

United Nations Human Rights Council  
14<sup>th</sup> Session  
31 May – 18 June 2010  
Item 6

## Consideration of the UPR report of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

The Following Statement is made on behalf of Save the Children and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Working Group on Child Protection<sup>1</sup> (*without consultative ECOSOC Status*).

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bosnia and Herzegovina (A/HRC/14/16) and appreciate the open and self critical approach of the Government and the willingness to address human rights challenges in the national report.

We note with interest the recommendations in the UPR report and would like to encourage the Government to address child rights issues as recommended by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.260).

We call on the Government to prioritise the following issues:

1. *Violence against children:*

We welcome the strong focus on violence against women and children throughout the UPR interactive dialogue. We highly appreciate efforts made in Bosnia and Herzegovina to combat violence against children based on an established national model for monitoring violence against children (A/HRC/14/16, paragraph 9). We urge the Government to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation, to introduce prohibition of corporal punishment of children into national laws and to promote alternatives to traditional disciplining of children.

2. *Juvenile Justice:*

We call on the Government to implement the Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendations relating to the administration of juvenile justice, in particular full implementation of international norms

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<sup>1</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina Working Group on Child Protection is a coalition consisting of the following organisations (in alphabetical order) Hope and Homes for Children, Save the Children, SOS Kinderdorf, World Vision and UNICEF.

and standards (Ref.CRC/C/15/Add.260, 74). We urge the Government to adopt the Program of Juvenile Criminal Prevention the Bill on Juvenile Criminal Offenders and Criminal Law Protection of Children and Juveniles in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to undertake comprehensive legal reform at all levels in the country to comply with international norms and standards.

*3. Children without parental care:*

We regret the limited focus in the UPR review on the protection of children without parental care. We therefore reiterate the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to develop quality standards for foster care, significantly decrease the time children spend in institutions and ensure sufficient allocation of resources for the proper functioning and monitoring of care institutions and foster care (Ref.CRC/C/15/Add.260, 41).

Thank you.

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