



United Nations Human Rights Council
18th Session
21 September 2011

21.09.2011

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF DENMARK

Madame President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Denmark (A/HRC/WG.6/11/L.2), in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We call on the Danish government to prioritise the following issues:

1. The establishment of an Ombudsman for Children

Save the Children deeply regrets the decision of the Government not to accept the recommendations (106.38, 106.39, 106.40 and 106.41) calling for the establishment of an Ombudsman for Children, since children in Denmark do not have sufficient access to complain in significant areas of their lives.

We call on the Government to implement the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/DNK/CO/4/20) to conduct an evaluation of the current monitoring system and to apply the findings to establish an independent body with the mandate, competence and authority to monitor the realization of children's rights.

2. The age of criminal responsibility

In response to recommendation 106.99, the Danish Government finds that lowering the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 14 is in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Save the Children would like to remind the Government of the Committee on the Rights of the Child's deep concerns on this issue and refer it to General Comment no. 10, according to which states should continue to increase the age of criminal responsibility – not lower it.

We also urge the Danish Government to favor rehabilitation and restorative justice objectives in dealing with children in conflict with the law.

3. The rights of separated children

Recommendation no. 106.119 calls the Government to revise the amendments to the Danish Aliens Act with respect to unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum, ensuring that necessary protection and assistance is provided to them.

Save the Children deeply regrets that Denmark chose not to revise the law and calls on the Government to ensure that the best interest of the child is enforced as the guiding principle in the Danish Aliens Act in finding a durable solution for separated children or for children in asylum-seeking families.

Save the Children welcomes Denmark's acceptance that the detention of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers is applied only as a last resort (Recommendation no. 106.131). We would therefore like to stress the importance of reviewing the guidelines for treatment of cases in which separated children use false documents to bring them in line with the CRC and General Comment no. 6.

Thank you.