

QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL RIGHTS ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON COMOROS ¹

These Guides include:

- A list of issues mentioned in the National Report, the Compilation of official UN Documents and the Summary of Other Stakeholders Submissions, with references to the particular paragraphs in which they can be found.
- The full text of those paragraphs
- Suggested questions and recommendations.

References in the two working languages of the Council (English and French) have been kept in their original language.

Issues are highlighted. References in the National Report are *in Italics*.

All sexual rights issues that do not relate specifically to women are referred to in this Guide. Sexual rights' issues referring specifically to women -as well as other women's issues- are referred to in the Guide on Women's Issues

OP-CRC-SC (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography) ratified.

ISSUE	N Report	Compilation	Summary
Child sexual abuse		Criminalization of sexual abuse enacted with Penal Code amendment (22).	
HIV/AIDS		Frequent discriminatory attitudes against people living with HIV (16). 15% prevalence rate expected for 2018. Need for effective prevention, including awareness raising and education (40)	
Trafficking/sexual exploitation /violence against children		Need for legislation and measures to prevent and combat sexual exploitation, sale and child abuse. Special programs for children working/living in streets, needed (21)	

Child sexual abuse

UNICEF noted that legislation relating to child welfare was adopted in December 2005 and that an **amendment of the Penal Code** to include **criminalization of sexual abuse** of children was approved by the National Assembly in August 2007 (Para 22, Compilation)

¹ These Guides were produced by the Sexual Rights Initiative, a coalition of organizations based in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and North America whose mandate is to advance women's issues broadly and sexual rights issues in the Human Rights Council. For questions, comments, suggestions please contact Alejandra Sardá-Chandiramani at alejandra@mulabi.org

HIV/AIDS

L'UNDAF 2008-2012 a noté qu'il existe une **fréquence élevée** d'attitudes discriminatoires à l'égard des personnes vivant avec le VIH (Para 16, Compilation)

A 2008 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that, in 2007, 0.1 per cent of the population aged between 15 and 49 years old lived with HIV. L'UNDAF 2008-2012 a souligné que malgré la **faible prévalence** du VIH aux Comores, des projections nationales montrent que, en **l'absence** d'une riposte précoce, vigoureuse et massive, le **taux de prévalence atteindrait 15 pour cent en 2018**. (Para 40, Compilation)

Trafficking/sexual exploitation/violence against children

In 2000, CRC stressed that as a result of the socio-economic crisis in Comoros, it is very likely that children may start to become victims of **sexual exploitation, sale and pornography**. The growing numbers of children who are **forced to live and work on the streets** were also matter of concern. (Para 21, Compilation)

Suggested questions and recommendations

- While commending Comoros for penalizing **child sexual abuse** through a Penal Code amendment, ask what specific measures have been taken in this regard.
- Recommend that Comoros addresses **discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS** by, inter alia, passing antidiscriminatory legislation and conducting awareness-raising and sensitization campaigns and programs for society at large and also focus in particular realms like the health, education and work sectors.
- Recommend that Comoros develops the adequate measures to prevent the spread of **HIV/AIDS** inter alia by free distribution of condoms, public prevention campaigns and free, voluntary and confidential testing services.

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- To take all available measures, including legal ones, for the prevention and combat of **child sexual exploitation, sale and pornography**; to establish special programmes to address the situation of children living and/or working in the streets, ensuring that these children have access to health care; rehabilitation services for physical, sexual and substance abuse; services for reconciliation with families; comprehensive education, including vocational and life-skills training; and legal aid (Para 21, Compilation)
- To continue taking effective measures for the prevention of **HIV/AIDS**, including awareness raising and educational campaigns (Para 40, Compilation)