



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child

### List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Bahrain under article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography\*

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 unified criminal database system (*Najem*) is operational and includes data on all offences covered under article 3 of the Optional Protocol, as defined in article 2.
3. Please provide statistical data, disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age, ethnic origin, national origin and socioeconomic background, for the past three years on the numbers of:
  - (a) Reports of the sale of children for purposes of sexual exploitation, child marriage, transfer of organs for profit or forced labour;
  - (b) Reports of the sexual exploitation of children for prostitution, in the production of child sexual exploitation material, including online, and in the travel and tourism industry;
  - (c) Cases investigated and prosecuted, convictions secured, penalties imposed and redress provided to victims, disaggregated by the nature of the offence, whether committed online or offline, the profile of the perpetrator, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and the sex and age of the victim;
  - (d) Reports received by Child Helpline 998 from children reporting that they are victims of offences covered under the Optional Protocol, disaggregated by the nature of the offence, whether committed online or offline, the profile of the perpetrator, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and the sex and age of the victim;
  - (e) Victims of offences covered under the Optional Protocol who have been provided with shelter, reintegration and compensation.
4. Please specify the measures taken to protect girls and boys equally from becoming victims of offences covered under the Optional Protocol.
5. Please explain whether complaints mechanisms such as the General Secretariat of the Independent Ombudsman under the Ministry of Interior and the National Institution for Human Rights are equipped to effectively receive, examine and address complaints under the Optional Protocol in a child-sensitive manner and inform the Committee of the number of complaints received and investigated.
6. Please provide details on preventive measures taken to protect children in particularly vulnerable situations, such as girls who are victims of domestic violence, migrant, refugee

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



and stateless children and children in the Child Welfare Home (Batelco Home), from becoming victims of offences covered under the Optional Protocol.

7. Please inform the Committee about current strategies and action plans aimed specifically at preventing and countering the offences covered under article 3 of the Optional Protocol, in particular forced labour and sexual exploitation, including for prostitution. Please report on the human, technical and financial resources allocated for the implementation of such strategies and action plans.

8. Please provide information on measures taken to regulate the private sector and to raise awareness among private sector entities of the prohibition and prevention of offences covered under the Optional Protocol, including child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Please also provide information on measures taken to disseminate the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism among travel agents and tour operators.

9. With reference to the State party report,<sup>1</sup> please indicate the legislative measures taken:

(a) To explicitly criminalize the sale of children, as defined in article 2 (a) of the Optional Protocol, including online, in line with article 3 (1) (a);

(b) To explicitly criminalize offline offences related to child sexual exploitation material, as defined in article 2 (c) of the Optional Protocol, in line with article 3 (1) (c);

(c) To ensure the criminalization of all forms of the sale and sexual exploitation of children as distinct crimes, separate from the crime of trafficking in children, in line with articles 2 and 3 of the Optional Protocol;

(d) To establish the liability of legal persons for the offences covered under article 3 (1) of the Optional Protocol, in line with article 3 of Act No. 1 (2008), on combating trafficking in persons;

(e) To exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction in cases in which a child who is a victim of an offence covered under the Optional Protocol is not a national of the State party but has her or his habitual residence in its territory.

10. Please provide information on the legislative and policy measures taken to consider children involved in any of the offences covered under the Optional Protocol as victims rather than as offenders, in particular in the light of articles 326, 344 and 345 of the Penal Code and in cases of self-generated child sexual abuse material.

11. Please explain whether the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment of 2021 applies to cases in which offences covered under the Optional Protocol are committed by children, in particular in cases of sexting and online grooming.

12. With reference to paragraphs 126 to 143 of the State party report, please clarify the measures taken to develop holistic and victim-centred methods for identifying children who are, or who are at risk of becoming, victims of trafficking in children, the sale of children or the exploitation of children for prostitution or in the production of child sexual exploitation material, including unaccompanied children entering the State party. Please explain what measures are being taken to protect the rights and interests of such children at all stages of the legal process and provide information on the treatment afforded to victims.

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<sup>1</sup> [CRC/C/OPSC/BHR/1](#).