

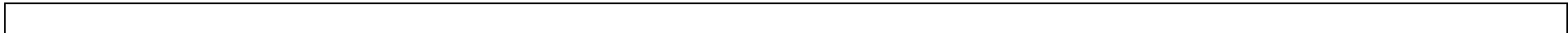


Mapping the Intersections of CEDAW & CRC Concluding Observations

Review of the Most Recent Asian State Party Reports (As of August 2007)

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Country	Issue	Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Committee on the Rights of Women (CEDAW)
Bangladesh CRC/C/15/Add.221(2003) U.N. Doc. A/59/38 (SUPP) paras. 228-267 (2004)	Legislative Developments	13. The Committee recommends that the State party take all effective measures to harmonize its domestic legislation fully with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular with regard to existing minimum ages of...marriage...and harmful traditional practices affecting children.	
	Sex-disaggregated Data		
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	26. The Committee is concerned about the various legal minimum ages, which are inconsistent, discriminatory and/or too low. The Committee is also deeply concerned at the fact that the Majority Act 1875, setting the age of majority at 18 years, has no effect “on the capacity of any person in relation to marriage, dowry, divorce and adoption or on the religion and religious customs of any citizen” (CRC/C/65/Add.22, para 45). 27. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party; ... (c) Ensure that domestic legislation on minimum ages is respected and implemented throughout the country.	257. The Committee expresses concern that although in Bangladesh the minimum age of marriage for girls is 18 years, child marriage continues to be practiced widely. 258. The Committee urges the State party to enact into law the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2002 and ensure its enforcement, in order to eliminate child marriage. 248. The Committee urges the State party to adopt without delay a uniform Family Code that fully complies with the provisions of the Convention and general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations , as a way to protect the rights of all Bangladeshi women in matters related to marriage, divorce, custody, alimony and property inheritance. It recommends that the State party step up its efforts to provide awareness-raising and training, including on the importance of a uniform Family Code and the State party's obligations under the Convention, to community leaders.
Education	63. The Committee welcomes the progress made by the State party in the field of education, notably with regard to increases in primary and secondary enrolments, the reduction in gender	233. The Committee commends the State party for the achievement of gender parity in school enrollment at the primary and secondary levels, and has succeeded in decreasing girls' dropout rates. The Committee also appreciates	

	<p>disparities in enrolment and improvement in the literacy rates. The Committee also notes with great appreciation the abolition of tuition fees for primary schools and the establishment of a Tk 500 million stipend programme, of the 'food for education' programme, and the pilot project on early childhood education. However, the Committee is concerned that challenges remain in the above-mentioned areas, that free compulsory education ends after grade 5, that the school dropout rate is high and that gender-based discrimination persists within schools. Other concerns include reports of abuse and sexual molestation, especially of girls, inaccessibility to schools, inadequate sanitation and the misuse of allocated resources.</p> <p>64. The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to monitor the quality of education in the madrasas. However, it is concerned about the narrow content of the education provided within these schools.</p> <p>65. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Take effective measures to raise the maximum age of compulsory education, and to increase enrolment rates through, inter alia, raising awareness of the importance of education and taking measures to improve the provision and quality of education;(b) Continue to address gender-based discrimination and other difficulties encountered by girls within the education system and school environment;(c) Monitor and evaluate existing	<p>the successful efforts to increase girls' and women's literacy rates.</p>
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		<p>programmes on early childhood education and development, and extend services, especially parenting education and education for caregivers to all regions;</p> <p>(d) Provide appropriate sanitation facilities, especially for females, in all schools;</p> <p>(e) Provide appropriate training for teachers in order to create a more child-friendly school environment;</p> <p>(f) Encourage the participation of children at all levels of school life;</p> <p>(g) Seek assistance from UNICEF, UNESCO, and relevant NGOs.</p> <p>66. The Committee also recommends that the State party continue and strengthen its efforts to streamline the education given in the madrasas to ensure more compatibility with formal public education.</p>	
	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>	<p>28. The Committee welcomes the measures undertaken by the State party to enhance the situation of girls, especially in relation to education. It remains deeply concerned about persistent discriminatory attitudes towards girls, which are deeply rooted in traditional stereotypes and limit access to resources and services. The Committee is also concerned about discrimination against... child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.</p> <p>29. The Committee recommends that the State party take adequate measures to ensure implementation of the principle of non-discrimination in full compliance with article 2 of the Convention, and</p>	<p>237. The Committee expresses concern that, while the Constitution guarantees equal rights to men and women, the definition of discrimination in the State party's legislation is not in line with the Convention.</p> <p>238. The Committee requests that the definition of discrimination against women be brought into conformity with article 1 of the Convention, and in particular that the State party's responsibility to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women be extended to discrimination perpetrated by private actors.</p> <p>246. The Committee urges the State party to undertake measures to design and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes to change stereotypical attitudes and norms</p>

		<p>strengthen its proactive and comprehensive efforts to eliminate discrimination on any grounds and against all vulnerable groups. The Committee also recommends that the State party undertake an education campaign for boys and men on gender issues and sex discrimination.</p>	<p>about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society and take measures to eliminate polygamy. It also calls upon the State party to periodically review the measures taken and assess their impact in order to identify shortcomings and make necessary changes to improve them.</p> <p>247. The Committee is concerned about the unequal status of Bangladeshi women within the family, particularly in matters related to marriage, divorce, custody, alimony and property inheritance. The Committee expresses concern that personal laws, derived from religious precepts which are discriminatory to women, continue to prevail in the country and that no uniform Family Code is in place.</p>
Domestic & Institutional Violence		<p>49. The Committee is concerned at the high incidence of abuse, including sexual abuse, within the State party, and at the lack of effective measures to combat this phenomenon. The Committee is particularly concerned that existing legislation, notably the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000, is rarely implemented and that the prosecution of abuse against women is rare even in very serious cases because of societal attitudes. The Committee is further concerned that the current legislation protects children from abuse only up to the age of 14 years. In addition, the Committee is concerned that child victims of abuse and/or exploitation are placed in ‘safe custody’, which may result in depriving them of their liberty for as long as 10 years.</p>	<p>241. The Committee expresses concern that, despite the adoption of the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act, 2000, the Acid Control Act, 2002, and the Acid Crime Control Act, 2002, violence against women, including domestic violence, rape, acid throwing, dowry-related violence, fatwa-instigated violence, and sexual harassment in the workplace, continues to exist. The Committee is also concerned that women who are threatened by or subjected to such violence are placed in "safe custody" in shelter homes without their consent</p> <p>242. The Committee urges the State party to accord priority attention to the adoption of a comprehensive approach to address violence against women and girls, taking into account its general recommendation 19 on violence against women. The Committee calls on the State party to ensure the effective implementation of the existing legislation to combat all forms of</p>

		<p>50. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Continue and strengthen its efforts to address the issue of child abuse, including through ensuring there is public awareness of the relevant legislation;</p> <p>(b) Assess the scope, nature and causes of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, with a view to adopting a comprehensive strategy and effective measures and policies and to changing attitudes;</p> <p>(c) Provide adequate protection and assistance to child victims of abuse in their homes, whenever possible, and take appropriate measures to prevent the stigmatization of victims;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that all children below the age of 18 years are specifically protected under domestic legislation against abuse and exploitation;</p> <p>(e) Ensure that the placement of children victims of abuse and exploitation in institutions for reasons of protection and treatment is used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time;</p> <p>(f) Take into consideration the recommendations of the Committee adopted at its days of general discussion on the issue of ‘Violence against Children’ (CRC/C/100, para 688 and CRC/C/111, paras 701-745).</p>	<p>violence against women and to adopt specific legislation on domestic violence within a clear time frame, in order to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence and sexual harassment have access to protection and effective redress, and perpetrators of such acts are effectively prosecuted and punished. The Committee also recommends gender-sensitive training on violence against women for public officials, particularly law enforcement personnel, the judiciary and health services providers. It further encourages the State party to take effective measures to protect women against fatwa-instigated violence. It calls on the State party to establish shelters where women who are threatened by or subjected to violence can be accommodated on a voluntary basis. The Committee also calls on the State party to take measures towards changing social, cultural and traditional attitudes that remain permissive of violence against women.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>71. While welcoming the National Plan of Action against sexual abuse and exploitation, the Committee is deeply concerned at the prevalence of sexual exploitation of children and the social stigmatization of the victims of such</p>	<p>243. While welcoming the ratification of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution in July 2002, the Committee remains concerned about the</p>

	<p>exploitation, as well as at the lack of social and psychological recovery programmes and the very limited possibilities for victims to be reintegrated into society. The Committee is also concerned about the widespread practice of forcing children into prostitution.</p> <p>72. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Fully and effectively implement the National Plan of Action against sexual abuse and exploitation, in order to ensure appropriate policies, laws and programmes for the prevention, protection, recovery and reintegration of child victims, in line with the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the 1996 and 2001 World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that victims of sexual exploitation are never considered as offenders, but rather benefit from programmes for their recovery and reintegration;</p> <p>(c) Investigate, prosecute and sentence perpetrators of sexual offences against children;</p> <p>(d) Develop and monitor a code of conduct for law enforcement officials;</p> <p>(e) Seek assistance from, among others, UNICEF.</p> <p>73. The Committee is deeply concerned at the high incidence of trafficking in children for purposes of prostitution, domestic service and to serve as camel jockeys and at the lack of long-term,</p>	<p>continuing prevalence of trafficking in women and girls in the country. It is also concerned that, despite the fact that many persons have been accused or are on trial for trafficking-related crimes, only a few have been convicted.</p> <p>244. The Committee recommends the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls that should include the prosecution and punishment of offenders. The Committee also encourages the State party to pursue increased international, regional and bilateral cooperation with other countries of origin, transit and destination for trafficked women and girls. It recommends the stepping up of measures aimed at improving the economic situation of women so as to eliminate their vulnerability to traffickers, the introduction of education and employment initiatives for vulnerable groups, including teenage girls, and provide support, rehabilitation and reintegration measures for women and girls who have been victims of trafficking. It calls on the State party to ensure that trafficked women have the support they need to enable them to provide testimony against traffickers. It urges the training of border police and law enforcement officials in order to provide them with the requisite skills to recognize and provide support for victims of trafficking. The Committee further urges the State party to include in its next report comprehensive information and data on the issue and on the impact of measures taken.</p>
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		<p>concentrated efforts on the part of the State party to combat this phenomenon.</p> <p>74. The Committee recommends that the State party;</p> <p>(a) Undertake all necessary efforts to prevent and combat domestic and cross-border child trafficking, including through international cooperation;</p> <p>(b) Take all necessary measures for the recovery and reintegration of children victims of trafficking;</p> <p>(c) Investigate, prosecute and sentence perpetrators of trafficking, including through international cooperation;</p> <p>(d) Seek assistance from, among others, UNICEF and the IMO.</p>	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence	<p>61. The Committee is deeply concerned at the existence of harmful traditional practices, such as child marriages and dowry-related violence, which are widespread and pose very serious threats, in particular to the girl child.</p> <p>62. The Committee recommends that the State party continue and intensify its efforts to eradicate harmful traditional practice, by strengthening awareness-raising programmes and enforcement of the law.</p>	245. The Committee expresses concern that traditional and cultural discriminatory practices, including polygamy, and strong stereotypical attitudes persist with respect to the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and society, negatively affecting women's enjoyment of their rights and impeding the full implementation of the Convention.
<p>Bhutan</p> <p>CRC/C/15/Add.157 (2001)</p> <p>U.N. Doc. A/59/38, paras. 94-132 (2004)</p>	Legislative Developments	<p>12. While noting various legislative measures already taken or proposed with respect to child rights (e.g. amendments to the 1980 Marriage Act, the 1993 Rape Act, the draft Juvenile Justice Act, draft Civil and Criminal Codes, and the draft Immoral Trafficking Act), the Committee</p>	104. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the existing national machinery, clarify its mandate and provide it with adequate decision-making power and human and financial resources to work effectively for the promotion of women's human rights at all levels, and enhance coordination among the existing mechanisms for

		<p>is concerned that they do not reflect a comprehensive rights-based approach to the implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>13. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Ensure the speedy promulgation of legislation relating to child rights;</p> <p>(b) Undertake a comprehensive review of existing legislation, from a rights-based approach, to ensure its conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention; and</p> <p>(c) Consider adopting a comprehensive children's code which would incorporate the principles and provisions of the Convention.</p>	<p>the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality, including the Planning Commission and the National Statistical Bureau. It also urges the State party to ensure that the National Commission for Women and Children becomes fully functional and is guided in its work by the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure full promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls.</p> <p>105. The Committee expresses concern that policies and programmes are mostly gender neutral and that they were formulated without attention to gender perspectives and to discrimination and inequality faced by women and girls.</p> <p>106. The Committee urges the State party to mainstream gender perspectives when formulating and implementing policies and programmes, as well as in monitoring and assessing progress achieved. It also urges the State party to implement policies and programmes specifically addressed to women and girls, including the next five-year plan for women, 2006-2010, in order to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality. It urges the State party to apply temporary special measures according to article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation 25, inter alia, in the education, employment and professional fields, in order to accelerate the progress in achieving gender equality.</p>
	Sex-disaggregated Data		
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	26. The Committee notes that the 1996 amendment to the Marriage Act of 1980	125. The Committee is concerned about the practice of common-law marriages, which allows

		<p>raised the age of marriage of girls to 18. It further notes information from the delegation that courts generally interpret the law to include persons under 18 as children for all purposes.</p> <p>27. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation with a view to ensuring that the definition of the child and minimum age requirements conform to the principles and provisions of the Convention, are gender neutral, are explicit and are enforced by law.</p>	<p>girls to be married at 15 years of age, while the statutory age of marriage is 18. It is also concerned about the fact that restrictive citizenship laws might prevent women from freely choosing a spouse.</p>
	<p>Education</p>	<p>48. Noting significant achievements in education indicators, the Committee is concerned that primary education is not compulsory; that there is still a significant gap in enrolment; and that there are deficiencies in access to education and the quality of teacher training.</p> <p>49. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ensure that primary education is free and made compulsory (b) Make greater efforts to close the gender gap; and (c) Allocate the required resources to address access to education and the quality of teacher training. 	<p>113. While welcoming the significant progress achieved in the increase in the enrolment rate in primary education, where girls now constitute 45 per cent of the enrolled students, the Committee is concerned about the low participation of girls and women in secondary and tertiary education, including in technology- and science-related courses.</p>
	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>		<p>115. While acknowledging that several traditional perceptions and practices in Bhutan favour women, including with regard to inheritance, the Committee remains concerned that some traditions and stereotyped views in the country may be discriminatory of women and girls, and perpetuate sex-specific roles and responsibilities</p>

			<p>in some spheres of life. The Committee expresses concern at the continuing existence of polygamy in Bhutan.</p> <p>118. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the rights, needs and concerns of rural women are given greater attention and visibility, and that rural women participate fully in the formulation and implementation of all sectoral policies and programmes. It also recommends that the State party ensure that rural women and girls have full access to education and vocational training in the areas where they live.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>40. Noting the respect for children in Bhutan, the Committee is concerned that there is insufficient information and awareness of the ill-treatment of children in schools and within the family.</p> <p>41. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Conduct a study to assess the nature and extent of ill-treatment of children, and design policies and programmes to address it;</p> <p>(b) Take legislative measures to prohibit all forms of physical and mental violence, including corporal punishment and sexual abuse of children in the family, schools, and in institutions;</p>	<p>121. The Committee is concerned that no specific legislation has been enacted to combat domestic violence and sexual harassment in the workplace, and that there is a lack of systematic data collection on violence against women, in particular domestic violence.</p> <p>122. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the full implementation of all legal and other measures relating to the elimination of violence against women, to systematically monitor the impact of those measures and to provide women victims of violence with accessible and effective means of protection, redress and recovery. In the light of its general recommendation 19, the Committee requests the State party to enact legislation on domestic violence and sexual harassment as soon as possible. The Committee also urges the State party to accelerate the adoption of the draft Bhutan Penal Code, which recognizes marital rape as a crime; to devise a structure for systematic data collection on violence against women, including domestic violence,</p>

			<p>disaggregated by sex; and to step up its efforts to provide comprehensive training to the judiciary, police, medical personnel and other relevant groups on all forms of violence against women.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>60. Noting the 1993 Rape Act and the draft Immoral Trafficking Act, the Committee is concerned at the insufficient data on and awareness of the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children in Bhutan.</p> <p>61. The Committee recommends that the State party;</p> <p>(a) Undertake a national study on the nature and extent of sexual exploitation of children (i.e. sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography), and compile and keep up to date disaggregated data to serve as a basis for designing measures and evaluating progress in this area;</p> <p>(b) Review its legislation and ensure that it criminalizes the sexual exploitation of children, is gender neutral and penalizes all offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that the child victims are not penalized;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that legal procedures are simplified so that responses are appropriate, timely, and sensitive to victims;</p> <p>(d) Establish rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for child victims;</p> <p>(e) Train personnel working with child victims; and</p> <p>(f) Carry out awareness-raising campaigns to sensitize and mobilize the general public on the child's right to physical and</p>	<p>123. The Committee, while appreciating the State party's ratification in 2003 of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, is concerned that no information has been provided in the report on the extent of trafficking in women and girls, or on measures taken to prevent and combat that phenomenon in the country.</p>

		mental integrity and safety from sexual exploitation.	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Cambodia U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.128 (2000) CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/3 (2006)	Legislative Developments		
	Sex-disaggregated Data	15. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party in the area of data collection, such as the Education Management Information System and the Health Information System. Nevertheless, concern is expressed at the lack of a systematic, comprehensive and disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data collection mechanism for all areas covered by the Convention, including child abuse and ill-treatment, ... girls , ... and child victims of sale, trafficking and prostitution.	
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	<p>23. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a clear legal definition of the child in the State party's legislation. In particular, concern is expressed at the lack of minimum legal ages of sexual consent and of criminal responsibility.</p> <p>24. In light of the principles and provisions of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party include in its legislation a definition of the child. The Committee further recommends that the State party take into consideration, in the process of drafting its new legislation, the incorporation of</p>	34. The Committee urges the State party to widely disseminate information about the Marriage and Family Law and to address the cultural and traditional factors that perpetuate discrimination against women. The Committee urges the State party to raise the minimum age of marriage for women and men to 18 years, in line with article 16 of the Convention, the Committee's general recommendation 21 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

		<p>minimum ages of criminal responsibility and sexual consent. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party enforce the law on minimum age for marriage.</p>	
	<p>Education</p>	<p>54. While welcoming the current efforts being carried out by the State party, in cooperation with international agencies, to improve its educational system, the Committee expresses its concern at the fact that primary education is not compulsory; that although enrolment rates in primary school are relatively high, equal access to quality education is not ensured owing to a lack of schools in rural and remote areas; that there are gender disparities in school attendance; that there are high repetition and drop-out rates; and that a majority of children belonging to minority groups do not have access to any form of education.</p> <p>55. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to undertake effective measures to make primary education free and compulsory for all children; to increase the enrolment rates and decrease drop-out and repetition rates; to increase access to schools, in particular for poor children, girls, children belonging to minority groups and children living in remote areas. The Committee further recommends that the State party continue to take measures to improve its education system by increasing budget allocations for the education sector; providing training to upgrade teachers' skills; making the school curricula more relevant</p>	<p>25. The Committee notes with concern the high illiteracy rates among women, in particular those from rural areas, ethnic minority groups or who are disabled, the large disparity in school enrolment rates for males and females and the high drop-out rates of girls. The Committee is concerned about the related long-term implications for women's health, their decision-making capabilities and the development of their marketable skills. The Committee is further concerned at the persistence of gender-based segregation in educational fields and its consequences for women's professional opportunities. The Committee is also concerned about persistent stereotypes found in school curricula and textbooks.</p> <p>26. The Committee urges the State party to place high priority on the reduction of the illiteracy rate of women, in particular those who are from rural areas, belong to ethnic minority groups or who are disabled. It also urges the State party to immediately take all appropriate measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, to eliminate the disparity in school enrolment rates and to achieve universal primary education for girls in accordance with article 10 of the Convention, the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Millennium</p>

		to children's needs; expanding opportunities for vocational training and non-formal education, including at pre-school and secondary levels; and establishing an evaluation system to measure the effectiveness of the education system.	Development Goals 2 and 3. It urges the State party to address effectively the obstacles that prevent girls from continuing their education, such as early and forced marriages. It also recommends the active encouragement of diversification of educational and professional choices for women. It requests the State party to revise educational curricula and textbooks to eliminate gender stereotypes.
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>27. With regard to article 2 of the Convention, the Committee expresses its concern at the existing patterns of discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnic origin, HIV/AIDS status and disability. In particular, concern is expressed that the State party's Constitution refers only to the rights of Khmer citizens.</p> <p>28. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all the rights enshrined in the Convention are enjoyed by all children, without any distinction. The Committee further recommends that the State party take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against girls, in particular with regard to their access to education.</p>	
	Domestic & Institutional Violence		
	Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health	63. While welcoming the enactment of special legislation to combat sexual exploitation and the adoption of a five-year Plan of Action against Sexual Exploitation of Children (2000-2004) and other related measures in this area, the Committee expresses its concern at the	19. While taking note of the various measures implemented to combat trafficking, including the revision of legislation and the adoption of subregional cross-border agreements, the Committee expresses concern about the lack of enforcement of legislation, the impunity of traffickers and the absence of accurate data on

		<p>widespread phenomena of child prostitution and the sale and trafficking of children; the inadequate enforcement of the new legislation on these issues; and the shortage of trained people and institutions to provide rehabilitation to the victims.</p>	<p>trafficking. The Committee is concerned about the stigmatization of victims of trafficking and the insufficient measures for their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. It is further concerned that women and girls who have been trafficked may be punished for violation of migration laws and are thus revictimized. The Committee also notes with concern the high prevalence of sexual exploitation of women and girls and their vulnerability to becoming infected with sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>20. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to combat the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls by addressing their root causes and to undertake comprehensive prevention measures, including gender-sensitive poverty reduction strategies, awareness-raising campaigns and provision of alternative means of livelihood. It urges the State party to ensure that those who traffic and sexually exploit women and girls are prosecuted and punished within the full extent of the law. It requests that victims of trafficking not be prosecuted for illegal migration. The Committee urges the State party to implement rehabilitation and reintegration measures for girls and women who are victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. It recommends that the State party further strengthen bilateral, subregional and multilateral cooperation to combat trafficking. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data on trafficking of women and girls and on the impact of the various measures undertaken in that regard.</p>
	Discriminatory		

	Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
<p>China</p> <p>U.N. Doc. CRC/C/OPSA/CO/2 (2005)</p> <p>CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/6 (2006)</p>	Legislative Developments		
	Sex-disaggregated Data	<p>8. The Committee regrets the limited statistical data on sexual exploitation and cross-border trafficking included in the State party's report, both with regard to mainland China and the Macau SAR . It is further concerned that the data refer almost exclusively to the number of women and children rescued rather than those abducted, and that data often refer to different time periods, which hampers accurate assessment and monitoring of the situation regarding the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.</p> <p>9.The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to collect disaggregated data on the victims of trafficking, sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including data on the number of boys and girls affected, broken down by SAR, the mainland, the provinces and regions within the mainland, and, where applicable, neighbouring countries.</p>	
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		
	Education		
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes		<p>19. The Committee calls upon the State party to put in place a comprehensive approach to overcoming traditional stereotypes regarding the role of women and men in society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. Such an approach should include legal, policy and</p>

			<p>awareness-raising measures, involve public officials and civil society and target the entire population, in particular men and boys. It should include the use of different media, including radio, television and print, and encompass both specialized and general programmes. The Committee calls upon the State party to evaluate the gender sensitivity of the curriculum and textbook reform it has undertaken since 2000 and to further ensure that it explicitly addresses the principle of equality between women and men.</p>
	Domestic & Institutional Violence		<p>46. The Committee urges the State party to give priority to putting in place preventive measures to address all forms of violence against women, in accordance with its general recommendation 19. It recommends that research be conducted on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, to serve as the basis for comprehensive and targeted intervention and to include the results in its next periodic report. It recommends that the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. Moreover, it encourages the State party to see to the provision of shelters and counselling services for victims of violence. The Committee furthermore urges the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region to specifically include sexual harassment in the workplace in its legislation and to report on the implementation of such provisions in its next periodic report.</p>
	Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health	10. While noting that trafficking and sale of children is criminalized in the mainland through the 1997 Penal Code, the	18. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls. It urges the State

	<p>Committee is concerned that the Penal Code does not include all purposes and forms of sale of children included in article 3(1) of the Protocol.</p> <p>11. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the 1997 Penal Code to prohibit the trafficking and sale of children for all purposes listed in art. 3(1) of the Protocol, with special attention to the sale and trafficking for purposes of adoption.</p> <p>14. The Committee is concerned at the limited information provided about services to assist child victims with regard to reintegration and recovery in the mainland. It is also concerned about the absence of assistance programmes specifically designed for child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation in Macau SAR.</p> <p>15. The Committee recommends that the State party expand the services provided to child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation in the mainland and Macau SAR to assist their recovery and reintegration and ensure that they are specifically designed to address the needs of such victims.</p> <p>16. While the Committee notes the measures taken in mainland China to punish offences related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Committee is concerned that insufficient</p>	<p>party to bring its domestic legislation into line with international standards and to speedily complete, adopt and implement the draft national programme of action against human trafficking. It requests the State party to enhance enforcement of the law against trafficking to ensure that those who traffic and sexually exploit women and girls are prosecuted and punished, and to provide all necessary assistance to the victims of trafficking. The Committee also urges the State party to take measures aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of women in prostitution into society, to enhance other livelihood opportunities for women to leave prostitution, provide support for them to do so and to prevent any detention of women without due legal process. It calls upon the State party to systematically compile detailed data on cross-border and internal trafficking, reflecting the age and ethnic background of the victims. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data on the trafficking of women and girls as well as on the impact of measures taken and results achieved in this regard.</p>
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		<p>attention is paid to prevention of such offences.</p> <p>17. The Committee recommends that the State party pay increased attention to the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography inter alia through measures to address the socio-economic causes, public awareness campaigns, and education for parents and children on preventing and reducing the risks of trafficking and sexual exploitation. The Committee also urges the State party to further enhance its efforts related to prevention in Macau SAR and provide additional information on these efforts in the next periodic report.</p> <p>18. The Committee notes with appreciation the increased regional cooperation between the State party and neighbouring countries, such as Vietnam. However, it is concerned about reports of increased cross-border trafficking of girls, both from and to the State party, apparently for the purposes of sexual exploitation and prostitution.</p> <p>19. The Committee recommends that in the mainland, the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) conduct further research about the scale and nature of cross-border trafficking for the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and sex tourism in collaboration with international or regional organizations and agencies and neighbouring countries; andb) expand its international cooperation through further multilateral, regional and	
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		<p>bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism.</p>	
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>		<p>31. While noting that legal measures prohibiting sex-selective abortions and female infanticide and other measures are in place, such as the nationwide campaign, “Operation Caring for Girls”, launched in 2006 and a system of incentives, the Committee remains concerned at the persistence of illegal practices of sex-selective abortion, female infanticide and the non-registration and abandonment of female children, and about forced abortions. The Committee is concerned about the impact of the adverse sex ratio, which may contribute to the increase in trafficking in women and girls.</p> <p>32. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its monitoring of the implementation of existing laws against selective abortion and female infanticide and to enforce them through fair legal procedures that sanction officials acting in excess of their authority. It also urges the State party to investigate and prosecute the reports of abuse and violence against ethnic minority women by local family planning officials, including forced sterilization and forced abortion. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce mandatory gender-sensitivity training for family planning officials. It encourages the State party to continue to strengthen efforts to ensure that all girls are registered at birth, in particular in rural areas. It further recommends that the State party vigorously address the causes</p>

			of son-preference, which remain strong in rural areas, and of the negative consequences of the one-child policy as regards the adverse sex ratio by expanding insurance systems and old-age pensions to the population at large, in particular in rural areas.
India CRC/C/15/Add.228 (2004)	Legislative Developments		
CEDAW/C/IND/CO/3 (2007)	Sex-disaggregated Data		<p>14. The Committee regrets that the report does not provide sufficient statistical data, disaggregated by sex, caste, minority status and ethnicity, on the practical realization of equality between women and men in all areas covered by the Convention and does not provide information on the impact of, and results achieved by, various legal and policy measures described in the report.</p> <p>15. The Committee requests the State party to set benchmarks and to include adequate, appropriate and comparative statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex, caste, minority status and ethnicity, in its next report so as to provide a full picture of the implementation of all the provisions of the Convention and trends over time in the practical realization of equality between women and men.</p>
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		34. The Committee urges the State party to widely disseminate information about the Marriage and Family Law and to address the cultural and traditional factors that perpetuate discrimination against women. The Committee urges the State party to raise the minimum age of marriage for women and men to 18 years, in line with article 16 of the Convention, the Committee's general recommendation 21 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

			<p>55. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Special Marriage Act, in the light of article 16 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations, to give women equal rights to property accumulated during the marriage.</p> <p>56. The Committee is concerned about the State party's assertion that the social acceptability of early marriages has negated the implementation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act. In addition, it is concerned that this Act penalizes the offender but does not render the marriage void, purportedly to avoid illegitimacy of any offspring of such union, which stands in contradiction to the purpose of the Act and is a violation of the rights of the married child.</p> <p>57. The Committee urges the State party to take proactive measures to effectively implement the Child Marriage Restraint Act with a view to eradicating child marriages. It recommends that the State party take comprehensive, effective and stringent measures aimed at deterrence of those engaged in child marriages, the elimination of such practices and the protection of the human rights of the girl child.</p>
	Education		<p>30. While appreciating the important advances made with respect to women's education, the Committee is concerned that the fundamental right to education guaranteed in 2002 by a Constitutional amendment, has not been made operational, despite the central Government's circulation of a model bill to states and union territories for consideration.</p> <p>31. The Committee calls upon the State party to</p>

			<p>take the lead, as it has done with regard to other educational schemes, including by considering using its powers under article 253 of the Constitution, to enable the passing of legislation to operationalize the fundamental Constitutional right to education. It calls upon the State party to set a time frame for speedy enactment of such legislation and to allocate required resources for the same in its eleventh five-year plan, which is currently being considered.</p> <p>32. While appreciating the additional data provided by the State party during its dialogue with the Committee, which indicates improvements in enrolment rates of women in primary education, and while commending the State party's future plans of focusing efforts on education of marginalized sections of the population, the Committee is concerned about the continuing disparities in the educational status of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and Muslim women and the limited access of these groups of women to higher education. It is also concerned about the educational performance disparities among regions and states, the continuing gap in literacy rates between men and women and the lack of information on the budgetary allocation to adult literacy programmes.</p> <p>34. While welcoming the State party's efforts to eliminate gender-based stereotypes through the review and revision of textbooks at the national level, the Committee is concerned that such review and revision has not taken place at the state level in most states. The Committee is also concerned that teachers in schools are not gender-sensitized, to the detriment of female students.</p>
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	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>	<p>25. In light of article 2 of the Convention, the Committee is deeply concerned at the widely disparate levels of enjoyment of the rights in the Convention by girls...</p> <p>29. The Committee welcomes the National Plan of Action for the Girl Child and the Platform for Action, but is deeply concerned at the persistence of discriminatory social attitudes and harmful traditional practices towards girls, including low school enrolment and high dropout rates, early and forced marriages, and religion-based personal status laws that perpetuate gender inequality in areas such as marriage, divorce, custody and guardianship of infants, and inheritance.</p> <p>30. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Girl Child and encourages the enforcement of protective laws. The Committee also encourages the State party to continue its efforts to carry out comprehensive public education campaigns to prevent and combat gender discrimination, particularly within the family. Political, religious and community leaders should be mobilized to support efforts to eradicate harmful traditional practices and attitudes which still discriminate against girls.</p> <p>31. While welcoming the special</p>	<p>35. The Committee calls upon the State party to initiate and monitor the reform of textbooks at the state level to eliminate all gender-based stereotypes and to strengthen its efforts, at the national, state and union territory levels, to combat the widespread acceptance of stereotypical roles of men and women. It recommends that gender issues and sensitivity training be made an integral and substantive component of all teacher training.</p>
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		<p>temporary programmes and other activities to improve the enjoyment of rights by girls and vulnerable groups such as children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the Committee expresses its concern at the possibility that other children in situations similar to that of those groups are not receiving the same benefits.</p> <p>32. The Committee recommends that all existing and future special temporary programmes be provided with specified goals and timetables, in order to evaluate their success and justify their continuation, expansion and dissemination. The Committee further recommends that the State party start to develop special programmes for the allocation of educational and other benefits that are based on the child's needs and rights rather than on the basis of sex, caste or tribe, or any other characteristic that may result in unjustifiable discrimination.</p>	
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>50. The Committee is concerned at the high prevalence of violence, abuse, including sexual abuse, and neglect of children within the State party, and at the lack of effective measures to combat this problem. The Committee is further concerned at outdated laws concerning sexual abuse.</p> <p>51. In light of article 19 of the Convention and in line with its previous recommendations (ibid., para. 45), the</p>	<p>9. The Committee reiterates the concerns and recommendations in the concluding comments adopted in 2000 and urges the State party to proceed without delay with their implementation. The Committee requests the State party to provide information on the steps being taken to abolish or reform the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and to ensure that investigation and prosecution of acts of violence against women by the military in disturbed areas and during detention or arrest is not impeded.</p>

		<p>Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Adopt new legislative measures and amend outdated legislation to prohibit all forms of physical and mental violence, including sexual abuse of children in the family, in schools and in institutions;</p> <p>(b) Carry out public education campaigns and any other appropriate measures concerning the negative consequences of ill-treatment of children;</p> <p>(c) Establish effective procedures and mechanisms to receive, monitor and investigate complaints, including intervention where necessary;</p> <p>(d) Investigate and prosecute cases of ill-treatment, ensuring that the abused child is not victimized in legal proceedings and that his/her privacy is protected;</p> <p>(e) Provide facilities for the care, recovery and reintegration of victims;</p> <p>(f) Train parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, care workers, judges, health professionals and children themselves in the identification, reporting and management of cases of ill-treatment, using a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach; and</p> <p>(g) Seek assistance from, among others, UNICEF and WHO.</p>	<p>21. The Committee calls upon the State party to develop, in consultation with women’s groups, a coordinated and comprehensive plan to combat all forms of violence against women taking a life cycle approach. It urges the State party to take steps in partnership with states and union territories to fully and consistently implement and enforce the Domestic Violence Act and to ensure that all women victims of domestic violence, including scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backward class and minority women, are able to benefit from the legislative framework and support systems in place and that perpetrators are effectively prosecuted under the Penal Code and adequately punished. It recommends that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. It requests that adequate statistics on all forms of violence against women be collected in a consistent manner. In particular, it requests the State party to provide information, disaggregated by caste, minority status and ethnicity, in its next periodic report, on the number of cases of domestic violence reported to the police and other relevant authorities, the number of protection and other orders granted under the Domestic Violence Act and the number of convictions of perpetrators of domestic violence under the Penal Code.</p> <p>48. The Committee is concerned by the State party’s assertion that it is making efforts to eradicate child labour only in certain occupations classified as “hazardous” by the Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee. In particular, the Committee is concerned that the employment of children — the majority of whom are girls — as domestic help in private homes where children are</p>
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			<p>exposed to all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, is not being targeted.</p> <p>49. The Committee recommends the establishment of mechanisms to monitor child labour and the elimination of child labour in compliance with international obligations. It calls upon the State party to study the abuse of children, particularly girl children, employed as domestic help, enforce the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, for their benefit, and devise strategies for their rehabilitation, including their inclusion in the formal educational system.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>74. The Committee welcomes the ratification of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution; the adoption of a plan of action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children; the initiative to undertake a study, inter alia, to collect data on the number of children and women who become victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking; and the Pilot Projects to Combat Trafficking of Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Destination and Source Areas, but remains concerned that the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986 does not define trafficking and limits its scope to sexual exploitation. In addition, the Committee expresses its concern at the increasing number of child victims of sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography. Concern is also expressed at the insufficient programmes</p>	

for the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims of such abuse and exploitation.

75. In light of articles 34 and 35 and other related articles of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Extend the scope of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act to all forms of trafficking of children and ensure that all trafficked children are always treated as victims;
- (b) Conduct a comprehensive study to assess the causes, nature and extent of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- (c) Provide sufficient human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the National Plan of Action;
- (d) Adopt multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches and take measures to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, including an awareness-raising campaign and educational programmes, particularly for parents;
- (e) Ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice;
- (f) Strengthen its policies to facilitate the reunification of child victims of trafficking with their families and provide adequate care and reintegration programmes for children who have been sexually exploited and/or trafficked, in accordance with the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the 1996

		<p>and 2001 World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;</p> <p>(g) Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and</p> <p>(h) Collaborate with non-governmental organizations working on these issues and seek technical assistance from, among others, UNICEF.</p>	
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>	<p>58. The Committee is deeply concerned at the existence of harmful traditional practices such as incidents relating to dowries and to devadasis.</p> <p>59. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Enforce the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982 and Rules, 1982;</p> <p>(b) Take legislative and awareness-raising measures to prohibit and eradicate all kinds of traditional practices harmful to the health, survival and development of children, boys as well as girls; and</p> <p>(c) Reinforce its sensitization programmes, with the involvement of community leaders, practitioners and the general public, to change traditional attitudes and discourage harmful practices, in particular in rural areas.</p> <p>60. The Committee is concerned at the very high percentage of early and forced</p>	<p>26. In addition to previously expressed concerns about customary practices, such as dowry, sati and the devadasi system, the Committee is concerned about the practice of witch-hunting which constitutes an extreme form of violence against women.</p> <p>27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt appropriate measures to eliminate the practice of witch-hunting, prosecute and punish those involved, and provide for rehabilitation of, and compensation to, victimized women. It recommends that such measures be based on an analysis of its causes, including control over land. The Committee calls upon the State party to create public awareness of forms of violence against women rooted in custom as an infringement of women's human rights.</p> <p>38. The Committee is concerned about the continuing deterioration in the ratio of females to males despite the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, as amended in 2003. The Committee is further concerned that this Act may</p>

		<p>marriages of girls, which can have a negative impact on their health, education and social development.</p> <p>61. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Take all necessary steps to implement the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929;</p> <p>(b) Strengthen educational and awareness programmes, in cooperation with NGOs and community leaders, with a view to preventing early and forced marriage; and</p> <p>(c) Strengthen sexual and reproductive health education, mental health and adolescent-sensitive counselling services and make them accessible to adolescents.</p>	<p>result in criminalization of women who are pressured into seeking sex-selective abortions.</p> <p>39. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that adequate mechanisms and procedures for effective implementation and monitoring of the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act be established, including safeguards to prevent criminalization of women who are pressurized into seeking sex-selective abortions.</p>
Indonesia	Legislative Developments		
U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.223 (2004)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
CEDAW/C/IDN/CO/5 (2007)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	<p>26. The Committee is concerned that:</p> <p>(a) Despite the Committee's previous recommendation, the legal age of marriage of females (16) and males (19) is still discriminatory;</p> <p>(b) A very large proportion of children, especially girls, are married by the age of 15, and that they are thereby legally considered to be adults, meaning that the Convention no longer applies to them.</p> <p>27. The Committee recommends that the State party review the age limits affecting children set by different legislation in order to ensure that they conform to the principles and provisions</p>	<p>18. The Committee is concerned about the discriminatory provisions in the Marriage Act of 1974, which perpetuate stereotypes by providing that men are the heads of households and women are relegated to domestic roles, allow polygamy and set a legal minimum age of marriage of 16 for girls. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of progress in the law reform process with respect to marriage and family law, which allows the persistence of discriminatory provisions that deny women equal rights with men. In particular, it expresses concern that amendments to the Marriage Act of 1974 have not yet been completed, although the Committee expressed concerns about the discriminatory provisions in this Act in its previous concluding comments.</p>

		<p>of the Convention. The Committee also specifically recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that no discrimination based on sex remains, and that the age of marriage for girls is the same age as that for boys;</p> <p>(b) Take all other necessary measures to prevent early marriage;</p> <p>(c) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns on the harm and danger resulting from early marriage.</p>	<p>19. The Committee requests the State party to take immediate steps to revise the Marriage Act of 1974 in accordance with its obligations under the Convention, the Committee's general recommendation 21, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the State party's expressed intention to amend the law without delay. It further urges the State party to put in place an effective strategy with clear priorities and timetables to eliminate discrimination against women in the areas of marriage and family relations.</p>
	<p>Education</p>	<p>61. However, the Committee is very concerned:</p> <p>(a) That education is not free, even at primary level, and that higher education is not affordable for many families;</p> <p>(b) At the high dropout and repeat rates;</p> <p>(c) That married children and pregnant teenagers do not generally continue their education;</p> <p>(d) At the high teacher-pupil ratio and the low level of ability of teachers;</p> <p>(e) At the high incidence of violence against children in the schools,</p>	<p>30. The Committee is concerned about limits and obstacles to access for girls and young women to education at all levels, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels. It is also concerned about obstacles in access to education for girls who live in rural or remote areas. The Committee is further concerned about the low representation of girls and women in non-traditional academic and professional fields, in particular science and technology, and in decision-making positions in the education sector, such as school principals. The Committee is also concerned that there is insufficient awareness among teachers and children of the Convention, human rights, women's rights and children's rights in general.</p> <p>31. The Committee urges the State party to ensure equal opportunities for girls and women in education at all levels and to take measures to ensure that women and girls in rural and remote areas are equally able to receive a quality education. The Committee encourages the</p>

		<p>including bullying and fighting among students, and that no specific law exists to regulate school discipline and protect children against violence and abuse in the school.</p> <p>63. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Strengthen measures to achieve universal and free primary education;</p> <p>(b) Progressively ensure that girls and boys, from urban, rural and least developed areas, have equal access to educational opportunities, without any financial obstacles;</p> <p>(c) Implement additional measures to provide access to early childhood education for every child;</p> <p>(d) Adopt effective measures to decrease the dropout, repeat and illiteracy rates;</p> <p>(e) Provide education opportunities for married children and pregnant teenagers;</p> <p>(f) Pursue its efforts to ensure that teachers are adequately trained;</p> <p>(g) Take appropriate measures to introduce human rights, including</p>	<p>State party to develop measures aimed at the diversification of women’s academic and professional choices, including in non-traditional fields, and to closely monitor the career development of women to the highest levels of the educational system in order to ensure equal access of women and men and prevent and eliminate hidden or indirect discrimination faced by women. It also requests the State party to enhance the training of teaching staff in regard to gender equality issues. It urges the State party to disseminate information on the Convention in programmes in the educational system, including human rights education and gender training, and to provide parenting education on these issues, with a view to enhancing gender-sensitive socialization and child-rearing processes.</p>
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		<p>children's rights, into the school curricula;</p> <p>(h) Take measures to reduce violence in the schools;</p> <p>(i) Continue its cooperation with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Asian Development Bank and the civil society to improve the education sector.</p>	
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>30. The Committee notes with concern that societal discrimination persists against girls and against other vulnerable groups of children, in particular children living in poverty, children born out of wedlock, children displaced by conflict and minority children.</p> <p>31. The Committee urges the State party to conduct an in-depth review of all its legislation with a view to fully guaranteeing the application of the principle of non-discrimination in domestic laws and compliance with article 2 of the Convention, and to adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination on any grounds and against all vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>17. The Committee encourages the State party to design and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes to foster a better understanding of and support for equality between women and men at all levels of society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. Such efforts should aim at changing stereotypical attitudes and traditional norms about the responsibilities and roles of women and men in the family and society and at strengthening societal support for gender equality. The Committee further urges the State party to remove family and spousal consent requirements in the areas of women's employment and health.</p>
	Domestic & Institutional Violence	<p>41. The Committee is concerned at the high number of child victims of violence, abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, in schools, in public places, in detention centres and in the family.</p> <p>42. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Expand current efforts to address the problem of child abuse and</p>	<p>22. While welcoming the enactment of the Law on Domestic Violence, which includes domestic workers within its scope, the Committee is concerned about the abuse and exploitation of women employed as domestic workers in Indonesia. The Committee expresses concern that the Law on Domestic Violence has not been fully implemented with respect to domestic workers and that they lack information on the law and the ability to access its legal protections. The Committee is further concerned that domestic</p>

		<p>neglect, including sexual abuse, and ensure that there is a national system for receiving, monitoring and investigating complaints and for prosecuting cases when necessary, in a manner which is child sensitive and ensures the victims' privacy;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that all victims of violence have access to counselling and assistance with recovery and reintegration, and that children who have been removed from their homes because of allegations of abuse are provided with alternative protection and care and that institutionalization is used only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are duly prosecuted.</p>	<p>workers are not included in the provisions of the Manpower Act, which regulates work hours, leave and minimum wages, and are therefore additionally vulnerable to exploitation.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking</p>	<p>83. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Develop and implement legislation that adequately protects child victims of sexual exploitation, including trafficking, pornography and prostitution, that includes a significant increase in the minimum age of sexual consent;</p> <p>(b) Train law enforcement officials, social workers and prosecutors on how to receive, monitor and investigate complaints and prosecute perpetrators in a child-sensitive manner that respects the privacy of the victim;</p>	<p>24. While the Committee notes with appreciation the enactment of the Law on Anti-Trafficking in 2007 and the development of a National Plan of Action on the Elimination of Trafficking in Women, the Committee is concerned about the persistence of trafficking of Indonesian women and girls, both domestic and cross- border trafficking. The Committee is also concerned about the low rates of prosecution and conviction of traffickers and those who exploit the prostitution of women.</p> <p>25. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that legislation on trafficking is fully enforced and that the national action plan and other measures to combat human trafficking are fully implemented. It urges the State party to</p>

		<p>(c) Prioritize recovery assistance and ensure that education and training as well as psychosocial assistance and counselling are provided to victims, and ensure that victims who cannot return to their families are provided with adequate alternative solutions and are institutionalized only as a last resort;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is allocated appropriate resources for its implementation and is effectively carried out at the provincial and district levels.</p> <p>87. The Committee welcomes the endorsement by the State party of relevant international and regional agreements such as the Regional Commitment and Action Plan of the East Asia and Pacific Region against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children of 2001 and the Yokohama Global Commitment of 2001. The Committee further welcomes the launching of the National Plans of Action for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and on the Elimination of Trafficking in Women and Children in 2002.</p> <p>88. The Committee is nonetheless concerned at the lack of awareness in the State party on this phenomenon, at the insufficient legal protection for victims of trafficking, and that few measures have been taken to prevent and protect children</p>	<p>intensify its efforts to combat the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls by addressing the root causes, in particular women's economic insecurity. It recommends that the State party enhance measures aimed at improving the social and economic situation of women and at providing them with alternative means of obtaining a livelihood, so as to eliminate their vulnerability to traffickers, and to put in place services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking. The Committee also encourages the State party to intensify international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of transit and destination for trafficked women and girls to further curb this phenomenon. It requests the State party to provide in its next report detailed information, including statistical data, on trends in trafficking and on court cases, prosecutions and victims assisted, as well as the results achieved in prevention.</p>
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		<p>from sale, trafficking and abduction.</p> <p>89. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Upgrade its system of data collection to cover all forms of sale, trafficking and abduction of children, and ensure that all data and indicators are used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects;</p> <p>(b) Establish an appropriate definition of trafficking, increase legal protection for child victims, take effective measures to strengthen law enforcement, and intensify efforts to raise awareness in communities about the sale, trafficking and abduction of children;</p> <p>(c) Seek to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements with neighbouring countries to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children, and facilitate their protection and safe return to their families;</p> <p>59. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Develop comprehensive policies and plans on adolescent health, taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2003) on adolescent health and development;</p> <p>(b) Strengthen the</p>	<p>37. The Committee urges the State party to continue its efforts to ensure that women have equal access to appropriate and adequate health services, including in rural areas, that obstetric and maternal health needs are adequately addressed and that maternal mortality rates are</p>
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		<p>implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Reproductive Health;</p> <p>(c) Promote collaboration between State agencies and NGOs in order to establish a system of formal and informal education on HIV/AIDS and STIs and on sex education;</p> <p>(d) Take into account the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2003) on HIV/AIDS and the rights of the child and the updated International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in order to promote and protect the rights of children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS;</p> <p>(e) Ensure access to reproductive health counselling and information and services for all adolescents;</p>	<p>reduced. It invites the State party to make full use of the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health. The Committee also recommends that measures be taken to guarantee effective access of women and girls to information and services regarding sexual and reproductive health and contraception in order to reduce the rate of unsafe abortions and teenage pregnancy. The Committee also urges the State party to take legislative and practical steps to ensure that births can easily be registered and birth certificates obtained free of charge. It also recommends that the State party, implement public awareness-raising campaigns and take concrete measures to ensure that poor and rural women are aware of the requirements relating to birth registrations and certificates and are able to fully access the birth certificate and registration services provided by the Government. The Committee requests that the State party provide information on the impact of measures taken by the Government in these areas in its next report.</p>
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>		<p>20. The Committee is concerned about the incidence of the practice of female genital mutilation in Indonesia, which constitutes a form of violence against women and girls and is in violation of the Convention. It is further concerned about the reported phenomenon of the medicalization of the practice of female genital mutilation. The Committee is also concerned that there is no law prohibiting or penalizing the practice of female genital mutilation in Indonesia.</p> <p>21. The Committee urges the State party to speedily enact legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation and to ensure that offenders are prosecuted and adequately punished. It also recommends that the State party develop a plan of</p>

			<p>action and undertake efforts to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation, including implementing public awareness-raising campaigns to change the cultural perceptions connected with female genital mutilation, and provide education regarding the practice as a violation of the human rights of women and girls that has no basis in religion.</p>
<p>Japan</p> <p>U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.231 (2004)</p> <p>U.N. Doc. A/58/38, paras.337–378 (2003)</p>	<p>Legislative Developments</p>		<p>342. Efforts were also under way to enhance the balancing of work and family. The Child Care and Family Care Leave Law had been revised in 2001 to prohibit disadvantageous treatment of employees taking childcare leave and other aspects. Policies had been adopted to support implementation of the law, including five days of leave for men upon the birth of a child, and the creation of an additional 150,000 places for children in day care within three years. A study conducted in 2001 indicated that two thirds of women left the workforce following childbirth due to a general atmosphere unfavourable to childcare leave, absence of childcare facilities, inflexible working management and perception of child-rearing as a woman's responsibility. In order to address the burden of balancing work and family, and the rapidly growing trend towards fewer children, the Government had adopted an immediate action plan to support the development of the next generation, which set goals for increasing the percentage of men who took childcare leave. A relevant law would make it mandatory for local Governments and corporations to implement action plans over the next 10 years. Furthermore, the law for the welfare of fatherless families and widows had been revised in 2002 in response to the growing number of single-mother families, leading to an expansion of measures on child-rearing,</p>

			<p>employment, economic support and educational expenses.</p> <p>352. The Committee notes with appreciation the law reform undertaken by the State party in several areas, including the revision of the Equal Employment Opportunity Law that prohibits discrimination against women from recruitment to retirement and obliges managers to give consideration to the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace; the 2001 revision of the Child Care and Family Care Leave Law that prohibits disadvantageous treatment of employees because of their taking childcare leave; the 2001 Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims that provides for protection orders; and the 2000 Law on Proscribing Stalking Behaviour and Assisting Victims that establishes punishment for stalking.</p>
	Sex-disaggregated Data		
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	<p>22. The Committee is concerned that the minimum age of marriage is still different for boys (18) than girls (16) and that the minimum age of sexual consent (13 years) is low.</p> <p>23. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to that of boys; (b) Raise the minimum age of sexual consent.</p>	
	Education		
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>24. The Committee is concerned that legislation discriminates against children born out of wedlock and that societal discrimination persists against girls,</p>	<p>359. While appreciating the State party's recognition that the long-standing stereotyped perception of gender roles remains the major obstacle to achieving equality between women</p>

		<p>children with disabilities, Amerasian, Korean, Buraku and Ainu children and other minority groups, and children of migrant workers.</p> <p>25. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation in order to eliminate any discrimination against children born out of wedlock, in particular, with regard to inheritance and citizenship rights and birth registration, as well as discriminatory terminology such as "illegitimate" from legislation and regulations. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake all necessary proactive measures to combat societal discrimination and ensure access to basic services, in particular, for girls, children with disabilities, Amerasians, Koreans, Buraka, Ainu and other minorities, children of migrant workers and refugee and asylum-seeking children, through, inter alia, public education and awareness campaigns.</p>	<p>and men and noting its efforts based on regular opinion polls in this regard, the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of deeply rooted and rigid stereotypes in Japan regarding the role and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, which are reflected in women's situation in the labour market, educational choices and low participation in political and public life.</p> <p>360. The Committee recommends that the State party design and implement comprehensive programmes in the educational system, including human rights education and gender equality training, and disseminate information on the Convention and the Government's commitment to gender equality, with a view to changing existing stereotypical attitudes on women's and men's roles. It recommends that the State party disaggregate its surveys and opinion polls, not only by sex but also by age and, on the basis of the results increase targeted efforts at advancing the notion of parenting as a social responsibility of both mothers and fathers. It recommends that awareness-raising campaigns be intensified and that the media be encouraged to project a positive image of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>		<p>361. While acknowledging legal and other measures by the State party to address violence against women, the Committee is concerned about the prevalence of violence against women and girls and about women's apparent reluctance to seek assistance from existing public institutions. It is concerned that the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims currently does not cover forms of violence other</p>

			<p>than physical violence. It is also concerned that the penalty for rape is relatively lenient and that incest is not defined explicitly as a crime under the Penal Code but is dealt with indirectly under a number of different penal provisions. The Committee is further concerned about the particular situation of foreign women who experience domestic violence and whose immigration status might depend on their living together with their spouse. The Committee is concerned that fear of repatriation might be a deterrent for those women to seek assistance or take steps to seek separation or divorce. While appreciative of the comprehensive information provided by the State party with respect to the measures it has taken before and after the Committee's consideration of the second and third periodic reports of the State party with respect to the issue of "wartime comfort women", the Committee notes the ongoing concerns about the issue.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>51. As noted in paragraph 3 above, the Committee welcomes the adoption and implementation of the Law on Punishing Acts related to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and on Protecting Children (1999). However, it is concerned that:</p> <p>(a) The Penal Code maintains a narrow definition of rape as an act committed by a male against a female;</p> <p>(b) All victims of sexual exploitation do not have access to appropriate recovery and assistance services;</p> <p>(c) There have been reports of child</p>	<p>346. In response to the problem of trafficking in persons, a number of cases had been brought, and information was being exchanged with relevant authorities and embassies in countries of origin to prevent trafficking and protect victims. Japan supported such projects and had hosted meetings aimed at eradicating trafficking, including the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in December 2001. It had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000 and its supplementing protocols in 2002, and the ratification of that Convention had been approved by the Diet in May 2003.</p> <p>364. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to combat trafficking in</p>

		<p>victims being treated as criminals;</p> <p>(d) There have been reports of the practice of "enjo kosai", or compensated dating;</p> <p>(e) The low minimum age of consent, which might contribute to the practice of "enjo kosai", hampers the prosecution of sexual abuse of children.</p> <p>52. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Amend legislation on sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure equal protection for boys and girls;</p> <p>(b) Increase the number of trained professionals providing psychological counselling and other recovery services to victims at Child Guidance Centres;</p> <p>(c) Train law enforcement officials, social workers and prosecutors on how to receive, monitor, investigate and prosecute complaints, in a child-sensitive manner;</p> <p>(d) Develop preventive measures that target those soliciting and providing sexual services, such as materials on relevant legislation on the sexual abuse and exploitation of minors and education programmes, including programmes in schools on healthy lifestyles;</p> <p>(e) Raise the minimum age of sexual consent.</p>	<p>women and girls. It requests the State party to systematically monitor the phenomenon and compile detailed data reflecting the age and national origin of victims, with a view to formulating a comprehensive strategy to address the problem and ensure that penalties for perpetrators are appropriate. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data on the trafficking of women and girls as well as on measures taken in this regard.</p>
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	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Legislative Developments		
CRC/C/15/Add.239 (2004) CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/1 (2005)	Sex-disaggregated Data		<p>33. The Committee regrets that the report did not provide sufficient updated statistical data disaggregated by sex on the situation of women in all areas covered by the Convention, such as the income levels of women and men, vertical job segregation and the impact of measures taken and results achieved.</p> <p>34. The Committee calls upon the State party to begin putting in place a comprehensive system of data collection and of measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and to measure progress towards women's de facto equality. It invites the State party, as necessary, to seek international assistance for the conceptual training of its officials and for the development of such data collection and analysis efforts. The Committee also requests the State party to include in its next report statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex and by rural and urban areas, indicating the impact of measures taken and the results achieved.</p>
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	26. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party increase the age of majority to 18. The Committee further recommends that the State party raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to that of boys (18 years).	23. The Committee is concerned about existing discriminatory legal provisions, particularly that which establishes a minimum marriage age for females at 17 and for males at 18; and about article 7 of the citizenship law on the determination of the citizenship of a child under the age of 14. It is also concerned about existing protective legislation, which in some cases is based on the socially perceived characteristics of women and men and which may perpetuate

		inequality and discrimination against women.
	Education	
Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>27. The Committee is concerned that some groups of children, including children with disabilities, children belonging to different social groups, and children living in rural and remote areas, suffer from disparities in accessing basic services. In some instances, girls still suffer from prejudicial traditional stereotypes.</p> <p>28. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to ensure implementation of existing laws guaranteeing the principle of non-discrimination and full compliance with article 2 of the Convention, and to adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination on any grounds and against all vulnerable groups. The Committee requests the State party to pay particular attention to children with disabilities, children belonging to different social groups, and those living in rural and remote areas, as well as to preventing and combating prejudicial stereotypes against girls and women.</p>	<p>35. The Committee notes with concern the persistence of traditional and stereotyped assumptions and attitudes in respect of the roles and responsibilities of women and men, which are discriminatory against women and have a pronounced impact, particularly in the areas of education and employment as well as in other areas of their lives. For example, the Committee is concerned at the stereotyping of women, which perceives them exclusively as caregivers and homemakers and assigns them to areas such as education and employment on the basis of spheres suitable to their “characteristics”. The Committee is concerned that such expectations of women have serious consequences, preventing them from accessing rights and entitlements on an equal basis with men and creating a dependency on men, husbands and family for housing, food entitlements and other services. It is also concerned that in times of economic crisis, as in the current situation of the country, women’s prescribed roles and lesser entitlement intensifies their hardship and amounts to multiple discrimination.</p> <p>36. The Committee urges the State party to increase its efforts to address stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men, including the hidden patterns that perpetuate direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls in the areas of education and employment and in all other areas of their lives, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. Those efforts should include educational measures at all levels, beginning at an early age; the revision of school textbooks and curricula; and awareness-raising campaigns</p>

			directed at both women and men to address stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men.
	Domestic & Institutional Violence		<p>37. The Committee expresses concern that the State party is not aware of the existence of domestic violence and that, as a result, there is a lack of specific legislation to deal with all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and a lack of prevention and protection measures for victims.</p> <p>38. The Committee calls on the State party to conduct research on the incidence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to include the results in its next periodic report. In this regard the Committee urges the State party to find ways to make visible the existence of domestic violence, for example by training health workers to identify signs of abuse. It also recommends that the State party adopt specific legislation on domestic violence and ensure that violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence, that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. It also urges the State party to address all forms of violence against women and girls in accordance with its general recommendation 19 on violence against women and to accord priority attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures, including the training of law enforcement agencies in effectively responding to victims of violence.</p>
	Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual &	63. In the light of article 34 and other related articles of the Convention, the	42. [...] It calls on the State party to train law enforcement officials, migration officials and

	<p>Reproductive Health</p>	<p>Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Undertake a comprehensive study to assess the nature and the extent of human trafficking, in particular involving children;</p> <p>(b) Ensure the protection from sexual exploitation and trafficking in relevant legislation to all boys and girls below the age of 18 years; and</p> <p>(c) Pursue efforts to combat sexual exploitation in accordance with the 1996 Declaration and Agenda for Action and the 2001 Global Commitment adopted at the World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.</p>	<p>border police on the causes, consequences and incidence of trafficking and other forms of exploitation so as to enable them to render support to women who might be at risk of becoming victims of trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. It also recommends that the State party conduct nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on the risks and consequences of trafficking targeted at women and girls. The Committee further urges the State party to evaluate those phenomena and systematically compile information on them with a view to formulating a comprehensive strategy that includes measures of prevention, prosecution and punishment of offenders, as well as measures to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims. The Committee also urges the State party to intensify its efforts to deal with these phenomena through increased international, regional and bilateral cooperation. Information on the results of the research and progress made should be included in the next periodic report.</p> <p>46. The Committee requests the State party to include in its next periodic report detailed information about the availability of and access to general and reproductive health services for women in all parts of the country. It also requests the State party to provide information on the impact of the measures taken to improve the access of women, including those from rural areas, to reproductive and sexual health programmes, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health. It also recommends that the State party target men and boys in its policy on sexual and reproductive health.</p>
	<p>Discriminatory</p>		

	Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Republic of Korea U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.197 (2003) CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6 (2007)	Legislative Developments		17. While welcoming the amendments to the Act on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims and the Act on the Punishment of Sexual Violence and Protection of Victims, the Committee regrets that marital rape has not been criminalized. The Committee remains particularly concerned that under the Act on the Punishment of Sexual Violence and Protection of Victims the crime of sexual violence is prosecuted only upon complaint by the victim. The Committee also expresses its concern about the low rates of reporting, prosecutions and convictions of cases of violence against women. It is concerned about the lack of information and data provided about the prevalence of all forms of violence against women.
	Sex-disaggregated Data		
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	27. The Committee remains concerned about the difference in the minimum age of marriage of girls (16) and boys (18). 28. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation to the State party that it raise the minimum age of marriage of girls to that of boys.	35. While noting that an amendment to the Civil Act to bring the legal age of marriage into compliance with the Convention is before the National Assembly, the Committee notes with concern that the minimum legal age of marriage remains at 16 for females and 18 for males. 36. The Committee urges the State party to work towards the speedy enactment of the amendment of the Civil Act to raise the minimum legal age of marriage for girls to 18 in order to bring it into line with article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Committee's general recommendation 21 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
	Education	52. The Committee is concerned that, despite the State party's relatively high	

level of economic development, only primary education is free, yet it welcomes the information that the State party is in the process of making middle school education free. Similarly, while there is no disparity in enrolment rates **of girls and boys in primary education, significantly fewer girls than boys attend higher education.** Finally, the Committee reiterates its concern that the highly competitive nature of the education system risks hampering the development of the child to his or her fullest potential.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Raise the quality of public schools, which is low compared to private schools, by increasing material resources provided to schools and improving the quality of teaching;

(b) Develop a time-bound strategy for reducing and eliminating the cost of pre-school and secondary education;

(c) Take effective measures to ensure that higher education is accessible to all on the basis of capacity, by promoting the **enrolment of girls** and addressing persistent gender stereotypes;

(d) Review its education policy with a view to reducing competitiveness and reflecting the aims of education set out in article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention and in the

		Committee's General Comment No. 1 on the aims of education.	
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>31. The Committee notes with concern the absence of information in the State party's report on racial discrimination, and the limited amount of information regarding acts of discrimination against children from single parent families, children born out of wedlock, children with disabilities, girls and migrant families. It is also concerned that the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or ethnic origin, disability, birth or other status, as stated in the Convention.</p> <p>32. The Committee recommends that the State party enact legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination in order to include all grounds enumerated in article 2 of the Convention. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party undertake all necessary proactive measures to combat societal discrimination, in particular against children from single parent families, children born out of wedlock, children with disabilities, children of migrant workers and girls through, inter alia, public education and awareness campaigns.</p>	<p>25. The Committee notes with concern the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, especially in rural areas, which are reflected in women's academic and professional choices, their limited participation in public and political life and in their disadvantaged position in the labour market. The Committee is also concerned that these stereotypes are a root cause of violence against women.</p> <p>26. The Committee calls upon the State party to take sustained and systematic measures to overcome persistent and deep-rooted stereotypes that are discriminatory to women. Such measures should include awareness-raising and public educational campaigns, aimed in particular at men and boys, including women and girls, with a view to eliminating stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. The Committee calls upon the State party to specifically target rural areas in the implementation of such measures and to regularly monitor and evaluate their impact. The Committee calls on the State party to further encourage diversification of the educational choices of boys and girls, bearing in mind their subsequent opportunities and chances in the labour market. It also calls upon the State party to address stereotypes, the unequal power relations between women and men and women's position of inferiority, which perpetuate discrimination against women,</p>

			<p>including violence against women. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage the media to project a positive image of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>		<p>18. The Committee calls upon the State party to address violence against women as a violation of women's human rights and to make full use of the Committee's general recommendation 19 in its efforts to address all forms of violence against women. It urges the State party to intensify its awareness raising efforts with regard to the unacceptability of all such violence, including domestic violence and requests the State party to criminalize marital rape and to eliminate the requirement of a victim's complaint in order to prosecute crimes of sexual violence. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all women, including rural women, who are victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, and access to a sufficient number of safe shelters, as well as to legal aid. It calls upon the State party to ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement personnel, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully familiar with relevant legal provisions and are sensitized to all forms of violence against women, and that they are capable of providing adequate support to victims. It urges the State party to collect data and to conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to use such data as the basis for further comprehensive measures and targeted intervention. It invites the State party to include statistical data and the</p>

			results of measures taken in its next periodic report.
	Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health	<p>54. The Committee welcomes the enactment in 2000 of the Juvenile Protection Act, which aims to penalize those purchasing sexual services from children. However, the Committee is concerned that this Act is not being effectively implemented, and that there is limited data available on the prevalence of child sexual exploitation. It is also concerned at reports of the widespread phenomenon of “Wonjokyuje” in which adolescent girls engage in a sexual relationship with older men for money.</p> <p>55. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Develop a National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which includes measures for effective data collection, as agreed at the First and Second World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in 1996 and 2001, respectively;</p> <p>(b) Train law enforcement officials, social workers and prosecutors on how to receive, monitor, investigate and prosecute complaints in a child-sensitive manner;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that all victims of sexual abuse and exploitation have access to appropriate recovery and reintegration</p>	<p>19. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution and by the lack of data about these phenomena. While welcoming that victims of forced prostitution are entitled to rescue, protection and rehabilitation, the Committee is concerned that so-called voluntary prostitutes are subject to prosecution under the law, while first-time clients of prostitutes do not face punishment if they attend the “John School” programme, designed to educate such first-time offenders. The Committee is further concerned about the continued widespread phenomenon of Wonjokyuje, in which adolescent girls engage in a sexual relationship with older men for money.</p> <p>20. The Committee urges the State party to fully implement article 6 of the Convention, to collect and analyse data from the police and international sources and to prosecute and punish traffickers and those who exploit prostitution. The Committee calls upon the State party to increase its efforts at international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination in order to prevent trafficking. The Committee also encourages the State party to consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Committee further calls upon the State party to review its law on prostitution in order to ensure that women in prostitution are not criminalized. The Committee recommends the State party take measures to facilitate the reintegration of prostitutes into</p>

		<p>programmes and services;</p> <p>(d) Develop preventive measures that target those soliciting and providing sexual services, such as materials on relevant legislation on the sexual abuse and exploitation of minors and education programmes, including programmes in schools on healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>society and to provide rehabilitation and economic empowerment programmes for women and girls exploited in prostitution. The Committee also recommends the State party provide adolescent girls with educational programmes to stop Wonjokyuje.</p>
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Legislative Developments		
U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.78 (1997)	Sex-disaggregated Data	<p>10. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient attention paid by the State party to systematic, comprehensive and disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data collection and to the identification of appropriate indicators and mechanisms to evaluate the progress and the impact of policies and measures adopted for all areas covered by the Convention, especially the most hidden such as child abuse or ill-treatment, but also in relation to all groups of children including minority group children, girl children, children in rural areas, and children victims of sale, trafficking and prostitution.</p>	
CEDAW/C/LAO/CC/1-5 (2005)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		<p>37. The Committee is concerned that the law allows marriage under the age of 18 in "special and necessary cases" and that a considerable percentage of women do marry before they reach the age of 18.</p>

		38. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit under-age marriage in all circumstances. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide in its next report information on the results of the data collected on-site regarding early marriages and measures taken to prevent them.
Education	48. In accordance with article 28 of the Convention, the Committee encourages the State party in its efforts to make free primary education available for all and to train teachers. It also encourages the State party to implement measures to improve school enrolment and pupil retention, especially of girls, children belonging to minorities and children living in rural areas. A system for the regular evaluation of the effectiveness of all educational measures taken, including those related to the quality of teaching, must be ensured. The State party may wish to consider requesting further international assistance for the implementation of the measures identified for the full implementation of article 28.	23. Despite some progress, the Committee is alarmed at the still very high illiteracy rate of women, 40 per cent, and the large discrepancy between male and female literacy rates and between urban and rural women's education. The Committee is especially concerned at the extremely low literacy rate among ethnic minority women. The Committee is concerned that the initial plan to make primary education compulsory was postponed from 2000 to 2010. 24. The Committee urges that the State party immediately take all appropriate measures including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25 on temporary special measures to reduce the illiteracy rate of women and to provide education to women, both formal and informal, especially in rural areas and including ethnic minority women. The Committee also recommends that free and compulsory primary education at the national level be implemented as soon as possible. It further recommends that the State party consider seeking international assistance for these purposes.
Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	40. The Committee also emphasizes that the principle of non-discrimination, as provided under article 2 of the	26. [...]The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of traditional gender-role stereotyping, which leads to disparities in

		<p>Convention, must be fully implemented. A more active approach should be taken to eliminate discrimination against certain groups, in particular girl children, children belonging to minorities and children born out of wedlock.</p>	<p>leadership and decision-making in all spheres, including in the family, the community and in public life.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that a concerted nationwide campaign be undertaken to eliminate the pervasive traditional gender role stereotyping and to promote public awareness on issues of gender equality in all spheres of life.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>44. In the light of article 19 of the Convention, the Committee further recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures, including revision of legislation, to prevent and combat ill-treatment within the family and sexual abuse of children. It suggests, <u>inter alia</u>, that the authorities initiate a comprehensive study on abuse, ill-treatment and domestic violence to improve the understanding of the nature and the scope of the problem, and set up social programmes to prevent all types of child abuses as well as to rehabilitate the child victims. Law enforcement should be strengthened with respect to such crimes; adequate procedures and mechanisms to deal with complaints of child abuse should be developed, such as multidisciplinary teams to handle cases, special rules of evidence, and special investigators or community focal points.</p>	<p>35. [...] The Committee is concerned that domestic violence is considered to be fairly normal by young people, both boys and girls, and the Criminal Law grants exemption from penal liabilities in cases of physical violence without serious injury or physical damage. The Committee is also concerned that the traditional attitudes on gender-role stereotyping keep women and girls in a subordinate position, preventing them from getting equal education and life opportunities, especially in rural areas.</p> <p>36. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake measures to increase awareness of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape. It recommends that domestic violence and marital rape be criminalized and that more studies and data be collected on various forms of violence against women, especially domestic violence. The Committee also recommends that the State party take more active and proactive measures to bring about changes in the traditional patriarchal attitudes on gender-role stereotyping. The Committee draws the State party's attention to its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women in support of its effort to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women.</p>

	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>27. The Committee is concerned by the increasing phenomenon of child prostitution and trafficking which affects boys as well as girls. It is worried about the insufficiency of measures to prevent and combat this phenomenon, and the lack of rehabilitation measures.</p> <p>51. With regard to the increase in child prostitution and trafficking, the Committee recommends that measures be taken on an urgent basis, such as a comprehensive programme of prevention, including an awareness-raising and education campaign, in particular in the rural areas, and of rehabilitation of the victims. The State party is also invited to strengthen its efforts to control child pornography. Concerning the trafficking of boys and girls into neighbouring countries for work or prostitution, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to raise awareness in communities and establish vocational training for young people, in particular in rural areas. Cooperation with neighbouring countries is strongly encouraged.</p> <p>23. The Committee is concerned at the high maternal mortality rate, the high mortality and morbidity rates among children, the lack of access to prenatal and maternity care, and the generally limited access to public health care and to medicines, in particular in rural areas. The very high level of malnutrition is also a</p>	<p>29. While recognizing the new measures to combat the increasing incidents of trafficking in the nation and the region, including the strengthened law enforcement system, cooperation with neighbouring countries and the establishment of the service mechanism to assist and protect victims of trafficking, the Committee is concerned that no substantial information was provided on how the mechanism works and its impact on combating trafficking in women and girls. It is also concerned about the increasing occurrences of such trafficking. The Committee is concerned about the exploitation of prostitution of women and at the lack of information on the prevalence and magnitude of the problem.</p> <p>30. The Committee requests that the State party provide detailed information on the impact of various measures to combat trafficking in women and girls, including the number and trends of arrests of traffickers, the number of victims and the manner in which they benefited from the return and repatriation services, as well as information on any additional measures to combat trafficking. The Committee also recommends that the State party collect information and carry out studies on the extent of exploitation of prostitution and take more proactive measures to address the problem, including through discouraging the demand for prostitution.</p> <p>25. While noting improvement during the past years, the Committee is seriously concerned about the very high maternal and infant mortality rates and the high fertility rate, especially among women in rural and remote areas and among ethnic minorities. The Committee is concerned about the lack of health-care facilities and medical professionals in rural villages and remote areas as</p>
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		<p>matter of concern. The Committee is also concerned at the high incidence of traffic accidents involving children and at the inadequacy of the efforts to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in the communities and at school, in particular in the rural areas.</p>	<p>well as the lack of awareness among women and adolescents regarding reproductive health and family planning, including contraceptives and birth spacing.</p> <p>26. The Committee recommends that the State party accelerate the implementation of its national population policy, focusing on expanding its network of health-care facilities and personnel throughout the nation and reaching out to rural and remote areas, inter alia to the benefit of ethnic minority women; to enhance its educational programmes, not only for women, but also for men and adolescents, on reproductive health and family planning; and to make contraceptives easily available.</p>
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence	<p>18. The Committee is concerned at the insufficiency of the measures adopted to discourage early marriage, which is a harmful traditional practice in certain communities.</p>	
<p>Malaysia</p> <p>CRC/C/MYS/CO/1 (2007)</p> <p>CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/2 (2006)</p>	Legislative Developments		<p>8. [...] The Committee further recommends that the State party enact and implement a comprehensive law reflecting substantive equality of women with men in both public and private spheres of life. It also recommends that the State party include adequate sanctions for acts of discrimination against women and ensure that effective remedies are available to women whose rights have been violated.</p>
	Sex-disaggregated Data		
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	<p>29. The Committee shares the State party's view that laws which are not consistent with the definition of the child under article 1 of the Convention should</p>	

		<p>be reviewed to ensure full compliance with the Convention. However, it is concerned about the existence of disparities in national laws, for example, in the Children and Young Persons (Employment) Act 1966 (Act 350) which defines a child as any person who has not completed his or her fourteenth year of age, while the Child Act 2001 (Act 611) defines a child as a person under the age of eighteen years. The Committee also notes with concern the contradictions between the civil law and Syariah law provisions, for example the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 (Act 164) and the Islamic Family Law Act (Federal Territory) 1984 (IFLA) define the minimum age of marriage inconsistently.</p>	
	Education		
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>33. Despite the efforts of the State party to address the issue of equality of the sexes, the Committee notes with concern that the persistence of stereotypical attitudes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men still constitute an impediment to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by girls.</p> <p>34. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to address the problems faced by the girl child and to raise awareness among the population regarding the equality of girls and boys. It recommends that the State party carry out a study on gender role models. The Committee suggests that local, religious and other leaders be invited to take a more</p>	<p>15. While noting the work of the Ministry of Education in providing guidelines to writers and publishers of school textbooks to eliminate gender stereotypes from school books, the Committee is concerned about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society. These stereotypes present a significant impediment to the implementation of the Convention and are a root cause of the disadvantaged position of women in a number of areas, including in the labour market and in political and public life.</p> <p>16. The Committee calls upon the State party to implement comprehensive measures to bring about change in the widely accepted stereotypical roles of men and women. Such</p>

	<p>active role in supporting the efforts to prevent and eliminate discrimination against the girl child and to provide guidance to communities in this regard. The Committee also recommends that the State party promote the inclusive role of women in society, including by developing school curricula, such as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its observations on the combined initial and second periodic report of Malaysia at its thirty-fifth session in 2006 (CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/2, paras. 15-16).</p>	<p>measures should include awareness-raising and educational campaigns addressing women and men, girls and boys, and religious leaders with a view to eliminating stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention.</p> <p>12. The Committee calls on the State party to ensure that the Convention and related domestic legislation are made an integral part of legal education and the training of judicial officers, including judges, lawyers and prosecutors, so as to establish firmly in the country a legal culture supportive of women’s equality and non-discrimination.</p>
Domestic & Institutional Violence	<p>57. [...] Despite the measures taken to provide protection against violence, abuse and neglect, the Committee notes with grave concern that domestic violence, including violence against children in the family, remains a serious human rights problem in the State party. The Committee notes with concern that due to the strong social and cultural taboos victims and witnesses rarely report these cases, although there are established mechanisms to receive reports on child abuse and neglect, including a toll-free helpline “Teledera” which is, however, only limited to reporting on child abuse cases. It also notes with concern that corporal punishment in the home is lawful.</p>	<p>21. While noting the various initiatives taken by the State party to address violence against women, the Committee is concerned about the reluctance of the State party to criminalize marital rape. In particular, the Committee is concerned that the proposal before Parliament on this issue is narrowly tailored to criminalize sexual assault based on use of force and death threats by the husband, rather than marital rape based on lack of consent of the wife.</p> <p>22. The Committee requests the State party to enact legislation criminalizing marital rape, defining such rape on the basis of lack of consent of the wife.</p>
Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health	<p>94. The Committee notes with appreciation the establishment of a Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in July 2006 and it takes note of the</p>	<p>23. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not enacted legislation on trafficking and has not established a comprehensive plan to prevent and eliminate</p>

		<p>information that the State party is in the process of submitting a Anti-trafficking of Persons Bill to Parliament in 2007. Considering that Malaysia is a destination country but also a source and transit country for trafficking in children for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour, the Committee notes with grave concern the absence of a specific law and policy to combat inter-country trafficking. It also notes with concern that trafficked children, although they are victims, are often detained, for example, in the case of missing residence/work permits or falsified documents, and subsequently deported, and that they are not provided with adequate specialist support for social reintegration and recovery. The Committee also notes with deep concern reports suggesting that babies are trafficked from neighbouring countries for sale to childless couples in Malaysia. The absence of data and information on the actual magnitude of this problem is also a matter of concern.</p>	<p>trafficking in women and to protect victims. It is further concerned that women and girls who have been trafficked may be punished for violation of immigration laws and are thus revictimized. In addition, the Committee is concerned about the lack of systematic data collection on this phenomenon.</p> <p>24. The Committee urges the State party to consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children Supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to intensify its efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including by enacting specific and comprehensive legislation on the phenomenon. The Committee further calls upon the State party to increase its efforts at international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin and transit so as to address more effectively the causes of trafficking, and improve prevention of trafficking through information exchange. The Committee urges the State party to collect and analyse data from the police and international sources, prosecute and punish traffickers, and ensure the protection of the human rights of trafficked women and girls. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that trafficked women and girls are not punished for violations of immigration laws and have adequate support to be in a position to provide testimony against their traffickers.</p>
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Maldives	Legislative Developments		

CRC/C/MDV/CO/3 (2007)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/3 (2007)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		
	Education	<p>77. The Committee is concerned that gender biases and stereotypes in school textbooks, curricula and school management as well as the lack of appropriate sanitary facilities, including separate toilets, impede the full participation of girls in education, particularly in secondary schools.</p> <p>78. In the light of article 28 of the Convention, Committee recommends that the State party continue to allocate adequate financial, human and technical resources in order to:</p> <p>(a) Expedite the approval and enactment of the Education Act in order to make primary education compulsory and consider expanding compulsory education beyond the seven years of primary school;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that all children have equal access to education without any financial obstacles, for example, by strengthening the voucher programme to cover additional fees;</p> <p>(c) Remove gender biases and stereotypes from school textbooks and ensure the provision of girls' sanitary facilities in all schools, school management and personnel should also be provided with gender training;</p> <p>(d) Continue to take progressive measures to increase the availability of and enrolment rates in secondary education and facilitate access to secondary education, for example, by providing boarding school facilities;</p>	<p>27. The Committee is concerned at the gap between males and females in the educational system at the tertiary level. While recognizing that there has been an increase in the number of girls enrolling in traditionally male-dominated fields of study and in tourism and hospitality courses, the Committee is concerned at the persistence of gender segregation in educational fields and its consequences for women's professional opportunities. It is also concerned by the marked difference in the quality of education in urban and rural (atolls) areas and the greater negative impact of the disparity on girls due to a lack of appropriate boarding facilities on islands other than their home island. The Committee is further concerned that pregnant girls are suspended from school and may not resume their studies after giving birth.</p> <p>28. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen proactive measures for women's access to tertiary levels of education, particularly for rural women, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25 and to actively encourage the diversification of educational and professional choices for women and men. It further urges the State party to implement measures to support pregnant girls and raise awareness in secondary schools about teenage pregnancy prevention. The Committee encourages the State party to monitor and regularly assess the impact of such policies and programmes in relation to the full implementation of article 10 of the Convention.</p>

		<p>(e) Expand the vocational training facilities at the secondary-school level;</p> <p>(f) In order to ensure the right of the child to education, find ways and methods to discipline children with other means than excluding them from school; and</p> <p>(f) Seek cooperation, among others, with UNESCO and UNICEF to improve the education sector further.</p>	
	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>	<p>35. Despite the efforts of the State party to address the issue of equality between sexes, including through the Maldives Vision 2020, the Committee continues to be disappointed that the persistence of stereotypical attitudes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men still constitute an impediment to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by girls. In particular, the Committee notes with concern that there is an emerging trend amongst certain religious groups to keep girls out of school.</p> <p>36. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to address the problems faced by the girl child and to campaign and create awareness among the population of the equality of girls and boys. The Committee suggests that local, religious and other leaders be invited to take a more active role in supporting the efforts to prevent and eliminate discrimination against the girl child and to provide guidance to communities in this regard. It also recommends that the State party promote the inclusive role of women in society, among other things, by</p>	<p>17. While the Committee welcomes the efforts made to change stereotypes, including awareness-raising and sensitization activities, and other noteworthy developments, such as the inclusion of a gender equality provision in the national media policy, the Committee is concerned about the subordinate and subservient role women and girls continue to play within the family and the deep-rooted, traditional stereotypical attitudes that persist, and which are reflected particularly in women's professional and educational opportunities and choices and their participation in public and political life.</p> <p>18. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen measures to eradicate negative stereotypes and to carry out training for parliamentarians and decision-makers on the importance of equality of women and men in a democratic society. It also recommends that information on the content of the Convention be disseminated in the educational system, including in the rural (atoll) areas, that school textbooks and teaching materials be reviewed and revised and that human rights education have a gender perspective, with a view to changing existing stereotypical views on and attitudes towards women's and men's roles in the family and society and creating an environment</p>

		developing text books and educational materials in schools, such as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January 2007 (CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/3, paras.17-18).	that is supportive of the practical realization of the principle of equality of women and men. It recommends that the media continue to be encouraged to project positive images of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres.
	Domestic & Institutional Violence	62. The Committee welcomes the information that the State party is in the process of establishing child helpline services. The Committee regrets that insufficient measures are being taken to address the serious problem of violence against children, child abuse, including sexual abuse, and ill-treatment of children in the State party. The Committee notes with concern that the legal framework fails to provide full protection against sexual abuse and that it also shifts responsibility on producing evidence to a victim. It also notes with concern that domestic violence is widely tolerated in the Maldivian society and that Maldivian legislation does not expressly prohibit corporal punishment in the family. The Committee further notes with concern that professionals working with and for children are inadequately trained to identify, report and manage child abuse and ill-treatment cases and that the media sensationalize child protection issues, making the stigma and shame attached to victims worse.	20. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and to adopt comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls in accordance with its general recommendation 19 on violence against women. The Committee calls on the State party to enact legislation on domestic violence and on all forms of sexual abuse, including sexual harassment, as soon as possible. Such legislation should ensure that: violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence; women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection; and perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished. The Committee recommends the implementation of training for parliamentarians, the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel, and health-service providers in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims. It also recommends the carrying out of further public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women.
	Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health	90. In the light of the fact that tourism is a major source of income in the Maldives, the Committee is concerned about the potential vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation, including child	21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information and data on the exploitation of prostitutes and by the lack of rehabilitation services provided to them. It is also concerned about the lack of attention paid by the State party

	<p>prostitution and child pornography, and the inadequate legal framework for the prevention and criminalization of sexual exploitation. For example, it notes with concern the vulnerability of children living alone or visiting Malé to different form of exploitation. The Committee also notes with concern inadequate reporting as well as selective reporting on sexual exploitation of children, particularly if expatriate workers have been involved. It notes that production, distribution and possession of pornography is generally prohibited but it regrets the absence of specific law provisions prohibiting child pornography.</p> <p>92. In the light of article 34 and other related articles of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party undertake a national study on sexual commercial exploitation of children with a view to designing and implementing appropriate policies and measures, including promoting the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims of sexual exploitation, and to preventing and combating the sexual exploitation of children in a more targeted way avoiding the criminalization of child victims. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to take into account the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the First (Stockholm 1996) and Second (Yokohama 2001) World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.</p>	<p>to the problem of trafficking in women and the resulting lack of information about the extent of trafficking in women, both internal trafficking and cross-border trafficking, as well as by the absence of measures taken, including legislation, to address this issue. The Committee is further concerned by the possibility that women and girls who have been exploited in prostitution could be re-victimized by the authorities because of the criminalization of extramarital relations.</p> <p>22. The Committee urges the State party to: pursue a holistic approach in order to provide women and girls with educational and economic alternatives to prostitution; facilitate the reintegration of prostitutes into society; and provide rehabilitation and economic empowerment programmes for women and girls exploited in prostitution. The Committee urges the State party to consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to initiate steps to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including by enacting specific and comprehensive legislation on the phenomenon. The Committee further calls upon the State party to consider formulating a plan of action with clear goals, to train police officers to deal with inter-island and cross-border trafficking, to cooperate with other countries in the region so as to address more effectively the causes of trafficking and to improve prevention of trafficking through information exchange. The Committee urges the State party to prosecute and punish traffickers and to ensure the protection of the human rights of trafficked women and girls.</p>
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		<p>96. The Committee urges the State party to conduct research and provide comprehensive statistical data on the extent, nature and changing patterns of trafficking in children in the Maldives. It also recommends that the State party enact a comprehensive anti-trafficking law to criminalize all forms of trafficking as defined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking Persons.</p>	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
<p>Mongolia</p> <p>U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.263 (2005)</p> <p>U.N. Doc. A/56/38, paras.234-278 (2001)</p>	Legislative Developments	<p>3. The Committee takes note of the adoption of laws aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of the child such as:</p> <p>(a) The adoption of, in 1996, the Law on Protection of Child Rights which provides a legal framework for actions concerning special protection of children;</p> <p>(b) The adoption of, in 1998, the Social Welfare Law, which defines the types and scope of social benefits for, inter alia, orphans without legal guardians and children with disabilities;</p> <p>(c) The adoption of, in 1998, the Health Law, which provides, inter alia, children with specialized medical care;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(h) The adoption of, in 2004, of the Law against Domestic Violence with the aim to combat and prevent domestic violence and to protect of human rights of victims, including child victims.</p> <p>9. The Committee welcomes a comprehensive law reform in the State</p>	

	<p>party, including various legislative measures taken to strengthen the protection of children's rights. Notwithstanding the positive steps taken by the State party in the field of domestic legislation, the Committee is concerned at the insufficient number of implementation measures, which tend to form a gap between law and practice. In addition, the Committee is concerned about some contradictory provisions of the domestic laws leaving children without adequate protection, e.g. a compulsory school age is 17 where as the labour law allows children aged 14-15 years to work 30 hours per week.</p>	
	Sex-disaggregated Data	
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	
	<p>Education</p> <p>51. While noting with appreciation the State party's efforts to improve the standard of education and to secure access to education by implementing the revised Law on Education adopted in 1995, the Committee is concerned about the remaining difficulties encountered by children, especially in rural areas of the country, in their access to education and attendance in school. The high number of primary school aged children not enrolled in school, including gender and regional disparities in school enrolment, the increasing rates of illiteracy and the high rate of school drop-outs, especially in rural areas, give cause for serious concerns.</p> <p>52. [...] Furthermore, the Committee is</p>	<p>249. The Committee notes with deep concern the deteriorating situation of women in Mongolia in a period of economic transformation. It expresses its particular concern that the Government has failed to prevent the erosion of women's rights to economic advancement, health, education, political participation and personal security.</p>

concerned about the reported incidents where **children have been subjected to violence in schools** and the defective schooling facilities, including the insufficient number of classroom seats and the low quality of textbooks. The Committee notes the State party's efforts to build and renovate school dormitories but it is concerned about their poor condition and limited capacity to accommodate children.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate measures to allocate adequate financial and human resources in order:

- (a) **To progressively ensure that all children, without any distinction to gender, from all areas of the country, have equal access to quality education without any financial obstacles and to also consider the reinstatement of neighborhood schools in order to facilitate children's access to education;**
- (b) To strengthen measures aimed at increasing enrolment rates in primary and secondary education without any regional disparities and to secure that all children have equal opportunities to complete their education;
- (c) To strengthen its efforts to adopt and implement effective measures to decrease school drop-out rates, especially among children living in rural areas;
- (d) To take additional steps to address the increasing illiteracy rates;
- (e) To expand the facilities of vocational training at the secondary school level and for adolescents who have never attended

		<p>school or dropped out before completion;</p> <p>(f) To increase the quality of teaching methods by providing appropriate training to teachers;</p> <p>(g) To improve schooling facilities, including by building new schools and improving heating and electricity installations in schools, the quality of text books and the condition of school dormitories;</p> <p>(h) To continue to include human rights in general, and the rights of the child in particular, into the school curricula, taking into account the Committee's General Comment No. 1 on the aims of education, and to promote a safe and non-violent school environment.</p>	
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>23. The Committee recommends that the State party make greater efforts to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Convention without discrimination, in accordance with article 2, by effectively implementing the existing laws which guarantee the principle of non-discrimination. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate de facto discrimination on any grounds and against all vulnerable groups of children and prioritize social and health services and equal opportunities to education for children belonging to the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>247. The Committee notes that the persistence of stereotypical and patriarchal attitudes to the role of women in the family and the community prevents the enjoyment by women of human rights and denies them the opportunity to participate fully in national development.</p>
	Domestic & Institutional Violence		
	Sexual Exploitation &	64. The Committee is deeply concerned at	266. The Committee urges the Government to

	Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health	<p>the increasing number of children engaged in prostitution. While noting that trafficking in children is a relatively new human rights problem in Mongolia, the Committee is concerned about certain risk factors, including persisting poverty, the high rate of unemployment, difficult family circumstances leading to run-away from home and a growth in tourism, which may and often does increase sexual exploitation and trafficking in children.</p> <p>65. In order to prevent and combat trafficking in children for sexual and other exploitative purposes, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Develop and adopt a comprehensive national policy to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and trafficking in children, including the root causes and factors that place children at risk of such exploitation;(b) Strengthen its efforts and legislation to identify and investigate trafficking cases, to improve understanding of the issues of trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted;(c) Provide adequate programmes of assistance and reintegration for sexually exploited and/or trafficked children in accordance with the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the 1996 and 2001 World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;(d) Sign and ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,	take steps to prosecute persons engaged in organizing prostitution and to adopt effective measures to combat trafficking of women.
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		supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Myanmar	Legislative Developments		
CRC/C/15/Add.237 (2004)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
U.N. Doc. A/55/38, paras.91-138 (2000)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	<p>25. The Committee notes that the 1993 Child Law makes a distinction between a child (up to the age of 16 years) and a youth (between 16 and 18 years) and is concerned that youth as defined by the Law do not have the same rights as children. The Committee is further concerned that the minimum age of criminal responsibility is set at 7 years of age, which is much too low, and that children between 16 and 18 years are treated as adults under the penal law of the State party. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that there is no minimum age for marriage for boys and that marriage of girls as young as 14 is allowed with parental consent.</p> <p>26. The Committee recommends that the State party recognize that all persons below the age of 18 are entitled to special protection measures and specific rights as enshrined in the Convention, and that it raise the minimum age for criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable age. The Committee also recommends that the State party raise the minimum age for marriage for girls to an internationally acceptable age.</p>	

	Education	<p>62. The Committee welcomes the launching in 2000 of the Special Four-Year Plan for Education (2000/01-2003/04) aimed at promoting the basic education sector, and of the “Education for All” National Action Plan introduced in 2003 which is aimed specifically at the “access, quality and relevance” of education, but is seriously concerned at the following problematic aspects of the existing education system:</p> <p>(a) The low quality of education reflected in the high repetition and dropout rates, which affect more girls than boys;</p>	
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>27. The Committee notes that the principle of non-discrimination is included in the 1993 Child Law but remains concerned that discrimination, contrary to article 2 of the Convention, still exists in Myanmar. In particular, the Committee is concerned about discrimination against girls and vulnerable children such as children with disabilities, children from remote and border areas, children belonging to religious minorities and children with low status citizenship (see paras. 34-35).</p>	
	Domestic & Institutional Violence	<p>41. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Assess the scope, nature and causes of violence against children, in particular sexual violence against girls, with a view to adopting a comprehensive strategy on effective measures and policies and on changing general attitudes;</p>	

		<p>49. In light of article 19 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Undertake a comprehensive study on violence against children in order to assess the scope, nature and causes of such violence and to adopt effective measures and policies;</p> <p>(b) Duly investigate cases of domestic violence and violence in schools through child-sensitive judicial procedures and sanction perpetrators, giving due regard to guaranteeing the right to privacy of the child;</p> <p>(c) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns for the purpose of preventing and combating child abuse, with the involvement of children;</p> <p>(d) Allocate funds to provide services for physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration to the victims of rape, abuse, neglect, ill-treatment, violence or exploitation, in accordance with article 39 of the Convention;</p> <p>(e) Evaluate the work of existing structures and provide training to the professionals working with child victims of violence; and</p> <p>(f) Seek technical assistance from, inter alia, UNICEF.</p>	
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>70. The Committee is concerned about the increasing number of child victims of sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography, especially among those engaged in child labour and street children. Concern is also expressed at the programmes for the physical and psychological recovery and social</p>	

		<p>reintegration of child victims of such abuse and exploitation, which are insufficient and inadequate.</p> <p>71. In light of article 34 and other related articles of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Extend the protection from sexual exploitation and trafficking in all relevant legislation to all boys and girls below the age of 18 years; and</p> <p>(b) Strengthen its efforts to combat sexual exploitation in accordance with the 1996 Declaration and Agenda for Action and the 2001 Global Commitment adopted at the World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.</p>	
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>	<p>58. The Committee is concerned that the measures taken by the State party to raise awareness among the Padaung and the Kareni tribes on the potential health hazard of their traditional practice of neck elongation have been insufficient. The practice can result in sudden death or serious damage to the spinal cord if the neck-elongation ring is removed.</p> <p>59. The Committee recommends that the State party continue and strengthen its awareness-raising activities among the people of the Padaung and the Kareni tribes, in particular women and girl children, on the potential risks of their traditional practice for their physical well-being.</p>	
<p>Nepal</p>	<p>Legislative</p>	<p>17. The Committee also reiterates its</p>	

<p>CRC/C/65/Add.261 (2005)</p> <p>U.N. Doc. A/59/38, paras.189-225 (2004)</p>	<p>Developments</p>	<p>previous concern regarding the disparities in legislation, in particular, in local, customary and religious laws, which result in uneven and discriminatory protection and promotion of children's rights.</p> <p>18. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen the process of achieving compliance of its legislation, in particular, the 1992 Children's Act, with the principles and provisions of the Convention. The Committee further recommends that the State party remove the current age restriction in the Children's Act to ensure that children of all ages are able to approach the court for protection.</p>	
	<p>Sex-disaggregated Data</p>		
	<p>Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage</p>	<p>65. While acknowledging that the minimum age of marriage for girls is 18 years, the Committee shares the concern of the State party that the custom of early marriage is widespread in practice, in particular within certain ethnic and religious communities, and that girls, once married, are not afforded the protection for the enjoyment of their rights as children as enshrined in the Convention, including the right to education.</p> <p>66. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its enforcement of the existing legislation to prevent early marriage and that the State party develop sensitization programmes, involving community and religious leaders and society at large, including children themselves, to curb the practice</p>	

		<p>of early marriage. It also recommends to the State party that it take measures to ensure that when underage girls are married, they continue to fully enjoy their rights as set out in the Convention, including the right to education.</p>	
	<p>Education</p>	<p>75. [...] the Committee is seriously concerned that primary education has not been made compulsory and that the target set by the State party to achieve universal primary education by 2000 was never met and has been extended to 2015. The Committee also remains concerned about the low public expenditure in education and structural lack of resources, largely responsible for the shortage of qualified teachers, poor physical infrastructure, overcrowding in schools and material shortages in school. The Committee is also concerned about the high dropout rate, and that significant inequality exists in access to education, in part due to the hidden costs associated with schooling, and that a large proportion of girls and children from disadvantaged backgrounds such as <i>Dalit</i> children and children with disabilities remain deprived of educational opportunities.</p> <p>76. The Committee recommends that the State party carefully examine the budget allocations and measures taken within the field, with regard to their impact on the progressive implementation of the child's right to education and leisure activities. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Make primary education compulsory</p>	<p>204. While recognizing that education is a national priority of the State party and that substantial progress has been made, including a decline in the overall illiteracy rate, the Committee is concerned about the continuing significant gap between the literacy rates of women and men. It is concerned about the low female enrolment in primary and secondary schools, high dropout rates and the very limited access for women to tertiary education. The Committee is also concerned that educational opportunities are fewer for women in rural areas and for women of different castes and ethnic groups.</p> <p>205. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to address the literacy gap between men and women so that the goals established in the National Plan on Education in regard to equality in education can be achieved, particularly in rural areas and among disadvantaged castes and ethnic groups. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure equal access of girls and women to all levels of education and to take all appropriate measures to prevent girls from dropping out of school. The Committee calls on the State party to allocate more financial and human resources to the education sector, to recruit more women teachers and to ensure that school textbooks do not carry stereotyped images of</p>

		<p>and free for all children and for more years than just the five years of primary school;</p> <p>(b) Continue to strengthen measures aimed at increasing enrolment rates and school attendance, as well as reducing the high dropout rate in primary and secondary education and ensure that children receive the full schooling to which they are entitled;</p> <p>(c) Undertake additional efforts to increase the budget allocated to education;</p> <p>(d) Take further measures to improve the accessibility, in particular for girls, to education of all children, with a view to eliminating the prevailing disparities between girls and boys, as well as between urban and rural areas;</p> <p>(e) Take measures to improve the quality of education, inter alia, by building more schools, improving physical infrastructures and ensuring schools are adequately equipped;</p> <p>(f) Prioritize efforts at teacher training and expand recruitment of qualified teachers, in particular women and persons from all ethnic groups;</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(i) Adopt appropriate legislative measures to combat the use of corporal punishment in schools;</p> <p>(j) In the light of the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education, include human rights education, including the rights of children, in the school curriculum at all levels of education;</p> <p>(k) Ratify the Convention against</p>	<p>women.</p>
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		<p>Discrimination in Education (1960) and the Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (1989); (1) Seek further technical assistance from, inter alia, UNICEF and UNESCO.</p>	
	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>		<p>206. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of discriminatory cultural practices and stereotypes relating to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in all areas of life, and by deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and conduct based on the assumed superiority of men in the public and private spheres and the strong perception that women are weak and vulnerable, which undermine women's social status and are an obstacle to the implementation of the Convention. The Committee expresses its particular concern at the situation of widows who are often marginalized and vulnerable to violence and economic deprivation as a result of entrenched mindsets.</p> <p>207. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to eliminate discriminatory cultural practices and stereotypes. It also urges the State party to encourage men to share family responsibilities and direct its awareness-raising programmes to men as well as women, and to take action to change stereotypical attitudes and perceptions as to men's and women's roles and responsibilities. It recommends that the media be encouraged to project a positive image of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in both the private and public spheres. The Committee requests the State party to adopt measures to ensure that widows are able to enjoy their human rights and to improve their situation, including through job training, loan opportunities and counselling services and</p>

			sensitization programmes aimed at ending the stigmatization of widows within the family and in the community.
	Domestic & Institutional Violence	<p>47. The Committee is concerned that corporal punishment and ill-treatment of children is prevalent in the family, in schools and in other institutions. The Committee is concerned about the provisions in the 1992 Children's Act and the 1963 Muluki Ain (Civil Code) which provide for corporal punishment in the home, in schools and in other institutions and forms of childcare, which is in clear contravention of article 19 of the Convention. The Committee underlines the importance of specific legal prohibition of traditional practices which are harmful to children by law.</p> <p>55. While noting that the Children's Act prohibits any cruel treatment of children by parents, guardians or teachers, the Committee is alarmed by the prevalence of child abuse and domestic violence in the State party and is of the view that the domestic legislation currently in place in the State party does not afford adequate protection to children and women against abuse and domestic violence. In particular, the Committee notes that the Children's Act which protects children from cruel treatment does not provide for an effective remedy mechanism, and that violation of the Act is not considered as a State crime and thus only provides remedy under civil court procedures. The Committee further regrets that the Domestic Violence Control Bill which</p>	

		<p>was passed in April 2002 by the Parliament before it was dissolved, was never enacted.</p> <p>The Committee is concerned that insufficient awareness exists in the State party, of violence against women and children as a crime punishable by law, including among law enforcement officials.</p>	
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>87. While noting the efforts taken by the State party to eliminate the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children, the Committee is gravely concerned about the large number of children in the State party who are sexually exploited. The Committee is of the view that insufficient efforts have been taken to protect the particularly vulnerable groups of children from sexual exploitation. Specifically, the Committee notes with concern that children of lower castes are disproportionately represented among sex workers, and about the persistence of the customary practice known as Badi, whereby young girls of the Bedi caste are forced into prostitution.</p> <p>89. The Committee recommends that the State party, allocate resources as a matter of priority to:</p> <p>(a) Enact appropriate legislation that ensures protection from sexual abuse and exploitation for boys and girls under 18 years;</p> <p>95. The Committee takes note of the</p>	<p>210. Recognizing the efforts made by the State party to address the issue of trafficking in women and girls, the Committee remains concerned about the continuing prevalence of this problem in Nepal. It is also concerned about the large discrepancy between reported instances of trafficking and the actual number of cases brought to court. It is further concerned that the enactment of the amendment to the Human Trafficking (Control) Act has been delayed.</p> <p>211. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to address trafficking in women and girls. It recommends that its anti-trafficking strategy should include measures of prevention, the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators and increased international, regional and bilateral cooperation. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report information about the legal and actual situation with respect to trafficking in women and girls.</p> <p>212. The Committee is concerned at the status of women's health, particularly rural women. The</p>

		<p>various efforts undertaken by the State party to combat child trafficking and welcomes the information that police officers are being trained in issues relating to sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children. However, the Committee remains deeply concerned about the perversity of the phenomenon of trafficking and sale of children within Nepal and across the border for the purposes of sexual exploitation and bonded labour. The Committee notes with grave concern that certain groups of children are at a particularly higher risk of being sold and trafficked, including girls.... The Committee further expresses concern that the existing legal protection for victims of trafficking, most notably the Human Trafficking Control Act, is inadequate, and that its implementation is seriously inadequate. The Committee is also concerned that the child victims of sexual exploitation do not receive adequate protection and recovery assistance.</p>	<p>Committee is concerned that women have a lower life expectancy than men and that there are high maternal and infant mortality rates. It is also concerned that women's health is adversely affected by factors such as early marriage and early pregnancy, inadequate family planning services and illiteracy, which is an obstacle to obtaining and effectively using health-related information. It is further concerned at the lack of research on women's health and data disaggregated by sex.</p>
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>	<p>67. The Committee notes with concern that certain harmful traditional practices continue to prevail in the State party, most notably the caste system and traditions such as the <i>Deuki, Kumari, Jhuma, Badi, Kamlari</i> and <i>Chaupadi</i>, causing extreme insecurity, health hazards and cruelty to girl children. The Committee regrets the absence of legal prohibition and sufficient interventions on the part of the State party to address the harmful effects of these traditional practices on the enjoyment of</p>	<p>208. The Committee is concerned at the continuing existence of child marriage and polygamy and other practices, including the institution of dowry, <i>deuki</i> (dedicating girls to a god and goddess), <i>jhuma</i> (in some communities, second sisters remain unmarried and spend their life in monasteries), <i>kumari pratha</i> (having a girl child as living goddess) and <i>badi</i> (ethnic practice of prostitution among young girls), that are contrary to the Convention and constitute discrimination against women. The Committee is also concerned that the enactment of the draft bill</p>

		<p>rights by children who are affected by these practices.</p> <p>68. The Committee recommends that the State party, as a matter of urgency, take all necessary measures to eradicate all traditional practices harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of children, by strengthening awareness-raising programmes. The Committee further recommends the State party to adopt legislation prohibiting such practices.</p>	<p>on domestic violence has been delayed indefinitely.</p> <p>209. The Committee recommends action without delay by the State party to enforce its marriage laws, particularly as they relate to the prohibition of child marriage and polygamy, in the light of general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations, and urges the State party to take steps to abolish other harmful and discriminatory traditional practices, such as dowry deuki, jhuma, kumari pratha, and badi. The Committee also recommends that the State party take comprehensive and effective measures, including the training of the judiciary and law enforcement officials and public awareness-raising campaigns aimed at eliminating these practices. The Committee requests the State party to adopt immediately measures on domestic violence and to provide in its next report information about progress in relation to the draft bill on domestic violence.</p>
Pakistan	Legislative Developments		
CRC/C/15/Add.217 (2003)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
CEDAW/C/PAK/CO/3 (2007)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	<p>27. The Committee is concerned about the legislative inconsistency concerning the definition of a child, and in particular, at the difference between the minimum legal age for marriage of boys (18 years) and that of girls (16 years); that the age of criminal responsibility is much too low (7 years); at the low and variable minimum ages for admission to employment; at the definition of a child contained in the Zina and Haddood Ordinances, as well as about the widespread practice of early marriages.</p>	<p>44. The Committee expresses concern that under the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act of 1939 women do not enjoy equal rights with men during the dissolution of marriage. It also notes with concern that under the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 the minimum age for marriage for boys is 18 years and for girls 16 years. The Committee is further concerned about the persistence of forced and early marriage.</p> <p>45. The Committee urges the State party to amend the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act of 1939 to eliminate all discriminatory provisions,</p>

		<p>28. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Align the age of marriage of boys and girls by raising the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years;</p> <p>(b) Take all necessary measures to prevent early and/or forced marriages;</p> <p>(c) Establish clear minimum ages for compulsory education;</p> <p>(d) Establish minimum ages for employment in accordance with international standards, especially International Labour Organization Convention No. 138;</p> <p>(e) Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level.</p>	<p>including with regard to raising the minimum legal age of marriage for girls to 18 years in order to bring it into line with article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations. It also requests the implementation of measures to eliminate forced marriages.</p>
	<p>Education</p>	<p>60. The Committee welcomes the measures taken to increase the attendance of girls at schools and the information that a national “Compulsory Primary Education Ordinance” has been promulgated (March 2002), and also notes the modest improvement in the gross primary enrolment rate. However, the Committee remains deeply concerned that:</p> <p>(a) The public expenditure on education (as a percentage of the gross domestic product) in the State party is extremely low and has been sinking in recent years;</p> <p>(b) The considerable amounts of international aid invested in the State party for the purpose of promoting education have not been used in an efficient or adequate way;</p> <p>(c) School enrolment and literacy rates are very low;</p>	<p>36. The Committee is concerned about the high illiteracy rate of women, the low enrolment of girls in schools and their high dropout rate, especially in rural areas. The Committee is further concerned at the persistence of gender-based segregation in educational fields and its consequences for women’s professional opportunities. The Committee is also concerned about the persistence of stereotypes in school curricula and textbooks.</p> <p>37. The Committee calls upon the State party to place high priority on the reduction of the illiteracy rate of women, in particular those who are from rural areas. The Committee urges the State party to enhance its compliance with article 10 of the Convention and to raise awareness of the importance of education as a human right and a basis for the empowerment of women. It encourages the State party to take steps to overcome traditional attitudes that constitute</p>

		<p>(d) Dropout rates are very high and secondary education enrolment rates have decreased;</p> <p>(e) Gender and geographical disparities remain very high;</p> <p>(f) The quality of education is poor;</p> <p>(g) The code of conduct for teachers does not prohibit corporal punishment, nor does it deal with the problem of violence against children in school.</p> <p>61. The Committee is very concerned about reports of violence and sexual abuse within madrasas, as well as the narrow content of the education provided within these schools. In this regard, the Committee notes with appreciation the initiatives by the State party to streamline the education given in madrasas so that it is more compatible with regular public education, and to eradicate violence against children.</p> <p>63. The Committee recommends that the State party: [...]</p> <p>(i) Take proactive measures to eliminate violence against children in schools, notably by including in the code of conduct for teachers the prohibition of corporal punishment and by limiting the role of school counsellors to those functions that help the pupil and revoking their disciplinary functions.</p>	<p>obstacles to girls' and women's education and recommends that the State party implement measures to ensure equal access of girls and women to all levels of education and the retaining of girls in school. It further recommends that women be actively encouraged to diversify educational and professional choices. It requests the State party to undertake a comprehensive review of educational curricula and textbooks to eliminate gender stereotypes and to introduce gender sensitization training for teachers.</p>
	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>	<p>29. While acknowledging the actions taken to address discrimination against girls in education, the Committee is concerned at the persistence of</p>	<p>28. The Committee is strongly concerned about pervasive patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted traditional and cultural stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in</p>

		<p>discriminatory social attitudes and discrimination against minority children and against girls, early and forced marriages, low school enrolment and high dropout rates, honour killings, mutilation and violence. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the disparities in the enjoyment of rights and the social discrimination experienced by children belonging to the most vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, children belonging to a religious or other minority group and children living in rural areas.</p> <p>30. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Make greater efforts to ensure that, in accordance with article 2, all children within its jurisdiction enjoy all the rights set out in the Convention without discrimination, particularly girl children, children belonging to a religious or other minority group, children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups of children; and</p> <p>(b) Target social services at children belonging to the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>the family, in the workplace and in society, which constitute serious obstacles to women's enjoyment of their human rights and impede the full implementation of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that prevailing trends of fundamentalism, intimidation and violence incited by non-State actors, including through illegal media, are seriously undermining women's enjoyment of their human rights in the name of religion.</p> <p>29. The Committee urges the State party to increase its efforts to design and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes to foster a better understanding of and support for equality between women and men at all levels of society. Such efforts should aim at modifying stereotypical attitudes and traditional norms about the responsibilities and roles of women and men in the family, the workplace and in society, as required under articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention, and to strengthen societal support for equality between women and men. The Committee also calls on the State party to take prompt action to counteract the influence of non-State actors, which, through the misinterpretation of Islam and the use of intimidation and violence, are undermining the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>41. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Assess the scope, nature and causes of violence against children, in particular sexual violence against girls, with a view to adopting a comprehensive strategy and effective measures and policies and to changing attitudes;</p>	<p>23. The Committee urges the State party to accord priority attention to the adoption of a comprehensive approach to address all forms of violence against women and girls, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation 19 on violence against women. The Committee calls on the State party to ensure that the Qisas and Diyat law has no application in cases of</p>

		<p>(b) Properly investigate cases of violence, through a child-sensitive judicial procedure, notably by giving appropriate weight to children’s views in legal proceedings, and apply sanctions against perpetrators, with due regard given to guaranteeing the right to privacy of the child;</p> <p>(c) Add a definition of torture to the Constitution and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;</p> <p>(d) Undertake public education campaigns to promote a culture of non-violence.</p>	<p>violence against women, especially crimes committed in the name of honour, and to adopt the Bill on Domestic Violence, within a clear time frame, in order to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to protection and effective redress and that perpetrators of such acts are effectively prosecuted and punished. The Committee also recommends gender sensitive training on violence against women for public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel, the judiciary and health service providers, to ensure they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can adequately respond to it. The Committee also calls on the State party to include, in its next report, data on all forms of violence against women disaggregated by rural and urban areas.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>74. In view of the fact that child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children are reported to be serious problems in the State party, the Committee is concerned that the State party has not addressed them effectively. The Committee is particularly concerned at:</p> <p>(a) The absence of legislation clearly prohibiting child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and the lack of a clear definition of the term in the State party, as well as the lack of legislation that clearly defines sexual consent;</p> <p>(b) The absence of measures to prosecute the perpetrators;</p> <p>(c) The absence of statistics and data on the issue of child sexual abuse;</p> <p>(d) Traditional attitudes regarding the subject (e.g. concepts like “family honour”), which imply that a majority of abuse cases go unreported;</p>	<p>30. The Committee remains concerned that Pakistan is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficked women and girls. The Committee is further concerned that the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance of 2002 does not adequately address the needs of women and girls who are victims of trafficking, nor does it shield them from prosecution for illegal migration.</p> <p>31. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance of 2002 in order to ensure that the human rights of women and girls who are victims of trafficking are protected. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It urges the</p>

	<p>(e) Reports that child sexual abuse is prevalent, and increasing, in prisons.</p> <p>75. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Review its legislation in order to clearly define sexual abuse, in particular child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation;</p> <p>(b) Undertake a study on the prevalence of sexual abuse and exploitation;</p> <p>(c) Take all necessary measures to prevent and end this practice through a comprehensive strategy, notably by prosecuting perpetrators, and holding public debates and conducting awareness campaigns;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that victims of sexual abuse and exploitation have access to appropriate recovery and reintegration programmes and services;</p> <p>(e) Seek assistance from, among others, WHO and UNICEF.</p> <p>76. While noting the serious efforts undertaken by the State party to prevent child trafficking, the Committee is deeply concerned at the very high incidence of trafficking in children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, bonded labour and use as camel jockeys.</p> <p>77. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that cases of disappeared children are registered and investigated appropriately;</p> <p>(b) Continue and strengthen its efforts to combat the problem of child trafficking;</p>	<p>State party to collect and analyse data on trafficking and increase its efforts to prosecute and punish traffickers. It also recommends that the State party take measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of trafficking.</p>
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		<p>(c) Strengthen national and regional strategies and programmes on the prevention and suppression of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and ensure that these strategies take into account the commitments made at the two World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996 and 2001.</p> <p>54. The Committee notes the efforts made by the State party to reduce fertility and the crude birth rate, but remains concerned that there is no organized system of reproductive health counselling and services, and that there is no family life education for adolescents nor education on the harmful effect of drugs and on sexual abuse.</p> <p>55. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen its efforts to address adolescent health issues and develop a comprehensive policy to provide adolescents in both urban and rural areas with reproductive health counselling and services, including family life education, especially on the effects of early marriage and on family planning, as well as to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS and the harmful effects of drugs. In this respect, the State party is encouraged to seek technical assistance from United Nations agencies such as WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund.</p>	<p>40. The Committee is concerned about women's lack of access to health care, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services, especially in rural areas, and the link between the rate of abortion and low contraceptive use. Clandestine abortions being a major cause of maternal mortality, the Committee is deeply concerned that abortion is a punishable offence under Pakistani law, which may lead women to seek unsafe, illegal abortions, with consequent risks to their life and health.</p> <p>41. The Committee calls on the State party to take concrete measures to enhance women's access to health care, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health. It requests the State party to take measures aimed at the prevention of unwanted pregnancies, including by making a comprehensive range of contraceptives and family planning methods more widely available and affordable, without any restrictions, and by increasing knowledge and awareness about family planning among women and men. The Committee also calls on the State party to reduce maternal mortality rates by identifying and addressing causes of maternal death. It further calls on the State party to take measures to ensure that women</p>
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			<p>do not seek unsafe medical procedures, such as illegal abortion, because of lack of appropriate services in regard to fertility control. The Committee recommends that the State party review the laws relating to abortion with a view to removing punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortion, providing them with access to quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortion and reducing maternal mortality rates, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.</p>
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>	<p>34. The Committee takes note of the recognition given to the problem of honour killings by the State party, but is nonetheless very concerned at the widespread and increasing problem of so-called honour killings, affecting children both directly and, through their mothers, indirectly. The Committee is seriously concerned that, despite the efforts of the State party, the police are often reluctant to arrest the perpetrators and that the latter receive lenient or token punishment.</p> <p>35. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure that there is no discriminatory treatment for crimes of honour and that they are promptly, fairly and thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party undertake a thorough review of the existing legislation and strengthen awareness-raising campaigns in this regard.</p>	<p>22. The Committee notes with concern that violence against women and girls persists, including domestic violence, rape and crimes committed in the name of honour. The Committee is especially concerned about the Qisas and Diyat law, which allows for the victim of violence or his/her heir to determine whether to exact retribution (Qisas) or payment of compensation (Diyat) or to pardon the accused, thus providing impunity for perpetrators of violence against women, especially perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of honour. The Committee notes with concern the lack of data on all forms of violence against women in the report.</p>

		<p>56. The Committee reiterates its concern at the existence of harmful traditional practices, including forced and/or early child marriages and dowry-related violence, which pose very serious threats to children, and emphasizes the lack of interventions on the part of the State party to address these issues.</p> <p>57. The Committee recommends that the State party, as a matter of urgency, take all necessary measures to eradicate all traditional practices harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of children, which affect the girl child in particular.</p>	
<p>Philippines</p> <p>CRC/C/15/Add.259 21 September 2005</p> <p>CEDAW/C/PHI/CO/6 August 2006</p>	<p>Legislative Developments</p>		<p>11. While the Convention has been in force in the State party for 25 years, the Committee notes with great concern the lack of progress in undertaking and completing necessary revisions of discriminatory provisions in national legislation and in enacting a comprehensive legal framework pertaining to gender equality. In particular, the Committee is concerned that the Magna Carta for Women Bill, the Marital Infidelity Bill and several other bills aimed at amending the Family Code, the Civil Code and the Revised Penal Code are still pending. The Committee is particularly concerned about existing discriminatory provisions of the Code of Muslim Personal Laws, which permit marriage of girls under the age of 18, polygamy and arranged marriages.</p> <p>12. The Committee urges the State party to give high priority to strengthening the legal framework for the promotion of gender equality and women's enjoyment of their human rights and, to that end,</p>

			to expedite the adoption of pending bills in order to promptly bring the relevant national laws into line with the Convention. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake a systematic review of all legislation and initiate all necessary revisions so as to achieve full compliance with the provisions of the Convention. It also encourages the State party to intensify dialogue with the Muslim community in order to remove discriminatory provisions from the Code of Muslim Personal Laws. The Committee also calls upon the State party to increase its efforts to sensitize parliamentarians and public opinion regarding the importance of these reforms.
	Sex-disaggregated Data		
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		
	Education		
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>20. Notwithstanding the measures taken by the State party to eliminate discrimination against children, inter alia, through the implementation of the provisions of the Child and Youth Welfare Code (Presidential Decree No. 603), the Family Code and the Special Protection of Children against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act and several programmes [...] The Committee is particularly concerned about the de facto discrimination faced by girls in everyday life, which is often multiple discrimination based on their gender.</p> <p>21. [...] The Committee recommends that the State party pay particular attention to the equal status and full</p>	<p>17. The Committee notes with concern the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society. These stereotypes present a significant impediment to the implementation of the Convention and are a root cause of violence against women, as well as of the disadvantaged position of women in a number of areas, including in all sectors of the labour market and in political and public life.</p> <p>18. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to bring about changes in traditional patriarchal attitudes and in gender-role stereotyping. Such measures should include awareness-raising and public educational campaigns addressing women and girls, as well as, in particular, men and boys, and religious leaders with a view to</p>

		<p>enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by girls.</p>	<p>eliminating stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>50. The Committee is deeply concerned about the increasing reports of cases of child abuse and neglect in the State party and the notable deficiencies in the domestic legislation as regards penalizing all forms of abuse, neglect and mistreatment, including sexual abuse. In addition, the Committee deeply regrets the alleged cases of sexual abuse of children in the framework of religious institutions.</p> <p>51. The Committee urges the State party to review its domestic legislation in order to penalize all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect, mistreatment and violence against children and to clearly define these crimes against children, including incest. The Committee recommends to the State party that it take effective measures to prevent and protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation in the framework of religious institutions, including by investigating the magnitude of such cases and by ensuring that the perpetrators of such abuse are brought to justice and that officials of religious institutions are held accountable in these cases of sexual abuse and the exploitation of minors.</p> <p>52. The Committee urges the State party to conduct timely and adequate investigations of all cases of child abuse and violence with full practice of the</p>	<p>16. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake measures to increase awareness of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, marital rape and incest, and the unacceptability of all such violence. It recommends that the Anti-Rape Law of 1997 be reviewed with a view to repealing the provision pertaining to the extinguishing of the criminal action. It calls on the State party to enhance data collection on various forms of violence against women, especially domestic violence. It urges the State party to conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of domestic violence to serve as the basis for comprehensive and targeted intervention and to include the results of such research in its next periodic report.</p>

		<p>rights of the child victim in legal proceedings, for example by allowing videotaped evidence, in order to bring perpetrators to justice and to ensure that child victims of violence and abuse have access to adequate counselling and multidisciplinary assistance with recovery and reintegration.</p>	
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>85. The Committee expresses its grave concern about the sexual exploitation of children, including growing child prostitution, and the reported cases of child pornography in the party. The Committee notes with concern that the provisions of the Special Protection of Children against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act are mainly related to prostitution and do not adequately protect victims of other forms of sexual exploitation. Furthermore, the Committee notes with concern that the minimum age of sexual consent is clearly enough established in the State party's domestic legislation and that the Revised Code (Republic Act No. 3815) imposes maximum penalties for sexual offences when the victim is under 12 years of age but imposes lower penalties for sexual offences against over 12 years of age.</p> <p>86. The Committee welcomes the adoption of, in 2003, the new Anti-Trafficking in Persons law and other measures taken by the State party in the areas of prevention of trafficking and protection of victims, such as the establishment of Anti-Illegal Recruitment Coordination Councils, the Trade Union</p>	<p>19. While welcoming the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, the Committee notes with concern that trafficking in women and girls and the exploitation of prostitution continue to thrive in the Philippines, owing to the poverty of women and girls. The Committee is also concerned about the low rates of prosecution and conviction of traffickers and those who exploit the prostitution of women.</p> <p>20. The Committee recommends that the State party further strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination so as to address trafficking in women more effectively. It urges the State party to pursue a holistic approach aimed at addressing the root causes of trafficking and improving prevention. Such efforts should include measures to improve the economic situation of women and girls and to provide them with educational and economic opportunities, thereby reducing and eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers. The Committee further calls on the State party to take appropriate measures to suppress the exploitation of prostitution of women, including through the discouragement of the demand for prostitution. It should also facilitate the reintegration of prostitutes into society and provide rehabilitation, social</p>

		<p>Child Labour Advocate initiative and the establishment of an Executive Council to suppress trafficking in persons particularly women and children. But the Committee is gravely concerned about trafficked Philippine children both within the country and across borders. The Committee expresses its concern about existing risk contributing to trafficking activities, such as persistent poverty, temporary overseas migration, growing sex tourism and weak law enforcement in the State party.</p> <p>87. The Committee urges the State party to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review its domestic laws on the protection of children against sexual exploitation, including the use of children for pornography, in order to provide all child victims of such exploitation with equal protection, inter alia, by including in the law equal sanctions to all perpetrators of sexual offences against children; (b) Set a clearly defined minimum age of sexual consent at an internationally acceptable level in its domestic law; (c) Conduct a comprehensive study to assess the causes, nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children; (d) Provide adequate programmes of assistance and reintegration for sexually exploited and/or trafficked children in accordance with the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the First and Second World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of 	<p>integration and economic empowerment programmes to women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking. The Committee recommends that the State party provide financial support to non-governmental organizations, including religious non-governmental organizations, which run shelters and drop-in centres for the rehabilitation of women and girls in prostitution. The Committee urges the State party to prosecute and punish traffickers and those who exploit the prostitution of women, and provide protection to victims of trafficking. The Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next report, comprehensive information and data on trafficking in women and girls and the exploitation of prostitution and on the impact of the various measures undertaken in that regard.</p>
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		<p>Children;</p> <p>(e) Pay particular attention to existing risk factors, such as the growing sex tourism in the region and continue to collaborate with the Department of Tourism and tourism service providers in this respect;</p> <p>(f) Launch awareness-raising campaigns for children, parents and other caregivers, in order to prevent trafficking, sexual exploitation and pornography involving children, and sensitize officials working with and for victims of trafficking.</p> <p>88. With regard to the trafficking of children in the Philippines, within the country and across its borders, the Committee endorses the recommendation adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its seventy-ninth session in 2003 (CCPR/CO/79/PHL, para. 13) on taking appropriate measures to combat trafficking in all its forms, by ensuring effective enforcement of the relevant legislation and imposing sanctions on those found responsible.</p>	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Singapore	Legislative Developments		
U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.220 (2003) CEDAW/C/SGP/CO/3 (2007)	Sex-disaggregated Data		18. The Committee encourages the State party to elevate the status of the national machinery for the advancement of women, to strengthen its mandate and provide the necessary human and financial resources so that it has the capacity to develop gender equality policies and monitor their implementation, as well as act as catalyst for the effective use of the gender

			mainstreaming strategy across all ministries, and to do so in collaboration with the Inter-Ministry Committee on CEDAW. The Committee also requests the State party to give necessary attention and allocate sufficient resources to strengthen the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data in all sectors, including their public availability.
	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		
	Education		
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>23. The Committee is concerned that the principle of non-discrimination is restricted to citizens, that the Constitution does not expressly prohibit discrimination against women or persons with disabilities, and that societal discrimination against girls, children with disabilities and non-residents persists.</p> <p>24. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender or disability and ensure that it is applicable to all persons in the State party. The Committee further recommends that the State party undertake all necessary proactive measures to combat societal discrimination, in particular against girls, children with disabilities and non-residents, through, inter alia, public education and awareness campaigns.</p>	<p>31. The Committee reiterates its concern about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men within the family and society at large. These stereotypes present a significant obstacle to the implementation of the Convention, are a root cause of violence against women in the private and public spheres, put women in a disadvantaged position in a number of areas, including in the labour market, and limit their access to leadership positions in political and public life.</p> <p>32. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to bring about changes in traditional patriarchal attitudes and in gender-role stereotyping. Such measures should include awareness-raising and public education campaigns, with a special focus in the curriculum on human rights education and women's rights and children's rights issues, in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the national machinery for the advancement of women, women's organizations, trade unions, the National Employers Federation, the media, educational institutions and the People's Association, with a view to eliminating stereotypes associated with</p>

			<p>traditional gender roles in the family and in society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. It recommends that the State party expand its current awareness-raising efforts and training activities to leaders of political parties and senior managers in the private sector. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all measures to enhance work/life balance are targeted at both women and men in the public and private sectors, so as to further support the equal sharing of family and work responsibilities between women and men.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>		
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>		<p>21. The Committee is concerned at the narrow definition of trafficking employed by the State party. It is further concerned that women and girls who have been trafficked may be punished for violation of immigration laws and be treated as offenders rather than victims.</p> <p>22. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It encourages the State party to review its current legal and policy measures in the light of the definition of trafficking contained in the Protocol in order to better identify victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that women and girl victims of trafficking are not punished for violations of immigration laws and have adequate support so that they can provide testimony against their traffickers and have access to adequate assistance and remedies.</p>

	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Sri Lanka	Legislative Developments		
CRC/C/15/Add.207 (2003)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
A/57/38 (Part I), paras.256-302 (2002)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage	22. The Committee recommends that the State party enact, as soon as possible, a clear legal definition of the child applicable throughout the country and review existing age limits in various areas, including marriage, child labour and the Penal Code provisions on child sexual abuse, in order to bring them into compliance with international standards.	15. The Committee commends the introduction of legal reforms that have been adopted since 1995, in particular the amendments to the Penal Code, which introduced new offences and more severe punishments with regard to violence against women, as well as the revision of the marriage laws, which increased the age of marriage, except in the case of Muslims, to 18 for both women and men.
	Education		16. The Committee commends the educational achievements and improved literacy rate of women, as well as the curriculum reforms and teacher training programmes to eliminate gender role stereotypes. The Committee also commends the easy access to family planning for women and men and the well-developed maternal and child health care system, which has contributed to a decline in maternal mortality.
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes		36. The Committee, while noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government to eliminate gender role stereotyping in formal education, expresses its concern that the general public and the media perpetuate traditional stereotyped gender roles.
	Domestic & Institutional Violence	34. The Committee notes that the Domestic Violence Act is under consideration, but is concerned that, although there are limited data available, the problem of abuse within the family and in institutions appears widespread.	

		<p>The Committee is further concerned that victims of abuse do not receive adequate assistance and support for their recovery, and that the practice of institutionalizing victims while their case is being processed is common.</p> <p>35. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Expand current efforts to address the problem of child abuse, including through the adoption and implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, and ensure that there is an effective national system for receiving, monitoring and investigating complaints and, when necessary, prosecuting cases, in a manner which is child-sensitive and ensures the victims' privacy;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that all victims of violence have access to counselling and assistance with recovery and reintegration,</p> <p>(c) Provide adequate protection to child victims of abuse in their homes, whenever possible, through restraining and removal orders against the alleged perpetrator in cases where the removal of the child is necessary, preference should be given to foster care or similar family-type settings and institutionalization should only be resorted to in exceptional cases.</p>	
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>47. The Committee welcomes the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 1995, which seeks to protect children from sexual exploitation. However, it is concerned that existing legislation is not effectively enforced and that child victims of sexual exploitation do not always</p>	

		<p>receive adequate recovery assistance.</p> <p>48. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Develop a National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children as agreed at the first and second World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996 and 2001;</p> <p>(b) Train law enforcement officials, social workers and prosecutors on how to receive, monitor, investigate and prosecute complaints in a child-sensitive manner that respects the privacy of the victim;</p> <p>(c) Prioritize recovery assistance and ensure that education and training as well as psychosocial assistance and counselling are provided to victims, and ensure that victims who cannot return to their families are not institutionalized;</p> <p>(d) Seek technical assistance from, among others, UNICEF.</p>	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Thailand	Legislative Developments		
CRC/C/THA/CO/2 (2006)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
CEDAW/C/THA/CO/5 (2006)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		
	Education		
	Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes	<p>24. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of both direct and indirect discrimination against the child, contrary to article 2 of the Convention, particularly with respect to the girl child, children of</p>	<p>25. The Committee expresses concern at the persistence of strong stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. Such stereotypes undermine women's</p>

		<p>indigenous, and religious or ethnic minority communities, children of refugees and asylum-seekers, children of migrant workers, street children, children with disabilities, children living in rural areas, and children living in poverty. The Committee is also concerned that there continues to be regional disparities, especially in the southernmost provinces, in access to social, health and educational services.</p>	<p>social status, present a significant impediment to the implementation of the Convention and are a root cause of the disadvantaged position of women in a number of areas, including in the labour market and in political and public life.</p> <p>26. The Committee encourages the State party to design and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes to foster a better understanding of and support for equality between women and men at all levels of society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. Such efforts should aim at changing stereotypical attitudes and traditional norms about the responsibilities and roles of women and men in the family and society and at strengthening societal support for gender equality.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>44. While acknowledging the efforts made by the State party and noting Section 53 of the Constitution of Thailand (1997), the Committee is deeply concerned about increasing reports of cases of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect in the country. It expresses its concern at the notable deficiencies in the domestic legislation as regards penalizing all forms of abuse, neglect and mistreatment, including sexual abuse (for example, the provisions of the Penal Code only protect female victims of rape). It also expresses its concern at the lack of a national data collection system on cases of violence against children.</p> <p>45. The Committee urges the State party to:</p>	<p>23. The Committee continues to be concerned about the prevalence of violence against women and girls. While welcoming the “draft Act on the Prevention and Resolution of Domestic Violence”, the Committee is concerned about the inadequacy of the punishment for perpetrators set out therein. The Committee also notes with concern that the “draft Act” focuses on reconciliation and family unity to the detriment of the right of women to live free from violence. ...</p> <p>24. The Committee urges the State party to accord priority attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures to address violence against women and girls in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women and the United Nations Declaration on Violence against Women. The</p>

		<p>(a) Review its domestic legislation in order to penalize all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect, mistreatment and violence against children and to define clearly these crimes against children;</p> <p>(b) Conduct timely and adequate investigations of all cases of child abuse and violence and to ensure that child victims of violence and abuse have access to adequate counselling and multidisciplinary assistance for recovery and reintegration;</p> <p>(c) Establish or expand services available for the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of victims of sexual abuse as well as any other child victims of abuse, neglect, ill-treatment, violence or exploitation;</p>	<p>Committee encourages the State party to proceed expeditiously with the completion and enactment of the “draft Act on the Prevention and Resolution of Domestic Violence” and to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are effectively prosecuted and punished. The Committee also calls upon the State party to amend the definition of rape in the Penal Code by deleting the exemption for marital rape so as to make it a criminal offence. The Committee recommends gender-sensitivity training for law enforcement personnel, the judiciary, health service providers and teachers to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can respond adequately to it. The Committee also calls on the State party to take measures towards modifying those social, cultural and traditional attitudes that are permissive of violence against women.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>73. Despite the State party’s intensified efforts to combat trafficking in children, such as the establishment in March 2005 of the National Committee on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, the adoption of a six-year national policy and plan of action to address the issue of trafficking in children and women in 2003, and the conclusion of memoranda of understanding with neighbouring countries, the Committee expresses its deep concern that Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in children for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour. It notes with concern the reported cases of internal trafficking, such as trafficking of</p>	<p>28. The Committee calls upon the State party to expedite the adoption of the draft Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act and to ensure that offenders are punished and victims adequately assisted. It also recommends that the State party address the root cause of trafficking by increasing its efforts to improve the economic situation of women, thereby eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers, as well as measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking. The Committee also calls upon the State party to implement measures aimed at combating sex tourism, including in cooperation with tourists’ countries of origin.</p>

		<p>girls belonging to indigenous and tribal peoples from north to south. It further notes with concern the increased risk of trafficking and exploitation faced by children of vulnerable groups, as well as the deportation of child trafficking victims. Furthermore, weak law enforcement and implementation of anti-trafficking measures in the State party give cause for serious concern.</p> <p>57. The Committee commends the State party for having met Millennium Development Goal 6 well ahead of schedule. It welcomes the various multisectoral measures taken to address the prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS infection and takes note of the national programme for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT), which provides pregnant women with voluntary counselling and free HIV-testing. The Committee nevertheless expresses its concern at the relatively high rate of children born at risk from mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS annually. It notes with concern that adolescents are increasingly at risk of HIV-infection while the level of HIV/AIDS awareness among them has decreased. It is also concerned about the presence of risk factors predisposing HIV-infection such as the high number of sex workers. Further, it is concerned that that free trade agreements currently being negotiated with some other countries may negatively impact access to affordable medicines, in particular antiretroviral drugs.</p>	<p>39. The Committee is concerned about the lack or insufficient use of contraceptives, which leads to unsafe abortions. It is also concerned that women continue to bear the primary responsibility for family planning, as exemplified by the low rates of condom use and male sterilization compared to female methods of contraception.</p> <p>40. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the implementation of programmes and policies aimed at providing effective access for women to contraceptives and health-care information and services with the aim of avoiding the need for women to resort to illegal abortions. The Committee urges the State party to implement programmes of sexual and reproductive health education for women, men and adolescents in order to foster responsible sexual behaviour, and to increase its efforts to promote male contraception.</p>
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		b) Fully implement the national programme for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT) by providing all pregnant women with adequate health and social services free of charge and by providing HIV-positive mothers with antiretroviral drugs and formula feeding for infants;	
	Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence		
Vietnam	Legislative Developments		
CRC/C/15/Add.200 (2003)	Sex-disaggregated Data		
CEDAW/C/VNM/6 (2007)	Definition of Child & Equality in Marriage		<p>26. The Committee is concerned about the differential minimum legal age for marriage for women and men as well as about reports on underage marriages of girls, which limit their development and opportunities to fully develop their skills and capacities, especially in some ethnic minority areas.</p> <p>27. The Committee urges the State party to set the same minimum age of marriage for women and men at 18 years, in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 16 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations. It also calls on the State party to take measures to prevent and stop underage marriages.</p>
	Education	47. While noting the State party's efforts to achieve universal enrolment at primary school level, the Committee is concerned that there are significant gaps in access to and quality of education between urban and rural or mountainous regions, and that	21. The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures to eliminate the disparity in school enrolment rates and to achieve universal primary education for girls in accordance with article 10 of the Convention, the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing

		<p>the school system still suffers from a shortage of well-trained teachers and educational materials. In addition, the Committee is concerned at the low enrolment rates in pre-primary education, the high number of repeaters of the first grade and the significant disparity in enrolment in nursery schools between boys and girls.</p> <p>48. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Take all appropriate measures to increase enrolment in pre-primary education, in particular for girls and in rural areas, and ensure the right to quality, free primary education for all children;</p>	<p>Declaration and Platform for Action and Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3. It urges the State party to address effectively the obstacles that prevent girls from continuing their education, such as family responsibilities and the cost of education. It also recommends that teacher training programmes at all levels integrate the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination on the grounds of sex. The Committee also calls on the State party to support education programmes on the culture of ethnic minority groups.</p>
	<p>Discrimination & Gender Stereotypes</p>		<p>12. The Committee reiterates its concern about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes, including the preference for male offspring, regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men within the family and society at large. These stereotypes present a significant obstacle to the implementation of the Convention, are a root cause of violence against women and put women in a disadvantaged position in a number of areas, including in the labour market and in political and public life.</p> <p>13. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to bring about changes in traditional patriarchal attitudes and in gender-role stereotyping. Such measures should include awareness-raising and public educational campaigns addressing women and girls as well as men and boys, with a view to</p>

			<p>eliminating stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention. Special attention should be given to the role of the media in perpetuating such stereotypes, as well as their role in contributing to a social and cultural change towards an environment that is supportive of gender equality. The Committee recommends, in particular, that the Convention be translated into those ethnic minority languages with their own alphabets and that radio programmes in the languages of ethnic minorities, among other forms of media, be used in regularly disseminating information on the Convention and on gender equality.</p>
	<p>Domestic & Institutional Violence</p>	<p>33. The Committee is concerned that children in the State party are subject to various forms of violence and ill-treatment, including child abuse and neglect, and corporal punishment.</p> <p>34. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Take all appropriate measures, including legislative reform, to establish a national system for receiving, monitoring, and investigating complaints of child abuse and neglect, and, when necessary, prosecuting cases in a child-sensitive manner;</p> <p>(b) Provide training for law enforcement officials, social workers and prosecutors on how to address complaints regarding child abuse in a child-sensitive manner;</p> <p>(c) Establish an accessible national system, with appropriate human and financial resources, to provide counselling</p>	<p>17. In accordance with its general recommendation 19, the Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party give high priority to putting in place comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls, including through the speedy adoption of the law on domestic violence. Such measures should ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. The Committee urges the State party to conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, to serve as the basis for comprehensive and targeted intervention. The Committee repeats its recommendation that the State party continue and increase the implementation of educational and awareness-raising measures aimed at law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-care providers, social workers, community leaders and the general public, in order to ensure</p>

		<p>and assistance to child victims of violence as well as child witnesses of crimes; (d) Establish a mechanism for collecting data on perpetrators and victims of abuse and neglect, disaggregated by gender and age, in order to properly assess the extent of the problem and design policies and programmes to address it;</p>	<p>that they understand that all forms of violence against women and girls are unacceptable. It also recommends the establishment of a sufficient number of crisis centres, including shelters for victims of violence, in both urban and rural areas.</p>
	<p>Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking / Sexual & Reproductive Health</p>	<p>49. The Committee notes with concern that a significant proportion of sex workers are under the age of 18. Furthermore, it is concerned that, although the State party recognizes trafficking in children to be a significant problem, the number of officially reported cases is very low.</p>	<p>18. The Committee welcomes a number of measures, including the Ordinance on the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution, bilateral and multilateral agreements and the Action Plan for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Girls, but is concerned about the persistence of trafficking in women and girls and the exploitation of prostitution, both within the country and to other countries. The Committee is also concerned about the low rates of prosecution and conviction of traffickers and of others who exploit the prostitution of women. The Committee also notes with concern reports that trafficked women and girls face problems in enjoying their citizenship rights when returning to Viet Nam, as well as in conveying citizenship to their children born abroad. It is also concerned about reports that rehabilitation measures, such as administrative camps, may stigmatize girls and young women victims of prostitution and deny them due process rights. In addition, the Committee is concerned about the lack of systematic data collection on the phenomenon of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.</p> <p>19. The Committee urges the State party to consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementary</p>

			<p>to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to intensify its efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including by enacting specific and comprehensive legislation on the phenomenon. The Committee further calls upon the State party to increase its efforts at international, regional and bilateral cooperation to address more effectively the causes of trafficking, and to improve its efforts to prevent trafficking through information exchange. The Committee urges the State party to collect and analyse data from the police and international sources, prosecute and punish traffickers and ensure the protection of the human rights of trafficked women and girls. It urges the State party to pursue a holistic approach aimed at addressing the root causes of trafficking and improving prevention. Such efforts should include measures to improve the economic situation of women and girls and to provide them with educational and economic opportunities, thereby reducing and eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers. It should also facilitate the reintegration into society of women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking, including children born to Vietnamese women abroad, by ensuring that they are neither criminalized nor penalized and fully enjoy their human rights. It should also enhance rehabilitation, social integration and economic empowerment programmes.</p>
	<p>Discriminatory Customary Practices & Gendered Violence</p>		

