

Alternative reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Every year the Geneva-based UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) reviews the situation of children in different countries. WCC member churches and partners are invited to consider submitting alternative reports with their observations from the ground.

For example, if your government's report to the UNCRC says that domestic violence is not a problem in your country, but pastors of your communities witness that violence in homes is a source of suffering for children, you may provide an alternative report that highlights a particular challenge and makes recommendations for measures which you consider urgent (in this case for example setting up helpline systems).

An alternative report can contain observations and recommendations on any type of child rights violations which your church may observe, ranging from the impact of climate change on children to the use of child soldiers, child labour, access to health services, access to school etc.

How to submit an alternative report to the UNCRC

Please keep in mind the following practical information in order to help the committee to more fully understand the country situation and to make informed recommendations.

- The report should be no longer than 30 pages (approx. 20,000 words)
- Include concrete examples, illustrating points using concrete evidence or specific cases (in a way that is respectful of the privacy rights of those involved in the case)
- Each section of the report should conclude with a limited number of recommendations that the Committee might consider using to prepare its recommendations. These recommendations are suggested solutions to the issues raised and be action-oriented.
- Please include details on your information sources.

The report will be handled in a confidential way. For detailed background on the reporting process to the CRC the following guide-book may be of interest to you: http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CRC_Reporting_Guide_WebVersion.pdf. Pages 9-16 are the most relevant, but the essence of what is needed is summarised in the bullet points above.

If you would like to provide raw material, the WCC can assist you in editing it into the required format (For further information please contact the special advisor on children's rights, email:

Frederique.seidel@wcc-coe.org).