

MINISTRY OF WOMENS' RIGHTS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY WELFARE

Additional Information

Legislation

- The Government of Mauritius has ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 12 February 2009 and it entered into force for Mauritius on 12 March 2009.
- Moreover, the Government of Mauritius is making necessary arrangements to introduce new legislations and amending existing ones prior to ratifying the Optional Protocol on Sale, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- The Ministry is in the process of preparing a consolidated Children's Bill. The aim of the Bill is to provide for a comprehensive Children's Act to consolidate the various pieces of legislation on children's rights and to harmonize all laws in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially in the areas of adoption and juvenile justice.

Information, Education Campaigns

- To create public awareness, sensitization and awareness campaigns targeted towards children are carried out on a regular basis through media by way of radio and television programmes. Talks are delivered to school children at primary and secondary levels and to parents, in regions at risks; and to the community at large with a view to sensitizing them on the protective needs of children against all forms of harm and abuse.

Measures taken to address the issue of worst forms of child labour.

- Some **500 Crackdown operations** have been organized since January 2008 at the beginning of the school year, jointly with the Brigade pour la Protections des Mineurs and the National Children's Council at the bus terminals, commercial arcade, places of amusement, including video game houses and other licensed premises, water fronts and in other places likely to be frequented by truant students with a view of discouraging them from loitering around, thus being exposed to the ills of society. This activity also helps in tracking and counseling of adults and parents who are using their children as child labour. Otherwise children seen in commercial activities instead of school are taken care of by the Ministry and unscrupulous adults reported to the Ministry of Labour for sanctions as appropriate.
- **The Community Child Protection Programme** was launched in August 2007 and is currently being implemented in the nine districts of the island. This programme

allows for proximity service and acts as a forum set up at district level as at grass root level to ensure national awareness with respect to child protection issues and the elimination of the worst form of labour for children is a regular issue that is raised for sensitization purposes.