

OHCHR REGISTRY

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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the **United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children** has the honour to enclose here with the duly completed Questionnaire, which was sent to Governments.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 19 August 2005



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United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children

Questionnaire to Governments

QUESTIONNAIRE

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This part of the questionnaire aims to determine how your country's legal framework addresses violence against children, including prevention of violence, protection of children from violence, redress for victims of violence, penalties for perpetrators and reintegration and rehabilitation of victims.

International human rights instruments

1. Describe any developments with respect to violence against children which have resulted from your country's acceptance of international human rights instruments, including, for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, the Palermo Protocol or regional human rights instruments. Provide information on cases concerning violence against children in which your country's courts or tribunals have referred to international or regional human rights standards.
- **Cyprus ratified the following Conventions which promote the best interests of the child:**
1. **The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Law o. 243/90),**
 2. **The Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (Law No. 26(III)/94),**
 3. **The Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect to Parental responsibility and Measures taken for the Protection of Children (Law No. 24(III)/2004).**
 4. **Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of 1980 (Law No. 11(III)/94).**
 5. **European Convention on Human Rights, Protocol 6.**
 6. **Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child labour (Law No. 31(III)/2000).**
- **Cyprus has signed the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's rights and is in the process of ratifying it.**

- **Cyprus, also, signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Sale of Children, child prostitution and child pornography of 2000.**
- **Cyprus ratified the Convention on Cybercrime and its additional Protocol concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.**
- **Please note, that by virtue of Article 169 of the Constitution, all international legal instruments are incorporated into the Republic's municipal law and as from the date of their publication in the Official Cyprus Gazette are of superior force to domestic law.**
- **Cyprus Report to the UNCHR regarding the Application of the Convention on Children's Rights (1994 and 1996) and the First Report on the enforcement of the Convention of the International Labour Organisation concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour could provide additional information.**
- **The following new legislation has been enacted which promotes the protection and combating of violence against children:**
 - 1. The Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000**
 - 2. The Combating of Trafficking of Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of 2000**
- **A new legislative act is currently being prepared which will replace the Children Law, Cap. 352.**

Legal provisions on violence against children

2. Describe how forms of violence against children are addressed in your country's constitution, legislation and subsidiary legislation, and, where appropriate, customary law.

Both the Constitution and relevant legislation specifically define the different forms of violence against children and according to the severity and nature of the offence specify penalties. Violence against children is addressed as an aggravated offence in the legislative provisions.

3. Provide details of any specific legislative provisions on:
 - Prevention of all forms of physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, and sexual abuse;
 - Protection of children from all forms of violence;
 - Redress, including compensation, for child victims of violence;
 - Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children;
 - Reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of violence.
- **The Penal Code, Cap. 154 criminalizes all forms of violence against any person. Special provision is made for the protection**

of children from sexual violence in Sections 153, 154 and 174. Section 153 refers to unlawful intercourse and attempt to have unlawful intercourse with a young woman under 14 years of age. Section 154 refers to unlawful intercourse with a young woman aged between 14 and 17 years. Section 174 refers to unlawful intercourse with a man less than 13 years of age.

- Violence (psychological, physical and sexual violence) against children inflicted by a family member is addressed specifically in the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law of 2000. Violence according to this Law is considered any act, omission or behaviour, which results in the direct infliction of physical, sexual or psychological injury to any member of the family by another member of the family. Also, any act or behaviour constituting violence when committed in the presence of the child is considered as violence against a child.
 - Protection of children from abandonment, neglect, assault, ill-treatment, abuse and other forms of violence (such as injury, suffering, seduction, unlawful carnal knowledge is also addressed in the Children Law, Cap 352. Where the child is considered to be in danger, the Law empowers the Director of Social Welfare Services to assume the care of the child and place him/her in a safe environment and provide him/her with all the necessary professional help. This may include counselling (both with the child and family) and referral of the child or family member to specialised professional help.
 - Protection from trafficking for sexual exploitation is provided for by the Combating of Trafficking of Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of 2000. The Law provides for the criminalisation of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation as well as for the protection and reintegration of victims.
 - The Public Assistance and Services Laws ensure that person legally residing in the Republic, whose income is insufficient to cover his/her basic and special needs, as determined by the Laws, may apply for public assistance. This may be provided in the form of monetary support and/or services depending on individual needs and may include assistance for the reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims.
4. Indicate whether any specific legislative provisions address all forms of violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and sexual exploitation against children which take place in:

- The family/ home;

As Q.3 above.

- Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);

- **In order to address the phenomenon of violence against children in the school environment, the Ministry of Education and Culture promoted administrative measures for the establishment of Committees for the Prevention and Confrontation of Violence in the Family and School environment. According to these administrative measures all schools (primary and secondary) must have a Committee. The Committee receives complaints, investigates and processes the complaints to the competent authorities (which are the Police Department and the Social Welfare Services).**

- Military schools;

- **N/A**

- Institutions including care, residential, health and mental health;

- **The following legislative actions regulate children's homes and set the standards of their operation:**

1. **The Children, Cap 352**
2. **The Children (Day-Care Centres) Order of 1993**
3. **The Day-Care Centres for School-Age Children Regulations of 1997**
4. **The Private Children's Homes Regulations of 1982**

This Law set the standards of operation for the day-care such as personnel-child ratio, the building environment and the educational background of the carers. Among others it provides an obligation on the Social Welfare Services to inspect all care facilities Furthermore, administrative procedures safeguard the process by which a child in a day-care facility must be handled and protected against any danger.

- The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons;

- **A new Law concerning prevention and handling of juvenile delinquency has been prepared which provides for detention facilities**

- **The Prison General Rules of 1997 provide for the detention of convicted persons. Special provision is made for the detention of young persons (persons over 16 and under 21 years of age). Specifically, they provide that young persons should not have access to the adults' prisons nor associate with adult prisoners.**

- The neighbourhood, street and the community, including in rural areas;

- **The same applies as in other settings.**

- The workplace (informal and formal);
- **Protection of Children in Employment Law of 2001 (No. 48(I)/2001) regulates the terms and conditions of the employment of young persons (under 18 years of age). Specifically, the law prohibits the employment of children (up to the age of 15) except in cultural, artistic, sports or advertising activities and conditions under which they may work (e.g. maximum working periods/hours). It also regulates the conditions of the employment of adolescents between 15 and 18 years of age. Among others the Law specifically prohibits the employment of adolescents in occupations/processes considered as dangerous. It also imposes an obligation on the employer to assess the risks of the work and provide all necessary means to guarantee the safety of the adolescent as well as his/her physical and moral health and development. To safeguard the enforcement of the Law a Chief Inspector, inspectors and other persons are appointed who are authorised to investigate the premises where a young person is employed and process any complaints made.**
- Sports and sporting facilities.
- **The same applies as in other settings.**
5. Indicate if corporal punishment of children, in any setting, including in the family, is explicitly prohibited in your legal system. Provide details of any legal defences available to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family. Provide information on penalties applicable to those who administer corporal punishment to children, including in the family.
- **According to the Children Law (Cap. 352) the parent, teacher or other person having the lawful control or care of a child have a right to administer punishment to him. Please note that this Law is currently under review and the new legislation will explicitly prohibit corporal punishment and will include no defences whatsoever.**
- **According to the Violence in the Family Law, there are no defences for physical or other abuse.**
6. Provide information on whether the penal code permits corporal punishment and/or capital punishment as a sentence for crimes committed by under 18 year olds.
- **The penal code does not permit corporal or capital punishment as a sentence for crimes committed, regardless the age of the offender.**

7. Provide details on whether bullying/hazing and sexual harassment are explicitly addressed by legislation.

– **Sexual harassment and bullying are addressed by the Violence in the Family Law (under sexual and psychological abuse).**

– **See, also, Q. 3.**

8. Provide information on the way in which harmful or violent traditional practices, including but not limited to female genital mutilation, child marriage or honour crimes are addressed in your country.

– **Child marriage is forbidden. The legal age for marriage is 18. A person 16 years of age may marry but only with parental consent. Though there are no harmful or violent traditional practices, the Social Welfare Services have a primary role in the protection of children and towards this aim provide both preventive services (such as family counselling) as well as curative services (removal of children from an unhealthy or unsafe environment for their protection).**

9. Provide information on the applicability of specific provisions to address all forms of violence against children to non-citizens and stateless children, including asylum seekers and displaced children. If specific provisions do not apply to such children, provide details of protection offered to them.

– **The Children Law provide for the protection of all children.**

– **The Aliens (Refugees) Laws of 2000-2004 provide for the protection of children who leave their home of residence and come, either with their family members or alone, illegally in the Republic. In such a case the Director of the Social Welfare Services acts as a guardian to the child and within the powers conferred to him/her, is responsible for providing to the child all necessary and protective measures. These may include counselling, advice and accommodation.**

– **The above provisions are applicable to all children within Cyprus jurisdiction.**

10. Provide information on any difference in the definition of violence and the applicable legal framework according to:

- The sex or sexual orientation of the victim and/or of the perpetrator;

– **N/A**

- The age of the victim and /or of the perpetrator;

- **N/A**

- The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including, but not limited to infanticide, sexual violence in marriage, incest and sexual abuse within the family, and physical chastisement.

If the victim and the perpetrator are relatives (parent, bother/sister, grandparents and grandchildren) a higher penalty for the violence committed against the victim is imposed. Where the offences set out in the first column of the table below (table 1) are committed by one member of the family against another member of the family, these offences shall be treated, for the purposes of this Law as particularly serious and the Court, where the accusation is based on the sections of the Criminal Code mentioned in the second column of table 1 may impose the increased penalties set out in the third column in lieu of the penalties provided in the aforesaid sections of the Criminal Code.

TABLE 1

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Section of the Penal Code</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
(a) Indecent assault on females	151	Imprisonment is increased from two to five years.
(b) Indecent assault on males	152	Imprisonment is increased from two to five years.
(c) Defilement of girls under thirteen years of age.	153(1)	Life imprisonment (the penalty remains the same).
(d) Attempt to defilement of girls under thirteen years of age.	153(2)	Imprisonment is increased from three to seven years.
(e) Defilement of girls between thirteen and sixteen years of age.	154	Imprisonment is increased from two to ten years.
(f) Defilement of idiots or imbeciles.	155	Imprisonment is increased from two to twelve years.
(g) Unnatural offence.	171	Imprisonment is increased from five to ten years.
(h) Unnatural offence with violence.	172	Imprisonment is increased from fourteen years to life imprisonment.

(i) Attempts	173 (2)	Imprisonment is increased from seven to ten years.
(j) Grievous bodily harm.	231	Imprisonment is increased from seven to ten years or a fine provided is imposed or both of these penalties are imposed.
(k) Wounding and similar acts.	234	The imprisonment is increased from three to five years.
(i) Common assault	242	The imprisonment is increased from one to two years or the fine provided is imposed or both of these penalties are imposed.

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11. Provide information on any recent comprehensive review of the legal framework to address violence against children.

- **The Children Law is under review. The aim of the review is to incorporate the provisions of the Convention on Children's Rights and modernise it in order to better accommodate children.**

12. Provide information on any studies and surveys, which have been undertaken to assess the impact of legal measures to address violence against children.

- **The Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Family Violence commissioned a study on children and abuse in 2004.**

Courts tasked with addressing violence against children

13. Identify those parts of the court structure in your country tasked with addressing violence against children. Indicate if your family or juvenile courts have specific responsibility for this issue.

- **Any kind of violence (including against children) is addressed by the Criminal Courts.**

Minimum age for sexual activity

14. Provide information on any legislatively defined minimum age required for valid consent to sexual activity. Is this age different for girls and boys? Is this age different in respect of heterosexual and homosexual activities?

- **The Penal Code penalises unlawful intercourse with a young woman less than 17 years of age and homosexual activity with a young man less than 17 years of age.**

15. Provide information on the minimum age of marriage for women and men.

- **According to the Marriage Law, Cap. 279 a person under 18 years of age may marry only with parental consent.**

Sexual exploitation of children

16. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including through prostitution and other unlawful sexual activities. Provide details on means to ensure that child victims of such exploitation are not criminalized. Provide information on legislation or other measures to prohibit all forms of sale or trafficking in children, including by their parents.
- **The Children Law as well as the Penal Code provides for the criminalisation of any activity by an adult (over the age of 16) who induces or promotes a young person into prostitution or sexual exploitation. The Children Law provide that where such a case occurs, the Social Welfare Services are responsible for providing the necessary protection to the child. For example, the Director of Social Welfare Services may assume the child under his/her care and provide to him/her a safe and protective environment. In both Laws the child is not criminalized.**
 - **The Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of 2000 provides for the protection of children who are victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. According to this Law the Director of Social Welfare Services is responsible for providing the victim a safe accommodation, subsistence and professional help and advice. The Law considers sexual exploitation as an act that induces or coerces any person under the age of 18 to take part in any sexual activity or exploits that person into prostitution or other sexual practices. In accordance with this Law, sexual exploitation of a child (under the age of 18), also includes participation in pornographic performance or other material and the production, selling and distribution or other forms of trading of similar material as well as the possession of such material. Such action is punishable to imprisonment of not exceeding 10 years.**

Pornography and harmful information

17. Provide information on legislation and other measures to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography. In particular, please provide information on any controls on pornography produced and/or disseminated via the internet.
- **The Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation of Children Law of 2000, provides for the protection of children from participation in pornographic performance or other material including production, selling and distribution or other forms of trading of similar material as well as the possession of such material.**

- **The Protection of Children during Employment Law of 2001 also prohibits the employment of any child or young person (between 16 and 18 years of age) in any activity which involves pornographic performance and any person who employs or induces a child to such activities is guilty of an offence punishable to 2 years imprisonment or to 10.000CyP or to both penalties.**
 - **Section 11 of the Convention on Cybercrime (ratification) Law of 2004 provides for the criminalisation of production, possession and dissemination of child pornography via a computer system.**
18. Provide information on any legislation or guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, Internet, videos, electronic games, etc.
- **The relevant legislation for the protection of children from injurious movies/films is the Classification of Films Law of 2002. This Law provides for the enactment of a Classification Board. The Classification Board is responsible for classifying the films and the sale, hiring, projection and presentation of any film without a category classification is prohibited.**
 - **The Children's Law also prohibits the publication, sale or hire of books and magazines or other printed material portraying the commission of crimes, acts of violence or cruelty or incidents of a repulsive nature.**

Reporting obligations relating to violence against children

19. Provide information on legislation, regulations or administrative directives requiring reporting of all forms of violence against and abuse of children in all settings; to appropriate bodies. If reporting legislation, regulations or administrative directives exist, please indicate whether all citizens are required to report, or whether the obligation falls on certain professional groups only. Provide details of any sanctions for non-reporting.
- **According to the Violence in the Family Law there is a legal obligation of every individual to report any incidents of abuse or violence either in the family. Professionals have an increased responsibility to report such incidents. Administrative measures have been taken to safeguard this duty.**

Complaints procedures

20. Provide information on any complaints procedures relating to all forms of violence against children perpetrated in:
- The family/ home;
 - Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);
 - Military schools;

- Institutions, state and private, including care, residential, health and mental health;
- The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons;
- The neighbourhood, street and the community, including in rural areas;
- The workplace (informal and formal);
- Sports and sporting facilities.

– **Complaints of violence against children can be made to the Police and Social Welfare Services.**

– **Persons who can proceed a complaint before a Court in case of children under the age of 18 are:**

- 1. The legal representative of the child,**
- 2. The guardian or parent of the child.**
- 3. In case the violence committed was by the guardian or parent the Director of Social Welfare Services may proceed the complaint (Children’s Law).**
- 4. If the violence committed is based on the Penal Code the Police Department can proceed the complaint.**

21. Indicate whether children or persons acting on their behalf can access these procedures. Indicate whether legal aid is available to facilitate submission of complaints, and the circumstances in which legal aid will be available.

– **At present, children cannot directly access these procedures. The relevant authorities are under consultation for the establishment of a Commissioner for Children (Ombudsman for Children) who may act on behalf of the child.**

– **Legal aid is available in the following cases:**

- 1. The applicant or applicant’s family (if the applicant is dependent) has no financial means to acquire legal help and**
- 2. The severity of the case or other circumstances justify the granting of legal aid.**

Legal aid may be granted where the violation involves:

- 1. Criminal proceedings, which provide for imprisonment over one year and other proceedings before a court with a criminal jurisdiction,**
- 2. Civil and criminal proceedings before a court for human rights violations and**
- 3. Proceedings before a Family Court.**

22. Describe steps which have been taken to raise awareness of possibilities to submit complaints about violence against children.

– **Mainly the steps taken to raise awareness were through the publication of information leaflets. The following leaflets were produced and distributed:**

1. **The Convention on the Rights of the Children (2002 and 2004)**
2. **Violence in the family (2002) (in English and Greek language).**
3. **Violence in the family. Protection of Children-A Guide for Children (2002).**
4. **Protection of Children from sexual abuse by a family member: Guide for Parents and Carers.**
5. **Guide for Parents and Carers (2002).**
6. **Stories for Parents (2004).**

23. Provide information on any special procedural or evidentiary rules which may apply in proceedings with respect to violence against children.

- The procedural or evidentiary rules according to the Violence in the Family Law of 2000 are:

1. **The statement of the victim must be taken by a police officer of the same sex.**
2. **Video recorded statements can be brought before the Court.**
3. **The statement of a victim to a police officer, family counsellor, welfare officer, psychologist, doctor (including psychiatrist) teacher, member of the advisory Committee (enacted by the Law), member of the Association for the Prevention of Violence in the Family or members of the close environment of the victims, if is within a reasonable time from the commission of the offence can constitute evidence.**
4. **A spouse is considered a compellable witness if the victim of violence is another member of the family.**
5. **In case of cross-examination of a minor (and other victims of violence) the Court may intervene in order to prevent intimidation.**
6. **The Court may use the statement of the victim to convict someone in order to secure corroborating evidence.**
7. **Where a minor, during the examination by a psychiatrist or psychologist for purposes of evaluation or psychotherapy, mentions that he/she has been ill treated by any person the statement of the psychiatrist or psychologist may be admitted before the Court as an exception to the hearsay rule.**
8. **During the adjudication of trials of cases of violence the court may order that part or whole of case be adjudicated behind closed doors, statement of the victim be taken in absence of the defendant. It may also adopt the use of screen, close circuit television or any other means/system.**

24. Provide information on the usual outcome of complaints of violence against children (e.g. compensation, punishment of perpetrators, perpetrator rehabilitation, family therapy).

- According to legislative measures the penalty for any violence committed against children includes imprisonment or a fine or both penalties. The child as well as the family of the child may be referred

to therapy. Currently we do not have any perpetrator rehabilitation services.

25. Provide information on the usual outcome of legal proceedings in which children and juveniles are found guilty of perpetrating violence (e.g. imprisonment, corporal punishment, community service, perpetrator rehabilitation, family therapy).

- **A child under 10 years of age has no criminal responsibility under the Law. The outcome of legal proceedings in which children are found guilty of perpetrating violence is usually their diversion from criminal proceedings (if the child is under 16 years of age) and placement of the child under the supervision and care of the Director of Social Welfare Services. Children over 16 years of age are handled with leniency and counselling therapy is mostly offered. However, the outcome depends on the severity and circumstances of each case.**

II. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The aim of this section is to establish if your country has an institution coordinating multi-sectoral activities concerning violence against children, which include prevention, protection, redress, reintegration and rehabilitation.

26. Are there any Governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, including at federal, state/provincial, municipal and local level which are currently responsible for addressing violence against children?

- **Yes.**

If YES, identify these authorities, structures and mechanisms and describe how coordination is ensured.

- **The Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. They work at local and state level.**
- **The Department of Educational Psychology of the Ministry of Education and Culture. It works at local and state level.**
- **The Departments of Primary and Secondary Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture. It works at local and state level.**
- **The Police Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order**

27. Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children?

- **Yes**

If YES, provide details.

- **Social Welfare Services have the responsibility to ensure that a child in need of care and protection is provided with relevant services.**

28. Are specific financial and/or human resources allocated by your country to address violence generally?

- **N/A. Financial and human resources are not specifically allocated to address violence, however one of the 4 main Services of the Social Welfare Services deals with violence.**

If YES, indicate the extent of these allocations.

29. Does your country allocate specific financial and/or human resources to activities to address violence against children?

- **Yes.**

If YES, provide details.

- **Appointment of 13 specialised welfare workers that receive complaints for possible use of violence within the family and carry out the necessary investigations (wages start approximately at C£750 per month/person).**
- **Financial support to the Advisory Committee on the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family to conduct surveys/training/awareness raising.**

30. Do international or bilateral donors provide resources to your country for activities to address violence against children?

- **No.**

If YES, indicate the extent of these resources and the way in which they are used.

31. Does your country provide any assistance to other countries' efforts to respond to the problem of violence against children?

- **No.**

If YES, provide details.

32. If your country has a national human rights institution, such as a human rights commission or ombudsman, or a child-specific human rights institution, does it have any role or competence in the area of violence against children, including receiving complaints?

- **Yes.**

If YES, provide details.

- **Commissioner of Administration, among others, has jurisdiction over violence committed or complaints received for children against public authorities but not the private sector.**

- **The National Institution for the protection of Human Rights receives complaints, registers and refers them to the competent authorities.**

33. Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) to address violence against children?

- **Yes.**

If YES, provide details.

- **The Parliamentary Committees for Labour and Social Insurance and for Human Rights among others may address violence against children.**

34. Have there been any recent parliamentary initiatives to address violence against children?

- **No.**

If YES, please give details.

III. ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The aim of this section is to elicit information on civil society activities relating to violence against children.

35. Describe significant civil society initiatives addressing violence against children in your country, including the types of institutions involved (such as academic institutions, professional associations, women's associations, student associations, community-based groups, faith-based groups, child and youth-led groups, trade unions, employer's organizations, national non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations) and the major activities engaged in (including advocacy, awareness raising, research, prevention, rehabilitation and treatment of children harmed by violence, provision of services, provision of resources).

- **A Study about violence by family members against children was conducted by the Advisory Committee on the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family (the Committee is appointed by the Ministerial Council according to the Violence in the Family Law of 2000).**

36. Describe the support provided by your Government for these activities and the efforts made to coordinate civil society and government initiatives.

- **Government financial and technical support to NGOs is provided through a special scheme (Grants-in-Aid Scheme) operated by the Social Welfare Services. Financial support is given both for their regular activities and special projects.**
- **There is a dialogue between the Government (through the Advisory Committee on the Prevention and Combating of the**

Violence in the Family) and the NGOs and other Governmental Services on issues on violence against children.

37. Describe the role played by the media in addressing violence against children.

- **The media plays an important role in raising awareness about the problem, through interviews with professionals and TV campaigns in cooperation with NGOs.**

IV. CHILDREN AS ACTORS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE

This section is designed to extract information on children's activities to address violence.

38. Provide information on the involvement and consultation of children in designing activities, and in implementation and monitoring of programmes and policies to address violence against them. Provide details, including ages and other details of the children involved.

– **Children's participation in designing activities, in the implementation and monitoring of programmes is coordinated through the following institutions/organisations:**

1. Children's Parliament under the responsibility of the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children promotes the participation of young persons in decision-making processes. 56 children (aged between 13 and 15 years) meet once a year in the House of Representatives discuss about current problems/issues, make suggestions and recommendations for policy formation.

2. Youth Parliament under the responsibility of the Cyprus Youth Organisation. One of its primary aims is the promotion of active participation of young people in decision-making.

39. Describe the involvement, if any, of children in designing special procedural or evidentiary rules applying in court proceedings with respect to hearings concerning violence against children. Provide details including ages and other details of the children involved.

– **N/A**

40. Describe the amount and type of resources made available to support children's participation in activities to address violence against children.

– **N/A**

V. POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

A comprehensive policy for dealing with violence against children is one that addresses multiple forms of violence against children, that works across the different settings in which violence occurs, and which includes components for prevention, protection, victim medical, psychological, legal and social assistance, victim rehabilitation and reintegration, and perpetrator interventions. Such policy is distinguished from specific programmes that address selected sub-types of violence against children or its effects in specific populations and settings.

41. Does your Government have a comprehensive policy concerning violence against children?

– **Yes**

If YES, provide details and describe any gender-specific provisions included in the policy.

- **The Violence in the Family Law of 2000 as well as other Laws and established procedures concerning children form a base for the work to protect children from violence.**

42. Does your Government deliver, or provide direct support for delivery by other agencies, of specific programmes aimed at preventing and responding to violence against children?

- **Yes.**

If YES, please provide available summary reports, or URLs, of these programmes, and indicate, using the table below, which settings and types of violence are addressed by these programmes:

√ www.mlsi.gov.cy/sws
 √ www.familyviolence.org.cy

	Physical	Sexual	Psychological	Neglect	HTPs	Other
Family/Home	√	√	√	√		
Schools						
Institutions	√	√	√	√		
Neighbourhood/ Community						
Workplace						
Law enforcement						
Other	√	√	√	√		

43. Does your Government monitor the impact of these policies and programmes directed towards violence against children?

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If YES, describe the monitoring systems and provide a URL or other reference where the system and outcomes are described in greater details.

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44. Does your Government participate in any internationally coordinated activities concerning violence against children?

- **Yes**

If YES, please provide details.

- **Cyprus participates in Committees of the Council of Europe, the EU and the UN when issues of violence against children are discussed.**

VI. DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

This section aims to provide an overview of information systems and information about violence against children that may be used to inform, plan and monitor policy, legal and programmatic interventions concerning violence against children.

45. Over the past five years, has there been any victimization, epidemiological or other population-based surveys of any forms of violence against children in your country?

– **No**

If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

46. Have there been any small-scale or representative interview studies with parents and children on violent victimisation of children?

– **Yes. Questionnaire with children about the occurrence and kind of violence within the family.**

If so, please give details.

47. Over the past five years, has your Government conducted or commissioned any scientific research projects on the problem of violence against children?

– **Yes.**

If YES, indicate the subject of this research and where the findings of these projects may be consulted in more detail.

– **The Advisory Committee has conducted a research on the extent and kind of child abuse within the family.**

48. Have studies or surveys been undertaken into the impact of legal measures to address violence against children?

– **No**

If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

49. Does your Government have a system for formal inquiries into all child deaths in which it is known or suspected that violence may have played any part?

– **We haven't had any deaths.**

Provide details.

50. Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published describing the statistical profile of the known or suspected violent deaths investigated by the system?

– **N/A.**

If YES, what proportion of all homicide deaths are under the age 18?
.....%

51. If reports on the national profile of known and suspected violent deaths are published by your Government, indicate how the data is broken down for the purpose of reporting (check all that apply):

Sex	
Age	
Ethnicity	
Manner of death (homicide, suicide, undetermined)	
External causes of death (firearm, strangulation, etc.)	
Geographical location of incident (address)	
Scene of occurrence (home, school, etc.)	
Time and date of incident	
Victim-perpetrator relationship	
Other:	

52. Provide the total number of reported cases of violence against children in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

– **Records of violence against children (by a family member) kept by the Social Welfare Services show that there were,**

- **187 cases in 2003**
- **293 cases in 2002**
- **283 cases in 2001**
- **109 cases in 2000**

53. Provide the total number of convictions and reported cases for the various categories of crimes of violence recorded against children in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

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VII. AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND TRAINING

This section is aimed at gathering information on any awareness-raising, advocacy and training activities relating to violence against children which may have been conducted by your Government.

54. Over the last five years has your Government conducted or commissioned any campaigns for raising awareness of and preventing violence against children?

– **Yes**

If YES, please describe any recent campaigns, including the settings and types of violence that were the subjects of the campaigns and the target audience (general public, caregivers, teachers, etc.).

– **The publication of information leaflets about violence in the family and the rights of the child.**

– **The target audience were children, families/parents, teachers, carers and other professionals.**

55. How were the campaign messages and information disseminated (check all that apply)?

Print media	✓
Radio	✓
Television	✓
Theatre	
Schools	
Others	

56. Over the last five years, has your Government provided, commissioned or sponsored training programmes in the area of violence against children?

- **Yes.**

If YES, indicate which of the following areas were addressed by the last such training programmes and which provider groups received training (check all that apply).

	Prevention	Protection	Redress	Rehabilitation	Penalties
Medical Professionals (including paediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists and dentists)	✓	✓			
Public health practitioners	✓	✓			
Social workers and Psychologists	✓	✓			
Teachers and other educators	✓	✓			
Court officials (including judges)					
Police	✓	✓			
Prison officers					
Juvenile offenders personnel					
Institution personnel					
Parents/guardians					
Other (please specify)					

Please provide details.

- **The provided training programmes were addressed to the specialised professionals in each Governmental Service and to mixed groups of professionals from different departments aiming at their cooperation.**

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