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Summary prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*

The present report is a summary of 3 stakeholders' submissions¹ to the universal periodic review. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. As provided for in Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, where appropriate, a separate section is provided for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



I. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Background and framework

n/a

B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

n/a

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

1. According to ADF International, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines must continue to focus on protecting the right to life of the unborn and on helping women get through pregnancy and childbirth safely, rather than helping women end their pregnancies.² ADF International recommended that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to protect the right to life from conception to natural death.³

2. ADF International reported that violence against women and girls remains a serious problem. There are cases of sexual exploitation of children (particularly girls), such as forced prostitution.⁴ ADF International recommended that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines introduces measures to prevent and effectively respond to incidents of violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking and; introduces effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of the offenders.⁵

3. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACPC) reported that in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, corporal punishment of children is lawful, despite recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee to prohibit it and recommendations made during the 1st cycle UPR (which rejected by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).⁶ GIEACPC noted that during the first review however, the issue of corporal punishment of children was raised in advance questions,⁷ in the compilation of UN information⁸ and in the summary of stakeholders' information.⁹

4. GIEACPC noted that as of today, corporal punishment of children in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is lawful in all settings – the home, alternative care settings, day care, schools, penal institutions and as a sentence for crime. Achieving prohibition requires the enactment of legislation clearly prohibiting corporal punishment in all of these settings and explicitly repealing the right “to administer punishment” in the Juveniles Act 1952. It noted that the Juvenile Justice Bill currently under discussion provides an immediate opportunity to prohibit corporal punishment.¹⁰

5. GIEACPC hoped the UPR Working Group will note with concern the legality of corporal punishment of children in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It hoped that States will raise the issue during the review in 2016 and make a specific recommendation that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings including the home and as a sentence for crime, and explicitly repeal the right “to administer reasonable punishment” in the Juveniles Act 1952.¹¹

6. Child Rights International Network (CRIN) urged States to recommend that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enacts and enforces legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment and life imprisonment, as a penalty for any offence committed while under the age of 18.¹²

2. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

7. According to CRIN, life imprisonment and corporal punishment are lawful penalties for offences committed while under the age of 18.¹³ CRIN urged States to recommend to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that it reviews the sentence of any person sentenced to life imprisonment for an offence committed while under the age of 18, to ensure that no one serves a life sentence for an offence committed while a child.¹⁴

8. CRIN reported that the Juvenile Act and the Criminal Code set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at eight years.¹⁵ CRIN urged States to recommend to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.¹⁶

9. CRIN reported that the prohibition of the death penalty for persons under 16 at the time of the offence, in section 24 of the Criminal Code, was reportedly extended to persons under 18 years by Act 27 of 1993.¹⁷

3. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

10. ADF International noted that in the 1990s, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines introduced the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Program on, *inter alia*, sexual education and sexual health in primary and secondary schools.¹⁸ ADF International indicated that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines must afford parents the right to opt their children out of the HFLE Program if it violates their religious beliefs.¹⁹

Notes

¹ The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

ADF International	ADF International, Geneva, Switzerland;
CRIN	Child Rights International Network, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

² Ibid, para. 15.

³ Ibid, para. 31.

⁴ Ibid, paras. 16-17.

⁵ Ibid, para. 31.

⁶ Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, page 1.

⁷ Advance Questions by the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland available <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/VCSession11.aspx>.

⁸ A/HRC/WG.6/11/VCT/2, paras. 31 and 32.

⁹ A/HRC/WG.6/11/VCT/3, paras. 1 and 2.

¹⁰ Ibid, page 2.

¹¹ Ibid, page 1.

¹² Child Rights International Network, para 11.

¹³ Ibid, para. 1.

¹⁴ Ibid, para. 11.

¹⁵ Ibid, para. 3.

¹⁶ Ibid, para. 11.

¹⁷ Ibid, para. 4.

¹⁸ ADF International, para. 18.

¹⁹ Ibid, para. 27.