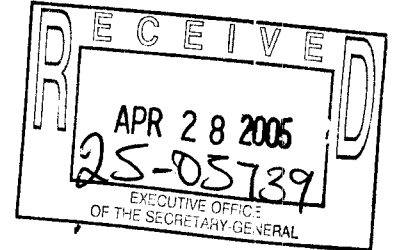




→ Jane Connors

Permanent Mission of Suriname to the United Nations

H.R.



043/05

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary- General of the United Nations and with reference to the questionnaire violence against children has the honour to submit the attached communication from the Ministry for Social Affairs and Housing of the Republic of Suriname.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary- General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



Human Resources

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TO: SEC-GEN FROM: COMCENTRY DATE: Mon Apr 25 2005 17:17 EDT UNICEF NYHQ 7465-7454 APR.25.2005 16:13 212 888 7465-7454 #3232 P.001/005

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Address:
Palais de Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 14

22 March 2004

Dear Ambassador,

I am pleased to thank you for the attached questionnaire to Governments which is designed to obtain information for the United Nations Secretary-General's in-depth study on the question of violence against children.

In its resolution 57/190, adopted on 18 December 2002, the General Assembly reaffirmed its earlier decision to request the Secretary-General to conduct the study and encouraged him to appoint an independent expert to direct the study in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). I have had the honour to be appointed by the Secretary-General as the independent expert to direct the study.

The questionnaire was formulated by an expert group meeting, which I chaired, convened at the United Nations Office in Geneva during August 2003, which was followed by a collaborative process of consultation. Participants in the meeting included representatives of OHCHR, UNICEF and WHO, the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and other experts in issues relating to children, including from non-governmental organizations.

As the independent expert directing the study, I would request Governments when providing responses to the questionnaire to provide as much information as possible on approaches which have been adopted at national level with respect to violence generally, and violence towards children in particular. Governments are also encouraged to provide examples of good practices and innovative approaches to addressing all forms of violence against children in order to assist in the dissemination and sharing of positive experiences. They are also asked to highlight any obstacles encountered in addressing violence against children.

I would be grateful if responses to the questionnaire could be provided in both hard copy and electronic format in one of the six official languages of the United Nations by 31 July 2004 to the addressee mentioned in the introduction to the questionnaire. Any questions relating to the questionnaire should be addressed to Mr. Sam Cresser, OHCHR, phone 41 22 917 9361; fax 41 22 917 90 21; scresser@ohchr.org.

I am very grateful to your Government for its efforts in responding to the questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

Pablo Sergio Pinheiro
Independent Expert
Secretary-General's Study on the question of
violence against children

Answers questionnaire Violence against children

1. Legal Framework

1. the Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified on march 1st, 1993. the optional protocols were signed in may 2002. A working group of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing was installed so the optional protocols can be ratified.

2. Forms of violence against children that are addressed in our constitution, the penal code, subsidiary legislation and customary law are physical abuse, sexual abuse and mental abuse.

Constitution chapter 3 article 9

- o Everyone has the right to physical, mental and moral integrity
- o No one should be subjected to torture, humiliation or inhuman treatment or punishment.

Penal code

- o Active physical injury. The provisions are generally formulated and don't differ for children
- o Passive physical abuse such as negligence can be liable for punishment. Art. 314 Suriname Penal Code. Also art. 315 and 316
- o Sexual Abuse. Art. 297, 298, 300, 302, 303, 304 Suriname Penal Code.
- o Mental abuse. This kind of abuse is not mentioned in the Suriname Penal Code.

3. (a and b). Specific legislative provisions on violence against children (see answer on question 2)

- c. Redress, including compensation for child victims of violence are not mentioned in our legislation.
- d. Punitive for perpetrators of violence against children (see answer question 2)
- e. Reintegration and rehabilitation of child victims of abuse is not statutory.

4. Specific legislative provisions which regulate forms of violence against children :

- a. When it comes to sexual abuse and abuse art 304 Suriname Penal Code
This concerns parents, guardians, employers etc.
- b. When it comes to negligence art. 314, 315 and 316 Suriname Penal code
- c. When it comes to sexual exploitation, which is not specifically mentioned by law, but art. 297 and following are being used.

5. Article 9 paragraph 2 of the Constitution

6. Corporal punishment is not available as a sentence for crimes committed by under 18 years old.

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29. Yes, for research (Research about the situation of Children in the district of Para, Research "Who stands up for my Rights, April) Also for activities, like activities for the child abuse prevention month etc.

30. Yes, the UNICEF

31. Yes, technical assistance (no financial assistance)

32. The Child Rights Bureau, which resides under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing. Awareness campaigns are held to reduce violence against children, also in 2002 a child abuse network was installed and research has been done on how to solve or reduce this problem.

33. No committees but a Child Abuse Network where NGO's, government organizations and organizations who work with children are seated.

34. No

3. Role of civil society in addressing violence against children

35. There are a few civil organizations specialized in addressing sexual abuse of children: religious groups (salvation army etc.) ethical groups.

36. The Government does not coordinate activities of non-governmental groups but lends financial support to them. But Government coordination is essential.

37. The media plays an important role (slogans, short films, advertisement on violence against children)

4. Children as actors in addressing violence

38. Research on the situation of children in the district of Para; the children were asked about what they think about violence against children.

A congress was held where children from all districts gave information on about violence. A manifestation in April, where youth organizations, youth, NGO's and government to address the serious case of this problem.

40. see answer question 38

7. Awareness, advocacy and training

54. Yes, annual several campaigns are held (20th November international day of the Rights of the Child)

55. Types of campaigns: billboards, playing cards, lesson folder (with the rights of the child), street march, several programs on television and radio

56. In schools a training of alternative disciplining was given to teachers. In the juvenile jail basic life skills training to the detainees and the prison officers, social workers etc. Also basic life skills training for teachers, etc.