

CHILD RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH

*UPR Info Pre-session
4th Cycle of the UPR, 2023*

3rd Cycle: Key Recommendations

- Total recommendations on Children's Rights: 54
- Supported: 40; Noted: 14
- CRAC, B and JFB analysed 40 recommendations.
- Consultations with children, youth, stakeholders and authorities held.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged one consultation before drafting the national report. No consultation held on the draft report.



Status of Implementation: Major Themes

1 CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

2 VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

3 CHILD MARRIAGE

4 CHILD LABOUR

5 RIGHT TO EDUCATION

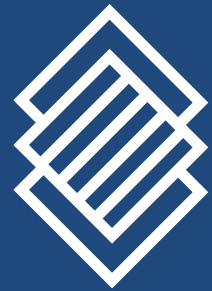
6 RIGHT TO HEALTH

7 ROHINGYA CHILDREN

Child Rights Governance

Recommendations made in third cycle	Status of Implementation	Existing Concerns
<p>Implement the national Social Security Strategy-NSSS (Belarus)</p> <p>Establish a comprehensive national system for the protection of children (Uruguay)</p>	<p>Adopted the National Action Plan-Phase II (2021-2026) to implement the NSSS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's issues have not been adequately addressed in NSSS, NPA (2021-2026), or Social Safety Net programmes. • Child budget implementation status was last reported in FY 2017–18, and since 2020, no consultations with children have occurred during the budget development process. • Non-adaptation of the Rules under the Children Act 2013 challenges its effective implementation. • Establishment of a separate directorate and a National Commission for Children's Rights to address institutional challenges has not progressed.

Recommendations



Reintroduce publishing Child Focused Budget (CFB), prepare implementation status reports and organise pre and post-budget consultations with children from all intersections.



Establish an independent National Commission for Children's Rights (NCRC).



Finalise a time-bound action plan to establish a separate department/directorate for children.

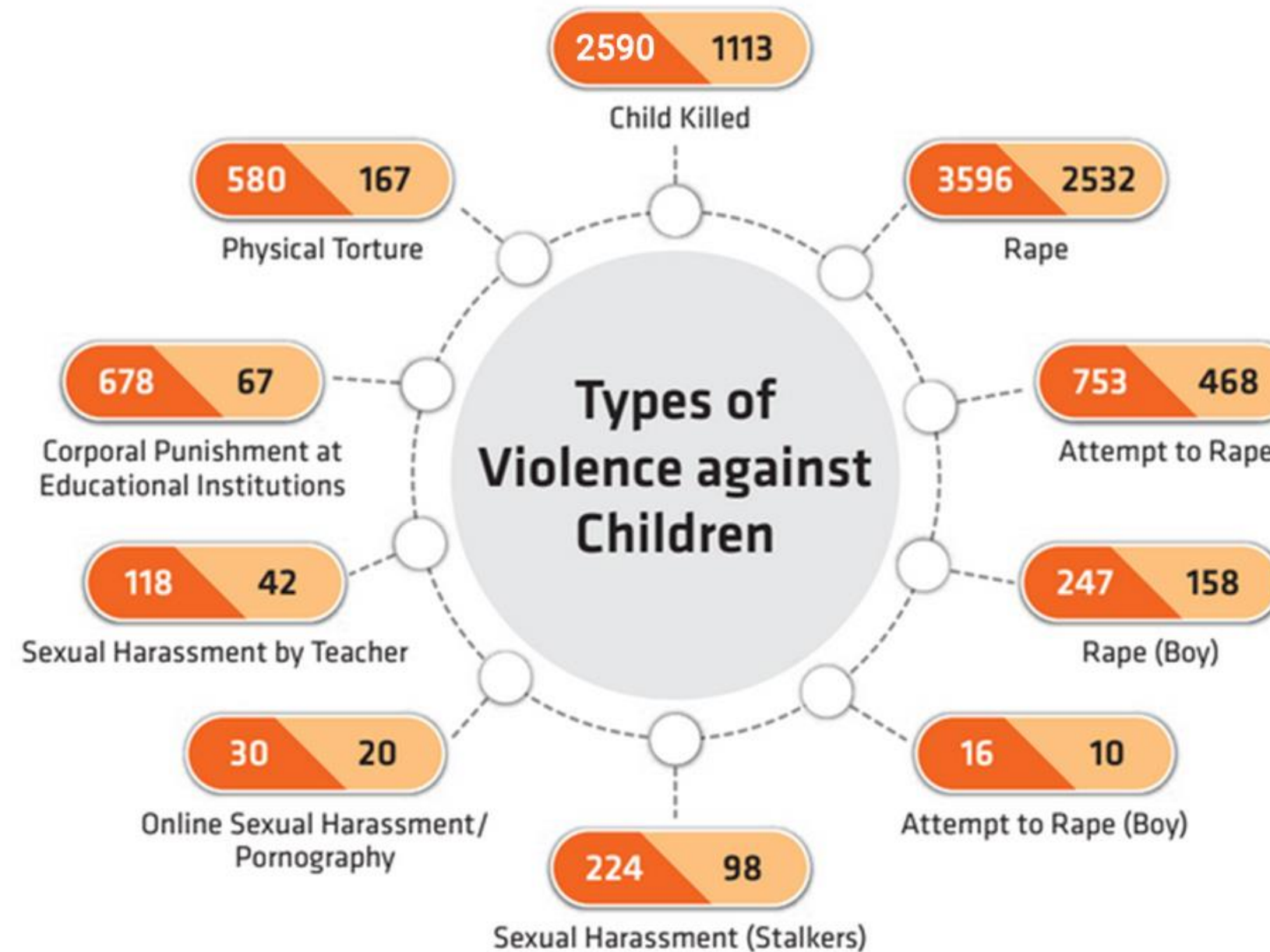


Promptly adopt the Rules of the Children Act 2013, avoiding any further delays.

Violence Against Children

September 2018 - June 2023

Combat Violence Against Children and Trafficking (Namibia, Djibouti, Guyana, Egypt, Haiti, France, Nepal)



Total Incidents
Case Filed

Source: Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

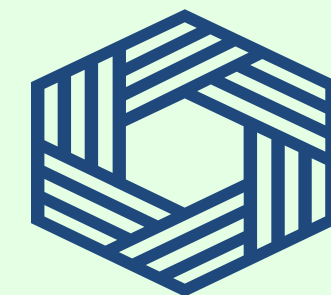
Recommendations



Ensure proper implementation and monitoring of the NAP on VAWC 2013–2025 and enforcement of existing laws addressing VAC.



Prohibit corporal punishment in every sphere, and take appropriate actions against the perpetrators.



Define and include the new forms of cybercrime to combat the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children while ensuring children's rights to privacy, information, expression and association

Child Marriage

Recommendations in third cycle	Status of Implementation	Existing Concerns
End Child Marriage (Belgium, Denmark, Viet Nam, Gabon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) Rules were formulated in 2018• The National Plan of Action (NPA) 2018-2030 was adopted to end child marriage in Bangladesh by 2041.• Local Child Marriage Prevention Committees (CMPCs) have been established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bangladesh has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia, and is among the 10 countries worldwide with the highest levels.• Section 19 of the CMRA 2017 allows child marriage under ‘special circumstances’, but neither the Act nor the Rules clarify this provision or define the circumstances, creating scope for further misuse of the law.• Absence of effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure these committees function actively, efficiently, and responsibly as duty-bearers.

Recommendations



Amend the CMRA Rules to specify the 'Special Provision' and a minimum age below which a court cannot grant marriage permission in any circumstances under Section 19 of the Act.



Establish a monitoring mechanism to regularly review the status of child marriage in the country and assess the role of the Child Marriage Prevention Committees (CMPCs).



Ensure an easy and accessible birth registration for children irrespective of their background while maintaining the authenticity of the certificates.

Child Labour

Recommendations in third cycle	Status of Implementation	Existing Concerns
<p>Eradicate child labour (Chile, Spain)</p>	<p>According to the National Child Labour Survey 2022, the number of children working in hazardous works declined from 1.28 million in 2013 to 1.06 million in 2022.</p> <p>Bangladesh ratified the ILO’s Minimum Age Convention (No. 138).</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) has updated the list of hazardous works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Child Labor Survey 2022 reveals a concerning rise of 4.5 per cent in child labour over the past decade. • Under Section 284 of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006, the punishment for employing a child or adolescent in contravention of the law is only a nominal fine up to 5,000 taka (\$46). • Child domestic work is still out of the hazardous work list. • Challenges persist in combatting child labour, including socio-economic factors, school dropouts during the pandemic, ambiguities surrounding defining a child within existing laws and policies, inadequate penalties, insufficient law enforcement, and protracted legal procedures.

Recommendations



Allocate a specific budget provision and adopt a national implementation plan reflecting expert opinion and recommendations from CSOs for eliminating all forms of child labour by 2025.



Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (Convention on Domestic Workers) and enact the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Act.



Amend labour law to include the informal sector to protect 95% of the child labourers engaged in the informal sector.



Strengthen monitoring of hazardous work for children as per the list and take a multi-sectoral approach to tackle hazardous child labour by developing a rehabilitation strategy.

Child Education

Recommendations in third cycle	Status of Implementation	Existing Concerns
<p>Right to Education Ensure quality education (Belarus, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Poland, Thailand, Singapore, Barbados, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Peru, Slovakia, Djibouti, Afghanistan, Argentina)</p>	<p>The government has targeted a 100% literacy rate and vocational upskilling by 2030</p> <p>A new curriculum was introduced to ensure quality education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The present budget allocation for education is one of the lowest in the world and far below the recommended minimum of 4-6% of GDP and 20% of the national budget.• The outbreak of COVID-19 led to an increased dropout rate, learning loss and amplified child marriages among girl children between 2020–2021.• Current education system is multidisciplinary, contributing to increasing discrimination among children from different intersections.

Recommendations



Allocate sufficient budget to ensure quality education and inclusive infrastructure and enhance teachers' and management committees' capacity.



Increase investment in ICT education, focusing on children from remote areas and marginalised groups, i.e., ethnic minorities, Dalits, and children with disabilities.



Enact the Education Act immediately with a robust reflection of the National Education Policy 2010

Child Health

Recommendations in third cycle	Status of Implementation	Existing Concerns
<p>Child Health (Holy See, Plurinational State of Bolivia)</p>	<p>The National Adolescent Health Strategy 2017–2030 has been developed involving key stakeholders and their contributions.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has established the Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS), nationwide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a lack of effective monitoring at community-level health service centres, especially in remote areas.• Lack of awareness regarding AFHS among adolescents and parents; stigma around SRHR services for unmarried adolescents resulted in a significant fraction of adolescents not accessing AFHS.

Recommendations



Implement and monitor the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2017–2030.



Raise awareness among community members, including parents, teachers, SMCs, and religious leaders, regarding the importance of SRHR for children and adolescents



Appoint an adequate number of psychosocial counsellors at health centres and education institutions.



Develop a strategic plan for creating playgrounds and swimming pools with appropriate facilities in urban and rural settings to ensure physical and mental growth of the children.

Rohingya Children

Recommendations in third cycle	Status of Implementation	Existing Concerns
Refugees & asylum seekers (Argentina)	<p>According to UNICEF, by August 2022, more than 130,000 learners were learning per their home country's curriculum</p> <p>As per the '2021 Joint Response Plan: Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis', 515,052 Rohingya children need educational support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a lack of funding and resources to provide access to education for Rohingya children in Bangladesh.• 75% of babies are born in unsafe and unsanitary bamboo shelters, and almost one-third of children under five have grown stunted by lack of food.

Recommendations



Strengthen diplomatic ties to secure international funding for Rohingya children's education, health, and essential services, upholding their basic rights.

Thank You



Thank You



The statement endorsed by-

1. Breaking the Silence (BTS)
2. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)
3. Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)
4. Good Neighbours
5. Grambangla Unnayan Committee
6. Nagorik Uddyog
7. Sajida Foundation
8. Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)