



Save the Children

United Nations Human Rights Council
18th Session
21st September 2011

Consideration of the UPR report of Solomon Islands

Mrs. President,

Save the Children welcomes the Report of the Working Group on the UPR of Solomon Islands and the Government's commitment to realizing all the rights of the child, as demonstrated in its acceptance of recommendations 80.13 and 80.14.

We call on the Solomon Islands Government to address the following issues:

1. *Commitment of Resources*

Save the Children encourages the Government to prioritise commitments, with clear responsibilities and deadlines, engagement with diverse constituencies and appropriate budget allocations for 2012.

2. *Legislation to Protect Children from All Forms of Abuse*

We welcome the Government's acceptance of recommendations regarding the legal prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings (recommendation 80.15 and 80.31) and protection of women and children from domestic violence (recommendations 80.12 and 80.27).

Save the Children calls on the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) as recommended in 80.11, to provide children further protection from serious violations of children's rights and stem the growing abuse and exploitation of children.

We also urge the Government to enact specific legislation to protect boys and girls from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and to protect children from violence in the home, which also recognises the harmful effects of witnessing domestic violence.

Linked to this, social service provision for at risk children needs to be further developed, with extension of services throughout the country.

3. *Same Sex Attracted People*

Save the Children is disappointed that the Government appears unwilling to consider the human rights of same sex attracted people (recommendations 80.49, 80.50 and 80.51). We recognise that the cultural context of Solomon Islands society does not condone same sex relationships.

Nevertheless, Save the Children considers it important to challenge stigmatisation of, and discrimination against, same sex attracted people.

We strongly urge the Government to consider the decriminalisation of sexual acts between consenting adults and to enact laws that protect all citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Thank you.