children. For the past 26 years, ECPAT has acted as the international watchdog, monitoring States' response to sexual exploitation of children, and advocating for robust international measures to protect children from sexual exploitation. ECPAT International currently has 102 network members operating in 93 countries.

Justification for Submission

1. The present submission is an update to review the progress that has been made by the Government of Mauritius (GoM) to end sexual exploitation of children (SEC) and assess the level of implementation of the UPR recommendations, pertaining to SEC, made in 2013.¹ New recommendations to end SEC in Mauritius will be made. The recommendations made in this report are in line with the commitment made by the GoM to eliminate all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation with the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015.²
2. The content of this report is mostly based on ECPAT's research and the work experience and research of Halley Movement & Pan-Mauritius Coalition in the period 2014 to 2018.
3. The scope of this report is limited to SEC and its different manifestations, including exploitation of children in prostitution,³ online child sexual exploitation (hereinafter 'OCSE'), child sexual abuse materials (hereinafter 'CSAM'),⁴ trafficking of children for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism⁵ (hereinafter 'SECTT') and child, early and forced marriage (hereinafter 'CEFM').

Current status and developments of sexual exploitation of children in Mauritius

4. The Republic of Mauritius (hereinafter 'Mauritius') is a small island in the Indian Ocean, 800km off the east coast of Madagascar and part of the African continent, with a population of 1,356,388.⁶ Children represent approximately 22% of the population (295,000).⁷ Interestingly, it has a substantially low fertility rate compared to nearby countries, with one of the world's fastest birth rate decline speed.⁸ In regards to religion, as a result of Indian influence, Hinduism comes first at 48.5%, then followed by Roman Catholic, Muslim, Christian and others.⁹ The Human Development Index ranked Mauritius 64th out of 179 countries in 2015.¹⁰ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita reached \$20,500 in 2016,¹¹ resulting in a better income distribution and an improved infrastructure. The economy is heavily dependent on sugarcane and the tourism industry¹², the latter may increase children's vulnerability to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.
5. Existing risk factors leading to the sexual exploitation of children (SEC) are poverty, the high number of children living on the streets, low birth registration, a high rate of substance use and abuse,¹³ family breakdowns,¹⁴ a lack of information regarding SEC, societal norms, perceptions and stigma.¹⁵ Out of all local communities, the Creole community is the most affected by poverty.¹⁶
6. From 2012 to 2013, more than 818 complaints of abuse committed against children were recorded by Helpline Mauritius: 460 for psychological abuse, 95 for negligence, 110 for physical violence, 46 for sexual abuse, 28 for abandonment, 13 for child labour, and 66 for other abuses affecting children.¹⁷ According to the Child Development Unit (CDU),¹⁸ 1,175 children have suffered sexual violence in the last 5 years, and nine times out of 10, the aggressor was a relative of the child, and one time out of two, a member of the family.¹⁹
7. There is no recent research data, but a social worker, interviewed by a local radio station, claimed that there are at least 500 minors being sexually exploited in prostitution in the country.²⁰ However, based on past records, the high number of cases of SEC in Mauritius shows that the issue remains prevalent.²¹ In 2013, a 16-year-old girl filed a complaint against her own mother for selling her to a prostitute.²² A Special Educator and Director of the Centre for Education for Mauritian Children stated that "*child prostitution in Mauritius is very well organised and more and more people are involved in it*".²³
8. In 2015 the CRC expressed its deep concern that Mauritius still remains a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking in persons, including children.²⁴ Allegedly, girls from all over the world are induced or sold into **sex trafficking**, and intermediaries such as taxi drivers

transport the victims to engage in commercial sex acts. The GoM does not seem committed to the prosecution or conviction of offenders. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) draft report in 2014, even though eight cases out of nine involved child trafficking for sexual purposes, not a single case ended in prosecution.²⁵

9. As the country's economy rapidly grows, more people including children have now access to the Internet. As of 2017, 803,896 people (62.7% of the population) are using the Internet.²⁶ As of 2015, there were 144.24 mobile phones per 100 people.²⁷ Despite there being no national analysis highlighting a correlation between an upsurge in children getting access to the Internet and an increase in cases of **OCSE** and **CSAM**, there is a high chance that children will be more exposed to these crimes.
10. In 2012, Slate Africa claimed that Mauritius was among the ten major destinations for '**sex tourism**' in Africa.²⁸ Members of the ECPAT International regional network also pointed at Mauritius as one of the major destinations for traveling child sex offenders.²⁹ As such, there have been many cases of SECTT in the country.
11. In 2013, the GoM stated in its report that there are no harmful traditional practices in Mauritius.³⁰ In Mauritius, according to the Child Protection Act, a child is "*any unmarried person under the age of 18*"³¹ the age of marriage is 18 for both boys and girls.³² However, a child above the age of 16 may get married with parental, guardians' or the court's consent.³³ In 2015, the CRC has expressed its concern that in Mauritius the exceptions to the minimum age to marry, are "*possible and extensively granted with a high number of underage marriages in the country*".³⁴
12. In the last country's UPR in 2013, no recommendations targeted specifically the exploitation of children in prostitution, the OCSE, CSAM, SECTT and CEFM.³⁵

General measures of implementation

National Action Plans and overall Strategies

13. There are no plans of actions specifically addressing SEC or child rights granted in the OPSC. The last two-year **National Plan of Action (NPA) to Combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)** is of 2013.³⁶ Although not focused on SEC, the government has launched the **Government Programme Achieving Meaningful Change 2015-2019**³⁷ with a zero-tolerance policy on child abuses and rapes. It introduced a register of perpetrators of child sexual abuse.³⁸
14. In 2014, the GoM launched the **National Child Protection Strategy and its Action Plan (2014-2022)**, which aims to prevent violence against children. However, the CRC is concerned about the lack of implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan.³⁹
15. On top of that, the Prime Minister's Office adopted the **National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020**. One of its aims is to ensure a better protection of vulnerable persons, including children under the National Crime Control Commission.⁴⁰ The Plan states that the government will intensify measures to combat SEC.⁴¹
16. With regards to the sale of children and trafficking for sexual purposes, the government drafted the **National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking** in 2016; however, there is no indication that the plan has been approved yet.
17. Recently in 2017, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and Economic Development announced that they will focus on and improve the rights and development of children, as well as provide adequate social protections through the allocation of a **new budget 2017-2018** to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare.⁴²

Recommendations for the GoM to:

- Establish a new National Plan of Action (NPA) to Combat the SEC;
- Ensure and allocate sufficient budget for the dissemination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all National Plans of Action;
- Establish a data-gathering system to evaluate the extent and severity of SEC in Mauritius.

Coordination and Evaluation

18. In Mauritius, the government does not have a main pivotal body, which specifically coordinates policies and measures against the SEC.
19. The main institution is the **National Child Protection Committee (NCPC)**. It coordinates and implements policies and programmes related to children's.
20. The **Child Development Unit**, established by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, focuses its efforts on the protection of children, child victims of abuse, with a particularly focus on the SEC.⁴³

Recommendations for the GoM to:

- Create a body which specifically focused on SEC and all its manifestations and/or the OPSC;
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation between the various government departments and agencies working in the areas covered by the OPSC.

Legislative framework

21. There is lack of clarity and uniformity in Mauritius' legislation in relation to all forms of SEC. The main laws penalising SEC offences are the Child Protection Act and the Criminal Code, which do not meet the international minimum standards.
22. In the country's last UPR report in 2013, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Seychelles recommended the GoM to finalise and submit the Children's Bill.⁴⁴ The GoM accepted the recommendation. However, since then the Children's Bill still has not been adopted.⁴⁵
23. Egypt advised the GoM to: '*Continue finalizing the process of reviewing the legal framework on prohibiting, preventing and responding to all forms of sale and sexual exploitation of children, and to ensure the effective implementation of the framework through, inter alia, the harmonization of national legal and regulatory frameworks with ratified international instruments, accompanied by binding measures and mechanisms*'.⁴⁶
24. A definition of **child sexual exploitation in prostitution** is rather broadly given in the Child Protection Act as "sexual offence against children" when "any person who causes, incites or allows any child to (a) be sexually abused by him or by another person; (b) have access to a brothel; and (c) engage in prostitution."⁴⁷ It specifies that a child shall be deemed to be 'sexually abused where he has taken part whether as a willingly or unwillingly participant or observer in any act.'⁴⁸ Under Section 18 (5) of the Act, such offences shall be penalised with a maximum imprisonment of up to 10 years with a fine up to 100,000 Rupees (approximately \$3,000).⁴⁹ The punishment will increase up to 15 years of imprisonment in cases where the child is mentally handicapped.⁵⁰ The Criminal Code of Mauritius provides similar criminalisation. Under Article 253 (2) (a), "*procuring, enticing and exploiting a child into prostitution, regardless of motives or gains for such acts, shall be liable for a maximum of 20 years of imprisonment together with a fine up to 200,000 Rupees (approximately \$5,870).*"⁵¹

25. Regarding **trafficking of children**, in the last country's UPR in 2013, South Sudan, Botswana and the United States of America recommend the GoM to strengthen its efforts on combating child trafficking.⁵² The Mauritian legal frameworks relating to the sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes are comprehensive and in compliance with the international minimum standards. The main law that deals with the issue is the *Combating of Trafficking in Persons in Act*. Although the title of the Act itself does not specify children, under Section 3, it explicitly states that the Act shall be “*in addition to, and not in derogation from the Child Protection Act*” which include trafficking of children.⁵³
26. In Mauritius, there is no explicit law that defines **OSCE**. The Child Protection Act, however, establishes that a child “*shall be deemed to be sexually abused where he has taken part [...] in any act which is sexual in nature*” for different purposes, including “*any activity of pornographic, obscene or indecent nature*” which may partially entail some manifestations of OCSE.⁵⁴ Unfortunately, the Act does not provide a definition for CSAM. Nevertheless, the Act penalises any person who takes, makes, distributes, shows, possesses or publishes indecent photographs of children⁵⁵ with a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment, and if the victim is mentally handicapped, the penalty can be increased up to 15 years.⁵⁶ Unfortunately, the Act provides an offender with a chance to present a defence and prove that “*either he had reasonable grounds for the distribution or possession of such materials, that he had not seen them and/or that he did not know the material was indecent*”.⁵⁷ Such an opportunity for defence could lead to a restriction in bringing offenders to justice.
27. The Criminal Code Supplementary Act explicitly prohibits and penalises any person who “*sells, lends, hires or distributes to a minor or exposes or allows to be exposed to the view of a minor any obscene matter*” with no more than four years with a fine up to 100,000 Rupees (approximately \$3,000).⁵⁸ ‘Obscene matter’ under this Act includes “*writing, drawing, print, painting, printed matter, picture, poster, emblem, photograph, cinematograph file, video tape, slide, data stored on a computer disc or by other electronic means capable of conversion into a photograph, or any other obscene object*”.⁵⁹ In addition, the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act also contains a provision that may provide protection specific to children. It stipulates that a Judge in Chambers may order any indecent photograph of a child to be deleted or destroyed.⁶⁰
28. Under Section 18 of the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001, the Information and Communication Technologies Authority shall “*take steps to regulate or curtail the harmful and illegal content on the Internet and other information and communication services*”.⁶¹ Moreover, under Section 46, it is a criminal offence when a person “*uses an information and communication service, including the tele-communication service for the transmission or reception of a message which is grossly offensive, or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character*”.⁶²
29. As the phenomenon is increasingly recognised in the country, the Department of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) is drafting a law to fight against OCSE in accordance to the Child Safety Online Action Plan.⁶³
30. Even though reportedly significant numbers of children are sexually exploited in the context of **travel and tourism** in Mauritius, there is no explicit law provision that addresses such offences.
31. The main legal instrument that governs **marriage** in Mauritius is the Civil Code from 1808. According to Article 144, “*no one can enter into marriage before the age of 18*”.⁶⁴ However, a minor who is above the age of 16 can marry with parental consent or with permission from a judge.⁶⁵
32. The CRC was concerned with the definition of a child as any ‘unmarried’ person.⁶⁶ During the Country Examination of CRC, the delegation of Mauritius guaranteed that they will take measures to address the issue. However, it seems that there has been no amendment so far.

33. The Mauritius Criminal Code does not establish **extraterritorial jurisdiction** for offences committed outside the country or by a foreigner. For its part, although it criminalises conducts related to child trafficking even when happening “*outside Mauritius*”, but “*for the purpose of exploitation in Mauritius*”, the Child Protection Act remains unclear with regards to the applicability of its provisions to foreigners in other jurisdictions.⁶⁷ Under the same Act, OCSE-related offences shall be considered extraditable crimes.⁶⁸ According to the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, the Mauritian jurisdiction apply to any person (including foreigners if arrested in Mauritian territory) who commits an offence provided by the Act outside Mauritius⁶⁹
34. The Extradition Act provides extradition rules. It does not provide for the double criminality requirement. The Act classifies extraditable offences – including a few SEC-related crimes⁷⁰ into Commonwealth countries⁷¹ and non-Commonwealth countries. In the case of a non-Commonwealth country, the Act will apply on the condition of the existence of a bilateral extradition treaty between the two countries.⁷²

Recommendations for the GoM to:

- Urgently adopt the consolidated Children’s Bill;
- Amend the Child Protection Act, which defines a child as any unmarried person under the age of 18;
- Provide a legal definition and criminalise OSCE;
- Provide a definition of CSAM;
- Establish a legal obligation for Internet Service Providers (ISP) to report, remove or block access to websites where sexual abuse materials representing children are available;
- Provide a legal definition and criminalise SECTT;
- Raise the age of marriage to 18 years of age for both girls and boys without exceptions;
- national legal mechanisms governing extraterritorial jurisdiction and extradition should be amended in order to be more specific, clear and to include all forms of SEC.

Prevention

35. In the last country's UPR in 2013, Brazil recommended the GoM to increase its actions regarding the prevention on the violation of child rights including sexual abuse.⁷³
36. The GoM has been active in implementing activities related to child protection including the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.
37. There are several entities that deal with preventive measures in Mauritius. For instance, the Child Development Unit developed the programme ‘Ecole Des Parents’ through the National Parental Empowerment Programme 2005-2015, which provided information regarding measures of prevention from all forms of child violence, ranging from pre-birth to late adolescence.⁷⁴
38. The Crime Prevention Unit, which created the ‘Brigade des Mineurs’, carries out various activities such as School Sensitisation Campaigns, Youth Crime Prevention, Parents Sensitisation, Setting up Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Rehabilitation Programmes, Victim Support and Advice Programmes, and Publication of Crime Prevention Literature (booklets/leaflets).⁷⁵ The *Brigade des Mineurs*, in close collaboration with the National

Children’s Council and the Child Development Unit, carried out sensitisation campaigns throughout the island to follow on cases, track down raids, prevent offences, and raise awareness of SEC.⁷⁶

39. In 2016, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, the Ministry of OGE, the Minor’s Brigade, and the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, organised workshops for the Safer Internet Day in order to raise awareness on OSCE.⁷⁷
40. The National Cybercrime Prevention Committee, was set up to improve the cyber environment particularly of children and young adults. It provides filtering at the public-school level for proper Internet access and safety measures. The Mauritian computer Emergency Response Team was also set up to implement proactive measures to reduce risks.⁷⁸ To actively carry out the Child Safety Online Action Plan, the Police Family Protection Unit carried out awareness campaigns, including one focusing on OCSE.⁷⁹ A campaign was launched, by the Internet Child Safety Foundation, alerting parents to the risks and harms that children can be exposed to whilst surfing online.⁸⁰
41. In 2016, the National Child Protection Committee, launched its first Symposium on *Child Protection against All sorts of Exploitation including Commercial and Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*.⁸¹ Furthermore, the Child Welfare South African and ECPAT International hosted a regional conference on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism under the theme of “*Ensuring Coordinated Actions to Combat Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa*” where delegates from Mauritius also attended the conference.⁸²
42. Not only the governmental agencies but also the NGOs and the private sectors proactively participated in the fight against SEC. For example, the Halley Movement together with the Mauritius Internet Governance Forum hosted the first National Internet Governance Forum on “*Enhancing Digital Trust to Encompass Online Child Safety*” in 2017.⁸³ One of the sub-themes included the prevention of online sexual violence.⁸⁴ The national airline Air Mauritius, together with Social Club, the Association of Airline Ambassadors, and The Code, has conducted a project to protect children from sexual exploitation by raising awareness with outgoing passengers.⁸⁵ Moreover, it is actively promoting prevention of SECTT and encouraging many companies to become a signatory to The Code of Conduct.⁸⁶
43. In 2016, the police educated 13,558 primary and secondary school students as well as people in community centres on the prevention of SEC.⁸⁷ Additionally, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare provided programmes for professionals and stakeholders on sexual exploitation, and community child protection programmes, which resulted in over 5,000 persons being trained.⁸⁸ Lastly, in 2016, the International Organisation for Migration Country Program trained relevant law enforcement officials in counter trafficking.⁸⁹
44. There are two bodies at the national level, which are dedicated to ensuring **children’s participation**: The National Children’s Council and the National Youth Council. The key objective of the Council is to coordinate national bodies that deal with child-related policies and to ensure children’s participation.⁹⁰ In doing so, the Council has set up Children’s Clubs since 1998 to encourage children’s participation in decision-making processes.
45. The National Youth Council⁹¹ has been established in 1998 by the National Youth Council Act⁹² to provide a bridge between the government and the youth. It functions as an advisory board to the Minister to integrate youth in sectors of national development.⁹³

Recommendations for the GoM to:

- Continue raising public awareness about SEC, specifically among vulnerable groups, and the sanctions on the crime to all citizens and visitors;
- Promote the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism;
- Invest in child empowering prevention programmes on SEC, included in the standard school curricula, and to address its root causes and multiple vulnerabilities that endanger children, families and communities;
- Promote child protective social norms through community development projects, and the media, including social networks;
- Continue investing in a public education programme to raise awareness on online behaviour and safety, knowledge and reporting of online child sexual exploitation and abuse offences;
- Ensure that the child's voice is heard and taken into consideration in all legal and social proceedings affecting the child.

Protection of the rights of child victims

46. In the last country's UPR in 2013, only one country, Uruguay advised the GoM to strengthen its efforts on investigation, trial and punishment of perpetrators.⁹⁴
47. Under the Mauritius Police Force, various police units focus on child protection such as: the Police IT Unit, the Police Crime Prevention Unit, and the Police Family Protection Unit.
48. There are various legal mechanisms for children to access justice in Mauritius if they believe their rights have been violated. Those include Constitutional complaints, civil/penal claims, administrative actions, the Ombudsman's Office, the National Human Rights Commission, and the African Union. Unfortunately, not all the mechanisms are specific to SEC.
49. In accordance with the Constitution,⁹⁵ the Ombudsman Act,⁹⁶ and the Ombudsperson for Children Act,⁹⁷ a child may file a complaint with the Ombudsperson. The tasks of the Ombudsperson include, amongst many, launching an investigation as he/she sees fit, and the investigation of any complaints lodged by a child.⁹⁸ However, the provisions do not give the Ombudsperson power to bring a court case on behalf of the child. The stakeholders criticised the limited effectiveness of "*child-friendly complaints and reporting mechanisms*".⁹⁹ The CRC also recommended that the government hire additional qualified investigators to effectively address complaints made by children.¹⁰⁰
50. Despite the fact that Mauritius has a Juvenile Court, the court mainly deals with situations where the child is the offender and not the victim.
51. Nonetheless, there are several **legal mechanisms** that provide child-friendly and child-sensitive justice in Mauritius. For instance, under the Constitution, any person under the age of 18 can be excluded from public proceedings in the interest of his/her welfare.¹⁰¹ Moreover, the Court Act has some provisions that are child-sensitive. Under Section 161A, a minor may be excluded from proceedings, such as hearing or examining evidence, in order to "*safeguard [his/her] welfare*".¹⁰² The amendment to the Act in 2003 introduced live video streaming and television links when a victim is involved in a sexual offence case.¹⁰³
52. In terms of **legal advice and aid**, the Legal Aid and Legal Assistance Act does not stipulate legal aid to child victims but just to children charged with a crime or misdemeanour.¹⁰⁴ As such, pro bono services are not well developed yet, and need to be encouraged.¹⁰⁵

53. Although there are some institutions that deal with access to **recovery and reintegration** for child victims, there is a considerable lack and limit of resources in Mauritius to adequately provide such services.
54. Child victims of SEC in Mauritius receive care and protection mainly by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare such as ‘Residential Drop-in Centre’ for the child victims of SEC.¹⁰⁶ According to the government report, the capacity for accommodation is only up to 32 children, aged nine to 18.¹⁰⁷
55. Under the auspices of the Ministry, the *Family Support Bureaux*¹⁰⁸ were set up throughout the country (six regional offices) to provide 24-hour hotline services, family counselling, visits to the family, to speak with the child, prepare a report, and when necessary, apply for an emergency protection court order.¹⁰⁹
56. The Child Development Unit of the Police Force also significantly puts in a lot of effort to provide adequate protection for child victims.¹¹⁰ However, police officers stated that “*one major challenge faced is how to effectively identify child victims of sexual exploitation*”.¹¹¹ Moreover, they described a lack of sufficient training and specialised staff members, which results in limited and insufficient rehabilitation and reintegration procedures for child victims.¹¹²
57. The Ministry, the National Children’s Council runs and manages ‘*La Colombe*’ Shelter. However, the Shelter is not specifically geared towards victims of SEC but, provides services for children with different needs/backgrounds, including physically abused children, sexually abused children, abandoned children, and children living on the street. According to the National Human Rights Action Plan, not only has a ‘Special Collaborative Program’ for support of women and children in distress been set up, but a residential care shelter has also been operational to accommodate child victims of SEC who cannot go back to their family.¹¹³
58. In 2015, the CRC raised concern at the “*reported discontinuation of support to victims of sexual exploitation*” and “*inadequate rehabilitative services for victims*”.¹¹⁴
59. There is also a lack of explicit provisions in terms of access to compensation for child victims of sexual exploitation.
60. The Child Protection Act only allows financial assistance to -amongst four other conditions- children in distress between the age of 10 and 16,¹¹⁵ and such children have to be under a Child Mentoring Scheme.¹¹⁶ According to the Criminal Procedure Act, the Supreme Court may, if it thinks fit, order incurred expenses to the convicted offender.¹¹⁷ Similarly, under the District and Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act, such courts may make a payment order to be paid by a convicted party.¹¹⁸
61. The only provision in Mauritius that stipulates compensation to a victim is the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act. According to the Act, the Court shall issue a compensation order either to the person convicted of an offence or to the State.¹¹⁹

Recommendations for the GoM:

- Establish one legal mechanism for children to access justice;
- Ensure that law enforcement agencies have the resources and skills to identify, investigate and respond to SEC and are able to use victim-centred and child friendly methods when dealing with child victims and witnesses;
- Ensure that child-friendly services are available and regulated by quality standards, put in place by competent and well-trained staff with adequate resources and easily accessible to all children in order to guarantee their physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into their communities;
- Inform and educate child victims of SEC about available recovery and reintegration structures;

- Mobilise sufficient financial and human resources to maintain the shelters for child victims;
- Create additional legal provisions to ensure that child victims of SEC have access to legal remedies, regardless of their gender or their background;
- Ensure that SEC victims are not treated as criminals, that the burden of proof falls on the authorities and not on the victim;
- Offer or subsidise tailored recovery and reintegration services to SEC victims.

¹ Human Rights Council (2013), “*Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Mauritius*”, A/HRC/25/8, accessed on 06 February 2018, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/191/69/PDF/G1319169.pdf?OpenElement>.

² Sustainable Development Goal Targets 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2.

³ ECPAT prefers the term ‘exploitation of children in prostitution’ instead of ‘child prostitution’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 29, accessed on 15 January 2018, <http://luxembourguidelines.org/>.

⁴ ECPAT prefers the term ‘child sexual exploitation material’ or ‘child sexual abuse material’ over the often in legal context still used ‘child pornography’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, 39.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 54.

⁶ Central Intelligence Agency US (2017), “The World Fact Book” Mauritius, accessed 12 December 2017, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mp.html>, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

⁷ UNICEF (2017), “The State of the World’s Children 2017”, p 155, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

⁸ Central Intelligence Agency US (2017), “The World Fact Book”, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

⁹ *Ibid.*, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme (2015), “Human Development Data”, accessed 12 December 2017, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹¹ Central Intelligence Agency US (2017), “The World Fact Book”, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹² *Ibid.*, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹³ Slate Africa (2013), “28% of teens aged 13 to 15 smoke”, accessed 12 December 2017, <http://www.slateafrique.com/259423/28-des-ados-ages-de-13-15-ans-fument>; Also see, Indian Ocean Times (2015), “Mauritius: Over 100,000 cannabis plants uprooted in 2014”, accessed 12 December 2017, https://en.indian-ocean-times.com/Mauritius-Over-100000-cannabis-plants-uprooted-in-2014_a5946.html, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹⁴ Indian Ocean Times (2015), “Mauritius: More than 2,260 couples divorced in 2014”, accessed 12 December 2017, https://en.indian-ocean-times.com/Mauritius-More-than-2260-couples-divorced-in-2014_a5925.html, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹⁵ Human Rights Council (2011), Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children and sexual exploitation on her visit to Mauritius, 9 November 2011, A/HRC/19/63/Add.1, p. 5, para. 18, accessed 12 December 2017, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/170/50/PDF/G1117050.pdf?OpenElement>, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

¹⁶ Humanium, “Children of Mauritius, realising children’s rights in Mauritius”, accessed 12 December 2017, <https://www.humanium.org/en/mauritius/>. See e.g. Indian Ocean Times (2013), “Mauritius: A couple have sold six of their seven children to escape poverty”, accessed 12 December 2017, https://en.indian-ocean-times.com/Mauritius-A-couple-have-sold-six-of-their-seven-children-to-escape-poverty_a2099.html, as referenced in ECPAT International (2018), “ECPAT Country Overview: Mauritius”.

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