



Shadow Report on the Sixth National Periodic Report Submitted under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

General Information:

The National Center for Human Rights in Jordan has the honour to submit to your esteemed Committee its Shadow Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be considered in conjunction with the Sixth Periodic Report of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and covering the reporting period 2014–2018.

The present Report is submitted in the exercise of the competences vested in the Center under Law No. (51) of 2006, as amended, which entrusts it with the mandate to monitor and protect human rights and to verify that they are duly observed within the Kingdom; to address any infringements or violations thereof; to take and follow up the measures necessary to that end, including the settlement of such violations or their referral to the executive authority, the legislative authority, or the competent judicial authority with a view to their cessation and to the removal of their effects; to disseminate a culture of human rights and monitor the status thereof; and to render legal advice and assistance to those in need thereof.

It is noteworthy that this Report was prepared in consultation with Jordanian civil society organizations, and in particular those concerned with the rights of the child, through a symposium convened on 21 March 2023. The observations and recommendations emerging from the symposium were duly taken into consideration and incorporated into the Report.

Section One: Reservations

Response to Observations and Recommendations (9, 10)

- Jordan ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was published in the Official Gazette in 2006. To date, however, it continues to maintain its reservations to Article (14/a), concerning the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and to Articles (20, 21) of the Convention, concerning alternative care, despite the fact that these

provisions provide the State with a range of options regarding forms of alternative care. The Center recommends the withdrawal of Jordan's reservations to Articles (20, 21) of the Convention.¹

Section Two: Legislation

Response to Observations and Recommendations (11, 12)

- The Jordanian Constitution of 1952 and the amendments thereto affirmed, in Chapter Two, on the rights and duties of Jordanians (men and women), the principle of equality and non-discrimination, as well as the protection of childhood against abuse and exploitation.² The Center commends the Government's response to the recommendations set out in its previous reports concerning the necessity of expediting the enactment of the Child Rights Law, which constitutes a significant step in the field of Jordan's implementation of its international obligations. The Law establishes a number of State responsibilities relating to the care and protection of the child, particularly in the areas of health and education. In the health sector, the Law provides for the expansion of health services by including uninsured children within the scope of primary health-care services and ensuring access to free treatment in hospital emergency departments. These measures are to be implemented within a period not exceeding two years from the date of entry into force of the relevant provisions and completed within a period not exceeding ten years. The Law also provides for the establishment of specialized centers for the treatment and rehabilitation of children suffering from addiction. The Law further strengthens social protection measures for children and enhances educational services through measures aimed at preventing school dropout, safeguarding children's dignity, and prohibiting all forms of violence in educational institutions, including corporal punishment, degrading treatment, and bullying. It also addresses child protection in relation to road and vehicle safety by requiring the provision of a safe traffic environment. Furthermore, the Personal Status Law of 2019 repealed Article (172/b) of the Provisional Personal Status Law of 2010 concerning the custody of a non-Muslim mother, leaving the matter to the discretion of the competent court and the Sharia judge in a manner that ensures the best interests of the child. The Law also increased the age limit for child custody maintenance from twelve (12) to fifteen (15) years. With regard to visitation and temporary custody (istizara), Article 181 was amended to grant the non-custodial parent the right to overnight stays with children aged seven (7) years for five days per month, whether consecutive or separate.

¹See the reports on the status of human rights in Jordan published on the website www.nchr.org.jo; the Sixteenth Annual Report for the year 2019.

²Article (6/5) of the Constitution: "The law shall protect the rights of persons with disabilities and shall promote their participation and integration within the various spheres of life; it shall likewise protect motherhood, childhood and old age, care for the young, and prevent abuse and exploitation."

Notwithstanding these positive developments, the Center continues to call for the amendment of certain legislative provisions to ensure their full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols³. These include the Labor Law, which does not address situations in which children under the age of 18 years work with their parents without remuneration, as the statutory definition of "worker" does not extend to such cases. This creates a legal gap that may contribute to the persistence of child labor and exempt parents, in their capacity as employers, from the penalties prescribed under the Labor Law, including where children work below the minimum legal age or before reaching the age of majority. Likewise, the Labor Law does not contain any provision granting working children annual leave of a duration exceeding that granted to adult workers. Instead, it provides working children with the same annual leave entitlement as adult workers, amounting to only fourteen (14) days. This is inconsistent with Arab Convention No. (18) of 1996, which stipulates that the annual leave of children who are engaged in work shall exceed that of adult workers and shall in no event be less than (21) days.

- The legislator, pursuant to Article (33) of the Juveniles Law, considers a working child to fall within the category of juveniles in need of protection and care. However, this protection is limited to certain occupations, as the Law does not recognize all working children as being in need of protection and care.

• The legislator has not extended protection under the Social Security Law of 2014 to working children whose employment relationship with the employer is irregular. Articles (3), (4), and (5) of the Law provide for the application of social security coverage to every person who has attained sixteen years of age and extend such coverage to persons below that age when they are engaged as trainees, within the scope of provisions relating to insurance against employment injuries and occupational diseases. However, the Law excludes workers whose employment relationship with the employer is irregular.

It is noteworthy that a draft law amending the Juveniles Law has been prepared by a national committee with a view to strengthening protection mechanisms for children in conflict with the law, enhancing the application of community-based measures, and establishing specialized juvenile judicial bodies at both the first-instance and appellate levels. The draft law remains under consideration and has not yet completed the required constitutional procedures or been enacted. Likewise, a draft Regulation on Working Children has been prepared and remains under review, without having yet been adopted through the prescribed legislative procedures.

³ Jordan has ratified the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

In this regard, the Center recommends: expediting the implementation of the child rights provisions set out in the Child Rights Law of 2022, which represents a significant advancement in the protection of children's rights; amending certain provisions referred to in this Report in order to further strengthen the legal protection afforded to children; addressing legislative gaps and deficiencies that hinder the comprehensive promotion and protection of children's rights in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and expediting the adoption of the Working Child Protection Regulation, which establishes mechanisms for intervention in cases where a child is identified as being engaged in work within the labor sector.

Section Three: General Principles

Response to Observations and Recommendations (15, 16)

- The provision of Article (3/3) of the Jordanian Nationality Law No. (6) of 1954 and its amendments has not been amended, as it continues to provide that a person born to a father holding Jordanian nationality shall be deemed a Jordanian national. Jordan also continues to maintain its reservation to Article (2/9) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Center commends Council of Ministers Decision No. (6415) dated 9 November 2014, which approved a package of facilitations for the children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians in the areas of basic and secondary education, health insurance, employment, ownership, investment, and the issuance of private-category driving licenses.
- Children born outside the framework of marriage enjoy the same civil rights as children born within wedlock, including the rights to education, health care, and nationality. Nevertheless, there remains a need to enhance societal awareness of their integration into society, particularly in the economic and social spheres.
- National strategies developed within the framework of the protection of children, women, and vulnerable groups generally, as well as sector-specific strategies, incorporate the principle of equality as a core component of their objectives and implementation frameworks. These include, inter alia, the Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights (2016–2025), the National Plan for the Matrix of National Priorities for Strengthening the System of Protection from Gender-Based Violence, Family Violence and Child Protection (2021–2023), and other relevant national strategies and plans.

- Through the Centre's monitoring of the situation of child rights in certain remote areas where access to services remains limited, the following observations were identified: (1) the need to expand recreational and leisure facilities for children, including parks, public libraries, and playgrounds, and to ensure the maintenance of play equipment in remote areas, as the absence of such facilities forces children to play in streets, neighborhoods, and residential areas under unsafe conditions; (2) shortages of medical personnel and medicines in certain health centers, the limited availability of pediatric specialists, and the need to strengthen preventive and curative health awareness programmes; (3) the limited availability of markets and commercial outlets in those areas, which requires residents to travel to governorate centers due to the lack of essential goods and supplies for children; (4) the spread of stray dogs and certain flies, insects, reptiles, snakes, scorpions, and rodents due to inadequate pest control measures, thereby exposing children's safety and well-being to risks; and (5) the need to intensify awareness-raising programmes implemented by official institutions, particularly those responsible for child affairs, as well as by civil society organizations, to ensure their outreach to rural and Badia areas and enhance awareness of children's rights.

In this regard, the Center recommends: withdrawing the reservation to Article (9/2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; amending Article (3/3) of the Nationality Law to enable children born to a Jordanian mother to acquire Jordanian nationality; strengthening the implementation of national childhood action plans and related strategies; improving the quality and accessibility of services in remote areas in a manner that ensures the effective promotion and protection of children's rights; providing safe parks and playgrounds where children can spend their leisure time and develop their capacities, developmental abilities, and intellectual skills; and intensifying awareness-raising programmes by entities concerned with child rights.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (17, 18)

Upon reviewing the Personal Status Law of 2019, it is observed that the obligatory bequest (al-wasiyya al-wajiba) is limited to the children of a son and does not extend to the children of a daughter, despite the Centre's calls for ensuring equality between them.

- The National Center for Human Rights implemented the project entitled "Protection of Women and Young Girls from Gender-Based Violence" with the aim of promoting gender equality and raising girls' awareness of their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, with particular emphasis on remote and rural areas. A number of governmental and non-governmental entities have likewise

implemented awareness-raising programmes in this field. Nevertheless, there remains a need to expand such programmes to ensure that they reach all girls and cover all age groups.

On 11 October 2021, on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, the Center issued a statement calling upon governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as civil society organizations, to intensify their efforts to protect and promote the rights of girls and to strengthen their role in the development of society. The statement called for the dissemination of awareness-raising programmes on girls' rights targeting both girls themselves and their families throughout all regions of the Kingdom, with particular focus on remote and underserved areas; the integration of child and women's rights concepts into school curricula and university requirements; the advancement of girls' rights in line with the Sustainable Development Goals; and the creation of a supportive environment for girls through continuous training and awareness programmes directed at families and society as a whole, with a view to achieving sustainable social change.⁴

In this regard, the Center recommends: amending the Personal Status Law of 2019 to extend the obligatory bequest (al-wasiyya al-wajiba) to the children of daughters on an equal basis with the children of sons; and expanding the integration of child rights concepts and the Sustainable Development Goals into school and university curricula, as well as into all plans and strategies related to child rights, with particular emphasis on the protection of children from violence.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (21, 22)

- The Center commends the amendments introduced to the Penal Code in 2017, which strengthened the protection afforded to children through the following measures: (a) the repeal of Article (308), which had undermined the rights of women and girls in cases of sexual offences by permitting the suspension of prosecution or the execution of punishment upon the conclusion of a marriage contract between the perpetrator and the victim, including where the victim was a child; (b) the exclusion of the mitigating excuse provided for under Article (98) in cases where the victim is female and the killing is committed under the pretext of preserving or defending "honour", thereby addressing discriminatory treatment against women; (c) the amendment of Article (305), which increased the penalty for acts of molestation contrary to public decency from imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year, while extending protection to both male and female victims under the age of eighteen; and (d) the amendment of Article (306), which broadened the scope of offences against public decency to include the commission of any indecent act, the use of indecent language, or the making of immoral gestures.

⁴ www.nchr.org.jo NCHR Official Website

- The year 2020 witnessed the establishment of a significant judicial precedent, marked by the conviction of a young man by the Major Felonies Court for committing the offence of indecent assault remotely against a minor girl. The offender was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, and the judgment was subsequently upheld by the Court of Cassation. The center considers that this precedent represents an important development in broadening the scope of penal protection, particularly for women and children, and in addressing emerging forms of criminality facilitated by electronic means.
- In a further positive development, the Center commends the Government's responsiveness to its recommendation, set out in previous annual reports, regarding the establishment of Dar Al-Wifaq Al-Usari (Family Reconciliation Home) in Aqaba Governorate, thereby ensuring the availability of family protection homes across all regions of the Kingdom. The Family Reconciliation Home in Aqaba is one of the social protection homes established pursuant to Article (3/ b) of the Family Protection Homes Regulation No. (48) of 2004. It was established on 1 March 2022 and began receiving beneficiaries on 11 April 2022. Based on the Centre's field monitoring, the services provided by the Home meet the required standards. Nevertheless, there remains a need for a dedicated training hall to enable beneficiaries to participate in vocational and capacity-building activities, as well as a designated children's play area for those accompanying their mothers during their stay at the Home.

Section Four: Violence against the Child

Response to Observations and Recommendations (27, 28)

- The National Center for Human Rights commends the responsiveness of the Government in amending numerous legal provisions which protect the rights of the child, and likewise commends the amendment of paragraph (c) of Article (62) of the Law amending the Penal Code of 2017, whereby the Law permits, in respect of surgical operations and medical treatment, the consent of the mother, such consent having previously been confined to the father alone; this amendment accords with the principle of the best interests of the child enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In a further respect, the provision of Article (62/a) has not been repealed, by virtue of which the Law permits the forms of discipline inflicted by parents upon their children in a manner not occasioning harm or injury and in accordance with that which general custom permits. The National Center is accordingly of the view that the legislator ought to have clarified the upper limit of general custom, in such manner as ensures the deterrence of parents from resorting to violence, through the adoption of educational measures not founded upon punishment, so as to safeguard the well-being of the child and his or her best interests.

- The National Center for Human Rights commends the Government's responsiveness in amending a number of legislative provisions aimed at strengthening the protection of children's rights. In particular, it welcomes the amendment to Article (62/c) of the Law amending the Penal Code of 2017, which permits the mother, in addition to the father, to consent to surgical operations and medical treatment for her child. Previously, such consent had been vested exclusively in the father. This amendment is consistent with the principle of the best interests of the child enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nevertheless, Article (62/a) has remained unchanged. Under this provision, parents are permitted to use forms of physical discipline on their children in a manner that does not cause harm or injury and as allowed and accepted by general custom. The Center considers that the legislator should have defined the limits of this concept more clearly to prevent its misuse as a justification for violence against children. It further recommends the promotion of positive, non-violent forms of child-rearing and discipline, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and the child's right to protection from all forms of violence.

The Center recommends the repeal of the provision of Article (62/a) of the Penal Code of 1960, as amended.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (29, 30)

The Center commends the promulgation of the Protection from Domestic Violence Law of 2017, which repealed the previous legislation on protection from family violence and expanded the definition of the family to include relatives up to the fourth degree by blood and relatives by affinity up to the fourth degree. The Law further introduced a mandatory reporting obligation in cases of domestic violence involving persons lacking or having diminished legal capacity, requiring providers of medical, educational, and social services in both the public and private sectors to report such cases, subject to penalties of imprisonment, a fine, or both. It also provides legal protection for reporting persons and witnesses by safeguarding the confidentiality of their identities, except where disclosure is required for the purposes of judicial proceedings. The Law further requires courts to give priority to domestic violence cases, stipulates that settlement procedures conducted by the Family Protection Department must be approved by the competent court, provides for alternative measures to criminal penalties following the settlement process, and requires the Public Prosecutor to use modern technical means when hearing witnesses in order to protect victims who have not attained the age of majority (minors).

The National Center considers that further efforts are required to ensure the effective implementation of the Law, including through the adoption of preventive measures to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, the expansion of public awareness programmes, the adoption of the necessary implementing regulations, and the provision of free counselling and psychological support services throughout all governorates.

- In the context of children's exposure to various forms of violence, whether within or outside the family, the Centre's monitoring indicates the need for the following measures:

a) the need to raise awareness among parents and other caregivers of positive child-rearing and parenting practices; (b) the need to strengthen oversight by the competent authorities⁵ responsible for protecting children from violence over institutions providing care and services to children; (c) the inadequacy of the educational, health, social, and economic services provided to children, particularly in remote areas, and the need to improve their quality and accessibility; and (d) the difficulty of obtaining reliable data on children subjected to violence and on perpetrators of offences against children, owing to the absence of a comprehensive national database. Existing databases maintained by the Family Protection Department and other relevant institutions are limited to cases involving children who have sought assistance or intervention, while reported cases are far fewer than those in fact existing in reality. Accordingly, there is a need to establish a unified national database on violence against children.

- The Center further draws attention to the persistent challenges affecting the protection of children from violence, including the following:

(a) the fragmentation of institutional responsibilities for the protection of children from violence, which hinders the development of a comprehensive national picture of the prevalence and nature of the phenomenon. There remains a need to strengthen coordination among the relevant institutions and to establish an effective national system for monitoring and documenting cases of violence against children; (b) the dependence of many programmes and activities aimed at preventing and combating violence against children on external funding, which in some cases undermines their continuity and sustainability; (c) the limited availability of follow-up and case management programmes for children subjected to repeated or ongoing violence, owing to inadequate aftercare and rehabilitation services; (d) the persistence of social attitudes and cultural norms that, in certain circumstances, serve to justify or tolerate violence against children; and (e) the limited awareness among children and their families of children's right to protection from violence and of the mechanisms available for reporting incidents of violence.

In this regard, the Center recommends the establishment of a comprehensive national system for monitoring and documenting cases of violence and abuse against children in order to assess the prevalence, trends, and patterns of violence. It further recommends fostering a child-friendly environment through sustained awareness-raising, education, and capacity-building programmes directed at families and the wider community.

⁵ The relevant authorities: the ministries, the media, civil society organizations and others. The Center has monitored cases of the killing of children, medical errors, fires and traffic accidents, as well as children being exposed to dog bites and snake bites, owing to the failure of the ministries and other bodies to fulfil their role in protecting children.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (33, 34)

- The Center commends the promulgation of the Personal Status Law of 2019, which stipulates, as a condition for the capacity to marry, that both prospective spouses be of sound mind and have attained eighteen solar years of age (the age of majority), thereby raising the minimum legal age of marriage. The Law nevertheless permits, by way of exception, the marriage of a person who has attained sixteen solar years of age, in accordance with the instructions issued for this purpose, where the marriage is considered necessary and in the person's best interests. A person who marries pursuant to this exception acquires full legal capacity in all matters relating to the marriage, its dissolution, and the legal consequences arising therefrom.
- The Center likewise commends the issuance of the Instructions on the Granting of Permission to Marry to Persons Who Have Attained Fifteen Solar Years of Age but Have Not Attained Eighteen Solar Years of Age, No. (1) of 2017, which establish strict conditions governing exceptional cases of marriage below the age of eighteen. The Instructions require the competent court to verify, inter alia, that the proposed marriage will not result in the discontinuation of the prospective spouse's education and that the prospective husband is not already married. They further require the court to inform the prospective wife of her right to include in the marriage contract any condition necessary to safeguard her interests. Article (8) further requires the prospective spouses to submit a completion certificate for premarital counselling program organized by the Department and provides that applications for the marriage of persons under the age of eighteen must be referred by the court to the Office of Family Reconciliation and Conciliation for its opinion. In addition, the Instructions require a male applicant under the age of eighteen to obtain the approval of the Minors' Affairs Section of the Department of the Chief Justice before being granted permission to marry.

Notwithstanding the strict conditions governing the granting of permission to marry to persons who have not attained eighteen years of age, the Center considers that paragraph (b) of Article (10) of the Personal Status Law should be repealed, as it permits the marriage of persons who have attained sixteen years of age but have not attained eighteen years of age (the age of majority), in view of the adverse health and psychological consequences of early marriage for children. It is noteworthy that the number of marriages registered before the Sharia courts involving husbands under the age of eighteen amounted to (241) cases in 2021, compared with (194) cases in 2020. In contrast, the number of marriages registered involving wives under the age of eighteen amounted to (8,037) cases in 2021, compared with (7,964) cases in 2020. The Center further emphasizes the need to ensure the effective implementation of the Instructions on the Granting of Permission to Marry to Persons Who Have Attained Fifteen Solar Years of Age but Have Not Attained Eighteen Solar Years of Age, No. (1) of 2017, given the safeguards and criteria established therein. It also stresses the importance of expanding premarital counselling courses throughout all governorates and expediting the completion of the electronic platform.

Section Five: Family Environment and Alternative Care

Response to Observations and Recommendations (39, 40)

- Through the Centre's monitoring of the conditions of children residing in residential care facilities, a number of challenges were identified, including the following: (a) the shortage of qualified cadres responsible for working with this group, particularly specialists in strengthening children's social and psychological capacities and supporting their integration into society. The Center observed that many children residing in residential care facilities experience psychological difficulties, primarily feelings of anxiety and fear regarding the future. It further noted that a large proportion of staff working in these facilities lack practical experience and specialized academic qualifications in sociology and psychology, which affects the development of systematic behavioral modification programmes and plans, as well as the follow-up of their implementation; (b) the presence of only one housemother (substitute mother) in most residential care facilities responsible for caring for a number of children, which affects her ability to provide adequate care and upbringing; (c) the limited attention given to the educational needs of beneficiaries due to staff shortages, particularly given the multiple responsibilities assigned to house mothers; (d) the transfer of beneficiaries from one residential care facility to another, or from one governorate to another, in the absence of clear and defined criteria regulating the transfer process. Such transfers create difficulties for beneficiaries, including changes in substitute caregivers and alterations to their family, educational, and social environments, which may contribute to feelings of anxiety and fear of the future; (e) the limited daily allowances allocated to beneficiary children; (f) the insufficient availability of technological resources, including computers, which constitute essential requirements for distance learning in care facilities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic; (g) the challenges faced by orphaned children, particularly the need for greater attention and support, as many are required to leave residential care facilities upon attaining eighteen years of age (age of majority) without adequate shelter or support. The Center notes that the Safety Fund for the Future of Orphans provides a number of essential services, including monthly allowances to assist beneficiaries with housing and transportation expenses, albeit for a temporary period. The Center recommends expanding such support until beneficiaries secure employment and achieve economic and social stability; (h) the exposure of beneficiaries to physical and verbal violence in certain residential care facilities, with violence sometimes being used as a method of disciplining children; and (i) the inadequacy of the infrastructure of certain care and residential facilities, including the absence or deterioration of water and sewage networks, as well as the age of certain buildings and their need for maintenance and renovation.

In a further respect, the Center monitored two shelter homes affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development and established pursuant to the Family Shelter Regulation No. (48) of 2004. The Center recorded a number of observations concerning the situation of girls residing therein who are victims of violence and under eighteen years of age, as follows: (a) the disparity in the quality of services provided by these residential care facilities, with some delivering services that meet the required standards, while others providing primarily accommodation and basic subsistence support to beneficiaries. Despite the availability of counselling and behavioral modification programmes, such programmes are not implemented in practice. The Center further noted that the building of one of the two facilities is outdated and requires maintenance and renovation; (b) the need to provide beneficiary girls with legal empowerment programmes aimed at raising their awareness of their rights; (c) the shortage of staff, particularly psychological and social specialists, in comparison with the number of beneficiaries, and the need to strengthen Family Reconciliation Homes (Dar al Wifaq) with additional specialized personnel commensurate with the number of beneficiaries, in order to ensure the provision of enhanced services; (d) the absence of a classification system for beneficiaries according to age groups, as adult women and minor girls are accommodated together in both monitored facilities. This requires reconsideration of the mandate and scope of family reconciliation homes to ensure that they are designated for abused women and children accompanying their mothers, while minor girls are placed in minor shelter facilities or other appropriate child-care institutions that provide services suited to their age, needs, and circumstances, and safeguard their physical, psychological, and mental well-being. Although the placement of minor girls in a Family Reconciliation House (FRH), Dar al Wifaq, provides a measure of protection, it does not fully ensure the care required for children and does not sufficiently take into account the principle of the best interests of the child; and (e) the need to enhance coordination between the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Education to ensure the continuity of education for children accompanying their mothers and beneficiary minor girls, who discontinue their education and are not enrolled in schools unless they personally request such enrolment.

In this regard, the Center recommends the following: ensuring that governmental entities and the private sector provide employment opportunities for young men and women who have graduated from residential care facilities; establishing a coordination mechanism between the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Social Development, and other relevant entities to allocate a specific employment quota for this category of young persons within private sector companies; and increasing the number of staff working in social care facilities affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development, while ensuring diversity in their areas of specialization.

Section Six: Disability, Basic Health and Social Welfare

Response to Observations and Recommendations (41, 42)

• The Center commends the efforts undertaken by the Government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to promulgate the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017. Article (3) thereof defines a person with a disability as any person having a long-term physical, sensory, mental, psychological, or neurological impairment which, in interaction with material impediments and attitudinal barriers, hinders his or her ability to perform one or more major life activities or to exercise one or more rights or fundamental freedoms independently. Article (5/b) of the same Law further provides that disability shall not, in itself, constitute a barrier to considering a person medically fit for employment, education, rehabilitation, or the exercise of all rights and freedoms established under the Law or any other legislation, provided that the relevant requirements are met. The Center likewise commends the adoption of strategies concerning persons with disabilities and all efforts aimed at protecting and promoting their rights. Nevertheless, challenges continue to affect children with disabilities. In relation to the right to education, the National Center monitored the conditions of students with disabilities in one public school and recorded a number of observations, the most significant of which were as follows: (1) the average standard of cleanliness of sanitary facilities within the boarding section, in addition to the shared use of a single sanitary facility by male and female students, which does not ensure adequate privacy; (2) the insufficient availability of Braille guidance signage in all classrooms; (3) the weak communication between students' families and the school administration; (4) the insufficient availability of programmes addressing stereotypical behaviors affecting persons with disabilities and protection against bullying within the school environment; (5) the limited social inclusion of students due to prevailing negative attitudes, including stigma and rejection, as well as weaknesses in educational inclusion, resulting in feelings of social isolation among students; and (6) the interruption of education and frequent absence of students with visual impairments due to their repeated need to undergo ophthalmic surgical procedures.

Furthermore, the Center continued to monitor the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their right to inclusive education through a sample of day-care centers in the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions⁶. The Center noted that educational responsibilities within day-care centers had been transferred from the Ministry of Social Development to the Ministry of Education pursuant to Article (20/b/1) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. (20) of 2017, with a view to strengthening the Ministry's role in relation to educational services provided through these centers. However, despite the establishment of a joint committee between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development to support their inclusion in education,

⁶ The Seventeenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights for the year 2020.

challenges remain that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying education at the required standard.

The Center further highlights the difficulties encountered by children with autism spectrum disorder in accessing distance education during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the absence of individualized educational plans tailored to each case, the lack of educational channels provided in sign language for persons with hearing impairments, and the absence of websites compatible with Braille technology for persons with visual impairments.

The National Center has reiterated in its annual reports on the status of human rights in Jordan its recommendation concerning the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In this regard, the Center recommends the ratification by Jordan of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the effective implementation of Article (20/b/1) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. (20) of 2017.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (43, 44)

The Center commends the efforts undertaken by the Government, as referred to in the National Report, to protect and promote the child's right to health. It calls for the acceleration of the implementation of the measures provided for under the Child Rights Law of 2022, which guarantees the child's right to obtain free primary health services. The Law provides that implementation of this right shall commence within a period not exceeding two years from the date of its entry into force and shall be completed within a period not exceeding ten (10) years. Furthermore, in 2019, the Center monitored a number of public hospitals with a view to assessing the health services provided to children⁷. The most significant observations concerning the realization of children's right to health were as follows: (a) the limited availability of neonatal (premature infant) beds in hospitals; (b) the inadequate preparedness of the emergency and first-aid department in one of the monitored hospitals to receive child patients, in terms of the availability of beds, medical equipment, and instruments, as well as the absence of facilities suitable for the provision of emergency care to children and the shortage of necessary equipment; (c) the shortage of nursing staff and specialized medical personnel in certain hospitals, including specialists in paediatric cardiology, surgery, endocrinology, and other fields; (d) the absence, in some of the monitored hospitals, of child-designated sanitary facilities within treatment rooms and departments; (e) the lack of designated play and recreation areas for children during their treatment in most

⁷ In the following governorates: 1. the Capital (Amman); 2. Irbid; 3. Karak; 4. Mafraq; 5. Madaba.

hospitals; (f) the inadequate levels of cleanliness and sterilization in certain hospitals; (g) the inadequate standards of natural and artificial ventilation, including the insufficient availability of suitable windows for ventilation and air-conditioning systems in most hospitals; (h) the deteriorated condition of certain hospital buildings and their need for maintenance and renovation, including floors, walls, windows, and doors in various departments, particularly paediatric and emergency departments; (i) the limited availability of child-friendly facilities in certain hospitals, including accessibility measures such as ramps and other environmental adaptations⁸; and (j) the insufficient training provided to medical, nursing, and technical staff on interacting with persons with disabilities and responding to cases of violence.

In this regard, the Center recommends increasing the number of neonatal (premature infant) beds in public hospitals; establishing safe and child-friendly environments through the provision of play and recreation areas designed and adapted to the needs of children, particularly children with disabilities; ensuring the availability of free health services dedicated to children of all age groups and in all locations; providing specialized physicians in all hospitals and health centers; and implementing preventive and curative programmes aimed at ensuring a family environment free from violence.

Section Seven: Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities

Response to Observations and Recommendations (51, 52)

The Center commends all efforts undertaken by the Government to promote the child's right to education, as referred to in the Government Report. Nevertheless, a number of challenges continue to affect the effective enjoyment of this right. The Center monitored children's right to education in public schools, particularly in remote areas experiencing shortages in educational services, and identified the following observations: (a) the shortage of cadres and the need for certain teachers to participate in continuous professional development programmes aimed at enhancing their educational and professional capacities; (b) the existence of cases of school dropout attributable to economic and social factors; (c) weak oversight over the compliance of educational and administrative staff with the code of conduct and classroom ethics, including violations such as the use of mobile phones during classes and the early termination of teaching periods; (d) the absence of kindergartens in certain public schools, which deprives children of equal access to this important stage of education; (e) the deteriorating condition of a number of public school buildings and their need for regular maintenance, in addition to inadequate heating and ventilation systems during winter and summer, the unsuitability of sanitary facilities in many schools, and the absence of sewage networks in some schools; (f) the shortage of specialists in the psychological and social

⁸ Which is contrary to the National Building Code issued by the National Building Council, 2018, and to the failure to implement the National Plan for the Rectification of the Conditions of Buildings 2019–2029.

fields; and (g) the delay in addressing the shortage of teachers, particularly in areas located far from governorate centers, together with overcrowding in classrooms.

In a further respect, the Center monitored the enjoyment by children of their right to education during the COVID-19 pandemic and identified the following observations: (a) the continued inability of students in numerous areas to access distance education, owing to their families' inability to provide the required technological devices and related resources, as well as to bear the associated costs, particularly in cases where more than one child within the same family was engaged in distance learning; (b) the limited technological skills of certain teachers and students, and the inability to fully convey educational content to students due to the limited duration of individual teaching sessions; (c) the absence of direct communication channels between students and teachers, whether through the educational platform or other electronic means; and (d) the lack of interactive teaching methods within the distance education approaches adopted, and the absence of mechanisms aimed at enhancing students' educational skills, thereby preventing the achievement of the intended objectives of education. The Center issued a statement on the occasion of World Children's Day⁹, in which it affirmed the need to implement the protection measures provided for under the Child Rights Law, protect children from school dropout, and establish mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the Law's provisions. The statement further emphasized the need to provide children with disabilities with the necessary attention and care by expanding their inclusion in the educational process and ensuring the availability of the requirements necessary for the enjoyment of their rights guaranteed under the Constitution and national legislation on an equal basis with others.

The Center commends the efforts undertaken by the Government to implement a number of the recommendations contained in the Center's monitoring report on the conditions of children in nurseries, whether at the legislative, policy, or practical levels. These efforts include the commencement of licensing procedures for inclusive nurseries serving children with disabilities. The number of inclusive nurseries in Jordan has reached eighty-four (84) out of a total of one thousand six hundred and forty-three (1,643) nurseries, providing services to children with hearing, visual, and mobility impairments, as well as children with autism spectrum disorder. The Directorate of Family and Protection at the Ministry of Social Development received ninety-seven (97) applications for nursery licences, closed twenty-two (22) nurseries, issued warnings to seven (7) others, licensed one home-based nursery, and received three (3) applications for home-based nursery licences.¹⁰ Notwithstanding the efforts undertaken by the Government, the Civil Service Regulation and its amendments do not impose an obligation on governmental institutions to provide suitable premises for establishing nurseries for the children of their employees. However, a circular issued by the Prime Minister in 2015 requested public-sector departments to establish nurseries for the children of female employees only. In its annual reports on the status of human rights in the Kingdom, the National Center for Human Rights has called for the inclusion of a legal

⁹ Published on the website <https://www.nchr.org.jo/>

¹⁰ Report of the National Center for Human Rights for the year 2021.

provision in the Civil Service Regulation requiring public-sector departments to provide nurseries for the children of both female and male employees on an equal basis and without discrimination. Through its monitoring of the conditions of children in a number of licensed governmental, private, and institutional nurseries, the Center identified several observations, including the following: (a) the limited availability of inclusive nurseries for children with disabilities, with the proportion of such nurseries reaching only 5% in 2021, which remains considerably low; (b) the limited space allocated for governmental nurseries within buildings and their inadequacy in meeting children's needs in terms of area and number of rooms, in addition to the lack of necessary maintenance of buildings, equipment, furniture, and facilities, and their inadequate suitability for use, thereby affecting children's enjoyment of their right to an appropriate environment; (c) the limited availability of safe heating devices during the winter season in certain governmental and private nurseries; (d) the failure of the administrations of certain governmental and private nurseries to establish educational objectives aimed at developing positive values and attitudes among children, which consequently affects the preparation and implementation of meaningful activities, programmes, and events; and (e) the lack of suitability of the qualifications and specializations of staff working in certain governmental, private, and institutional nurseries, particularly with regard to behavior modification and appropriate methods of dealing with children.

In this regard, the Center recommends: increasing cadres within the education sector, particularly social and psychological specialists in schools; providing teachers with continuous training programmes aimed at enhancing their professional and educational capacities; and strengthening and establishing effective oversight mechanisms to reduce cases of school dropout.

Section Eight: Special Protection Measures

Response to Observations and Recommendations (55, 56)

- Jordan is among the foremost countries in the Arab region in terms of hosting refugees. Refugee protection and asylum constitute significant challenges for both Jordan and the international community at large, and represent a particularly pressing challenge for Jordan due to the difficult economic circumstances it faces and the limited availability of resources. The burden placed upon the Jordanian Government is further exacerbated by the limited response of the international community in providing the necessary assistance and fulfilling the responsibilities to which it has committed itself¹¹. It is noteworthy that, on 26 March 2016, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, visited Zaatari Camp to assess the situation of Syrian refugees and observe first-hand their living conditions within the camp, while drawing attention to the humanitarian needs of both refugees and host communities. The Secretary-General recognized the significant role undertaken by Jordan in

¹¹ The Sixteenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Kingdom for the year 2019, www.nchr.org.jo

hosting Syrian refugees and providing them with various forms of assistance, highlighting Jordan's humanitarian approach towards Syrian refugees¹².

- The Jordan Response Plan JRP (2018–2020) indicates that Jordan has incurred direct costs amounting to approximately ten point three (10.3) billion United States dollars since the onset of the crisis in 2011, while the international community has not assumed its fair share of responsibility. Consequently, the Jordanian State and society have borne the consequences of the international community's shortfall in meeting the required funding commitments, in addition to the strain placed on Jordan's absorptive capacity. This has resulted in adverse impacts on society, particularly in the sectors of health, employment, education, and infrastructure¹³.
- It is noteworthy that the Jordanian Government has ensured access to education for all children residing in the camps, with schools established in each camp to meet the educational needs of children at all levels, from kindergarten through basic and secondary education. With regard to the right to health, the Jordanian Government has established health centers providing comprehensive health services to refugees residing in the camps, including maternal and child health services and the provision of vaccinations and immunizations for refugee infants. Each health center is also provided with a paediatrician available to perform his or her duties on a twenty-four-hour basis¹⁴.
- The Center commends the implementation of the solar energy project in Azraq Camp. Nevertheless, electricity continues to be disconnected from refugees' caravans for four hours daily. Similarly, access to water remains a significant challenge for refugees, despite the establishment by the camp administration, in partnership with UNICEF, of a water distribution network, including a central reservoir that pumps water separately to each area of the camp, thereby facilitating faster and more efficient water delivery. However, refugee camps continue to lack water connections extending to refugees' caravans. Furthermore, issues relating to sewage systems and sanitary facilities remain among the most pressing challenges, as sanitary facilities continue to be shared among refugees' caravans¹⁵.

In this regard, the Center recommends: intensifying international efforts to ensure that the international community fulfils its responsibilities towards refugees in Jordan; providing the necessary support to refugees and strengthening protection and assistance measures for them; addressing the issue of interruptions in electricity and water supply within Syrian refugee camps; and ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (57, 58)

¹² The Thirteenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Kingdom for the year 2016, www.nchr.org.jo

¹³ The Seventeenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Kingdom for the year 2020, www.nchr.org.jo

¹⁴ Results of the monitoring conducted by the National Center for the year 2023.

¹⁵ The Eighteenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Kingdom for the year 2021, www.nchr.org.jo

In August 2016, the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, the Ministry of Labor, and the Department of Statistics, issued a national survey report on child labor in Jordan. The survey aimed to establish an updated and comprehensive database on child labor in Jordan. The National Child Labor Survey was conducted using a sample comprising 20,002 households. The survey results indicated that the total number of children aged between 5 and 17 years was (4,030,384), of whom (75,982) were engaged in work, representing (1.89%) of the total number of children. With regard to gender distribution, the number of working boys amounted to (67,114), representing (88.33%) of working children, whereas the number of working girls amounted to (8,868), representing (11.67%). The survey further indicated that (44,917) working children were engaged in hazardous occupations, representing approximately (71%) of all working children. In terms of nationality, Syrian children constituted the largest group among working children in Jordan, followed by children of other nationalities, while Jordanian children ranked third. At the governorate level, working boys in Karak ranked first in terms of numbers, whereas working girls in Madaba recorded the highest numbers among working girls in Jordan.

In a further respect, the National Center for Human Rights implemented, in 2017, the project entitled “Together to Combat Child Labor” in all governorates of the Kingdom, with particular focus on the areas of Al-Wehdat and Downtown Amman, Russeifa/Zarqa, Ghor Al-Safi, Petra, Aqaba, and Mafrq. The project sought to contribute to the efforts of governmental and non-governmental entities in combating child labor and promoting children’s rights and protection from exploitation, through raising awareness of the phenomenon among relevant stakeholders, particularly the families of working children; highlighting the importance of children’s continued education and reducing school dropout rates; strengthening the capacities of governmental and non-governmental entities; and encouraging the development of programmes aimed at reducing child labor rates with a view to its gradual elimination. The project’s findings highlighted the need to amend the legislation governing child labor to ensure its alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two Optional Protocols thereto; to work towards the complete elimination of child labor; and to encourage enrolment in vocational training institutions, subject to appropriate safeguards and controls.

In this regard, the Center recommends: amending certain articles referred to in this Report in a manner that strengthens the protection of the rights of the child, and addressing any legislative deficiencies or gaps that hinder the comprehensive promotion and protection of children’s rights as enshrined in the Convention; expediting the issuance of the Child Labor Regulation; establishing and activating effective oversight mechanisms to reduce child labor; and implementing and strengthening awareness-raising campaigns on the adverse effects of child labor.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (59, 60, 61, 62)

- The Center monitored the legislation relating to the exploitation of children and noted that the Jordanian legislator criminalizes the exploitation of children in begging through various means, pursuant to Article (389) of the Penal Code of 1960 and its amendments. The legislator mandates the Ministry of Social Development, under Article (11), to combat vagrancy, begging, prostitution, and trafficking in women and children, and regulates the protection, care, and rehabilitation of children exploited in begging through Article (33) of the Juveniles Law of 2014, in addition to the enactment of the Law Amending the Law on the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings No. (10) of 2021. The Center observed that the amendment to paragraph (b) of Article (2) of the Law on the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings, through the inclusion of organized begging as a form of trafficking in human beings, ensures that children subjected to such exploitation are treated as exploited persons and victims entitled to the necessary protection, while also providing for the punishment of persons who exploit them in begging. The amendment further provides for the establishment of the Assistance Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, which is dedicated to providing legal assistance to victims and persons harmed by trafficking offences, thereby strengthening legal protection against forms of child exploitation associated with begging. While commending these developments, the Center notes the absence of legislative provisions addressing begging through electronic media and social media platforms. This constitutes a legislative gap that may allow impunity for persons who exploit children through such means and is inconsistent with the child protection obligations established under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- In a further respect, the National Center monitored the conditions of children residing in two centers for the care and rehabilitation of child beggars and recorded a number of observations concerning one of these centers, including the following: (a) the absence of accessibility measures for children with disabilities, both outside and within the Center's building; (b) the shortage of specialized staff, particularly psychological specialists and nursing personnel; and (c) the failure to classify children prior to their referral to the care and rehabilitation center according to their circumstances, namely as children engaged in begging, working children, or children subjected to trafficking, in order to ensure the application of appropriate rehabilitation programmes tailored to each category. The Center further recorded a number of observations concerning the second center, including the following: (a) the location of the center within a facility designated for the care and rehabilitation of women with disabilities and its proximity to a male secondary school, which creates difficulties in enabling girls to access outdoor courtyards and playgrounds during the morning period, as they are only permitted to use such areas after the end of the school day; and (b) the absence of a medical clinic within the center, as well as the lack of nursing or medical staff, resulting in the transfer of girls requiring medical attention, in emergency cases, to the nearest medical center in the area.

- The Center further observes that the majority of children apprehended for begging are repeat cases. This is attributed to the guarantees provided by families to secure their release and return, the absence of effective follow-up and rehabilitation mechanisms, and legislative gaps arising from the lack of sufficiently deterrent measures.
- The year 2021 witnessed a significant increase in the number of children apprehended for begging, reaching (7,954) children, of whom (5,893) were male and (2,061) were female, compared with (2,418) children of both sexes recorded in 2020.

Response to Observations and Recommendations (63, 64)

- The Center commends the efforts undertaken by the Government to protect and promote the rights of children in conflict with the law, as referred to in the Government Report, as well as the promulgation of the Juveniles Law of 2014, which seeks to protect and regulate the affairs of delinquent children and children in need of protection and care. The Center noted that the Law contains a number of positive provisions that strengthen children's rights, the most significant of which include: (a) the inclusion of working children and children engaged in waste scavenging among the categories of children in need of protection and care, thereby broadening the scope of legal protection afforded to children; (b) the expansion of the protection framework through the establishment of a specialized juvenile justice system, including the appointment of full-time juvenile judges, judges responsible for dispute settlement, and judges responsible for monitoring the enforcement of juvenile judgments; (c) the promotion of alternative measures permitted by law in the handling of minor cases; and (d) the prohibition of treating juvenile cases as prior convictions, through requiring all competent authorities to remove previous juvenile records from official records.

Furthermore, the Instructions for Implementing the After-Care System for Juveniles of 2021 were issued, constituting the implementing framework for the After-Care System for Juveniles Regulation No. (67) of 2016¹⁶.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, which are consistent with international standards on the rights of the child, certain provisions continue to reveal legislative gaps. These include the absence of a clear provision regulating cases in which a juvenile fails to comply with non-custodial measures imposed by the court pursuant to Article (24) of the Law; the failure to require the attendance of a behavior supervisor during the investigation stage; and the absence of provisions establishing the liability of the person entrusted with the custody of the juvenile in cases of breach or negligence in the juvenile's upbringing and care. It is noteworthy that the Center participated in

¹⁶ The Instructions are intended to ensure that the released juvenile completes the care and rehabilitation programmes to which he was subject during his period of residence in the home, in accordance with the after-care plan prepared for him, with a view to assisting juveniles in reintegrating into society and in their reform and rehabilitation. The Center affirms that these Instructions are capable of strengthening the concepts of restorative justice for the juvenile through the activation of after-care programmes in a manner that achieves the best interests of the juvenile.

a national committee established for the preparation of the draft Juveniles Law, which represents a qualitative advancement in the protection and promotion of the rights of juveniles.

Among the positive developments monitored by the Center in relation to juveniles, are the following, including but not limited to: (a) the integration into society of juveniles of unknown parentage, through the Ministry of Social Development's commencement, in 2014, of the application of the family integration approach for children who had committed minor misdemeanors, by placing them with substitute families rather than retaining them in care homes, pursuant to the Instructions on the Bases for the Disbursement of Financial Allowances under the Alternative Care Programme for Children of 2013¹⁷. These Instructions set out specific conditions applicable to substitute families and provide for financial support to such families; (b) the closure of the Ma'an Juvenile Education and Rehabilitation Center at the end of 2015, which had accommodated dangerous juveniles from all governorates of the Kingdom alongside other juveniles, thereby adversely affecting rehabilitation and social reintegration. The Center had previously recorded observations and negative findings concerning the conditions within the Ma'an Juvenile Education and Rehabilitation Center; (c) the establishment of the Education and Rehabilitation Home for Dangerous Juveniles in Madaba in 2016, with a view to providing psychological and social interventions tailored to the circumstances of each individual case and preventing the spread of criminal behaviour among juveniles; (d) the response of the Public Security Directorate through the separation of the juvenile detention facility for girls in Aqaba Governorate from detained women and the provision of the necessary requirements for an appropriate physical environment therein; and (e) the issuance of judicial decisions applying precautionary measures (alternative measures) that do not involve deprivation of liberty, pursuant to Article (24) of the Juveniles Law of 2014. The first such judicial decision was issued on 13 November 2018, constituting an important step towards the reform and rehabilitation of juveniles as an alternative to custodial penalties, and such measures are capable of achieving the best interests of the juvenile.

In a further respect, the Center monitored, through unannounced field visits to certain facilities, the conditions of children in conflict with the law, and identified a number of continuing challenges, including the following: (a) the limited availability of psychological care services, as most facilities lack psychological specialists despite the juveniles' need for such services; (b) the limited availability of rehabilitation, awareness-raising and recreational programmes for juveniles in conflict with the law; (c) the weak level of family communication and contact with juveniles; (d) the failure to adapt juvenile care facilities and detention centers to accommodate juveniles with disabilities, including through the provision of accessibility measures and reasonable accommodations; (e) the ill-treatment of certain juveniles and their exposure to abuse by law enforcement personnel during the stages of apprehension; (f) the failure of most juvenile care facilities to comply with the principle of separation according to age groups, with separation being applied only on the basis of convicted and detained juveniles; (g) the low standard of hygiene in most temporary detention centers designated for juveniles, in addition to the outdated condition of

¹⁷ Published in the Official Gazette, issue No. 5257 of 1 December 2013.

furniture and sanitary facilities; (h) the inability of certain detained and convicted juveniles to attend school due to the level of risk they are considered to pose, notwithstanding the provision of education within such facilities; and (i) the absence of a juvenile education and rehabilitation facility in the Southern Region following the closure of the Ma'an Juvenile Education and Rehabilitation Center at the end of 2015. The Center affirms the necessity of establishing a juvenile education and rehabilitation facility in the Southern Region to facilitate family visits and communication with juveniles, as well as to spare juveniles and their families the burden of long-distance travel for the purposes of attending judicial proceedings.

In this regard, the Center recommends: establishing a juvenile education and rehabilitation center in the Southern Region; increasing the number of staff working within care and rehabilitation homes, particularly specialized technical personnel, including psychological and social specialists, while enhancing their capacities through specialized training and providing them with appropriate additional incentives, given the demanding nature of work within such institutions; introducing rehabilitation and behavior-modification programmes, in addition to providing recreational programmes for juveniles residing in care and rehabilitation homes; and requiring care and rehabilitation institutions to comply with the principle of separating beneficiaries according to age groups.

Response to Recommendation (66)

- The Center has set out, in its annual reports on the status of human rights in Jordan, its recommendation concerning the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁸.

¹⁸ Jordan has ratified the first and second optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.