

QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL RIGHTS ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON VANUATU¹

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
Equality and non discrimination			Need to amend Constitution adding "sexual orientation" and "health" as protected categories against discrimination (13)
Trafficking/sexual exploitation /violence against children		Regional mechanisms related to trafficking (3). Legal measures requested to combat child abuse, exploitation, rape, ill-treatment within the family. Need to provide protection and assistance for victims (Para 22)	

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

Equality and Non-discrimination

Amnesty International (AI) indicated that the Constitution of Vanuatu provides for protection against discrimination on several grounds but does not include other disadvantages, such as () **sexual orientation** or **living with HIV/AIDS**. AI stated that there is a risk of human rights violations against such marginalized groups (Para 13, Summary)

Trafficking/ sexual exploitation/ Violence against children

The UNHCR noted Vanuatu's **active involvement** in a variety of **regional mechanisms**, including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference, and the Pacific Islands Forum (Para 3, Compilation).

Suggested questions and recommendations:

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- That cases of domestic violence and ill-treatment and abuse of children, including sexual abuse within the family, be properly investigated within a child friendly judicial procedure and that sanctions be applied to perpetrators. Measures should be taken to ensure provision of support services to children in legal proceedings, the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of victims of rape, abuse, neglect, ill-treatment, violence or exploitation, and the prevention of criminalization and stigmatization of victims (Para 22, Compilation).

Amnesty International

- To amend Section 5 of the Constitution by adding "health, and sexual orientation" as prohibited grounds for discrimination. (Para 13, Summary)