TOOLKIT LAUNCH

LEVERAGING THE UN TREATY BODIES AND THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW TO ADDRESS CHILD, EARLY, AND FORCED MARRIAGE AND UNIONS.

GIRLS NOT BRIDES SECRETARIAT:
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Introduction
Our session today

- Introduction
- Why does this toolkit matter and how is it structured?
- CSOs engagement with the CRC
- CSOs engagement with the UPR
- Case study
- What next?
- Q&A and closing remarks
Why does this toolkit matter and how is it structured?
Why does this toolkit matter?

- **International legal frameworks** stress the critical importance of tackling CEFMU due to its harmful consequences for girls and women, which constitutes a violation of human rights.

- **The CRC**, does not explicitly mention child marriage, but emphasizes on the need to end harmful traditional practices affecting children's well-being, including child marriage, which violates rights such as freedom of speech, protection from harm, and right to education.

- **The CEDAW** mandates nations to eliminate gender bias in marriage, ensuring equal rights to marry and freely choose a spouse, while also prohibiting child betrothal and marriage.

- **The CESC** highlights the adverse effects of early marriage on health, education, and employment rights, urging measures to protect children from social and economic exploitation.
Why does this toolkit matter?

- **The UPR mechanism** has issued over 400 recommendations around CEFMU to date, underscoring the growing recognition of the urgent need to address it to safeguard the rights of girls and women.

- **Opportunities for CSOs:** Committees overseeing CRC, CEDAW, CESC, and UPR offer avenues for CSOs to participate in reviewing states' fulfilment of human rights obligations, including the ones related to CEFMU.

- **Challenges:** Accessing resources in diverse and often inaccessible formats can be challenging for CSOs working on CEFMU.

- **This toolkit was developed to facilitate CSOs' engagement with CRC, CEDAW, CESC Committees, and the UPR mechanism** to strengthen national advocacy strategies by leveraging recommendations from international human rights mechanisms.
**How is the toolkit structured?**

Organized in four main sections, corresponding to the CRC Committee, CEDAW Committee, CESCR Committee, and the UPR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN Treaty Bodies</th>
<th>UPR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Introduction to each mechanism</td>
<td>• Introduction to the UPR</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Relevant articles, protocols, general comments, and recommendations for child</td>
<td>• Understanding the relationship between child marriage and the</td>
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<td>marriage advocacy</td>
<td>UPR</td>
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<td>• Step-by-step guide on engaging with the reporting process</td>
<td>• Explanation of the UPR cycle</td>
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<td>• Examples of promising practices from Girls Not Brides member organizations</td>
<td>• Step-by-step guide for civil society organizations to engage</td>
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<td>• Guide to writing civil society organization reports</td>
<td>with the UPR</td>
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<td>• Examples for UPR civil society organization submissions</td>
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<td>• Template for writing civil society organization reports for the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UPR</td>
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The Toolkit offers a traffic light system to prioritize advocacy actions based on organizational capacity: **Highly recommended** and **Recommended**.

Suggestions are adaptable according to organization’s capacity and advocacy strategies with international human rights mechanisms.
CSOs engagement with the CRC
The CRC: An introduction

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) monitors the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally ratified convention in the world.

While the CRC does not directly address CEFMU, nearly the entire Convention is relevant to protecting children’s rights from violations occurring in the context of CEFMU, such as education, health, protection from sexual abuse, the right to be heard, the right to birth registration, and the right to play, among others.

Linking the most pertinent articles for CEFMU is crucial while engaging with the CRC. They will guide CSOs in preparing their written reports and influence the process of monitoring the prevalence of CEFMU as a children’s rights violations.
The CRC: An introduction

Overview of most relevant articles relevant to CEFMU

| Article 2: Right to non-discrimination |
| Article 3: Best interest of the child |
| Article 6: Right to survival and development of the child |
| Article 7: Right to birth registration |
| Article 8: Right to identity |
| Article 12: Respect for children’s views |
| Article 19: Right to protection from violence, abuse, and neglect |
| Article 24: Right to health and healthcare |
| Article 27: Right to an adequate standard of living |
| Article 28: Right to education |
| Article 34: Sexual exploitation and abuse |
The CRC: An introduction

Overview of most relevant general comments related to CEFMU

General Comments serve as resources for CSOs in the reporting cycle as they provide additional information on how the Committees frame and interpret certain issues, such as CEFMU and related policy areas relevant under the CRC Convention. CSOs can also use General Comments for framing their reports and as advocacy tools to further influence the State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>No. 4 on Adolescent Health and Development in the Context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>No. 13 on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>No. 15, on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint No. 18 of the CRC and No. 31 on CEDAW on harmful practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>No. 20 on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Joint No. 18 of the CRC and No. 31 on CEDAW on harmful practices (revised version)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defines child and/early marriage as a harmful practice that needs to be effectively prevented by States
The CRC: The reporting cycle

What is the CRC reporting cycle?

The CRC monitors the progress of States in fulfilling their children’s human rights obligations. The reporting cycle includes:

- The review of information provided by CSOs in the country;
- A report provided by the State;
- A working group pre-session (online or in person) with invited representatives from CSOs and UN agencies;
- A session with the State representatives to review more in detail the progress and challenges of implementation. The sessions are held three times annually in Geneva, Switzerland, usually in January/February, May/June, and September/October; and
- The issue of the Committee’s recommendations
The CRC: The reporting cycle

Let’s explain how the CRC reporting cycle works, but first... a few concepts!

- Simplified reporting procedure vs. Standard reporting procedure
- List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR)
- Alternative report
- Pre-sessional working group or pre-session
- Concluding Observations
The CRC: The reporting cycle

The Simplified Reporting Procedure

STEP 1: CSOs send reports to guide the LOIPR

STEP 2: The Committee adopts LOIPR

STEP 3: The State submits its report answering to LOIPR

STEP 4: The Committee holds the pre-session with invited representatives from CSOs

STEP 5: The Committee holds a session with State representatives in Geneva

STEP 6: The Committee issues the Concluding Observations

STEP 7: Follow-up procedure for the State to implement the recommendations

The Standard Reporting Procedure

STEP 1: State submit its State report

STEP 2: CSOs send reportsto complem the State report

STEP 3: The Committee holds the pre-session with invited CSOs

STEP 4: The Committee holds session

STEP 5: State submits written replies to the LOI

STEP 6: The Committee issues Concluding observations

STEP 7: The Committee issues the Concluding observations
The CRC: The reporting cycle

Example of timeline under the standard reporting procedure: the Niger examination

- **NOVEMBER 2017**: Niger sends State report (due in 2012)
- **OCTOBER 2017**: CSOs send reports to LOI
- **MARCH 2018**: The Committee adopts LOIs.
- **JULY 2018**: Niger submits its written replies to LOI
- **OCTOBER 2023**: Niger is requested to submit next State report
- **NOVEMBER 2018**: The Committee issues its Concluding Observations
- **SEPT-OCTOBER 2018**: The Committee holds the State review with Nigerien government representatives
- **AUGUST 2018**: CSOs respond to State report (replies to LOI).
## The CRC: The reporting cycle

### Example of timeline under the Simplified Reporting Procedure: the Guatemala examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY 2021</th>
<th>OCTOBER 2021</th>
<th>OCTOBER 2023</th>
<th>NOVEMBER 2023</th>
<th>FEBRUARY 2024</th>
<th>MAY 2024</th>
<th>JUNE 2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSOs send reports to guide the LOIPR</td>
<td>The Committee adopts the LOIPR</td>
<td>Guatemala submits its State report (reply to LOIPR)</td>
<td>CSOs send additional information in response to State report.</td>
<td>The Committee holds pre-session with selected CSOs</td>
<td>The Committee holds the State review with the Guatemalan government.</td>
<td>The Committee issues its Concluding Observations, including the deadline for next State report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CRC: Key moments for CSOs engagement

Main goals for engaging with the CRC:

- **Influence the Committee to include CEFMU in the LOIPR:** at the beginning of the cycle, ensuring that the issue is prioritized from the outset of the reporting cycle. States will then be compelled to address CEFMU in their reports, highlighting their efforts and challenges in eradicating it.

- **Influence the Committee to include CEFMU in its Concluding Observations** at the end of the cycle. This is a crucial step as it ensures that CEFMU remains on the agenda until the end of the cycle, and states receive tailored recommendations on how to address the issue effectively, which can impact policymaking and implementation.

- **Leverage the Committee recommendations in your national advocacy.** By utilizing the Committee's findings and recommendations, advocates can strengthen their advocacy efforts at the national level, pushing for meaningful reforms and policies to eliminate CEFMU. This approach maximizes the impact of international scrutiny on domestic policy agendas.
The CRC: Key moments for CSOs engagement

**STEP 1:** CSOs send reports to guide the LOIPR

**STEP 2:** The Committee adopts LOIPR

**STEP 3:** The State submits its report answering to LOIPR

**STEP 4:** The Committee holds the pre-session with invited representatives from CSOs

**STEP 5:** The Committee holds a session with State representatives in Geneva

**STEP 6:** The Committee issues the Concluding Observations

**STEP 7:** Follow-up procedure for the State to implement the recommendations

**Send reports to guide the LOIPR**

3 months before the pre-session

**Engage with the State in their report drafting process**

1 month before the pre-session

Submit additional reports

3 months before the review session with State representatives

**Attend the pre-session with CSOs**

Follow the session and advocate with Committee members

Engage in follow-up advocacy using Concluding Observations
Before the review: Influence the LOIPR

- Connect with Child Rights Connect, an independent Geneva-based non-profit network working to serve as a bridge between the CRC Committee and CSOs.

- Review the scheduled State session and the provisional agenda for each session to familiarize yourself with the information for each CRC cycle. As an example, let’s check the upcoming 96 session.
Before the review: Influence the LOIPR

- Send reports to influence the LOIPR

- **Send additional reports** after the State has submitted its report and before the review session.

- **Attend the pre-session** to share information and express concerns directly to the CRC Committee
During the review: Influence the Concluding Observations

- Participate in the State review session in person as an observer or watch it online.
- Advocate directly with Committee members during breaks to inform them about your concerns regarding the State’s measures in addressing CEFMU. This might influence the dialogue with the State.
After the review: Focus on national advocacy

Engage in follow-up advocacy using the Concluding Observations:

- Disseminate the Concluding Observations at national and local level and translate them.

- Advocate for the implementation of the Concluding Observations with national authorities at all levels.

- Utilize the Concluding Observations as a reference for your national advocacy strategies.
The CRC: Writing a CSO report

The more alternative and rich information the Committee receive from CSOs, the greater the possibility of counterbalancing the information presented by the State.

There are different types of reports:

- **Comprehensive reports** (up to 10,000 words): Offer a broad assessment of the overall implementation of children's rights across various domains.

- **Thematic reports** (up to 3,000 words) focus on specific aspect or theme related to children's rights, such as CEFMU, providing the opportunity to delve into that particular issue.

- **Reports from children’s organizations** (no Word limit)
The CRC: Writing a CSO report

Comprehensive or thematic report?
• Building partnerships and coalitions amplifies the credibility of the report and increases the likelihood that the Committee will consider the issues raised in the report in the LOIPR/LOI and the Concluding Observations.

Can children, especially girls, participate in the report?
• Children, especially girls affected by CEFMU, have unique insights into their rights and can express these through various formats. They are encouraged to submit alternative reports or contribute to reports prepared by adults.
• Involving children and young people requires a safeguarding procedure to ensure the safety of girls and young people during engagement with the CRC.
The CRC: Writing a CSO report

What is the ideal structure and content of a CSO report to the CRC?

a. Title page
b. Table of contents
c. Executive summary describing main outcomes of the analysis
d. Introduction
   • Background information mention the name of the organisation(s) / coalition that have produced the report to inform the CRC; include information about the general situation of CEFMU in the State of review and the period of analysis
   • Methodology
e. Analysis based on clusters
   • General principles (art.2,3,6,12)
   • Civil rights and freedoms (art.7,8)
   • Violence against children (24(3), 28(2), 34)
   • Disability, basic health, and welfare (art. 6(2), art. 24, 24(3)
   • Education, leisure, and cultural activities (art. 28-)
f. Targeted questions/recommendations.
   • For influencing the LOIPR offer a brief list of specific questions regarding how the State is combatting CEFMU to the Committee to include in the LOIPR.
   • For influencing the Concluding Observations propose a set of targeted recommendations concerning CEFMU that the Committee can discuss during the review session with State representatives and include in the Concluding Observations
The CRC: How to write a CSO report

What is the ideal structure and content of a CSO report to the CRC?

Tips for analysis
- Highlight good state practices, policies or practices regarding the elimination of CEFMU and the impact of children’s rights in your country;
- Identify gaps, weaknesses and challenges in the implementation of legislation and policies or policies that may be lacking;
- For additional reports, provide comments to the State report offering your perspective by providing brief updates on the implementation of previous recommendations made by the Committee and highlight any issues that may be missing in the State report.
The CRC: How to write a CSO report

Practical information for CRC report submissions

**Where to submit the report?** electronically through [Child Rights Connect online platform](https://www.childrightscopy.org);

**Is there any world limit?**: Up to 10,000 words for comprehensive reports and up to 3,000 words for thematic reports. Reports from children's own organizations may use alternative communication formats and have no word limit when in writing.

**Language**: one of the UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), but preferably in English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadlines</th>
<th>Alternative reports for the adoption of the list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR)</th>
<th>Additional submissions for the pre-session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simplified reporting procedure</td>
<td>February pre-session: 1 December November</td>
<td>February pre-session: 1 December January session: 15 December</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June pre-session: 1 April</td>
<td>June pre-session: 1 April May session: 15 April</td>
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<td>October pre-session: 1 August</td>
<td>October pre-session: 1 August September session: 15 August</td>
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<tr>
<th>Deadlines</th>
<th>Alternative reports for the pre-session</th>
<th>Additional submissions between the PSWG and the session</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard reporting procedure</td>
<td>February pre-session: 1 November</td>
<td>January session: 15 December</td>
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<td>June pre-session: 1 March</td>
<td>May session: 15 April</td>
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<td>October pre-session: 1 July</td>
<td>September session: 15 August</td>
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CSOs engagement with the UPR
The UPR: An introduction

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process within the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) aimed at enhancing the promotion and safeguarding of all human rights globally. It reviews:

- The Charter of the United Nations;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Human rights instruments to which a State is party;
- Voluntary pledges and commitments made by States, including those undertaken when presenting their candidatures for election to the Human Rights Council;
- Applicable international humanitarian law.
The UPR: The reporting cycle

Let’s explain how the UPR reporting cycle works, but first... a few concepts!

- State under Review (SuR)
- Summary reports
- UPR outcome report
- Follow-up documents
- Accepted or noted recommendations
The UPR: The reporting cycle

The UPR monitors the progress of States in fulfilling their human rights obligations. The reporting cycle includes:

- The review of information provided by CSOs and UN agencies in the country;
- A report provided by the State;
- A UPR info pre-session (online or in person) with invited representatives from CSOs and UN agencies;
- A session with the State representatives to review more in detail the progress and challenges of implementation. The UPR Working Group meets three times a year in Geneva, typically in January, May and November;
- The issue of the UPR outcome report and follow-up documents with recommendations for human rights improvement.
The UPR: The reporting cycle

**STEP 1:** Reports by CSOs and NGOs

**STEP 2:** The State submits its national report

**STEP 4:** OHCHR prepares summary reports based on CSO reports and UN information

**STEP 5:** UPR Working Group session with State representatives

**STEP 6:** The State replies on recommendations

**STEP 7:** The UPR adopts formally its final outcome during a HRC plenary session

**STEP 8:** Follow-up procedure for States to implement the recommendations
The UPR: The reporting cycle

Example of timeline for UPR: the Burkina Faso examination (4th cycle- 44 session)

- **MARCH 2023**
  - CSOs send reports to the UPR Working Group

- **AUGUST 2023**
  - The UPR Working Group issues summary reports

- **AUGUST 2023**
  - Burkina Faso’s national report deadline

- **AUGUST 2023**
  - UPR Info pre-session

- **NOVEMBER 2023**
  - UPR Working Group session with State representatives

- **2024**
  - **APRIL 2024**
    - Start of the follow-up period. The OHCHR issues matrix of recommendations
  - **FEBRUARY - APRIL 2024**
    - The OHCHR adopts final outcome at the HRC plenary session
  - **FEBRUARY 2024**
    - Burkina Faso accepts or notes recommendations

- **2026**
  - Burkina Faso is expected to submit a midterm follow-up report
The UPR: Key moments for CSOs engagement

Although the UPR is a State-led process, CSOs play a critical role with several opportunities to influence human rights outcomes both within their countries and internationally.

The main goals of engaging with the UPR are:

• **Influence the UPR summary reports**, ensuring that addressing CEFMU is prioritized from the outset of the reporting cycle.

• **Influence the State in accepting the recommendations and the UPR final outcome report**. CSOs should continue their advocacy efforts throughout the UPR cycle to influence the final outcome and ensure specific recommendations around CEFMU.

• **Leverage the UPR recommendations in your national advocacy**. By utilizing the Committee's findings and recommendations, CSOs can strengthen their advocacy campaigns, lobby towards policymakers, and mobilize public support for meaningful changes to address CEFMU.
The UPR: The reporting cycle

**STEP 1:** Submit a report
6-7 months before the UPR Working Group session with State

**STEP 2:** The State submits the national report
Facilitate and/or participate in national consultations or engage with the government in the report drafting process.

**STEP 3:** The OHCHR prepares summary reports based on CSO report(s) and UN information

**STEP 4:** UPR Info pre-session
Participate at pre-session in Geneva or in-country

**STEP 5:** UPR Working Group session with State representative(s)
Follow the Working Group review session in-person or online

**STEP 6:** The State replies on recommendations
Advocate for the adoption of recommendations at the country level

**STEP 7:** The UPR adopts formally its final outcome during a HRC plenary session
Engage at the Human Rights Council session

**STEP 8:** Follow-up procedure for States to implement the recommendations
Engage in follow-up advocacy using recommendations
Before the review: Influence the summary reports

- Connect with **UPR-info**, an NGO located in Geneva, **Switzerland**, which plays a pivotal role in supporting CSOs in engaging with the UPR mechanism. UPR Info's main goal is to ensure that all stakeholders can access the UPR as an effective political mechanism to advance the realisation of human rights.

![UPR Info Logo]

- Check the scheduled State Review and documentation provided by the UPR for each cycle. Let's visit the [OHCHR website](https://www.ohchr.org) for guidelines and submission deadlines for civil society engagement.
Before the review: Influence the summary reports

- Submit a report before the State review
- If selected, participate in the pre-sessions in Geneva or in-country with representative of recommending States.

If your organization is chosen by UPR-Info to participate in the pre-session there is greater likelihood that issues related to CEFMU will be considered in the summary report. Consequently, there is an increased probability that States will make recommendations related to CEFMU to the SuR.
During the review: Influence the State in accepting recommendations and the UPR final outcome

- Advocate for the adoption of recommendations at country level: During the period between UPR Working Group sessions and the HRC outcome (typically 4 to 6 months), CSOs can advocate for the adoption and implementation of crucial recommendations regarding CEFMU by the State under Review.

**TIP. Develop advocacy factsheets!**

- Explain what CSOs have found in their reports about CEFMU in the country being reviewed and the prevalence of CEFMU is in that country and the progress made, challenges faced to address it, and SMART recommendations.
- Great opportunity to show how CEFMU intersect with other issues such as education and sexual and reproductive rights.
- Example of factsheet on child marriage in Bangladesh
After the review: Use recommendations for national advocacy

- Advocate for and support the implementation of UPR recommendations.

- Submit a mid-term report on the status of implementation of UPR recommendations. CSOs working on issues related to CEFMU and submitting a mid-term report should use the matrix of recommendations and indicate the status of the relevant recommendations for their advocacy strategy using three categories:
  - Fully implemented
  - Partially implemented
  - Not implemented
The UPR: how to write a CSO report

Suggested template for UPR submissions

a. Cover page
   • Civil society submissions to the UPR cannot be confidential: Assess whether there might be a risk of reprisals!
b. Introduction: briefly introduce the organisation(s) making the submission and the scope of the report, focusing on 5-10 key human rights issues identified during the reporting period, such as human rights violations related to CEFMU (Please refer to the chapters on CRC, CEDAW, and CESCR for a review of the relevant treaty articles and human rights violations associated with CEFMU).
c. Methodology: priority will be given to first-hand information.
d. Content clustered by key human rights. For each human rights issue identified:
   • Recommendations
e. Annex
### The UPR: how to write a CSO report

**Suggested template for UPR submissions**

### Annex

#### UPR of Paraguay (3rd Cycle - 38th Session)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Theme: Ratification of &amp; accession to international instruments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>118.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Bahrain) (Costa Rica) (France) (Mongolia); Source of Position: A/HRC/48/9/Add.1 - Para.6</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Theme: Ratification of &amp; accession to international instruments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>118.2 Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Morocco); Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger); Source of Position: A/HRC/48/9/Add.1 - Para.6</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Theme: Ratification of &amp; accession to international instruments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>118.3 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education 1966 (Mauritius) (Rwanda); Source of Position: A/HRC/48/9/Add.1 - Para.8</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The UPR: how to write a CSO report

Suggested template for UPR submissions

Tips for analysis:
• Offer a concise definition and contextual background of the situation of human rights in your country, incorporating the State's achievements and challenges.
• Support your arguments by including facts, evidence relevant to the priority issues and referencing relevant human rights instruments and national legal frameworks.
• Provide an analysis of the implementation status of relevant recommendations from previous UPR cycles highlighting any progress, regressions, or best practices observed, categorizing recommendations as
  o "fully implemented,"
  o "partially implemented,"
  o "in process," or "not implemented"
The UPR: how to write a CSO report

Joint or individual reports?

- Joint submissions offer increased visibility and credibility, resource pooling, and enhanced cooperation among CSOs and are more likely to be reflected in the summary reports.
- CSOs can engage in both types of submissions and should decide based on effectiveness in communicating their concerns, their resources and advocacy strategies.

Can children, especially girls, participate in the UPR reporting process?

- Children can participate in the UPR process.
- **Involving children and young people in these processes requires a safeguarding procedure, always ensuring their safety during engagement with these mechanisms.**
- The child-friendly manual *The UPR & Me: My Guide to Participating in the UPR developed by the CRC and UPR Info in 2020* serves as a resource to guide children through the UPR cycle.
The UPR: how to write a CSO report

Practical information for UPR report submission

Submission guidelines: send in Word document format through the online UPR submissions registration system. You will be requested to create an organizational profile in the system. If you encounter any technical issues, send an email to UPR submissions at ohchr-uprsubmissions@un.org

Word limit: Individual written submissions must not exceed 2815 words (additional documentation can be annexed for reference). Joint submissions must not exceed 5630 words. The cover page, endnotes and annexes will not be counted within the word/page limits of contributions.

Language: one of the UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), but preferably in English, French or Spanish.

Deadlines: submissions should be sent at least six months before the relevant Working Group session (State Review) The exact deadlines will be posted on the OHCHR UPR website. Late submissions will not be considered.

Where to find the UPR reports? OHCHR website - UPR (Documentation by country > Reports and information > Summary of stakeholders’ information

Check the guidelines
❖ The technical guidelines for stakeholders submissions
❖ Guidelines for the use of the online UPR submissions platform
Case study
Paraguay
Case study Nepal
What’s next?
States under CRC review 2024

15 Jan-2 Feb 2024
- Bulgaria
- Congo
- Lithuania
- Russia
- Senegal
- South Africa

6-24 May 2024
- Bhutan
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Georgia
- Guatemala
- Mali
- Namibia
- Paraguay

26 Aug-13 Sep 2024
- Armenia
- Ecuador
- Eritrea
- Honduras
- Israel
- Mexico
- Slovakia
- Turkmenistan
States under CEDAW review 2024

29 Jan-16 Feb 2024
• Central African Republic
• Democratic Republic of the Congo
• Djibouti
• Greece
• Italy
• Niger
• Oman
• Tajikistan
• Turkmenistan

13-31 May 2024
• Brazil
• Estonia
• Kuwait
• Malaysia
• Montenegro
• Rep. of Korea
• Rwanda
• Singapore

7-25 Oct 2024
• Benin
• Canada
• Chile
• Cuba
• Japan
• Lao PDR
• Netherlands
• New Zealand
• Saudi Arabia
States under CESCRA review 2024

12 Feb-1 March 2024
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Mauritania
- Romania
- Sweden

9-27 Sep 2024 (TBC)
- Albania
- Cyprus
- Honduras
- Iceland
- Kyrgyzstan
- Malawi
- Poland
States under UPR 2024

Jan-Feb 2024
Saudi Arabia, Senegal, China, Nigeria, Mexico, Mauritius, Jordan, Malaysia, Central African Republic, Monaco, Belize, Chad, Congo, Malta

Apr – May 2024
New Zealand, Afghanistan, Chile, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Yemen, Vanuatu, Republic of North Macedonia, Comoros, Slovakia, Eritrea, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Cambodia

Oct - Nov 2024
Norway, Albania, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Portugal, Bhutan, Dominica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Qatar, Nicaragua
Get in touch!

If you have any questions or need support in using this toolkit, reach out to the Girls Not Brides secretariat at Sophia.Lane@girlsnotbrides.org. Write “UN Treaty Bodies/UPR toolkit” in the subject line.

If you spot any inaccuracies or mistakes, or would like to share any insights from your advocacy work, please let us know! We value continuous improvement and embrace an inclusive approach to shared learning. Your feedback is essential in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of our collective work.
THANK YOU!

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