

- ♦ adopt a comprehensive and integrated policy for children, such as a national plan of action to assess progress achieved and difficulties encountered in the realization of the rights recognized by the Convention at the central and local levels, and in particular, to monitor regularly the effects of economic change on children;
- ♦ allocate resources to the maximum extent possible to ensure the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, with particular emphasis on health and education and on the enjoyment of these rights by the most disadvantaged groups of children;
- ♦ take steps immediately to address the problem of child poverty and make every feasible effort to ensure that all families, particularly single-parent and Roma families, have adequate resources and facilities;
- ♦ encourage local governments to generate local income for funding social services, in particular for the protection and promotion of children's rights;
- ♦ strengthen efforts to disseminate the principles and provisions of the Convention and make it available in minority languages, especially Roma;
- ♦ conduct training on the Convention for professional groups working with and/or for children;
- ♦ continue and strengthen its efforts to develop a closer partnership with NGOs;
- ♦ continue and reinforce its efforts aimed at reducing discriminatory practices against the Roma population and improving the general status of Roma children;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures to prevent and combat ill treatment of children, including physical and sexual abuse within the family, at school and in child-care institutions; undertake prevention campaigns, including through education, to protect children against abuse and maltreatment;
- ♦ consider reviewing legislation and practice relating to the possibility of placing a child up for adoption before birth, and consider acceding to the Hague Convention of 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- ♦ envisage undertaking further measures to prevent and redress unequal access to health services and to the education system between the rural and urban population, and in particular, to facilitate the access of Roma children to health and education;
- ♦ promote breastfeeding in health facilities; launch campaigns to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies, strengthen reproductive health education programmes, and launch information campaigns on family planning and prevention of HIV/AIDS;
- ♦ continue efforts in undertaking comprehensive studies on suicide among youth to enable authorities

to improve their understanding of this phenomenon, and take appropriate measures to reduce the suicide rate;

- ♦ undertake further preventive and curative measures, including rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, to address the issue of drug abuse and alcohol consumption among adolescents;
- ♦ continue efforts to prevent and combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially the use of children in pornography and prostitution and the trafficking of children; develop rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation;
- ♦ address such issues as the ill treatment of children in detention centres, the use of deprivation of liberty other than as a measure of last resort, and the stigmatization of the most vulnerable categories of children, including those belonging to the Roma minority; and
- ♦ conduct training programmes on the relevant international standards for all professionals involved with the juvenile justice system.

### Committee against Torture

Hungary's 3rd periodic report (CAT/C/34/Add.10, April 1997) was considered by the Committee at its November 1998 session. The report prepared by the government is intended to show, on the one hand, what kind of further new legal institutions have been established for strengthening democratic achievements and, on the other, to give an objective survey of the everyday working practices, methods and concrete results of all relevant authorities who are responsible for preventing torture and ill treatment. Information is provided on, *inter alia*: the functions and responsibilities of the office of the Ombudsman system (as of October 1995); international instruments to which Hungary has acceded since its last report to the Committee; the November 1994 visit to Hungary by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and subsequent observations and recommendations; amendments to laws related to the Criminal Code and the code of criminal procedure, the structural system of the courts, the prison administration, the police, redress and compensation, and the armed forces; legal guarantees related to expulsion; custody measures related to aliens; provisions and agreements related to extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters; activities of the Hungarian Centre on Human Rights; and professional training programmes for law enforcement personnel.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CAT/C/HUN) welcomed: Hungary's withdrawal of its reservation to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, on geographical limitation; the new legislation on asylum; Act LIX 1997 on Criminal Punishment System; and the Ombudsman mechanism.

Subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: that provisions of article 123 of the Criminal Code make torture punishable only if the sol-