

Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedures. The Committee welcomed the establishment of a training programme for judges, the police and government officials dealing with children's rights and the establishment of a "Crisis Line for Children" which provides them with a means to report cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Among the areas of concern addressed by the Committee were: the lack of an integrated strategy for children as well as the absence of a mechanism to systematically monitor progress in all areas covered by the Convention; the need to strengthen the government's capacity to develop disaggregated indicators to evaluate progress and assess the impact of existing policies on all children, especially children belonging to minority groups; the need to improve coordination between government bodies dealing with child welfare at the national and local levels; failure to integrate fully the principles of the Convention on non-discrimination, best interests of the child and respect for the views of the child into legislative policies and programmes; lack of adequate measures to protect children belonging to minorities, including Roma children, and to ensure their full access to health, education and other social services; denial of citizenship to children who were not registered for lawful permanent residence and failure to inform children and their caretakers in such situations about procedures for applying for citizenship; lack of sufficient mechanisms to protect children from harmful information, including violence and pornography in the media; continued use by parents of corporal punishment and failure to prohibit corporal punishment in schools; the harmful impact on children's health of environmental degradation; insufficient measures to ensure for children with disabilities effective access to health, education and social services and to facilitate their full inclusion in society; the insufficiency of measures to address issues of reproductive health and the incidence of early pregnancies; insufficiencies in the measures taken to address the problems of child abuse, sexual abuse within the family, the sale and trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography; inadequate measures to deal with the problem of children working and/or living on the street; and, the rising incidence of gambling addiction, alcohol consumption and drug abuse among children.

The Committee also expressed concern about deficiencies in the system of administration of juvenile justice, particularly in the areas of the right to legal assistance and judicial review, the need to ensure that deprivation of liberty is used only as a measure of last resort, and the stigmatization of the most vulnerable categories of children, including those belonging to the Roma minority.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ review its reservation to article 7 of the Convention;
- ▶ strengthen coordination between various governmental mechanisms involved in children's rights at both the national and local levels;
- ▶ develop a comprehensive policy on children and ensure effective evaluation of its implementation;
- ▶ continue and strengthen its efforts to develop close partnerships with NGOs working in the area of children's rights;

- ▶ continue to consider establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor children's rights, such as an Ombudsman or national commission for children's rights;
- ▶ make further efforts to ensure that national laws conform fully with the Convention;
- ▶ consider incorporating the Convention into the curricula of all educational institutions;
- ▶ take measures to facilitate access by children to information about their rights;
- ▶ make further efforts to provide comprehensive training programmes for professional groups working with children, including judges, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, army officials, teachers, school administrators, social workers and personnel in child-care institutions;
- ▶ undertake major efforts to reduce discrimination against the Roma population;
- ▶ consider establishment of special programmes to improve the standard of living, education and health of Roma children;
- ▶ take measures to facilitate applications for citizenship so as to resolve the situation of stateless children and children placed in institutions;
- ▶ consider acceding to the 1954 Convention related to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;
- ▶ adopt reproductive health measures aimed at reducing the incidence of pregnancies among teenage girls;
- ▶ strengthen information and prevention programmes to combat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- ▶ take measures, including provision of support services to needy families, to prevent the abandonment of children and protect single poor mothers from child traffickers;
- ▶ develop a broad public information campaign to protect children from abuse and mistreatment, including the prevention of corporal punishment at home, at schools or in other institutions;
- ▶ take appropriate steps to ensure the entry into force of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- ▶ develop early identification programmes to prevent disabilities, implement alternative measures to the institutionalization of disabled children, and prepare information campaigns to reduce discrimination against children with disabilities and encourage their inclusion in society;
- ▶ undertake more comprehensive research on the possible effects of environmental pollution on the health of children;
- ▶ undertake a comprehensive study of child abuse and ill-treatment in the family;
- ▶ reinforce policies and programmes to combat and prevent all forms of sexual abuse, including domestic violence and incest;