



Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea

**United Nations Secretary General's
Study on Violence Against Children**

June 2005

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- *Redress, including compensation, for child victims of violence;*
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- *The family/ home;*
- *Military schools;*
- *Institutions including care, residential, health and mental health;*
- *The context of law and public order enforcement including in detention facilities or prisons;*
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- *Institutions, state and private, including care, residential, health and mental health;*
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That children are valuable in all societies in this country is well known. They are seen as a source of joy, of group strength, as a means of regeneration, as a way of establishing and reaffirming descent identity, a source of labour, and security for old age. In this way, the significance of the value of children is captured in terms of the important roles they will play as future adults.

However, if children are in fact as valuable as we say they are, why then is it that these valuable items are sometimes the victims of some of the most heinous crimes, abuses and exploitation in this country? The actual incidence of these crimes have not yet been fully documented but many perpetrators of these crimes are the very people who have been entrusted by society to protect the children they abuse, exploit or otherwise victimize. In many respects, the high rate of violence against our children prevalent nowadays forces us to seriously question the notion of the human family as the safeguard of our species. Present realities reveal that mankind is failing in this regard and is becoming more dysfunctional instead of evolutionary. Instead, it has devolved, putting our own survival at risk. The protection of child rights has a direct impact on their survival, and their survival in turn ensures our own continuity and survival as a species or kind. If family values mean anything at all, unless the ultimate family value is the protection of our children, such a term might as well be redundant deserving no respect. We cannot continue to tolerate those who prey on, devalue, and harm our children.

When Papua New Guinea (PNG) ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1993, she agreed to be bound by its terms and to take all political, legal and administrative steps necessary to implement its principal imperatives as embodied in its Articles. The CRC has set the platform and stage for all rights concerning children to proceed, discussed and ultimately measured both nationally and internationally. The CRC sets minimum international standards for the recognition and protection of children's rights which must in turn be translated into reality in the domestic legal and administrative structures.

The issue of violence against children continues to be a going and growing concern in PNG. There are few areas of social concern in the country that pose as much challenge to the country's legislators, policy makers, lawyers, the courts and those involved in the administration of justice including the police as the issues of sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Children continue to be abused, exploited and mistreated in ways totally inconsistent with the prescriptions of the CRC. Children, especially female children, continue to be victims of child abuse such as physical violence, sexual penetration and abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation at the hands of adults. There appears to be nowhere where a girl-child is safe from abuse anymore. She is not safe in any public place, and at the school environment she can be the target of abuse and violence from peers as well as teachers and the system and processes that ought to be invoked to protecting her are either non-existent or unacceptably unresponsive. Even places like the police stations and lock-ups and the home are hazardous and unpredictable environments. Many thousands of children, adults and entire families are living either directly or indirectly from the earnings of prostitution. Often children are often forced to prostitute their bodies in the pretext of working as hospitality girls, waitresses and domestic helpers.

The incidence of child abuse, however, is not known and there is presently absent any reliable reporting system in the country. However, even though all children are vulnerable to the vices of evil men, the girl child is more at risk and in reality accounts for most of the cases of sexual abuse, violence, or exploitation than her male counterpart. It has been reported for example that between 4 and 6 of 10 urban children live in a home where violence is prevalent. Eight in 10 persons have witnessed, been involved in or experienced child abuse as children and over one in two have been sexually abused.

Also, police reports reveal that half of all reported victims of sexual abuse are under the age of 15 years while 1 in 5 assault victims are between 16 and 20 years of age. Each year at the Port Moresby General Hospital alone, 80 to 100 children under the age of 2 years receive attention on account of actual or alleged sexual assault. One third of rape victims treated at the Lae (Angau) Hospital and half of those seen at the Goroka Base Hospital are under the age of 16 years. The situation in other provincial hospitals is not likely to be too dissimilar.

Two in three women aged 15-24 years and two in five older women accept cash or gifts in exchange for sex. One in three commercial sex workers are aged 13-19 years.

The Government of PNG (GoPNG) ratified the CRC in 1993 and the Stockholm Agenda for Action in 2004. Since 1993, important legislative initiatives have resulted in tangible reforms of the laws dealing with child abuse. New definitions of sexual offences, stiffer penalties for sexual offences against children and easier child-friendly evidentiary procedures for securing convictions are important features of the new laws. Also being planned are new community based structures for child protection, new laws on child neglect and destitution, and justice for children in conflict with the law.

Generally, too, women continue to suffer from different forms of family violence. It is common for children in situations of family violence to also experience trauma and other forms of sufferings. In the end, they become collateral physical, social and economic victims of other people's weaknesses and inability to effectively manage their grievances.

Many victims and families of victims suffer quietly and this is not only because they have any real choices. For many, too, that is the only choice. There are many reasons for this including but not only because of internally generated family priorities, community imperatives, and weaknesses in the system and accessibility to processes of grievance management.

The rapid rate and negative impact of social and cultural changes are constantly making inroads into the cultural fabric of the local communities. Many of the traditional practices that ensured the viability and stability of families in ways that ensured that children were protected are under tremendous pressure as a result of the intrusive and destabilizing character of change being experienced by families throughout the country. Among the major casualties of these changes are children.

How then do we see the future of children's rights in PNG? Changing existing domestic laws in ways that comply with or at least complement the rights established by the CRC is certainly important as indeed has been the case with the enactment of the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act* in 2002. Work has already been done to revise and update the *Child Welfare Act*, a legacy from colonial rule, which better addresses

child welfare issues. But the majority of the laws are arranged in a fragmented and unsatisfactory manner.

Of course, the removal of inadequate laws and their replacement with more CRC-compliant provisions is important but the mere presence of such laws will not of themselves be sufficient. It is also always important to take account of and deal with factors that will impede to a greater or lesser extent or somehow impact negatively on the effective implementation of these laws. These factors can be political, administrative, economic, socio-cultural or a combination of these. We all know that the success of any enterprise such as the present one needs to be complemented and supported by the presence of effective implementation strategies, processes, personnel and funding.

Often, an unpredictable and unstable political and executive landscape will almost always militate against any endeavour with a social import. So, too, the rights of the child because the issue is a legal as it is a social concern. Perhaps it is more social than legal for which social strategies will have to be considered ahead of legal ones. It is here that the cultural factor becomes relevant. Child's rights, like other social phenomena, must be rooted in and be supported by society. The presence of cultural obstacles will seriously challenge and undermine any effort to raise awareness in child rights issues and the protection of children from all forms of abuse. It is critical for success that society embraces the issue of child rights and must be anchored in it. Fundamentally, it must revolve around the recognition that one of the most important of these rights is the right for all children to be protected from abuse.

The nation, as society, is not and cannot be an onlooker or bystander in this important matter. It plays a pivotal role in addressing the different issues concerning child rights and their right to protection of violations of these rights. Society, through government – not just the Parliament and politicians – is an important player in this equation. The issue of child rights must be embraced nationally and by all stake-holders including individuals. The issue of child rights is not and must not be viewed only a UNICEF, Save the Children, PACE, or Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) concern. It is a matter that concerns all of us now and, of course, our future.

A lot of good work has been done so far and more is currently being undertaken by government, in collaboration with non-government agencies and groups, to address the issue of violence against children within the context of children's rights and the CRC. We all eagerly await the results of these combined efforts.

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

The UN General Assembly, by resolution 57/90, launched a world-wide in-depth study by the Secretary-General into the issue of violence against children. A major component of the study involved the administration of a questionnaire designed to obtain information on the issue of violence against children from Governments of all State Parties, including Papua New Guinea (PNG), to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The questionnaire is divided into seven parts, each dealing with an aspect relevant to the issue, as follows: (I) the legal framework, (II) the institutional framework and resources to address violence against children, (III) the role of civil society in addressing violence against children, (IV) children as actors in addressing violence, (V) policies and programmes to address violence against children, (VI) data collection, analysis and research, and (VII) awareness, advocacy and training. Examples of issues and questions which are to be covered under each part of the questionnaire are provided for guidance. Governments are not required to cover each of these issues, but to select those which are most relevant to their national context. Additional issues, over and above those provided as guidance, can also be raised in responses.

2. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

The Questionnaire contains a total of 56 questions each requiring appropriate responses from State Party governments. As this report reveals, expected or appropriate government action is not even in all the areas covered by the Questionnaire. In some areas for example, there might be little or no activity. This report therefore only includes responses to questions in respect of which some initiatives exist or where some action has been taken.

PART I: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. Introduction

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.

2. International Human Rights Instruments:

2.1. 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.

Papua New Guinea is both a relatively young nation and a nation of young people with 49% of its total population under the age of 18 years old. Out of the estimated total population of 5.3 million people in Papua New Guinea according to the 2000 national census, about 2.5 million are children below the age of 18 years. Of this 2.5 million, 1.3 million are male while

1.2 million are female children distributed (though not equally) throughout Papua New Guinea. In other words, about 50% of the country's population are 'children' within the definition of the CRC and divided almost equally between the sexes.

Papua New Guinea ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1993. PNG is however not a Party to the Optional Protocols on the rights of the child. Since that ratification, Papua New Guinea has initiated activities honoring its international commitment. Some of the significant developments are:

2.1.1 The establishment of the Child Rights Monitoring Committee (CRMC);

The CRMC was established in 2001 in response to an NEC decision that year. Its main function is to monitor and coordinate the different activities of government agencies and NGOs relating to rights, protection and welfare of children and generally oversee the implementation of the CRC.

The different activities and work of the CRMC are managed by a Committee established by the Attorney General. The present composition of the Committee includes representatives from both government agencies and NGO groups involved in one way or another with advancing children's interests. The government is represented by the Departments of Justice and Attorney General, Community Development, Education and Health while NGOs by ICRAF, Bishop's Conference, Media Council, City Mission, Save the Children and Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee. Currently, the CRMC operates from the State Solicitor's section of the Department of Justice and Attorney General.

It has no independent funding source and there has been no funding from the government since its establishment. It has however received some funding from UNICEF and AusAID (in the form of a technical advisor).

PNG's initial report was submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2002, more than 2 years after it was due. It is significant that one of the concluding observations and recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the PNG Report was that the PNG Government (as a State Party):

Provide the CRMC with a clear political mandate, financial and human resources as well as technical expertise necessary for an effective and sustainable performance of its mandate.

To date, however, it continues to be fully dependent on external funding and, at present, lacks a clear political mandate. There is absent a government-sanctioned focal point, or financial and human resources made available to coordinate implementation. Current proposals however include the conclusion of a legislative review and the drawing up of a five-year national plan of action concerning the rights of children and their protection. Two sub-committees have been established to progress work on each of these two activities.

An audit of the CRMC is also being considered to help it become more focused on its work as well as to assist in the preparation of the five-year action plan.

2.1.2 The adoption of the *Juvenile Court Act* 1991

The *Juvenile Court Act* 1991 was passed on the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission following discussions by and inputs from relevant stakeholders concerned with juvenile justice and welfare matters for children in conflict with the law. The major objective of the Act was to emphasize the welfare aspects of children in conflict with the law, an emphasis which was both legally and in practice absent under the existing provisions. This was achieved by removing outdated sections of the *Child Welfare Act* and including them under the *Juvenile Court Act*. Other important features of the Act are:

- i) the Act defines an infant as a child under the age of 7 years and a 'juvenile' as a child between the ages of 7 and 17 years,
- ii) the substitution of Children's Courts with Juvenile Courts,
- iii) the establishment of a Juvenile Court services to assist the court,
- iv) an increased range of sentencing options (including probation), and
- v) the introduction of new rules and procedures to protect infants and juveniles who come into contact with the law and to assist police carry out their duties.

The Act is currently under review and one of main proposals concerns a name change from the present to the Juvenile Justice Act.

2.1.3 The amendments to the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crime Against Children) Act* 2002

The first and most significant legislative step taken by the PNG Government after it ratified the CRC has been in the form of the amendments that were made to the provisions dealing with sexual assaults or crimes against children under the Criminal Code. These amendments were made in 2002 by the *Criminal Code (Sexual offences and Crimes Against Children) Act* of that year. The most significant aspects of the amending legislation are explained in section 3.1.

2.1.4 The amendment of *Evidence Act*

Important amendments were made to the *Evidence Act* in 2002. The main argument put forward in support of the changes that the existing provisions acted as barriers to the successful prosecution of crimes of sexual violence. The main purpose of the amendments therefore was to change the existing rules of and procedures for obtaining evidence to make it easier to prove charges of sexual crimes against children and secure convictions. Many of these obstacles have been removed.

In particular, the amendments eliminate the old discriminatory rule which recognized the principle that children are inherently unreliable witnesses and it would be dangerous to convict on the strength of their evidence alone. Under the new rules, child witnesses are treated like any other witness except that their reliability as witnesses must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Also under the new law, 'special measures' are provided to make it easy for children to give evidence and to ensure that they are able to give a full account of the alleged crime free from fear or intimidation. These include preventing the child from seeing the accused, allowing the victim to have a support person with them when testifying, dispensing with the wearing of wigs and robes by court personnel when giving evidence, excluding members of the public

from the court room, using an intermediary, or giving evidence via live link television or videotape.

2.1.5 The review of the *Child Welfare Act*.

A review of the *Child Welfare Act* is currently being undertaken. As mentioned below, among the principal proposed changes is the change of name from the present to an Act called the *Lukautim Pikinini Act* (a *tok pisin* name meaning in essence the same as Child Welfare Act). The proposed law is currently with the Legislative Council after which it will be brought before Parliament for its consideration and appropriate legislative action.

In a related area, the Government of PNG also signed the 1990 World Summit Declaration for Children that committed the international community to achieve global goals for child survival, development and protection.

On the question of whether any cases concerning violence against children in the PNG courts or tribunals have referred to international or regional human rights standards, it appears almost incontrovertible that while these institutions may not have specifically mentioned relevant international conventions, treaties or other instruments relating to child rights and protection, decisions are often influenced by their presence especially in respect of those which PNG has either ratified or otherwise sanctioned such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and more recently the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. Legal Provisions on Violence Against Children

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

Violence against children is not specifically addressed in the PNG Constitution. However, it is addressed in a broad general human rights provision in the Preamble to the Constitution by calling for the "Equality of all Citizens". Indirectly then, child rights are recognized in this provision. It is also covered under the National Goals and Directive Principles particularly goal one dealing with "Integral Human Development".

3.2 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.***

3.2.1 Physical, sexual and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment.

The present law does not make acts of physical violence, abuse against or injury to children special categories of offences. Instead, these issues are dealt with jointly by both the *Criminal Code* and the *Summary Offences Act*. Under the Criminal Code, section 335, a person who unlawfully assaults another person is guilty of a misdemeanour. The offender is liable to a

term of imprisonment of up to one year. Likewise, under section 6(3) of the *Summary Offences Act*, a person who unlawfully assaults another person is guilty of an offence punishable by a fine of up to K500 or imprisonment for a term up to two years.

3.2.2 Sexual abuse.

The issue of sexual violence and abuse of children received specific legislative attention in 2002 with the enactment of the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act* of that year. The most important features of the Act are that,

- i) for the first time, a sexual offence or crime against a child can be committed by both male and female,
- ii) the meaning of unlawful 'carnal knowledge' was replaced by 'sexual penetration' to include all forms of penetration including penile penetration,
- iii) unauthorized sexual touching of a child using any part of one's body or other instrument is now an offence,
- iv) unlike previously under the repealed law, sexual penetration of or contact with a child under the age of 18 in respect of whom the perpetrator is in a relationship of authority, trust and dependency is an offence on its own and carries a higher penalty than would otherwise be the case.
- v) the penalty for unlawful sexual penetration of a child is imprisonment for a period up to 25 years, if the victim is between the ages of 12 and 16 years. However, a period of imprisonment up to life may be imposed if the victim is under 12 years of age or there existed a relationship of trust, authority or dependency at the time of the offence. To date, however, since the amendments to the Criminal Code providing for special laws against child sexual abuse in 2002, no one has yet been sentenced to life imprisonment for an offence against a child under the age of 12 years or where there existed a relationship of trust, authority and dependency at the time of the crime.

3.2.3 Neglect and negligent treatment

The related issues of neglect and negligent treatment of children are dealt with in varying degrees by the *Constitution*, *Criminal Code*, *Child Welfare Act* and the *Deserted Wives and Children Act*. The *Preamble* to the Constitution (Basic Social Obligation (h)) imposes a duty on parents to support, assist and educate their children (whether born in or out of wedlock).

Perhaps the clearest statements imposing a legal duty on parents or any other person in charge of children to provide the support necessary for a child's maintenance and upbringing supported by criminal sanctions is contained in the *Criminal Code*. Under this provisions, it is the duty of every 'head of family' having the charge of a child under the age 14 years to provide the necessities of life for the child, and he shall be deemed to have caused any consequences that result to the life or health of the child by reason of any omission to perform that duty, whether or not the child is helpless (s.284). It is an offence to fail to observe this duty and may be punished by a term of imprisonment of up to one year (s.362).

Under the *Child Welfare Act*, it is an offence for a person recognized as having the responsibility of caring for a child to fail, without reasonable excuse, to provide adequate and proper food, clothing, lodging, nursing aid and medical aid for a child under his care. The

penalty is a fine not exceeding K400 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months (s.94).

Also, under the Act, fathers of children born out of wedlock may be ordered by a court to pay maintenance towards the child's upkeep. There is however no corresponding obligation imposed by the Act requiring a mother to contribute towards the maintenance of her child. Otherwise, any maintenance ordered under the Act against the father lapses when the child reaches the age of 16 years unless special circumstances exist justifying the continuation of the order beyond that age taking into account the economic, educational and social needs of the child.

The *Child Welfare Act* also makes provision for the welfare of destitute and neglected children. Under Part VII of the Act, children considered to be destitute, neglected, incorrigible or uncontrollable by the Children's Court can be placed in:

- the care of the Director of Child Welfare (as wards); or
- the care of a person who is willing to undertake such care and on such terms and conditions as the court thinks proper (*i.e.*, foster care); or
- an institution.

An important development however is that the *Child Welfare Act* is now under review and a Bill entitled *Lukautim Pikinini Act* is now before Parliament for possible enactment as law. Once it becomes law, it will replace its colonial and outdated predecessor the *Child Welfare Act*. The major changes under the new law are based on the recognized shortcomings of the existing laws. Reference to Western practices and institutions will be removed and emphasis placed on building ownership and accountability of citizens for the protection of children through a monitoring committee process. On the policy level, too, the proposed Act, which has been drafted within the framework of CRC implementation, represents a solid and informed basis for dealing with child welfare issues.

Also, under the *Deserted Wives and Children Act*, it is an offence punishable by an imprisonment term of up to one year, for a parent (mother or father) to desert his/her children and leave them without means of support (s.22). However, if the desertion and leaving without means of support by the father is unjustified or 'without just cause', the court may summon the father to appear before it to show cause why he should not support the children. It may also issue a warrant for the arrest of the father for this purpose.

The point to make here is that even though the Act imposes on both parents a duty to maintain their children, maintenance proceedings can only be instituted against the father. The Act does not make any provision for maintenance proceedings to be instituted against the mother even if she is the breadwinner of the family. It is commonplace these days for the mother/wife to be the principal or only breadwinner in the family. In these changing times, it is important to recognize this in the form of law by changing the existing provisions enabling the father to institute proceedings under the Act to secure maintenance for any child that the mother leaves without first making adequate provision for its/their support.

3.3 *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;*
- *Schools and pre-school care and education (both formal and non-formal, state and private);*
- *Military schools;*
- *Institutions 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.*

The present laws criminalizes all forms of violence and neglect against children regardless of in whichever place they occur. Violence against children is dealt with in accordance with the laws discussed in the previous section (3.2). However, the issue of sexual exploitation is dealt with under section 6 of this report.

3.4 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.

The Constitution provides protection for all children, as human beings, in whatever situation and circumstances. More specific laws recognizing children’s rights to be protected from all forms of violence at home, school, institutions, streets, workplace and sports and sporting facilities are contained in the *Criminal Code*, the *Summary Offences Act*, and the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act* as discussed above. There are no military schools allowed in PNG.

Corporal punishment is a particular kind of violence which is prohibited by both the Constitution and other legislation regardless of whether it takes place at home, in school or other institution.

3.4.1 Constitution.

Section 36 of the *Constitution* makes unconstitutional any form of cruel treatment or punishment which is inconsistent with the ideal of respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. Children, as young human persons, at any educational institution are covered by this general Constitutional requirement. Further, section 42, which deals with the rights of persons who have been detained in accordance with the law, allows under subsection (8) for the corrective or educational discipline of children so long as it is reasonable and in the course of the education, discipline or upbringing of the child.

3.4.2 Criminal Code.

Section 44 of the *Criminal Code* makes ‘assault’, as defined under section 43, unlawful unless authorized, justified or excused otherwise by law. Such an excuse or justification is provided by section 278, which allows for ‘domestic discipline’ to be carried out by a parent or a person in the place of a parent, or for a school master, or master. For such action or

application of force to be protected by this provision, however, it must be for the purpose of correction and it must be reasonable under the circumstances.

Corporal punishment in schools was officially banned in the early 1970s even though it continues to be applied especially in the primary schools system. However, there are no figures to ascertain its incidence, form or the nature of misbehaviour attracting such violence. It is important to note, too, that the change in policy predates the CRC and the rise in global concern over children's rights and their violations. This indicates that the change in policy was caused by reasons other than those linked to children's rights. It is not possible presently to ascertain the reason for this change, but it seems reasonable to suppose that the reason for withdrawing teachers' privilege to apply corporal punishment on children ultimately involved the recognition of the exclusive right of parents to apply corporal punishment as a form of discipline and preparing them for future adult life as well as preventing the likelihood of breaches of the peace occurring following confrontations between parents or relatives of the victim child and teachers if corporal punishment was used by teachers.

Despite the change in policy however, the law described above remains unchanged. In order therefore to ensure consistency between the law, actual practice and the requirements of the CRC, it may be necessary, perhaps even overdue, to amend section 278 to remove the privilege school teachers and masters continue to have under the law to use corrective force (or apply corporal punishment) against children in their care and control during the period they are at school or educational institution.

3.4.3 Child Welfare Act.

Under section 109(2) of the Act, the Director of Child Welfare can authorize, subject to prescribed conditions, "a superintendent of an institution to administer corporal punishment or cause it to be administered to a ward who is in the institution." The definition of "institution" under section 1 includes an orphanage and school.

3.4.4 Child Welfare Regulations.

Section 23 of the *Regulations* deals with the corporal punishment of children in institutions other than schools. Generally, it makes provision for the application of corporal punishment, if necessary, and lays down the rules and conditions for administering it. Basically, punishment of this kind can only be inflicted with a cane (of a form as approved by the Director), and applied only on the hands but not exceeding two strokes. Such punishment, however, should not be inflicted on a sick child or on a child suffering from any mental or physical disability and in any case shall not be administered on a male child who is over the age of 16 years or a female child over the age of 15 years.

3.5 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.

Corporal punishment of children in PNG is illegal as specified in the *Education Act*. It was a punishment used during the colonial times. Parents are aware of the act and do take teachers to the court when they provide corporal punishment to children at school.

The *Juvenile Court Act* also makes illegal for such actions against juveniles or children. In the family or at home corporal punishment can be seen as a disciplinary action by parents,

however if it is excessive, then the case can be described as an abuse and thus parents can be charged under the *Child Welfare Act, Juvenile Court Act, Criminal Code or Summary Offences Act* for child abuse. The penalty for this is either a fine or a period of imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

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

Hazing or bullying children is not an offence under the domestic laws of PNG. However, bullying can amount to ‘assault’ in certain circumstances if the person directing the bullying act attempts or threatens to also use force. This is proscribed both by the *Criminal Code* (s.335) and the *Summary Offences Act* (s.6(3)). ‘Sexual harassment’ is widespread and a growing problem. Girls are most vulnerable to such conduct. Sexual harassment from both teachers and male peers at school is a particularly difficult problem for girls and at times has forced the girl to leave school altogether. However, ‘sexual harassment’ *per se* is not an offence under the law despite the presence of clear evidence that it exists and is an increasing problem faced by women as well as young girls. As for the latter, schools provide a ready-made environment for sexual harassment both from male peers as well as from their male teachers. However, even though it does not constitute a separate offence of its own, in certain circumstances, it may amount to a sexual offence as proscribed by the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against children) Act*.

3.7 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.

There are still some cultural practices that constitute abuse against children in PNG. However, these are very rarely seen, reported or heard. Such practices are however disappearing as more and more Papua New Guineans become assimilated into a modern situation of cultures, expectations and priorities. The practice of honor crimes is no longer practiced in Papua New Guinea. However, such and other culturally sanctioned or justified abuses of children can be conducted under the cover of families, tribes, clans or ethnic groups in which it is not easy to detect or be reported to the authorities.

3.8 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 protection of children provided for under the PNG Constitution is directed at all children regardless of their race, nationality, color, ethnic group, etc. Thus, the laws dealing with violence and abuse against children apply to all children and this without discrimination in any manner or form.

3.9 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;*
- *The age of the victim and /or of the perpetrator;*

- *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.*

All child violence cases are held and treated equally using the same principles and based on the interest of the child, whether a child is a victim or a perpetrator.

The only difference is that if the victim is a child and the perpetrator is an adult, then the court will protect the child under the child laws whilst the perpetrator will be prosecuted under either the criminal code or under the *Summary Offences Act*, depending on the seriousness of the crime committed.

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

The most recent and significant work on reviewing and updating the laws dealing with violence against and abuse of children have been in the form of the Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act and the amendment of the Evidence Act.

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

The PNG Government has commissioned a number of studies on domestic violence. The first of these were done in the 1980s. However, the most recent comprehensive study into family and sexual violence including domestic violence and child abuse was completed in 2003. There has also been a Family Legislation Review but due to changes in priorities by those charged with the responsibility of seeing through this process, the review process has somewhat stalled and may not be revived until this responsibility is assigned to or assumed by another body or group.

4. Courts Tasked With Addressing Violence Against Children

4.1 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.

The Family Court was established to administer all civil family cases whilst the Juvenile Court and Children's Courts are established to cater for specific cases involving children (civil or in conflict with the law). The role of parent is to attend all court proceedings and to continue providing care and support to the child during this period. The Juvenile Court Officers and Welfare Officers are to provide protection and care for the child by preparing court reports, plans of care and continue support.

There are presently only four juvenile Courts in the country, one each in the National Capital District, Lae, Wewak, and Kokopo. Each Juvenile Court has juvenile court officers as well as welfare officers who are recognized as honorary juvenile court officers. Both groups of officers have to be gazetted. All juvenile court officers are serving members of the Community Based Correction service/division. There are presently 32 juvenile court officers all of whom are CBC officers. These are distributed among the four courts as follows: 10 officers for the Southern Region, 5 for the Highlands, 9 for the Momase region, and 8 in the

New Guinea Islands (excluding North Solomons) region. The first lot of welfare officers appointed as honorary juvenile court officers were gazetted only a week ago.

The need to train CBC and welfare officers who are juvenile court officers is not urgent or needed because the nature of the work they are expected to do (probation and parole) are functions for which they already have the training. What might be needed is a system of periodic refresher course.

Juvenile Court Officers are supported by volunteers officers who do not already possess the necessary qualifications or have relevant experience. It is for this group that a need for training has been identified. To date, however, only some volunteers have received some training and for each such person this has been only once. However, the observation has been that the training they received has been too short and not enough time to fully benefit from it.

5. Minimum age for sexual activity:

5.1 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 PNG age of consent is 14 years for both males and females. However, the minimum marriage age is 16 years for females and 18 years for males. In special circumstances however, a marriage can take place between a party who is not more than 2 years younger than the required minimum marriageable age and another who must have reached the minimum marriage able age. All forms of homosexual activity are illegal in PNG regardless of the age of the participants or consent.

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

As indicated above, the minimum age for statutory marriage is 16 years for females and 18 for males. However, a marriage between a person below the minimum marriageable age can take place if i) special circumstances justifying the marriage taking place exist, and ii) the other party to the proposed marriage is of marriageable age, and iii) the party who is below the marriageable age is not younger than 2 years below the marriageable age *i.e.*, 14 for females and 16 for males. However, these age requirements do not apply to customary marriages in respect of which the emphasis is more on physical maturity rather than on chronological age. Thus, a young person’s eligibility for marriage is measured in terms of his or her physical maturity as rather than on how old he or she is.

Under the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act*, ‘marriage’ whether by statute or custom is a defence to a charge of sexual penetration of a child. However this defence does not apply if the ‘wife’ victim is under the age of 14 years. By implication, therefore, a customary marriage between a man and a girl who is still under the age of 14 years is legally void and any sexual contact by her ‘husband’ is unprotected by law and the ‘husband’ would be guilty of the crime of sexual penetration. However, while this appears clearly to be the legal position, the incidence of young and forced customary marriages is unknown but is expected to continue to occur in many parts of the country.

6. Sexual Exploitation of Children

6.1 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 commercial sexual exploitation of children is covered more extensively under the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act*. An important aspect of the Act is that it creates child-specific offences which were previously non-existent under the old provisions concerning prostitution. The *Summary Offences Act* also makes some limited provision in this regard.

The *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act* defines child as a person under the age of 18 years. It also defines child prostitution as any sexual service provided by a child in return for “financial or other reward, favour or compensation” regardless of whether the reward or compensation is paid to the child or to some other person. The Act assumes that a child can never voluntarily prostitute his/her body and that they become so involved out of necessity or because of other ‘push’ factors or ‘pull’ factors such as poverty, lack of educational opportunities, peer pressure, low self esteem, and generation of high incomes within a short space of time. It is for this reason that a child ‘prostitute’ is not liable to criminal prosecution for offering sexual services for a fee, reward or compensation. The Act also prohibits the involvement of children in the production or distribution of pornography.

6.1.1 Obtaining the services of a child prostitute.

It is illegal for a person to become a client of a child prostitute. It is also illegal for a person to invite, persuade or induce a child to engage in an act of prostitution with him or her or any other person. This offence carries a maximum penalty of up to 15 years imprisonment and up to life imprisonment if the child is, at the time of the offence, under the age of 12 years.

6.1.2 Offering or engaging a child for prostitution.

It is also an offence for a person to offer or engage a child for the purpose of child prostitution. A maximum penalty of up to 15 years imprisonment may be imposed if a person is found guilty of this offence. However, a term of life imprisonment might, in appropriate circumstances (such as the presence of violence upon the child or a relationship of trust, authority or dependency), be imposed if the child is under the age of 12 years.

6.1.3 Facilitating or allowing child prostitution.

It is an offence for a parent, guardian or any person having the care or custody of a child to allow or facilitate, in any way, the engagement of that child for prostitution. An imprisonment period of up to 10 years applies if found guilty of this offence.

Belief that the child was 18 years of age or more at the time any of the above offences was committed may provide a defence for the accused.

6.1.4 Receiving benefits from child prostitution.

It is a crime to knowingly receive any financial or other reward, favour or compensation from child prostitution. A person found guilty of this offence is liable to a period of up to 15 years imprisonment. It is however not known if this crime would be committed if the person receiving this benefit is also a child as defined by the Act.

6.1.5 Permitting premises to be used for child prostitution.

An owner, lessor, manager, tenant or occupier of a property who knowingly permits his property to be used for child prostitution is guilty of a crime and is liable to be imprisoned for a maximum term of 15 years.

The Act also protects children involved in child prostitution from being charged and prosecuted for engaging in child prostitution. Here the law presumes that a child under the age of 18 years cannot voluntarily become involved in this way if an adult has not forced, persuaded encouraged to involve their bodies in this way.

Under the *Summary Offences Act* prostitution is proscribed as an illegal activity. The keeping of brothels is therefore illegal. Under this Act, it is illegal to live on the earnings of prostitution and any person who keeps a brothel or allows his premises to be used in any way connected with prostitution is guilty of an offence. Offenders are liable to a fine or a prison term of up to six months.

7. Pornography and harmful information

7.1 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.

PNG is currently undergoing a major reform of some of its legislation providing for child protection from abuse and violence. These pieces of legislation are *Child Welfare Act*, *Juvenile Court Act*, *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crime against Children) Act* and the *Evidence (Amended) Act*, as mentioned earlier. However, the most extensive provisions making the involvement of children in pornography illegal are provided by the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act*.

7.1.1 Using children for pornographic purposes.

It is a criminal offence for a person to use, or cause or procure a child to be used, or allows or otherwise permits a child to be used for the production of child pornography. A person found guilty for committing this offence is liable to a maximum period of up to 15 years imprisonment except that such a person may escape criminal sanction if it can be shown that the use of the act of using the child was for an 'innocent purpose' or that the child was over the age of 18 years.

7.1.2 Producing, distributing and possessing of child pornography.

A crime is committed if a person produces, distributes, prints or publishes any child pornography. The same applies to persons who knowingly import, export, sell or show any child pornography. It is also illegal to knowingly possess any such material for the purpose of distributing, publishing exporting selling or showing it. The penalty for this crime is 10 years imprisonment. A person who possesses such material is guilty of a crime for which he may be imprisoned for 5 years.

7.2 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.

PNG has a *Censorship Administrative Act* that empowers the National Censorship Board to screen and rate information and materials that come into the country and also assist the Court to classify pornographic and harmful materials as evidence to prosecute those found to be in possession and producing them. The *Customs Act* prohibits all pornographic and harmful information from entering into the country. Currently there is no control exercised over internet however methods to control are being explored.

There is no specific legislation protecting children from injurious information and material transmitted through the internet.

8. Reporting obligations relating to violence against children

8.1 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.

Any person may report cases of violence against children to welfare officers, Juvenile Court Officers, police, NGOs and Church workers. The reported cases are then investigated and appropriate action taken in accordance with the criminal law or otherwise resolved out of court if the circumstances justify such course of action.

9. Complaints procedures

9.1 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.*

The most common outcome of complaints of violence against children in PNG is compensation and some form of family counseling.

The Welfare Offices and Police Stations throughout the country are supposed to attend to all cases of violence against children. Any person is allowed to report cases to the police or welfare officers in their respective provinces. The role of welfare officers is to investigate and provide support services to the children in their homes while police conduct investigation and make applications to the court to prosecute any perpetrators. NGOs and Churches do provide such services assisting the police and welfare officers. However, due to the perennial problem of lack of adequate resources including finance and skilled personnel, police are often prevented from attending to or investigating reported instances of child violence. Whatever limited resources they have are directed to dealing with what is commonly accepted and described as more serious and deserving cases such as rape, murder, armed robbery and such like. This has a profound negative impact on the ability of the police to attend immediately and effectively to situations of crimes of violence committed against children.

In case of child violence with schools, depending on whether the perpetrator is a teacher or another student/pupil, relevant disciplinary processes may be invoked to address the matter. Since corporal punishment is illegal in schools, any act of violence by a teacher against a child student is an offence in respect of which the usual criminal process will be invoked to deal with the matter. However, if the violence involves students, relevant student disciplinary processes will be used to address the matter including at times suspension from school or permanent exclusion.

Generally, sexual violence against girls in schools is ignored by the educational authorities. Presently, there are no policies in place to protect girls from sexual harassment in schools even by teachers. Such acts often result in teachers not taking serious disciplinary action to eradicate or minimize the situation. Many teachers see the National Education Department as the authority responsible for taking action against teachers who act in this way against girls.

There is also no proper and effective follow-up on reported incidences. Inspectors in the provinces are the ones who charge them, but this depends on how often they visit schools in their inspectorates to discharge this responsibility. As a result, many teachers many acts of violence and sexual abuse of school girls are never brought to the attention of the authorities to be dealt with in accordance with the law. In many cases, too, teachers guilty of such offence take pre-emptive action by 'fleeing' to another region to force the matter to die a natural death.

9.2 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.

Children or persons acting on their behalf can access these procedures. Parents whose children have been abused have always had the responsibility to report such incidents to the police or other authorities within their community involved in protecting children's rights and preventing abuse and violence against them.

The PNG Government has established a Public Prosecutor's Office where any person requiring legal aid can request to be assisted. Their services do not specifically cater for children. It is fair to indicate at this stage that there are no legal aid services established specially for children to facilitate court proceedings etc.

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

Compared to the steps that have been taken to draw the attention of the public generally concerning the issue of child rights and violence against children in particular, the use of the media including in particular the radio medium has also been tried but not in a concerted and consistent manner. More work needs to be done and effort put in to raising awareness through this medium so that people are made aware of the existence of the different ways through which incidents of violence against children and their commercial sexual exploitation can be reported or otherwise managed.

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

The most up-to-date and victim- or child-friendly evidentiary rules came into force following the enactment of the *Evidence (Amended) Act*. These rules were discussed in section 2.1.4, above. There are also provisions in the *Juvenile Court Act*, *Criminal Code (Sexual Offence and Crime Against Children) Act* and, and *Child Welfare Act* do contain special Court procedures that are applied in proceedings involving children. In particular, under the *Criminal Code (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) Act*, the old evidentiary rule that a person charged with a sexual offence cannot be found guilty on the uncorroborated evidence of the victim has been changed. Under the new law, a person may be found guilty on the uncorroborated testimony of one witness and the court may find an accused guilty even in the absence of corroborated evidence.

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

Depending on the receiving point or agency of complaints, the management of the complaint may produce an outcome involving the payment of compensation, the payment of associated medical or psychological treatment, or the application of criminal sanctions. In situations where the violence against the child is sexual in nature such as sexual penetration is reported to the authorities, this almost invariably results in appropriate criminal charges being laid against the offender. The offender will then be required to appear before the court to account for his conduct and appropriate sanctions applied. It is irrelevant that the perpetrator is related to or knows the victim or if some form of compensation has been paid. The criminal process will still be invoked in all such cases.

Sometimes, however, where both the victim and perpetrator come from within the same family, it is much harder to have the incident reported to the relevant authorities for a variety of reasons including the need to avoid bringing shame on the family as a whole, to protect the stability of the marriage and family, or from fear of retaliatory action. Sometimes, this may actually impose pressure on the long-term stability of the marriage and family relationships

and may ultimately cause its disintegration. This may also happen and may in fact accelerate the process if the matter is reported to the police and the perpetrator sent to prison after the conclusion of the criminal process.

However, in situations where the victim and the perpetrator are not related, the usual form of outcome is compensation even if the matter has been reported to the police and criminal charges laid against the perpetrator. In such cases, the fact that compensation has been paid may be presented to the court by the defendant to support an argument for a more lenient criminal sanction than might otherwise be the case.

To date, however, since the special sexual crimes against children were enacted into law in 2002, the maximum penalty imposed on a person who has been convicted of the most serious of these crimes i.e., sexual penetration of a child under the age of 12 years who is in a relationship of trust, authority and dependency to the perpetrator, is imprisonment for 17 years.

9.6 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).

The most common outcome of legal proceedings of violence against children in PNG is imprisonment in a juvenile institution. Corporal punishment is not a recognized form of sanction under the law and punishment by way of providing community services remains mainly only a theoretical possibility.

All courts have power to deal with issues of family abuse including violence against children under their general criminal jurisdiction. In particular, however, in addition to the criminal powers they possess, the lower Village Courts and District Courts also have preventive powers as well as powers to mediate settlements between the disputing parties. The following is an overview of the powers each of these lower courts has which can be exercised in relation to family abuse cases.

9.6.1 Village Courts.

In relation to Village Courts, it seems that it has no jurisdiction over the criminal dimension of family abuse generally and violence against children in particular. In other words, the *Village Courts Act 1988*, does not give the Courts direct power to determine the criminality or otherwise of an act of violence or abuse against children and punish offenders even though it can achieve this result through the enforcement of a mediated settlement or as punishment for a breach of a preventive order against the continuation of abuse.

In relation to the powers of Village Courts to settle disputes, section 52 of the *Village Courts Act* states that its primary function “is to ensure peace and harmony...by mediating in, and endeavouring to obtain just and amicable settlements of disputes.” Under section 57, in all matters before the Court, the law to be applied is customary law. In relation to mediation in particular, section 53(2) imposes a duty on Village Courts to first attempt mediation in reaching a settlement and that its adjudicative powers under the Act should invoked only if mediation has failed to produce a settlement. However, if, following mediation, a mutually agreed upon settlement of the dispute is reached, its terms will be “treated and enforced as an order of the Village Court as between the parties to the settlement” (s.54). Failure to comply

with this 'order' constitutes an offence for which appropriate criminal sanctions will be applied in accordance with the Act.

Village Courts also have wide preventive powers (s.51). This empowers the courts to order a person from doing or continue doing an act which may lead to or cause the escalation of a breach of the peace. However, while the power does not in itself give the Courts the power to deal with disputes that have already resulted in breaches of the peace, it can be used to order their discontinuation by requiring all parties connected with the dispute to appear before it with a view to resolving the dispute. During this period, additional orders can also be made requiring the offender from continuing the dispute or from doing things that might further aggravate the dispute. Failure to comply with any of these orders amounts to an offence for which a fine, or a term of imprisonment or both will be imposed on the defaulter (subsection (3)).

9.6.2 District Courts.

District Courts have both criminal and civil jurisdiction over all forms of family abuse. In relation to acts of violence or abuse against children, under both the *Criminal Code* (s.335) and the *Summary Offences Act* (s.6(3)), a person who unlawfully assaults another person is guilty of an offence breach of which carries a maximum imprisonment period of up to 2 years. However, if the assault is serious and the victim sustains injury as a result, the maximum possible term of imprisonment is three years (s.340, Criminal Code).

However, while District Courts have 'mediatory' powers over civil disputes, they have no such powers over disputes which are of a criminal nature such as violence against children.

In most cases of violence against children as well as family abuse generally, it is the mother of a victim child who bears the greatest responsibility of dealing with the situation if the perpetrator is the father of their child. However, a decision to have recourse to the law and courts as a way of managing physical or sexual violence grievances has first to contend with or overcome a whole host of obstacles. As a result, a majority of these 'crimes' do not come to the attention of the law enforcement agencies or before the courts for determination in accordance with the criminal laws of the country.

There are many factors that have to be taken into account when considering the issue of litigating family related disputes through the national judicial system. The extent to which women seek recourse to the law and the courts to settle issues relating to family and sexual abuse is not known although it is not expected to be great. In addition to the various legal, social and economic obstacles, a women may wish not to proceed against her husband or partner for many and varied reasons. It may be the fear that such action would provoke more and greater abuse or violence against her or for fear that she may be shunned not only by her husband and his family but also by her family of origin. A victim wife/partner of violence or abuse may also not want to seek redress through the courts if the benefits of such action are lower than the cost she would incur if she did adopt such procedure.

Even if she wished to institute court proceedings against her husband/partner, attitudes and weaknesses in existing processes related to addressing family and sexual violence issues effectively deny her any legal remedy. The different types of factors that often work against the proper and effective processing of victims' complaints against family and sexual abuse include the common cultural acceptance of violence as a legitimate expression of anger, as a

means of dispute resolution, and a trivialization of family abuse matters as a private matter mean that a victim's right to a legal remedy will not be given the serious attention it deserves.

This is not helped by prevailing traditional attitudes about the rights of men to control and chastise their wives and children and the acceptance of 'violence' as a means of expressing such control. It is thus well documented that that many women and children suffer serious physical, sexual and emotional abuse at the hands of those having authority over them, sometimes causing their death. Indeed, many regard the time and resources expended on dealing with family disputes as both a waste of precious time, effort and resources which might be better utilized in other more important areas. Further, even though the police continue to be straddled with the perennial financial, manpower and personnel resources problems, they have been accused of insensitivity, reluctance to enter into the 'private' family domain, and inaction, which have contributed to the present unsatisfactory situation.

PARTII: 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.

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

The Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) through its organs addresses violence which also includes violence against children. The following organs directly facilitate and participate:

1. National Justice System – Supreme Court, National Court, District Court, Local Court, Family Court and Juvenile Court, Children Court and Village Court.
2. Department of Attorney General – Provides legal services and the administration of the statutory responsibilities on welfare and children's interests particularly in respect of the *Maintenance and Enforcement Act, Adultery and Enticement Act, Matrimonial Cases Act, Married Women Property Act and Infant Act*. There are plans to establish a Human Rights Commission in 2005.
3. Department of Police is responsible for law enforcement and prevention. It is tasked to ensure Community Policing relating to community awareness, education, consultation and partnership and also provides a Victims desk.
4. Department of Community Development provides child welfare services, administration and implementation of the statutory function throughout the country.
5. Department of Health provides medical treatment, counseling and referrals. The Port Moresby General Hospital Social Work Department provides counseling referral to specialists/or appropriate body for action, treatment, therapy and rehabilitation,

research, database and development of IEC materials as well as the provision of primary health care.

6. Department of Correctional Services provides custody and rehabilitation of convicted offenders.

The following Government Organizations also address the following issues:

1. National AIDS Council – Implementation of the *National HIV/AIDS Management Act* which also supports the human rights of and protects against discrimination against People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and children affected by HIV/AIDS.
2. Department of Education – Under the provisions of the *National Education Act*, Provincial Education Boards, respective Primary School Board of Managements, Secondary and National High School Board of Governors in their usual functions amongst other activities also addresses violence in schools and establishes procedures to deal with issues affecting the children.

The Department under the current education reform has introduced a new curriculum for schools relating to personal development and reproductive health. It also promotes the acceleration of girl’s education and the right to education for all.

3. Department of Agriculture and Livestock established a National Food Security Policy, to ensure nutritious and adequate diet in every household. This program is aimed at ensuring food security and addressing hunger and support good healthy and productive family including children.
4. Papua New Guinea Narcotic Bureau is responsible for eliminating and preventing drug and alcohol abuse amongst children.
5. Papua New Guinea Sports Commission established the “Provide Pikinini” (children sports program) that also addresses violence against children in sports.
6. Department of Labour and Employment. The GoPNG has ratified Seven (7) ILO fundamental human right conventions. Papua New Guinea is one of the only two countries in the Asia Pacific region to fully comply. Furthermore, the Government has ratified in 1976 the ILO Convention No.156 - Abolition of force labor and in 2000, ILO Convention No. 182 – Elimination of Worst forms of Child Labor.

Currently the Department of Labor and Employment is reviewing the *Industrial Relations Act* and later *National Employment Act*. All the ratified ILO Conventions will be incorporated into the two Acts.

The Department has a program titled “Structural Adjustment at Minimum Social Cost” that ensures decent work for everyone. One of the components of this program is to study on child labor. However, this project is on hold awaiting possible donor funding. Much of the work has being supported and funded by International Labor Organization.

7. Other important committees include;

- Central Agency Co-ordinating Committee (CACC)
- Child Right Monitoring Committee (CRMC)
- Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Committee (CIMC). One result of the committees work has being the formation of Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee addressing violence in the family including those against children.
- Working Committee on the Rights of Children (WCRC) was established within the Department National Planning under Sectoral Planning Section (1998).

11. Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children? If YES, provide details.

The Department for Community Development through the Office of the Child Welfare Services is responsible for addressing violence against children. It is the lead Government organ that administers and implements the *Child Welfare Act*, *Adoption of Children Act* and *Deserted Wives and Children Act*.

The *Child Welfare Act* is the only instrument that facilitates and regulates the process of dealing with child welfare matters including violence against children. It provides the institutional framework through the country and empowers welfare officers with statutory responsibilities to handle, manage, represent and support all matters pertaining to child welfare. Every province has a gazetted welfare officer and community development officers at district level.

The Office of the Director, Child Welfare Office, provides the focal point for integration, dialogue, consultation and partnership between and amongst all stakeholders. Although the office does not have the funds to fund or provide resources to other stakeholders, it provides the avenue for protocols for treatment, counseling, referral and support, technical advisory role and sensitizes the issue and sets the agenda for development.

The Civil Registry Division also provides an essential role in the area of Article 7 (Birth Registration) of the CRC. However, at present only 3% of the PNG population have registered their births. Under the existing civil registration laws, the registration of births is not a legal requirement and might even be very difficult to perform this task effectively given that such an enterprise may not succeed in the rural sector.

12. Are specific financial and/or human resources allocated by your country to address violence generally? If YES, indicate the extent of these allocations.

The PNG Government specifically provides human resource and budgetary support in its recurrent activities such as:

12.1 Law and Order Sector

- (a) Dept of Justice and Attorney General. The Village Court Secretariat, whose primary responsibility is to manage and oversee the operations of the Village Courts system is an important functional unit within the Department.
- (b) Justice – Courts

- (c) Dept of Corrective Service
- (d) Dept of Police

12.2 Social Sector

- (e) Department for Community Development
- (f) Department of Health
- (g) Department of Education
- (h) National AIDS Council

Most of the organizations mentioned in Q12.2 have human resources and budgetary support from the Government. The budget allocation for each sector and/or Department is detailed in the National Budget.

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

Specific funding and human resources is made available through the Department for Community Development to support and facilitate the implementation of Child Welfare Services. The amount of resources and funding support is however not adequate resulting in some areas lacking proper attention.

The respective Provincial Governments cater for Provincial Welfare Office including district activities. However, the Provincial Governments have different priorities hence the level of funding resource support and availability varies from province to province. Administratively, Provincial Welfare Offices report to the Provincial Administrator of the provincial department. Sometimes this becomes ineffective reporting and monitoring mechanisms. There is a lack of systemic assessment and/or situational analysis conducted to determine the impact of Government budget, policies and legislation on children including violence.

14. Do international or bilateral donors provide resources to your country for activities to address violence against children? If YES, indicate the extent of these resources and the way in which they are used.

International and bilateral donors have provided support to address violence in general, particularly the Law and Order sector, which includes the element of violence against children. Some of these organizations include:

- United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- European Union
- British High Commission
- New Zealand High Commission

There has been large donor support to the civil society for the development of programs on health, youth and women, sanitation and HIV/AIDS. However, it is not known the extent or level of funding for children for that matter. UNICEF and AusAID are two major donors providing specific support toward children's rights including violence against children. It is expected that these two organizations will continue to support the Government's initiatives

and programmes to combat the growing incidence of violence against children and generally raise public awareness in that regard.

15. Does your country provide any assistance to other countries' efforts to respond to the problem of violence against children? If YES, provide details.

The Papua New Guinea Government did provide humanitarian assistance to other Pacific Island countries namely Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. It is not known if the humanitarian assistance was used to address violence against children.

16. 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? If YES, provide details.

The PNG Constitution is the most important instrument enshrining human rights in PNG. Currently, the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea addresses human rights issues particularly those that are aggrieved by the state or its agencies. The Commission receives and screens complaints for investigations and makes referrals to relevant institutions or organs to redress.

In 1994 the Department of Attorney General provided a human right desk as the springboard to establish a Human Right Commission (HRC). The establishment of the HRC was approved in principle in Sept 1996. Necessary amendments to the constitution were drafted but the bill is yet to be introduced to the National Parliament. Currently the Department is planning to establish the PNG Human Rights Commission in 2005 and for it to be located within the International Law Division. Part of the initial plan includes the engagement of a Technical Adviser to facilitate the initial establishment.

Other human rights issues particularly in respect of child labor are being facilitated by the Department of Labor and Employment with the support of International Labor Organization (ILO).

Also, work of the Ombudsman Commission does cover issues of human rights abuses or violations. However, due mainly to lack of appropriate human resources capacity and financial restraints, its endeavours in that regard are thwarted making it unable to attend to every case of abuse or violation of human rights which might seem 'investigatable'.

17. Are there any particular parliamentary structures (for example special committees) to address violence against children? If YES, provide details.

The Papua New Guinea Parliament has established special committees to investigate matters of national importance raised in the floor of parliament. Some of these committees are relevant to violence against children as following:

- (a) Law and order Committee consisting of Permanent Referral Committee and Special Committee.
- (b) Health and Family Welfare
- (c) Social Development, Education and Health Committee

These Parliamentary Committees are dormant due to lack of funding and resources. However, they can convene if and when the need arises or when the National Parliament directs it to do so.

18. Have there been any recent parliamentary initiatives to address violence against children? If YES, please give details.

Parliamentary initiatives have not been proactive. Despite the lack of initiatives, the Parliament is well informed about violence issues. The recognition that physical, sexual, and economic abuse of children is a growing serious problem has led to Parliament effecting amendments to the Criminal Code provisions dealing with sexual violence, enactment of *National HIV/AIDS Management Act* and ratification of the ILO fundamental human rights conventions relating to labor and also the adoption of the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action on CSEC.

About a decade ago, the Speaker of the National Parliament appointed a Parliamentary Committee on Children and Women. However, the outcomes of this committee's purpose and findings are yet unknown.

PART III: ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Aim: To elicit information on civil society activities relating to violence against children.

19. 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).

The activities of civil society in PNG are acknowledged for their significant contribution to the areas of health, maintaining basic community services, youth and women development, education, literacy and spiritual development. The programs also include HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling and care. Some of the NGOs have specific programs that address violence in general. However, in most cases it is integrated into other development issues. These include programs addressing domestic violence and violence against children.

In recent years, the HIV/AIDS issue has taken prominence, particularly the issue of stigma and discrimination against PLWHA. This also includes children affected by HIV/AIDS and orphans where the issue of violence is also addressed relating to the legal rights of PLWHA.

There are a number of civil society organizations in the country, and these can be categorized as following:

1. Domestic NGOs with international links

These are autonomous religious organizations with wider developmental focus and programs in most parts of the country. All religious organizations have related programs that address violence integrated into their church activities, whilst some have reached out to the community. These include:

- 1.1 Catholic Church (Catholic Bishops Conference) - provides services to address violence through health centers, education, counseling, rehabilitation and skills development and "Boys Town" for children in conflict with the law.
- 1.2 Salvation Army - provides Remand Centers for juveniles, counseling, humanitarian aid, orphanage support, HIV/AIDS and literacy programs.
- 1.3 Anglican Church (Anglicare) - provides awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling and care through youth and mothers union development programs.
- 1.4 Four Square Church - provides Child support for disadvantage children, feeding program for street children and mobile clinic programs for children.
- 1.5 Other religious organizations that have similar programs include:
 - (a) Seventh Day Adventist (SDA)
 - (b) Lutheran Church
 - (c) Baptist Union
 - (d) United Church
 - (e) Assemblies of God

2. International NGO's with domestic Links

These are organizations operating as agents or networks with parent organizations based overseas as voluntary groups:

- 2.1 Red Cross (PNG) – Village Kindergarten
- 2.2 Hope Worldwide
- 2.3 World Vision International
- 2.4 Save the Children Fund
- 2.5 YWCA
- 2.6 Christian Children Fund

There are other NGO's/ CBO's (Community Based Organizations) operating in other fields and may have some relevance to violence against children or children's issues.

3. Domestic Issue orientated NGO's with Possible International Link.

These organizations are program focused and driven. Some of the following have programs relevant to violence against children:

- Individual and Community Rights Advocacy Forum (ICRAF) -provides human rights advocacy, crises center for women and children awareness and education on violence.
- Port Moresby City Mission – Refuge Center for women and children, rehabilitation, literacy counseling and spiritual development.
- Village Development Trust
- Melanesian Environment Foundation
- Family Voice – Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province
- People Against Child Exploitation
- Help Resources Ltd
- Girl Guides of PNG
- Scout Association of PNG
- East Sepik Council Against Violence Against Women
- Simbu Crisis center
- Men Against Violence. This group, comprising of only men (as the name suggests) focuses on group discussions emphasizing male role modeling and attitude and behavioral change.
- Peace Foundation Melanesia. This is an organization involved in training and providing skills on mediation and conflict resolution. The services it provides are basically aimed at enabling community justice. Another one of its tasks is to empower communities to seek alternative methods to redress violence and conflicts within their areas of operation.

4. Other Organizations that have some government support

- National Council of Women with provincial councils
- National Youth Council
- Social Action Committees in various provinces that address violence, family welfare and gender. Example Toma, Vunadidir Local level Child Abuse Committee.

5. Domestic Indigenous NGOs

These groups are locally formed such as youth, clan, ethnic groups and etc. and are almost available in every province.

In many cases the formation of these groups are not program driven but in response to availability of donor funding. As donor agencies improve screening and tighten funding guidelines, the affected groups disintegrate and die out. Some genuine groups may lack the capacity to sustain their activities and become defunct.

6. Other Interest Groups

6.1 Trade Unions have become involved with HIV/AIDS because of its relationship with workforce and workplace discrimination. An element of violence is addressed in the context of discrimination and stigma.

7. Private Sector Participation

7.1 PNG Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Department of Health and WHO established an alliance to improve general community health in their operation (Mining Project Area). The alliance is known as PNG Health Alliance and was tasked to do the following:

- Integration of provincial health activities
- Determine how the resources could contribute to leverage provincial programs or those of various aid agencies.
- Facilitate a network of health partners that share resources to address priority health issues.

7.2 Social Alcohol Model - These are programs sponsored and facilitated by SP Brewery (Beer Producer) in the country. The program promotes responsible alcohol consumption and involves other stakeholders while it also addresses violence in general.

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

The Government through its organs provides technical advisory support, focal point consultation and collaboration. It does not provide human resources and budgetary support to NGOs. These NGOs and the intended benefactors own all programs implemented by the NGOs. However there is always mutual understanding and respect involving consultation, collaboration and partnership.

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

All major media outlets and organizations in Papua New Guinea have played and continue to play a significant role in the area of information and education. Together, they have provided a comprehensive range of perspectives for public interest on violence against women and children as well as violence in general. Many media organizations have in one way or another and to a larger and lesser extent played a role in mounting public awareness campaigns and related activities aimed at both informing and alerting the population of the negative impact and implications of violence against women and children:

- PNG Media Council
- National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)
- FM 100 (commercial)
- FM 96, 93.1, 89.9 (commercial)
- *The National* (newspaper)
- *The Post Courier* (newspaper)

PART IV: CHILDREN AS ACTORS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE

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

22. 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.

Generally, children have participated or been involved in a lot of activities/programs directly and indirectly that are aimed at addressing violence. Most of these activities are conducted by NGOs and churches such as children's ministries in Sunday School and path activities as well as through government school boards and students' representative councils.

In these programs or activities children participate in discussing issues that affect them in schools and at their homes that are related to violence. Many children have also played leadership roles in schools, church ministries, sport, youth groups, Young Men Association, Red Cross activities etc. It is also evident that there has been a lot of general awareness carried out in the communities by concerned groups (NGO's & Churches). The media has also taken an important role in the area of public awareness. Although general awareness has been carried out on violence against children, there has not been any proper coordination, even though the mechanisms are in place.

The Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) also places a lot of emphasis on the interest and welfare of children in the country. One of the major commitments undertaken by the GoPNG was the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, there is weakness of the GoPNG in terms of prioritizing and properly allocating resources to where it should be in regards to programs on Children's protection.

There are Government programs in place which are mandated under different policies and Legislations and being carried out by different Government Departments and in partnership with other relevant Agencies but are currently implemented to a minimal level to protect the lives of children due to lack of capacity and resources.

Systemic discrimination may also be seen as one of the hindrances in the lives of children in Papua New Guinea that impacts negatively to their future development. The User Pay Policy observed by the Education and Health Departments is a particularly obvious example. Under this policy, children are not allowed to attend school or receive medical attention at public hospitals unless the relevant school or medical fees are paid.

There are establishments of Rehabilitation Centers in all the 20 provinces in the country that cater for children who are in need of special care such as for children with disabilities. These include the Special Education Centers (Cheshire Home and R/C POM Special Education Resource Centre, Hohola). The Family Support Centre at the Port Moresby General Hospital is a particularly welcoming example of a realization of efforts to put in place programmes aimed specifically at addressing family violence.

However, these institutions lack proper facilities and resources to cater fully and effectively for the needs of all children with special needs. The lack of adequate resources and facilities for these centers means effectively that most children are denied the special attention and care

they need and the continued viability and continuity of services provided by them are both unpredictable and unacceptable. Therefore, children with disabilities who do receive the type of services they need from existing facilities and programmes represent only a small proportion of the total population of children needing such service.

23. 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.

There are already avenues that are in place that allow children to be involved in decision making to ensure that their interest and general well being is taken care of. One of the many avenues that a child's views are heard is at the Court level to provide witness on decisions that affect him/her, under the following legislation:

- *Juvenile Court Act* – sometimes through the Juvenile Court Officer
- *Child Welfare Act* (currently under review)
- Amended *Criminal Code* on Sexual Violence Against Children.
- Introduction of Restorative Justice – Policy
- *Civil Registration Act*.

Children's views are also sought and heard in educational institutions where they are represented by the Board of Governors and the School Representative Councils. They also play leadership roles in school systems at all levels, church ministries such as the Sunday schools, Youth Groups, Music, Scouts, Girl Guides and Girls and Boys Brigades.

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

There are resources as well as avenues made available for other children's issues but not specifically used to address violence against children. The minimum resources allocated/made available and accessible by Government agencies and NGOs to enable for children's participation to address violence against children include:

- Newspapers (*Post Courier* and *National*)
- Radio Programs (Talk back shows) Special session on Children and the Media.
- Advocacy on the CRC and child abuse in the schools
- Children/students have also take part in class presentations on issues affecting them in which they have seek assistance in obtaining resource materials, leaflets from various organizations, e.g. leaflets on child abuse, child rights and responsibilities, HIV and AIDS materials.

There are also children who have approached their parents or adults in various organizations either in Government agencies, churches or NGOs to collect information from them in terms of interviewing and asking general questions on child rights. Children have also taken part in protest and awareness marches in relation to violence in Papua New Guinea.

PART 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.

25. Does your Government have a comprehensive policy concerning violence against children? If YES, provide details and describe any gender-specific provisions included in the policy.

The Government has no comprehensive policy in place on violence against children but there are related policies in place that also address the issues on violence against children in different forms and these policies include the National Education, Health, HIV/AIDS, Social Development policies and various pieces of legislations (eg. *Child Welfare Act* which is currently under review) addressing violence against children.

Other related policies include the National Youth Policy, National Women's Policy, National Nutrition Policy and National Early Childhood Care & Development Policy that is being developed.

On regard to delivery of education services, most of the services are decentralized with each province having their own education divisions and advisors. Salaries of teachers are also decentralized.

26. 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?

The Government recognizes and supports all organizations both Government agencies/departments, NGO's, churches and the development partners that are implementing programs or addressing issues affecting children in Papua New Guinea that are related to violence against children.

Many organizations have taken initiatives to address these issues through public forms (conferences, seminars, workshops and campaigns). They also conduct training workshops for stakeholders to address specific issues that relate to violence in general.

To qualify the above, there are reports compiled and are in place from various government agencies.

27. Does your Government monitor the impact of these policies and programmes directed towards violence against children? If YES, describe the monitoring systems and provide a URL or other reference where the system and outcomes are described in greater details.

The Government has recognized and addressed the importance of children by way of legislation, particularly the *Child Welfare Act*. This act has not been fully implemented over the years due to lack of resources. However, through support from UNICEF the act has been reviewed to be in line with Convention on the Rights of the Child and the final draft has been submitted to the Minister for Community Development to present it to the Parliament.

Under this Act, there are provisions requiring a Child Welfare Council to be established that should address issues affecting children in Papua New Guinea. This Council is a very important body that should play a major role with the support from all the implementing Agencies (Government, NGO's and Churches).

Currently the PNG Child Welfare Council has not been very effective in its role but the work has been carried out through the Office of the Director that is also statutory office mandated under the *Child Welfare Act* to administer and implement all statutory functions.

There are also other relevant agencies and Provincial agencies/officers who play a major role in the implementation etc.

The Government has also put in place the Children Rights Monitoring Committee (CRMC) in 2000 to monitor and evaluate all legislative review, country reports etc on the CRC and other related issues.

28. Does your Government participate in any internationally coordinated activities concerning violence against children? If YES, please provide details.

The Government of Papua New Guinea has taken part and participated in a number of international conventions and conferences.

One of the most important conventions that GoPNG executed was the Convention on the Rights of the Child, giving the UN assurance that Papua New Guinea will implement the CRC.

The various conferences and seminars attended by relevant organizations in Government include: ILO Conferences, Juvenile Justice Conference (Family Conferencing) in Netherlands 2003, Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003 – 2012, CEDAW Conferences, Child Exploitation and Sexual Abuse Conference, Reporting on Child Rights issues at the Child Rights Monitoring Committee in Geneva in January 2004.

Papua New Guinea has been one of the many countries in the Pacific that has taken part in attending conferences etc but still lacks the capacity and resources in supporting agencies that are ready and willing to carry out/or implement programs that are of relevant to nation building and to improve the living standard of our children in Papua New Guinea. More attention needs to be placed on their survival, development, protection and participation.

This shows the commitment of the PNG population to protecting the welfare of their children.

PART 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.

28. 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? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.

There have been a number of research/studies conducted by different organizations and institutions in Papua New Guinea and many are related to violence against children. The research that has been carried out may assist the researches who will be engaged to conduct main study in 2005 - 2006.

The followings are the organizations, institutions as well as individuals who have been involved in similar studies in the past:

29. Literature on child abuse by National Research Institute (NRI).
30. Situation Analysis on Children, Women and Families in Papua New Guinea by GOPNG and UNICEF, October, 1996.
31. Pilot Study on Sexual Violence by UPNG & NRI.
32. 1985 (a) Marriage and Domestic Violence in Rural Papua New Guinea by PNG, Law Reform Commission.
33. 1985 (b) Marriage and Domestic Violence in Urban PNG by PNG Law Reform Commission.
34. Education Department
35. Police Department
36. Courts
37. Institute for Medical Research (IMR) in Goroka
38. Health Department
39. The most recent comprehensive study done by Dr. Christine Bradley on Family and Sexual Violence in 2000 – 2001.

There are very few records of victimization, epidemiological and other useful population based surveys on violence against children since 1990 and none on a national scale in the past 5 years. The NRI conducted a child abuse literature review (2001), Mc Cleland and Polome (1990) and Boorer and Gutuma (1992) as some of notable studies on violence against children in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The study, child abuse in PNG: What Parents Think (Boorer and Gutuma, 1994), with a study population of 55 adults and drawn from a secluded population concluded that child abuse exists in PNG and was seen as a growing problem. The NRI literature review (2001) could not confirm any scientific research on the problem of violence against children commissioned by the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) over the past 5 years, the view supported by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

There has been no surveys conducted on violence in schools. Because many students become victims of violence at school, the National Department of Education has introduced school

based counseling courses for teachers which UNICEF has supported some of the training covering 800 teachers in few provinces out of 30,000 all over PNG.

30. *Have there been any small-scale or representative interview studies with parents and children on violent victimisation of children? If so, please give details.*

The National Capital District (NCD) Street Kids Survey (2003) and the NCD Night Club Survey (2004) are the most recent investigations into violence against children in PNG. Both surveys were conducted by an NGO called The Humanity Foundation Incorporation for the NCD, PAC and National AIDS Council respectively.

31. *In the past five years, has your Government conducted or commissioned any scientific research projects on the problem of violence against children? If YES, indicate the subject of this research and where the findings of these projects may be consulted in more detail.*

The NCD Street Kids Survey (2003) highlights some interesting statistics from a survey population of 99 kids in an estimated population of 5,000 street kids in Port Moresby. Amazingly, the study show 45 % of the kids surveyed being illiterate, 22 % of them having no access to basic health services; and 63 % are sometimes denied hospital services. It further highlighted 33 % of them were subjected to sexual harassment. Over 80 % said that they have only one meal a day and 39 % admitted stealing in order to survive the harsh street environment.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is taking its toll on the vulnerable children. About 1 % of street kids have been orphaned through HIV/AIDS, 27 % of them have friends or relatives living with HIV/AIDS, and 39 % have lost friends or relatives to HIV/AIDS. The survey further noted 21 % of the children sell marijuana to make money and solicit clients for sex workers; 14 % actually indulge in alcohol consumption; and 26 % smoke cigarettes and marijuana. The researchers noted the street kid syndrome growing at a rate of 15 % per year.

The NCD Night Club Survey (2004) recruited 333 respondents from 12 night clubs in Port Moresby, National Capital District. The respondents were either employees or stage participants. The night clubs offer entertainment for their patrons and customers in the likes of bikini girls, queens of the knights, wet "T" shirts, beauty pageant, strip tease, and traditional and contemporary dances featuring topless girls. The overseas based but imported erotic dancers were also featured in some night clubs. The survey identified 61 % show participants to be females and 39 % males; of which 3 % of them were children between 13 and 17 years performing to 63 % male and 37 % female clientele. In 1 out of 3 instances sexual intercourse occurs after the shows and 1 out of 5 sexual intercourse without using condoms.

Despite increased HIV/AIDS and prevention awareness, condoms were not accessible in these night clubs; organized prostitution in at least 3 exclusively expatriate night clubs; and many parents were not aware of their children participating in these night club stage shows.

32. *Have studies or surveys been undertaken into the impact of legal measures to address violence against children? If YES, provide details or references, or attach.*

There are no studies that have been undertaken into the impact of legal measures to address violence against children in Papua New Guinea.

33. *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? Provide details.*

There is no single national body responsible for the national database on sexual violence against children, and violent deaths investigated by the system in PNG. The responsible government agencies such as the Police, Justice and Family Courts, and Department of Social and Community Development (DoSCD) have their own systems of data collection, analysis, storage and dissemination. It is therefore not possible to calculate the exact percentage of homicide deaths under 18 years. A review of sexual offences against women and children undertaken in light of issues for discussion on PNG Criminal Code reform (Casey, 2001) failed to ascertain studies or surveys undertaken concerning the legal measures to address violence against children at national or agency levels which is also confirmed by NSO.

34. *Are regular (e.g. annual) reports published describing the statistical profile of the known or suspected violent deaths investigated by the system? If YES, what proportion of all homicide deaths are under the age 18?*

No, so none as yet.

35. *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).*

The police investigation of sexual violence and abuse are based on allegations or reports received from the victims and their relatives and a coronial inquiry may be held for investigating child deaths in which it is known or suspected that violence may have played any part. There may be in existence a national profile of known and suspected violent deaths in PNG kept by Police, Justice and Family Courts, DCD and Department of Health. It will require epidemiological and surveillance skills and ample time to establish credible data.

Difficulties were encountered as there was no one focal agency to provide information required which meant making individual approaches to all possible agencies and organizations especially the police involved in the area of family violence. All of them admitted their inability to provide the data and a lack of harmonization and information sharing which led to agencies becoming territorial and rigid custodian of valuable raw data in many instances.

The unavailability of relevant data or statistics in this area is neither surprising or unique given the problem of lack of any formal system of recording and maintaining a system of reliable data and related information that may be accessed to assist policy formulation, ascertain incidence of concerns and predict trends.

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

Apart from the referred surveys, Port Moresby General Hospital in the National Capital District was the only institution able to provide some data, which was incomplete.

The domestic violence and child abuse cases were managed together with other social issues by the social workers of Social Work Division. In nearly all instances, the women and children abuse cases were managed through the Accident and Emergency Department and the Children Outpatient Department. The Port Moresby General Hospital reported on average 42 cases of child abuse from 2001 –2003. With the opening of the Family Support Centre of Port Moresby General Hospital in August 2004, it has reported 29 cases of child abuse and 90 cases of domestic violence to August 2004 and given the publicity, the case reports could double by the end of the year (Table 1). In contrast, McClelland and Polume (1990) reported 32 cases of child abuse from June 1988-June 1989 of which 23 were diagnosed as sexual.

The possibility of HIV/AIDS being transmitted through acts of sexual abuse alluded to by Mc Clelland and Polume (1990) seem a reality 14 years later. It is now reported 2 % of children between 2-9 years infected with HIV/AIDS since 1987 when the first HIV/AIDS cases were detected in PNG (NDoH/NAC, 2003).

Table 1. Number of child abuse of all types and domestic violence, Family Support Centre, Port Moresby General Hospital, 2001-August 2004

Year	Number of child abuse of all types	Number of domestic violence
2000	N/A	N/A
2001	45	59
2002	36	44
2003	47	56
2004, August	29	90
Total	157	249

In the future, the goal must be to establish an effective and efficient system of collecting, analyzing, storing and disseminating information which will in turn make possible the provision of accurate measurement in understanding the magnitude and other characteristics of violence against children in PNG.

The objective must be to establish and maintain information systems on violence against children in 20 provinces of PNG before 2015. And the strategies to achieve the goal and the desired objectives should be to:

- Establish a coordinating body for violence against children in the Department for Community Development (DCD).
- The linkages between the Provincial Police and Divisions are very weak therefore most cases are not reported or referred for proper treatment. There is lack of recognition of the important role the health facilities play in ensuring that victims are properly treated and counseled.

- Strengthen the capacity of violence against children desks in the Police, DCD, Justice and Family Courts, and other stakeholders to promptly and effectively respond to child violence incidents
- Strengthen capacity of responsible agencies to conduct research, collect data, analyze and disseminate information and written reports on timely basis.
- Strengthening the knowledge and skills of the health workers to respond to child abuse incidents and provide the appropriate counseling.

37. 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.

There have been many cases of physical and sexual violence including sexual penetration of children by persons who are in a relationship of authority, trust and dependency with the victims such as fathers and other near relatives. There is presently, however, no available data concerning the total number of reported cases of violence against children for the period under consideration to report except to say that according to reports and a cursory perusal of court decisions, the incidence of these acts is both increasing and worrying despite the heavy penalties that the new law provides

PART 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.

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Very little information is available. Some agencies involved have some form of awareness activities in their area of work. Some of these activities are around Children's Rights such as:

- Dept of Education – Education for all, Acceleration of Girl's education. Teachers' in-service training on special education highlighting rights of children.
- National Convention on Child sexual Abuse (Pedophilia and child sex-tourism).
- There were some awareness and training after the CRC was ratified. TOT on CRC conducted to Welfare Officers from Government, NGOs and Churches in 4 regional (TOT) trainings for child protection officers throughout the Country's through UNICEF support. Some training also provided to schools in four regions. The following documents are available:
 - Development of Handbook for Child Protection Officers
 - Trainers' Manual.
- Dept of Police – Community Policing. Development of awareness IEC materials on Child Abuse.

Further inter-agency consultation and research is required to establish awareness and trainings conducted by all agencies including NGOs.

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