

Responses to the List of Issues for the International Review Meeting of the Second National Report of the CRC

Proposing Unit: Child and Youth Representatives, Zhuxin Life
Education Association, Hsinchu City

The Proposers: PENG, YING-HSI, CHOU, TUNG, LI, YU-TUNG, LIN, YU-
CHEN and WU, KUANG-JOU

Proposed By:	PENG, YING-HSI	Age	15
Chapters and Points	1.7		
Content	Para. 33 and 34. Please provide additional information on plans to extend training and education on the rights of the child to all professionals dealing with children, including social work, teachers, medical profession, informal education as well as to parents, caretakers, young children and youth.		
Proposals	<p>According to my knowledge, the Social and Family Affairs Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare has a database of teachers on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but during my inquiry, I found that most of the teachers are professors, lawyers, judges, etc. and are usually very busy and hardly have any spare time to participate in the promotion, and the proportion of non-profit organizations is relatively low. In fact, there are many field staff who know very well about the cultivation and education of children and communicating with parents. Take the Zhuxin Life Education Association that provided training programs to me as an example. It has been promoting children's rights since 2016 and the lecturers of the association also go to in-service education but are unable to obtain national qualification of teachers (they are not registered on the list), which in my view does not contribute to the promotion. Therefore, I hereby propose that more field counseling and training staff are qualified to become seed teachers. If more teachers can be trained, there will be opportunities to make promotion at more places, so that our children's rights education and training program can be expanded to the fullest.</p>		

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Proposed by:	CHOU, TUNG	Age	19
Chapters and Points	1.7		
Content	<p>Para. 33 and 34. Please provide additional information on plans to extend training and education on the rights of the child to all professionals dealing with children, including social work, teachers, medical profession, informal education as well as to parents, caretakers, young children and youth.</p>		
Proposals	<p>As far as I know, some of the education and training programs on children's rights are actually being implemented, and there are even programs where the government cooperates with the private sector. For example, the Social and Family Affairs Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare once had ECPAT Taiwan organize related nationwide education and training programs, but most of them were only available for professionals, resulting in less participation of non-professionals. The number of participants of training and education of the above-mentioned example was only 50 (600 in total for the 12 sessions), but this was far from sufficient. What's worse, several professionals had no opportunities to participate. So, I think the government should stipulate that professionals are required to complete a certain number of hours of education and training programs each year (or) on a school basis. Additionally, there should be more cooperation with civil societies and more available sessions should be opened to allow professionals to familiarize themselves with matters of children's rights.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is rare to see non-professionals participating in children's rights education and training programs. I think there are two ways available. The first is to cooperate with schools in various counties and cities. Because schools are the communication channels most available to non-professionals, they also need to know the situation of children the most. So, it is proposed to stipulate provisions requesting schools to hold children's rights education and training programs on a regular basis for non-professionals to attend. The second is that the government should select certain non-professionals to participate in the children's rights education and training programs on a random basis. However, I think such proposal can be carried out in a manner that offers incentives, such as gift vouchers or coupons or even subsidies for the attending non-professionals.</p> <p>The proposals I mentioned above may have some shortcomings, but I think by expanding the coverage of the children's rights education and training programs a little bit, we can allow more people to understand the importance of children's rights.</p>		

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Proposed by:	LI, YU-TUNG	Age	16
Chapters and Points	Point 9.9 of Chapter 9		
Content	9.9 If the child is a victim of sexual abuse in the family, is it then possible to remove the alleged perpetrator from the family home instead of placing the child outside of the family home?		
Proposals	<p>I think that relevant agencies should dispatch staff to conduct inspection and make the judgment based on the confession of the suspect, the statements of other family members (especially the victim’s parents), the victim, the neighbors, and the victim's teachers and classmates.</p> <p>Case 1: Reports by non-family members or reports from relatives or siblings, and the family members (especially the victim’s parents) are aware of but intentionally ignore it. In the above-mentioned cases, it is not suitable for the victim to continue to live with their family. The reason is that the victim’s parents are too cowardly and cannot fulfill the responsibilities of the parents to protect the children. 2. The victim's family members, including the parents, may think that the offender is more important than the victim, so staying in the original family would not be suitable for the victim. After the offender is arrested, the family members may complain about the victim, which may cause further harm, or the family members might intentionally refuse to make a report upon the occurrence of any subsequent assault on the victim.</p> <p>Case 2: Reports by non-family members or reports from relatives or siblings, and some of the family members (especially the victim’s parents) are aware of it. In the above-mentioned situation, it is not suitable for the victim to continue to live with their family because even the victim's relatives or non-family members are aware of the situation while the parents don't, which indicates that their parents have not given adequate care and fulfilled their responsibilities.</p> <p>Case 3: Reports by the victim’s parents, it is suitable for the victim to continue living with their family because the parents have fulfilled the responsibilities of the parents to protect the children.</p> <p>In addition, I think the best interests of children should be protected, and I propose the legislation (or amendments) of laws stipulating a weighted system, so that children’s opinions can be included for review, and more consideration should be given to children’s statements about sexual assault and what kind of assistance the children wish for.</p>		

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Proposed by:	LIN, YU-CHEN	Age	17
Chapters and Points	III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES		
Content	3.4. Para. 69 (b) Please provide further information as to what measures are being taken to reduce the danger to child pedestrians/ cyclists from traffic related injury. How are drop-off zones/ pedestrian areas determined and enforced?		
Proposals	<p>Because some schools are located in crowded areas with large traffic flows, it would make us feel that there is no clear pick-up area at these schools. Moreover, when the students are walking, the white lines near the schools are almost full of parked cars, so they can only walk on the road, which will increase the risk of being exposed to traffic accidents. I hope schools can set up a special area for parents to pick up children.</p> <p>What’s worse, the renovation of sidewalks is not completed during the summer vacation, which continues as the school opens. By that time, students can only walk on the road. Since there are many scooters driving on the side of the roads, traffic accidents between scooters and pedestrians often occur. Perhaps the government may provide schools with more resources to shorten the sidewalk construction time required and avoid construction when the schools open.</p> <p>Furthermore, although the government has added school zone sidewalks, it is no short of drawbacks and there are still many traffic accidents. I propose that the government should dispatch more police to assist in directing traffic flows.</p>		

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Proposed by:	WU, KUANG-JOU	Age	15
Chapters and Points	Point 4.2		
Content	Para. 47 Children age 16 or older can become a member of a political party. Does this include that they will have voting rights in the context of the political party and that they can become a candidate for the political party in local and national elections?		
Proposals	<p>According to criminal or administrative laws, the age is determined mainly based on the mental maturity, which is the age of 18. I have looked into the data of ages for acquiring the right to vote of several countries, and most of them are also the age of 18. So, it is reasonable that children of 16 years old who join political parties do not have the right to vote and at present, there is no provision stating that the right to vote would be acquired by joining political parties. The current laws also stipulate that people reaching the age of 18 may vote in referendums.</p> <p>In addition, I also want to propose that since 16-year-olds can join political parties, there shall be public hearings to discuss the threshold of ages and include the participation of children. I also propose that there should be an open channel for allowing children and youth nationwide to submit proposals in terms of the nomination and selection of representatives of children and youth from various places. For example, a website dedicated to the announcement of children's proposals may be established, where information about children and youth and the holding of public hearings would be posted, so that more children and youth would have the opportunity to learn about the contents and participate in the activities.</p>		