



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child

Sixty-fifth session

13-31 January 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports of States parties**

### **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

#### **List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the initial report of the Holy See (CRC/C/OPSC/VAT/1)**

**The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (15 pages maximum), if possible before 1 November 2013.**

*The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights contained in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State Party.*

1. Please provide statistical data (disaggregated by sex, age, socio-economic background, ethnic group and urban and rural residence) for 2010, 2011 and 2012 on:

(a) Reports of sale of children (disaggregated by the purpose of the sale) child prostitution and child pornography, together with information on the action taken in response to these reports, in particular prosecutions brought against members of the clergy and penalties imposed;

(b) The number of child victims provided with recovery assistance and having received compensation in accordance with article 9, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Optional Protocol.

2. Please indicate whether the State party has started developing a centralized data collection system for all cases of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and whether a system of information sharing has been established with the judicial authorities of states where offences under the Optional Protocol took place.

3. Please indicate whether specialized training has been provided to all religious personnel and civilians working in catholic institutions who are likely to come into contact with child victims of the offences covered in the Optional Protocol in the course of their functions.

4. Please provide information on the human, financial and technical resources allocated for the implementation of the Optional Protocol.

5. Please indicate which mechanism has been established for children to address complaints if they become victims of offences under the Optional protocol.
  6. Please indicate the measures in place to prevent children who are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of the offences under the Optional Protocol, especially child victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence, children living in poverty, children affected by migration, and children living in institutions and/or who have run away from care institutions.
  7. With reference to paragraphs 13, 15, 60 and 61 of the State party's report, please clarify if all forms of sale of children, covered in article 2 (a) and article 3, paragraph 1 (a) (i) (b. and c.), of the Optional Protocol, child prostitution and child pornography have explicitly been defined and criminalized. Please also indicate if the attempt to commit any of these crimes, as well as the complicity or participation, have been criminalized.
  8. Please indicate whether an investigation has been conducted into the allegations of thousands of babies sold for adoption over the past decades in Spain by a network of doctors, nuns and priests, a system which was only discovered in 2011.
  9. Please provide information on the measures taken to avoid retaliation against child victims of pornography and against those denouncing acts of pornography. In particular, please indicate the follow up given to the findings of the Philadelphia Grand Jury which reportedly revealed that Archdiocesan officials fired a nun from her position as director of religious education after she complained about a priest who was still ministering to children despite a conviction for possession of child pornography.
  10. Please provide information on measures taken by the State party to provide assistance to victims of the offences covered by the Optional protocol. In particular provide information on measures taken to ensure the rehabilitation, reintegration and compensation of child victims of, sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Furthermore, please indicate what programmes are in place for the treatment of offenders of crimes covered under the Optional Protocol.
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