



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General  
19 October 2023

Original: English  
Arabic, English, French and  
Spanish only

## Committee on the Rights of the Child

### **List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Bahrain under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict\***

1. The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information, of 10,700 words maximum, by 15 May 2024. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party.
2. Please provide information on whether the Optional Protocol has ever been invoked directly before domestic courts and provide details. Please explain whether cases of child recruitment have ever been prosecuted under Act No. 44 (2018), on international crimes, or Act No. 1 (2008), on combating trafficking in persons.
3. Please explain the role and contribution of civil society organizations, the media and, in particular, children in the design and implementation of measures to raise awareness of the Optional Protocol in the State party and in the preparation of the report submitted thereunder.<sup>1</sup>
4. Please indicate whether the National Institution for Human Rights has a mandate to promote the Optional Protocol, monitor developments with regard to the involvement of children in armed conflict and investigate violations of the provisions of the Optional Protocol. Please explain the measures taken by the State party to make its complaints mechanism known to children who may have been or are at risk of being used for purposes covered under the Optional Protocol.
5. Please provide information on the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on all aspects of the Optional Protocol.
6. In view of the ongoing armed conflict in Yemen, and with reference to paragraphs 208, 210 and 215 of the 2023 report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict,<sup>2</sup> please provide information on all allegations of and investigations into the grave violations, including the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals in Yemen, that have been attributed to the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and on the outcome of such investigations.
7. Please provide information on:
  - (a) Any military schools operating in the State party, including data on the number, sex and age of their students;
  - (b) The minimum age for enrolment in military school;
  - (c) The status of students in military schools as members of the armed forces, their military status in the event of mobilization should a state of national emergency or martial

\* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 29 September 2023.

<sup>1</sup> CRC/C/OPAC/BHR/1.

<sup>2</sup> A/77/895-S/2023/363, paras. 209, 211 and 216.



law be declared and their right to leave the school at any time and to pursue a non-military career without penalty;

(d) Whether independent complaints mechanisms are accessible to students;

(e) Whether students in military schools who are under the age of 18 receive weapons training;

(f) Legal or informal provisions under which armed forces recruiters are given privileged access to educational establishments and to the personal data of students.

8. With reference to paragraph 92 of the State party report, please explain under what circumstances a child aged over 15 but under 18 may be subject to military jurisdiction and whether the State party has considered raising the minimum age for trial before a military court to 18.

9. Please provide information on the measures taken to provide legal, psychosocial or other training to those who work with either foreign or Bahraini children who are victims of the offences covered under the Optional Protocol, including police and migration and border control officers who work with such children.

10. Please provide information on:

(a) The number of unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children in the territory of the State party who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad, the measures taken in accordance with paragraphs 54 to 60 of the Committee's general comment No. 6 (2005) on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, and other measures to guarantee the right of child soldiers to benefit from special protection and assistance measures;

(b) The status of the draft act on restorative justice for children mentioned in paragraph 87 of the State party report, including whether it encompasses offences covered under the Optional Protocol.

11. In view of the fact that the State party is not a party to the Arms Trade Treaty, please provide information on the measures in place to implement article 18 of Decree-Law No. 16 (1976), on explosives, weapons and ammunition, and to guarantee that arms and other forms of military assistance are not sold or transferred to countries where children are known to be, or may potentially be, recruited or used in hostilities by parties to an armed conflict.

---