

# Pledge by Mauritius

Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 26 July 1990

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 12 February 2009

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 14 June 2011



## Pledges

1. To disseminate information on the Rights and Responsibilities of children on abuse, violence, drugs and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and child protection by holding talks, discussions and working sessions.
2. To ensure that babies and toddlers from the age of 3 months to 3 years who come from a deprived area are taken care of by caregivers and that they participate in play and creative activities for their healthy development.
3. To train parents from a deprived region in child-rearing skills.
4. To have groups of children/students (including those with disabilities) attend creativity sessions during school holidays and when special events are organized for children coming from different regions island wide.
5. To allow children to participate in creative activities, in educational tours and in exchange programmes organized by 21 Children's Clubs.
6. To enable existing Child Day Care Centres/Crèches that have never been registered to benefit from a financial aid to improve their compliance with norms and standards, so that they can be considered for registration by the National Children's Council (NCC).
7. To collect birth statistics to assess if the number of child born matches the number of birth registrations and to organise awareness campaigns.
8.
  - 8.1 To ensure that institutions catering for children victims of violence are operating within norms and minimum standards and to ensure that all cases of violence against children in shelters and residential care institutions are attended to.
  - 8.2 To ensure that biological parents are allowed to visit their children in care institutions for later return of the children to their families and to ensure that shelters are in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is to strengthen policies and programmes for the prevention, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
  - 8.3 To regularly monitor shelters and residential care institutions.
9. To facilitate foster care for child victims of violence.
10. To perform mentoring sessions for children in distress through regular meetings and by carrying out indoor activities.

## **Commemorative events at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

In June 2019:

1. The National Children's Council (NCC) organized an interactive session for children to express their views and concerns on Drugs and Substance Abuse/Synthetic Drugs and Family Values.
2. In the context of 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign, the NCC carried out a sensitization campaign relevant to UN CRC in schools and colleges.
3. In 21 Children's Clubs island wide, group discussions, poster making and role-play were organised.

In September 2019:

1. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare carried out an awareness programme whereby teenage girls were sensitized on several issues in order to empower them to be responsible to better manage their future.
2. A brainstorming session/group discussion was organised on "Reflexion sur la Convention relative aux droits des enfants".

In December 2019:

1. The Mahebourg Children's Club organized an inclusive programme for children with disabilities through play.

## MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE

### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

SN	ARTICLES of the CRC	WHAT	WHY	HOW	WHEN	WHO
1	Articles 1-42	IEC Campaigns on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To disseminate information on the Rights and Responsibilities of children on abuse, violence, drugs and substance abuse and teenage pregnancy and child protection to children and parents at large.</li> </ul>	Talks, group discussions, interactive working sessions are organized on a regular basis, at primary and secondary schools, children's clubs and children's association.	<p>On weekdays during school hours. On Saturdays for members of Children's Clubs and Children Associations and during school holidays.</p> <p>Upon request from organizations.</p> <p>During the 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign to mark the Day of African Child.</p>	Resource Persons from the National Children's Council.
2	Article 3 Article 6 Article 27	Baie du Tombeau Child Day Care Centre-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To welcome and care for babies and toddlers coming from a deprived area and to</li> </ul>	Babies and toddlers from 3 months to 3 years are	Ongoing on a yearly basis.	Trained Caregivers

		Caring for children in a deprived region	<p>offer an adequate service in a safe and sound environment to those children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable mothers to join the labour market, get a gainful job and cater for the welfare of their families.</li> </ul>	<p>enrolled and taken care of by caregivers.</p> <p>They also participate in play and creative activities for their healthy development.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<p>Articles 5</p> <p>Article 6</p> <p>Article 17</p> <p>Article 18</p> <p>Article 19</p> <p>Article 36</p>	Atelier Partage Parents (APP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To empower parents with child-rearing skills for them to develop coping mechanisms and how to face and better handle challenges.</li> <li>• To offer parents with a platform to expose their problems/difficulties, to ask questions and gather appropriate information and counselling.</li> </ul>	A group of parents from a deprived region is selected for each APP session and are trained for 11 consecutive sessions.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Around 5-6 APP are organized yearly</p>	<p>Resource Persons from different units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC;</li> <li>• CDU;</li> <li>• Psychologists;</li> <li>• Officers from Health Department; and</li> <li>• Nutritionists</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p>Article13</p> <p>Article 15</p> <p>Article 23</p>	Mahebourg Children's Creativity Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the creative development of the growing child in a conducive environment.</li> </ul>	Groups of children/students attend the creativity sessions on weekdays, on Saturdays, during school holidays	Ongoing during weekdays, weekends and school holidays	<p>Trained craft coaches and</p> <p>Resource Persons</p>

	Article 31		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To impart knowledge through play and learn by doing approach.</li> <li>• To initiate creativity and boost inherent talents of children.</li> </ul>	<p>and also when special events are organized for children coming from different regions islandwide.</p> <p>Children with disabilities also attend the activities.</p>		
5	Article 3 Article 6 Article 13 Article 28 & 29 Article 31	Children's Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote educational activities on norms and values in society.</li> <li>• To enhance creative capacity of children by motivating them to participate in creativity workshops.</li> <li>• To adopt an inclusive approach and organize special activities for children with disabilities</li> <li>• To enhance the physical, mental, social and cultural development of children.</li> </ul>	<p>There are 21 Children's Clubs across the islands and its members are children aged 03 yrs to 18 yrs.</p> <p>Children's Clubs operate on Saturdays and during school holidays.</p> <p>Children participate in various creative and recreative activities, in educational tours, in exchange programmes and children's activities for their welfare and development.</p>	Ongoing on Saturdays and on weekdays during school holidays.	Staff of the NCC Trained Resource Persons

6	Article 3 Article 6 Article 27	One Off Cash Grant to Day Care Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable existing Child Day Care Centres/Creches that have never been registered to benefit from a financial aid to improve on norms and standards so that they can be considered for registration.</li> <li>• -To enable Child Day Care Centres/Creches to offer a better and secure environment for babies and toddlers as well as better services and quality care for children</li> </ul>	<p>National Children's Council receive application forms from CDCC's managers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site visits are conducted by mandated officers of NCC prior to the signature of the contract agreement.</li> <li>- Approvals are recommended by Board members of the National Children Council</li> <li>- Cheques are drawn to enable applicants to carry out their upgrading tasks.</li> <li>-Monitoring visits are carried out after the applicant has submitted evidence certifying that activities have been successfully completed.</li> </ul>	Site visits are carried out during working days/Saturdays and as and when required.	Staff of the NCC
7	Article 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To keep monthly record of the number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To determine the number of children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To collect birth statistics from regional</li> </ul>	By 2022	The Child Development Unit

		<p>of children taking birth in public and private health institutions and the number of children being declared at the Civil Status Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To educate parents, care givers and the population in general about the importance of declaring a newborn.</li> </ul> <p>To review and reinforce the existing legislation on birth registration and tardy declaration of birth.</p>	<p>not being registered immediately after birth,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage parents of undeclared child to come forward for their child's birth registration,</li> <li>• To avoid the lengthy and cumbersome procedures involved in the tardy declaration of birth of a child.</li> </ul>	<p>public and private health institutions and regional Civil Status Offices. (To assess whether the number of child born monthly matches the number of birth registration).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To organise awareness campaigns and working sessions, on Article 7 of the CRC and Tardy Declaration of birth in schools, workplaces, community (health care centres, neo-natal wards of hospitals, children's vaccination centres), non-governmental organisations and religious institutions.</li> </ul>		<p>(Tardy Declaration of Birth Section) of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare will be the lead in implementing and monitoring the actions, in collaboration with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Health and Quality of Life,</li> <li>• Civil Status Division (under the Prime Minister's Office),</li> <li>• Mauritius Police Force,</li> <li>• Attorney-General's Office,</li> <li>• Non-Governmental Organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	Article 20 Article 23	Shelters and Residential Care Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that institutions catering for children victims of violence, are operating within norms and minimum</li> </ul>	A monitoring team ensures norms and standards for quality care is maintained.	Monitoring is done during weekdays.	Officers of the Ministry

			standards for a place of safety.	Emergency response team ensures that all cases of child violence at the level of the Shelters and Residential Care Institutions are attended to.	Emergency response is a 24-hour service.	
		<p>The Rehabilitation Programme for children victims of violence and their reinsertion in their families or next to kin. (Back to Home Programme)</p> <p>Shelter catering for victims of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children including child trafficking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that rehabilitation is undertaken between both the children and their biological parents with a view to returning them to their family.</li> <li>The setting up of such a shelter is in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is to</li> </ul>	<p>Parental visit team ensures that biological parents are allowed to visit their children to encourage bonding for later reinsertion.</p> <p>The following services are provided at the shelter:</p>	During weekdays and weekends.	<p>Officers of the Ministry (Family Welfare and Protection Officers and Psychologists)</p> <p>Staff of NGOs</p>



		Children with disabilities	<p>strengthening policies and programmes for the prevention, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Governmental Institutions work in collaboration with this Ministry to rehabilitate minors victims of violence and abuse, with mental and physical disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First hand counselling;</li> <li>• Psychological counselling;</li> <li>• Indoor and outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities;</li> <li>• Follow-up by Brigade pour La Protection des Mineurs; and</li> <li>• Information Education Communication Campaigns on issues related to children.</li> </ul> <p>Children attend mainstream schools, Special Education Needs Schools and Day Care Centres.</p> <p>Children participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports/physical activities;</li> <li>• Recreational &amp; leisure activities;</li> <li>• Vocational training;</li> <li>• Occupational therapy;</li> </ul>		
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child counselling; and</li> <li>• Physiotherapy.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations on Place of Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure close monitoring of norms and standards of shelters and residential care institutions.</li> </ul>	A monitoring team conducts regular visits.	Monitoring is done during weekdays.	Enforcement Officers of this Ministry
<b>9</b>	Article 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster Care Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child victims are allowed to live with a substitute family on a temporary basis.</li> </ul>	To give support to the child and ensure proper growth; physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.	Weekdays, Weekends.	Officers of this Ministry. Foster Care Parents.
<b>10</b>	Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Mentoring Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It caters for children in distress, mainly those with mild behavioural problems. A child mentor is assigned for the emotional reconstruction of the child. This is done through regular mentoring sessions.</li> </ul>	The mentoring sessions are done through regular meetings and by carrying out indoor activities to meet the caring needs of the child.	Once a week for a maximum of 2 hours.	Child Mentors as appointed by the Ministry

## MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE

### 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare has organized the following activities-

SN	DATE	VENUE	ACTIVITIES
1	June 2019	Primary and Secondary Schools	<p>The National Children's Council (NCC), parastatal body falling under the aegis of the Ministry, organised an interactive session in June 2019 for children to express their views and concerns on Drugs and Substance Abuse/Synthetic Drugs and Family Values. A panel of experts responded to the queries of students.</p> <p>In the context of 16 Days 16 Rights Campaign, the NCC carried a vast sensitization campaign relevant to UN CRC in schools and colleges.</p> <p>In 21 Children's Clubs island wide, the following activities were organised: Group discussion, poster making, role play amongst others on different issues pertaining to the proper development of our children.</p>
2	June 2019	Plaza, Rose Hill	<p>The NCC organised an interactive for children to express their views and concerns on Drugs and Substance Abuse/Synthetic Drugs and Family Values. A panel of experts responded to the queries of students.</p>
3	September 2019	Triolet Women Centre	<p>The Gender Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare in collaboration with the NCC carried out awareness programme whereby teenage girls were sensitized on the following issues:</p>

			<p>(a) Be yourself</p> <p>(b) Be empowered</p> <p>(c) Be healthy</p> <p>(d) Be money savvy</p> <p>One of the main objectives of this programme was to empower young girls to be responsible to better manage their future.</p> <p>Additionally, a brainstorming session/group discussion was organised on “Reflexion sur la Convention relative aux droits des enfants” and to give their opinion as regards the rights and responsibilities of children.</p>
4	December 2019	Mahebourg Creativity Centre	The Mahebourg Children’s Club under the purview of the NCC organised an inclusive programme for children with disabilities through playway and fun activities. The children had the opportunity to develop learning skills in creative thinking and problem-solving techniques.