

United Nations Human Rights Council
23rd Session
7 June 2013
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF SERBIA

Mr President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children on behalf of the Child Rights Centre and Coalition for Monitoring Child Rights in Serbia welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Republic of Serbia and appreciates that the Government of Serbia accepted all child rights recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations, including through allocation of sufficient resources for their realization, will have a significant impact on children's lives in Republic of Serbia.

However, the Coalition would like to highlight the following key issues:

1. Protection of children victims of human trafficking

The Coalition welcomes the acceptance of recommendation 145.51 calling for the establishment of specialized shelters for children victims of human trafficking. Almost half of trafficking victims are younger than 18 years old. While existing services for victims have been improving, they do not meet the specific requirements of this age group. In this regard, we call on the Government to adopt a strategic document and action plan for the protection of children from sale, trafficking, and abuse in pornography and prostitution and to allocate sufficient resources to this end by 2014.

2. Barriers to the effective accessibility of boys and girls with disabilities to education

The Coalition welcomes the acceptance of recommendation 145.87 calling for the removal of the barriers to effective accessibility of boys and girls with disabilities to education. The Law on basis of educational system provides the legal framework to secure access to education for children but is not adequately implemented. There is a lack of cooperation, direction or support given from the national to local authorities in the shaping and financing of measures to enforce this law and make the right to education a reality for all children.

Therefore, we encourage the Government of Serbia to implement this recommendation and to call on local authorities to collect data on and assess the state of schools' facilities and adequate commuting for children with disabilities and children from remote areas and to develop a plan of action to this end by 2014.

The Child Rights Centre and Coalition for Monitoring Child Rights in Serbia appreciates the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and is looking forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organisations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you