



**St. Lucia's 1st UN CRC NGO Report
to
United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
on
The state of human rights of children and youth
in response to
June 2010 Combined 2nd, 3rd & 4th State report
by
Road to Geneva Child Rights Research & Advocacy project team
A NGO-Youth Coalition
September 2011**



AAF



RISE (St. Lucia) Inc.



NYC



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Introduction

This NGO shadow report, in response to the Government's combined 2nd, 3rd & 4th report (June 2010) on St. Lucia's United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) implementation, is the first of its kind since ratification of the UN CRC in 1993. It offers a complementary view to the State's, especially those areas where laws, policies and practices do not match CRC principles, as recommended by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The report is informed by 'ROAD TO GENEVA' (RTG), a youth-led, multi-agency, action research and advocacy project on the human rights of St. Lucian children and youth, and current governmental and NGO responses, carried out from September 2009 – December 2011 by a Coalition of St. Lucian youth and 6 NGO's who work with/for children: **RISE (St. Lucia) Inc.; Aids Action Foundation (AAF); National Youth Council (NYC); St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association (SLPPA); National Council Of/For Persons With Disabilities (NCPD); St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association (SLBWA).**

This report is supplemented by the RTG youth-friendly report "*Who Feels It Knows It*", which reveals some of the challenges faced by St. Lucian children and youth today. Together, they express the collective vision of this youth-led coalition, directly reveal the experiences of St. Lucian children and youth and offer expression of UN CRC Article 12 - children have a right to a say in all matters which affect them. We hope that it offers a fresh perspective and first-hand, relevant information which is complementary to the State report; and we look forward to the Committee's recommendations, hoping to participate in their continued implementation to substantially improve the lives of children. We acknowledge the absence of several useful voices and influences that would have made this process more representative, wish that all invited agencies and more youth could have found time to be involved, and state our willingness to involve all interested persons in our continuing efforts for children. **RTG Team.**

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The project/this report would not have been possible without the support of the children and young people who contributed their time and creativity to this project by workshop and focus group participation, survey completion and material submission.

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The RTG Sponsors

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The RTG NGO Coalition members and

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Mr. David Vitalis, Journalist, St. Lucia Mirror Newspaper	Ms. Pauline McDonald, Caterer; Mr. Nigel Simon, Transportation
Principals & staff of Participating schools, especially Dame Pearlette Louisy Primary	

Overview

Report Format

Guided by the NGO Group for the CRC, this report is an analysis of the Saint Lucia 2010 State report based on the recommended 8 clusters of articles:

- general measures of implementation (*Articles 4, 42, 44.6*)
- definition of the child (*Article 1*)
- general principles (*Articles 2, 3, 6, 12*)
- civil rights and freedoms (*Articles 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 37(a)*)

- family environment & alternative care (*Articles 5, 9, 10, 11, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27.4*)
- basic health and welfare (*Articles 18, 23, 24, 26, 27*)
- education, leisure and cultural activities (*Articles 28, 29, 31*)
- special protection measures (*Articles 22, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40*)

Included, and juxtaposed, for direct reference, are the 2005 UN CRC Committee's Concluding Observations; Government's reported improvements in the interim; the RTG team's findings, concerns and recommendations.

RTG Research Highlights

The main objectives of the project were to raise public awareness on children's rights, especially amongst children and youth; to encourage and facilitate familiarization with related governmental, as well as NGO, policies and laws; and to engage youth in the UN CRC monitoring/reporting process. It included youth engagement; training workshops for youth researchers, NGO partners, Media; Youth-conducted Research –youth-designed peer survey; focus groups, community consultations, field trips, key informant interviews; policy, practices, laws, Literature reviews; Media coverage especially during '09,'10,'11 Child Rights weeks.

The RTG team's overall conclusion is that while some positive steps have been taken in the 5 years since the 1st report, much work remains to be done to realize the many promises inherent in our ratification of the UN CRC. The RTG youth researchers learnt from their peers that whilst:

- Over 90% say they can *sometimes or always* get medical care when sick
- Over 90% *always* have food, clothes and a safe place to live
- 9 in 10 report they can *sometimes or always* participate in clubs, sports, music, drama activities
- 84% report that they *sometimes or always* can go to school regardless of physical/mental abilities
- 69% *sometimes or always* feel safe expressing their beliefs and ideas (political, religious, cultural, etc.) through art, speaking, and writing without fear of discrimination
- Over half report that they *sometimes or always* solve conflicts in their school, home, or community *without* violence

But unfortunately,

- 1 in 10 feels they are *never* safe from sexual abuse; 16% *don't know* if they are safe from sex abuse
- More than 1 in 5 *don't know* if they are safe from being kidnapped from home, school or community
- 66% say they drink alcohol
- Just over 1 in 4 report they have access to illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine)
- 86% say that physical punishment is used on students at their school
- Nearly 70% feel young people in St. Lucia are *sometimes or always* discriminated against because of lifestyle choices like style of dress, religious practices, or other activities or interests
- 30% say that adults *rarely or never* take young people's opinions into consideration in St. Lucia
- Nearly 1/3 say they *don't know* if the government of St. Lucia or another organization will help them if in trouble and their family can't help
- 38% say that government *rarely or never* does things to ensure everyone knows children's rights

As in Appendix IV, the RTG researchers also learnt about things St. Lucia does well for young people including universal education and sports facilities; that St. Lucia does not maintain safety for youth, keep young people out of crime or provide enough extra-curricular activities or jobs for youth; and that less expensive education, if they worked hard, got a good education and stayed away from violence would all make youth lives better.

RTG responses to reported actions taken by Saint Lucia having considered the Committee's 2005 observations, concerns and recommendations¹²:

1. *2007 Caribbean Development Bank-sponsored Child Development and Children at Risk project to plan expanded and high quality services to children and families at risk.*
Status: The recommendations are yet to be implemented⁵⁵
2. *Introduction of Universal Secondary Education (USE) in 2006/07.*
Status: In '06/07, addition of 4 new secondary schools (Gros Islet, Marigot; Grande Riviere, Vieux Fort Technical) bringing the total to 23; student enrolment increased by 12% (12, 965 to 14, 578; 47% males; 53%

females; gross enrolment rate 84%; net enrolment rate 75%); increased teacher population (738 to 855; 59% trained). However, secondary school dropouts increased—219 in '05/'06 (54% male); 236 in '07/'08 (57% male).⁹²

3. *Efforts to eradicate corporal punishment in schools through a UNICEF/UNESCO sponsored Child-Friendly School Initiative project*

Status: 2 Pilot schools (Fond Assau Primary; Bocage Secondary) began the project in 2009 with needs assessments and teacher training. No further scale-up to other schools has occurred:

http://www.unicef.org/barbados/Intouch_Revised.pdf

4. *Transit Home and Therapeutic Centre for child victims of abuse and neglect*

Status: Opened in January 2011: <http://www.egov.lc/press-releases3/press-releases/new-beginnings-transit-home-on-path-to-full-completion>

5. *Organization of Eastern Caribbean States draft model legislations for harmonization of laws to the CRC*

Status: still at Attorney General's office review before submission for Cabinet approval (verbal report)

Key Concerns

The UN CRC promises children help NOW. We have to mention St. Lucia's struggles to respond to the immediacy of the needs of children and youth:

- to adequately protect them from physical punishment, abuse, and neglect
- to show respect for their views and experiences
- to facilitate their involvement in matters of importance to their lives
- to provide swift, consistent, effective interventions and support for reported abuses and other youth risks
- to raise awareness about these supports and simplify children's access to them

Throughout the State report, one recognizes a cross-cutting theme in all the very commendable government actions for children - *'the adult agenda'*. We have seen that some children don't have that time.

Key Recommendations

Overarching Theme: - for children, think like them... ACT SIMPLY, ACT NOW!

Child Protection

Offer better, more easily accessible support to ALL children, especially those at identified risk:

- Ensure adequate services to meet children's needs by establishing immediately a 7-day, 24 hour service
 - Operate the Child Abuse Hotline as a 24 hr service (cell phones; on-call rota system)
 - Increase the trained Social Workers in Division of Human Services & Family Affairs
 - Enlarge the Transit-home for children
 - Provide multi-disciplinary teams to deliver needed preventive/therapy services within the existing framework of the Community Child Health Service, shifting from reaction to prevention
- Offer greater support to Foster-careers and to the Foster care & Adoption program
- Advertise and Enforce the Mandatory Reporter clause of the new Criminal Code
- Ban Corporal Punishment in schools and institutions immediately; and engage the nation in Positive Discipline awareness-raising with a view to extending the ban to homes
- Re-frame the child abuse advocacy strategy. Galvanize public support and accountability by changing the public's frame of reference from the public horror and outcry over severe cases to the common, everyday problems (use "every parent is a potential abuser, including Me" theme); encourage community responsibility for prevention through identification/reporting of ALL cases not just the most severe, and acceptance of their positive role in support for challenged parents/families

Youth Justice

- afford children ages 16-17 yrs the same protection and guarantees as younger peers
- Establish an independent, national Guardian *ad Litem* service
- Accelerate the Constitutional reform process-express recognition of children's rights
- Adopt the OECS draft model legislations for harmonization of laws to the CRC

Child Poverty

- ensure that children in need are rapidly identified; e.g. universal risk screen from birth
- fast-track the welfare system interventions for these identified children

Health & Education

- Implement the proposed National Child & Adolescent Health Program
- Implement EECHO – *Extended Early Childhood Health Outreach* - a planned, universal, high-quality early childhood care and education program

CRC Monitoring & Reporting

- Immediately activate the planned National Action Child Protection Council⁶⁵(NACPC) and involve NGO's and youth in monitoring and reporting

Development Of State Report

The Government's combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th report was prepared by a consultant (Ms. Clementia Eugene, past Director of the Division of Human Services & Family Affairs; currently Head/Lecturer, Department of Social Work & Development, Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Aruba); sponsored by UNICEF; supported by a Coordinating Committee (Government & NGO family/child services) who reviewed the consultant's draft and were informed by an Information Kit (CRC text; general guidelines re CRC periodic reports; Saint Lucia's 1st CRC report '93-'03 and its Concluding observations/recommendations of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child). The draft report was presented at two national consultations (stakeholders; children). Feedback from these was reportedly included in the final report.

RTG Findings:

No clear evidence of the feedback from the report review or the national consultations. Several members of the Coordinating Committee when asked were unaware of the completion and submission of the final report. None of the young people interviewed were part of the national consultation. No children/youth with disabilities were included in the children's consultation.

Key Recommendations:

A clearer mechanism of national research and a wider consultation, to inform the Government's report, especially with the youth voice, is needed.

Cluster 1. General Measures Of Implementation (Articles 4, 42, 44.6)

Legislation

The Committee was concerned that existing legislation does not fully reflect the principles and provisions of the CRC, e.g. non-discrimination, corporal punishment, juvenile justice, and recommends that the State take all necessary measures to ensure that legislation conforms fully to provisions and principles of CRC.

2010 State Response: No major changes in 5 yr review period in laws for children (Children & Young Persons Act, Education Act, Affiliation Ordinance, Adoption Ordinance, Civil Status Act, Criminal Code) but '04 Criminal Code (in effect January '05) addresses the Committee's concerns about child sexual abuse; '06 draft Labour Code addresses concerns about child labour, and seeks to harmonize local laws with the ILO Convention No. 138; January '10 Counter Trafficking Act addresses child trafficking. The OECS Family Law & Domestic Violence Legal & Judicial Reform Project developed/submitted 4 draft bills to OECS Governments: *Status of Children* (redress disadvantages of children born out of wedlock; provide for declaration of parentage); *Child Care & Adoption* (care/protection of children from abuse; emphasis on investigation, assessment, intervention, emergency removal, foster care; roles/responsibilities of child care/protection agencies; mandatory abuse reporting); *Child Justice* (in accordance with Art. 37, 40); *Domestic Violence* (protection of victims). Government has committed to their final recommendations (at Attorney General's office for final review before submission for Cabinet approval). Adoption will result in repeal of Children & Young Persons Act revised 2001, Adoption Ordinance 1954, Civil Status Act, Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act 1994, and will require a change in existing social service/youth justice agencies so a restructuring proposal for DHSFA - responsible for child care/protection - has been prepared. Implementation is slow because of limited financial resources.

RTG Findings:

If I get in trouble with the authorities, I can find someone to talk to who can help me with the legal process: Always 32.9%; Sometimes 31.7%; Rarely 8.6%; Never 7.9%; Don't Know 18.4%; No response 0.3%

- The legislation impacting St. Lucian children and youth²⁸⁻⁵¹ is a much longer list than in the State report and is not easily available for reference. *Electronic listing at www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxweslu.htm.*
- Although the Constitution prohibits discrimination¹, there is no legislation addressing discrimination against PWD's, protecting the rights of persons with disabilities or mandating provision of government services.
- An amendment to the Saint Lucia Criminal Code Act No. 9 of 2004 (in effect January 2005) was made in 2007 to address Mandatory Reporting of child abuse³²
- Many important laws are still contrary to the principles of the CRC: Education Act # 41 of 1999²⁸ and others on Corporal Punishment; Criminal Code³², Children & Young Persons Act²⁹ on age of criminal responsibility and definition of a juvenile.
- OECS draft model legislations would allow harmonization of laws to the CRC⁵¹.

Key Recommendations:

We recognize, as acknowledged by the State, that adoption of new legislation by itself does not guarantee effective protection of the children's rights. Laws do not protect children, people do. Effective protection needs meaningful coordination of child protection workers and policy makers to ensure a rights-based approach by all.

We note the need for immediate legal reforms to:

- St. Lucia Constitution to give express recognition to children's rights, with emphasis on the disabled
- St. Lucia Civil Code to confirm 18 yrs as age of majority (Child: anyone <18 yrs); to afford children ages 16&17 yrs the same protection/guarantees as younger peers, in child protection, child maintenance, juvenile justice (e.g. prevention from being imprisoned or discharged from care when no home)
- St. Lucia Criminal Code for legislation against child abandonment, harm exposure, emotional abuse
- Education Act # 41 of 1999 to ban Corporal Punishment in schools and care/custody institutions
- create specific legislation to address rights of children with disabilities and special health care needs; rights of children to optimal early childhood health/care services; welfare support when necessary
- establish/adequately resource independent, national Guardian *ad Litem* service; necessary legislative provisions to ensure children are heard in their own right in court and in matters directly affecting them.
- establish standards and provisions to be applied by the Courts to secure the best interests of the child
- adopt recommendations of OECS Family Law & Domestic Violence Legal & Judicial Reform Project

Coordination

The Committee was concerned that there was no established body with an official coordinating & reporting role on the CRC and recommended that the State establish a body, e.g. a national inter-ministerial committee on child rights, with a clearly outlined political mandate/implementation process to coordinate activities of ministries dealing with children; seek assistance from UNICEF.

2010 State Response: Saint Lucia does not have a National Inter-Ministerial Committee on Child Rights despite attempts to form a National Action Child Protection Council (NACPC) - advisory body on children's matters and CRC implementation - with representatives of government and NGO's. Inter-ministerial meetings are held to discuss children's matters. Saint Lucia will make all efforts to establish the NACPC in the near future.

RTG Findings:

The '02 Legislative & Monitoring Committee noted in the 1st State report - 'mandated to examine and monitor the extent to which existing laws, policies and services are matching the needs of children, especially within the context of child protection' - became the working group for the '05 UNICEF-sponsored Child Vulnerability Study⁶⁰ and thereafter formed the National Action Child Protection Council (NACPC) in '07⁶⁵. This national multi-disciplinary committee (representatives from government and civil society) was to be an advisory body on children's matters, to coordinate action on behalf of children, and to act as the CRC monitoring body. Its terms of reference were submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers in February '09 for approval, which remains outstanding (*verbal report AG's chambers*).

Key Recommendations:

Reactivate the original NACPC and resubmit its TOR's for immediate Cabinet approval

National Plan Of Action

The Committee was concerned that there was no National Plan of Action for Children; urged the State to strengthen efforts to develop/implement same for full CRC implementation; seek assistance from UNICEF; involve civil society in implementation.

2010 State Response: A National Plan of Action for children is yet to be developed.

RTG Findings:

The government of St. Lucia does things to ensure everyone knows the rights of children. Always 20.2%; Sometimes 26%; Rarely 22.2%; Never 15.9%; Don't Know 15.2%; No response 0.5%

Key Recommendations:

- Creating a National Plan of Action for Children should be the first order of business for the NACPC, with involvement of youth. Involvement of civil society is paramount in developing this action plan. Input from student bodies and community surveys could be used to gather information for the plan.
- Facilitate the pending revision of National Youth Policy (ages of 13-35yrs) to incorporate child rights issues.

Independent Monitoring

The Committee noted that the Parliamentary Commissioner does not have specific mandate for independent monitoring/promotion of children's rights nor is there a child-specific/sensitive procedure for filing individual complaints; recommended that the State establish an independent body for monitoring CRC implementation (General Comment No. 2 (2002) on national human rights institutions and in accordance with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (General Assembly resolution 48/134). Such body should be provided with adequate human/financial resources, easily accessible to children; deal with complaints from children in a child-friendly/sensitive manner and seek technical assistance from UNICEF and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2010 State Response: The State report recognized the limited function of the Parliamentary Commissioner and noted that DHSFA provided children/citizens opportunity to report any/all cases of child maltreatment. Recommendation has been made by the CDB's '07 Child Development Project for a Children's Advocate for advocacy services to children/young persons in difficult circumstances.

RTG Findings

- The National Centre for Legal Aid and Human Rights Inc., a human rights advocacy NGO, provides free legal aid to persons in need since 1998, although not expressly to children (http://www.thevoiceslu.com/feat_nfwo/2009/march/07_03_09/Standing%20up%20for%20Our%20Rights.htm)
- St. Lucia's experience with NGO or other independent human rights treaty monitoring and/or reporting is limited to the Caribbean Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) St. Lucia branch's CEDAW shadow NGO report in March '06¹⁶ and the '09 *Road to Geneva* Child Rights Research & Advocacy project²⁷.
- RISE (St. Lucia) Inc. since inception in '07, has done year-round national promotion of children's rights, and the CRC specifically, especially during Child Rights Week in November annually (www.risesaintlucia.com).
- While the DHSFA's draft Child Abuse Management Protocol⁶⁶ includes a Mandatory reporting clause which is supported by an '07 revision of the Criminal Code³², this is not independent monitoring and is deemed inadequate

Key Recommendations:

- Urgent appointment of a Children's Advocate with adequate support and resources
- Integrate the use of ICT in the form of private online reporting as an alternative platform for aid and monitoring.
- National support for further development of the RTG NGO-Youth coalition as the nucleus of an independent monitoring body, and involvement in scaling up of annual child rights week activities

Resources For Children

The Committee remains concerned that in many instances, as acknowledged in the State report there is a lack of sufficient financial resources for CRC implementation; recommends systematic increase of budgetary allocations to “the maximum extent of the State’s available resources and where needed, within the framework of international cooperation” as provided in CRC article 4 and using the rights-based approach; and establishment of firm priorities for addressing child rights in its national plan for poverty reduction.

2010 State Response: During the reporting period, there was an increase in the budgetary allocation for social services and education. In ‘07/’08, education expenditure as a % of GDP remained constant at 6.1%. Government invested \$161.5 million in education, 2nd largest share of budget; increase of 1.1% to \$127.3 million in recurrent expenditure. However, capital expenditure decreased significantly by 6.4% to \$34.3 million in keeping with completion of several school building projects. Health expenditure grew by 40% from ’01-’06, from EC\$61.7m to EC\$86m respectively. Public health budget of ‘06-’07 accounted for 9.18% of total health budget; significant increase in the capital budgetary allocations for children at DHSFA. Monies were made available for the construction of a Transit Home for children (to open January ‘11 for 22 child victims of abuse/ neglect); residential quarters for Upton Gardens Girls Centre (building identified). Government has demonstrated commitment to poverty reduction, through many initiatives

RTG Findings:

30% of youth say that adults rarely or never take young people’s opinions into consideration when it comes to youth issues in St. Lucia. 38% of youth say that the government of St. Lucia rarely or never does things to ensure everyone knows the rights of children.

The Transit Home is operational, but the Upton Gardens centre residential facility has not been realized.

Key Recommendations:

- Cooperating NGO’s should improve efforts to access available donor funding for support of their rights-based approaches and CRC implementation
- Activation of NACPC should allow improved coordination of all agencies serving children for pooling of dedicated resources for CRC implementation and rights-based approaches of individual agencies
- Specific attention to needs of children with disabilities in capital budgetary allocations as it is expensive to cater to their needs (e.g. a child with a disability may require the use of a specialized computer with costly special software to make education accessible; a caregiver; special transportation arrangements to attend school; costly adaptive equipment)

Data Collection

The Committee is concerned at the general lack of pertinent data in the State report, the non-disaggregated, poorly analysed data in its responses; at the lack of data for 15 -18yr group; notes that such data are crucial for formulation, monitoring, evaluation of progress/impact assessment of policies for children; and recommends further attention to developing a Central Database Registry covering all areas of the CRC for children up to 18 years to be used in the formulation, monitoring, evaluation of policies, programmes, projects for effective CRC implementation and seek technical assistance from UNICEF.

2010 State Response: There is no centralized, computerized Management Information System for data collection and storage related to children or to the CRC. A National Health Management Information System (NHMIS) is under development by the Ministry of Health, intended to propose common data standards and integrating variables for all departments within the Ministry with an emphasis on capturing data on child and adolescent health. DHSFA staff have been trained in Helen Info, a local adaptation of Dev/Info, a computerized data collection/storage program.

RTG Findings:

The ability to access consistent, reliable data on children was a serious challenge for RTG. Data collection and documentation were inconsistent. Standard data collection procedures and entry to a central statistical unit are non-existent. No collection of specific data on children with disabilities is done.

The St. Lucia Health information system (SLUHiS) referred to in the state report, is set for phased implementation in the first quarter of ‘11. The 1st phase (11 of 33 community health centers) scheduled for mid-year will track patient clinical

data, paths; prescriptions and drug dispensing; inventory tracking and Personnel management. (*St. Lucia Government Information Service*). There is no relationship between this system and the existing data collection in the Ministry of Health's Epidemiology Unit or the Government Statistical Unit.

The Helen Info project ended before its plans could be fully implemented(http://www.devinfo.org/Di-wiki/index.php?title=Saint_Lucia)

Key Recommendations:

- The respective government agencies and NGOs' should be required to collect a balanced range of personal/demographic, statistical and performance information.
- Sensitization and training of all government staff to the importance of accurate and consistent data collection and the recognition between the difference between data collection and case recording.(see Appendix V)
- The data should be accessible through a centralized computer database system
- Creation of an easily accessible centralized data bank
- Special attention needs to be given to the collection of data on children with disabilities, other special needs
- Help for government agencies and organization to utilize the information gathered to learn change and improve.

Training/Dissemination Of The Convention

The Committee remains concerned that training/dissemination of the CRC not done systematically and recommends that the State strengthen efforts to raise awareness through systematic education and training for all groups working for/with children, in particular parliamentarians, judges, magistrates, lawyers, law enforcement, civil servants, personnel in institutions/places of detention for children, teachers, health personnel, social workers; recommends that the State ensure implementation of envisaged projects for engaging with the public on child rights and that human rights education be included in the official education curriculum, at all levels

2010 State Response: Saint Lucia has not developed a consistent, systematic public education programme on CRC awareness because of the lack of financial/human resources, and absence of independent NGO to advocate on behalf of children.

RTG Findings:

The government of St. Lucia does things to ensure everyone knows the rights of children: Always 20.3%; Sometimes 26%; Rarely 22.2%; Never 15.9%; Don't Know 15.2%

RTG challenges the State report: Saint Lucia does indeed have a 'NGO working independently of Government to advocate on behalf of children'. Since 2007 RISE (*St. Lucia*) Inc. (www.risesaintlucia.com) has been advocating on behalf of youth, training in community change and positive youth development skills, and raising youth/public's awareness on rights and specifically on the CRC. Training in child rights and CRC is carried out in our Youth-friendly Spaces and at school retreats throughout the school year, but specifically during Child Rights Week activities annually in November. These annual targeted activities have also included media (print, TV, radio) publications. Training and dissemination of the CRC was a specific objective of the RTG project utilizing youth²⁷.

Key Recommendations:

- Development of a formal human rights education program (Ministries of Youth & Education), with involvement of the media and collaboration with RISE and other local NGO's
- Governmental recognition/celebration of annual International Child Rights week & Universal Children's day
- Inclusion of human rights education in Teacher training and schools' curricula,

Cooperation With Civil Society

The Committee notes with concern the limited role that civil society, in particular NGOs play in CRC promotion and recommends that the State encourage active, systematic involvement of civil society, including NGOs in the child rights promotion, including their participation in the follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee.

2010 State Response: In preparation of this 2010 CRC report, 4 NGO's that provide family/child services were included in the Coordinating Committee convened by Government for review of the consultant's draft, and represented at the April '10 national

consultation to review the findings were: National Council of/for Persons with Disabilities; St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association; St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association; St. Lucia Crisis Centre and AIDS Action Foundation.

RTG Findings:

Contrary to the reported limited role of NGO's and civil society in the promotion of the CRC, it is clear that these organizations actually lead in this respect, providing most of the information that is available on the CRC. What is lacking is coordination of these efforts and recognition by the State, and a formal system for their involvement in the CRC reporting mechanism. There's no evidence of Government's cooperation with NGO's on matters related to the CRC prior to the preparation of the 2010 report.

Key Recommendations:

- Recognition of the RTG NGO-Youth Coalition as an umbrella body for collaboration with government on CRC and child rights issues
- NGOs are equipped with technical resources and should be supported financially by government to assist in areas of specificity such as the CRC mandate.

Cluster 2. Definition Of The Child (Article 1)

The Committee was concerned at the definition of juveniles as persons <16 yrs of age which means that children of 16 & 17 yrs do not receive the protection provided for persons <16 yrs; recommended that the State change its laws to ensure that all persons <18yrs are provided with the same protection and guarantees in the area of child protection, child maintenance and juvenile justice.

2010 State Response: There have been no amendments to laws of Saint Lucia to ensure that they provide all children <18 yrs with the same protection and guarantees in juvenile justice, child protection.

RTG Findings:

Children between the ages of 16–17 yrs are ineligible for the care and protection provided by the State to their younger peers (*Boys Training Centre Management Guidelines*) and this discrepancy has been highlighted recently with several instances of boys (aged 16 & 17yrs) imprisoned and/or discharged from the care of the State without adequate investigation of their home circumstances, later found living on the street (*Community Child Health Service anecdotal report*)

Key Recommendations:

Amend the St. Lucia Civil Code to confirm 18 yrs as the age of majority, and hence the definition of a child as all persons <18 yrs. This will afford children ages 16-18 yrs the same protection and guarantees of their younger peers, in child protection, child maintenance and juvenile justice (e.g. prevent them from being sent to prison and/or being discharged from state care when they have no home)

Cluster 3. General Principles (Articles 2, 3, 6, 12)

Non-Discrimination (Article 2)

The Committee remains concerned that the right to non-discrimination as in CRC article 2 has not been fully incorporated into the State's legislation/practice and urges the State to raise efforts to ensure that existing laws fully comply with article 2, to abolish as a matter of priority all discriminatory provisions re children born out of wedlock and requests that specific information be included, in the next periodic report, on CRC-relevant measures/programmes undertaken by the State to follow up on the Durban Declaration & Programme on Action (World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance) taking into account GC No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education.

2010 State Response: No notable changes since the 1st State report.

RTG Findings:

Youth in St. Lucia are discriminated against because of life-style choices like style of dress, religious practices, or other activities or interests: Always 31.7%; Sometimes 37.6%; Rarely 5.7%; Never 5.2%; Don't Know 18.8%

I feel safe expressing my beliefs and ideas (political, religious, cultural, etc.) through art, speaking, and writing without fear of discrimination: Always 26.7%; Sometimes 42.1%; Rarely 10.2%; Never 9.1%; Don't Know 11.4%

Despite the specific recommendation, no CRC-specific measures were under-taken in the interim by the State to follow up on the Durban Declaration & Programme of Action.

There is no specific legislation addressing discrimination against persons with disabilities. The UNCRPD was signed on 20th September 2011 but is not yet ratified (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/countries.asp?id=166> United Nations Enable, official website of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

Key Recommendations:

Government needs to now ratify the UNCRPD and formalize a Plan of Action for its implementation

Best Interests Of The Child (Article 3)

The Committee is concerned that the best interest of the child is not reflected as a general principle in all legislation regarding children and recommends that the State provide information on its progress in reviewing current legislation and incorporating the principle of the best interest of the child into the legislation where appropriate.

2010 State Response: The Government report cites the judicial system's use of Video link technology in cases of child abuse, as evidence of its mindfulness of the principle of the best interests of the child.

RTG Findings:

There have been no changes in policy or legislation that reflect attention to the best interests of the child.

Key Recommendations:

- Training of all child care workers in the best interests of the child principle and its application in matters of healthcare, social work, education, the justice system
- Accelerate the implementation of the OECS Family Law bills

Respect For The Views Of The Child (Article 12)

The Committee remains concerned that practices which reflect respect for the views of the child are not fully incorporated into societal practices and urges the State to: (a) Promote/facilitate respect for children's views; ensure their participation in all matters affecting them in all spheres of society, particularly in the family, schools, judicial system (CRC article 12); (b) Continue to strengthen advocacy/educational efforts to make the public aware of the importance of consideration of views of the child, in particular parents, teachers and government and administrative officials.

2010 State Response: The National Youth Policy provides for the full participation of youth (15-35 yrs) in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. Annual Youth Parliament with youth debate of issues of national, regional and international importance. National Youth Council and the National Student Councils; activities are not consistent and sustained all year round.

RTG Findings:

Adults take young people's opinions into consideration when it comes to youth issues in St. Lucia: Always 4.8%; Sometimes 51.4%; Rarely 17.8%; Never 12.8%; Don't Know 13.1%

Despite much talk, RTG is concerned about the limited extent of real youth participation. There are too few opportunities for children/youth to become meaningfully involved in government decisions, policies or programs that impact their lives; most participation efforts are still of a superficial nature - a group of youth quickly gathered together to give the appearance. Research on young peoples' participation and their awareness of their rights is limited to an '08 UNICEF EC Youth Participation study⁶⁷ and to the RTG project.

The National Youth Council & its student councils have had limited success in schools and the annual Youth Parliament is not a truly national youth event (RTG youth researchers' feedback)

Key Recommendations:

- Sustained advocacy for consistent youth participation
- Refreshed Annual Youth Parliament with year-round youth shadowing of active Parliamentarians and public debate/advocacy for youth issues

Cluster 4. Civil Rights & Freedoms (Articles 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 37(A))

Corporal Punishment (Cp)

The Committee is concerned that CP is a lawful way of disciplining children, under the Children & Young Persons and Education Acts, and is further concerned that CP is widely practiced as a highly-favoured method of punishment; recommends that the State: (a) Amend legislation to explicitly prohibit CP in family, schools, institutions; (b) Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to inform the public about the negative impact of CP on children, actively involving children and media; (c) Ensure that positive, participatory, non-violent forms of discipline are administered in a manner consistent with CRC, in particular article 28 (2) as an alternative to CP

2010 State Response: Amendment of the Education Act #41 of 1991 to prohibit the use of CP and to eradicate its use in the family remains a formidable challenge because it is part of the culture of discipline. Some attempts have been made to promote positive, non-violent discipline in a manner consistent with the CRC in parenting programmes, public education programmes, piloting of the UNICEF/UNESCO Child-friendly School Initiative in 2009 (Fond Assau Primary; Bocage Secondary).

RTG Findings:

Physical punishment is used on students at my school: Always 39.1%; Sometimes 40.2%; Rarely 6.9%; Never 7.9%; Don't Know 5.2%

Current Legality of CP in St. Lucia:

- **In the Home** (lawful): Article 5 of the Children & Young Persons Act (1972) confirms “the right of any parent, teacher or other person having the lawful control or charge of a child to administer reasonable punishment to him”. Provisions against violence and abuse in that Act, the Domestic Violence (73) Act (1995) and the Criminal Code (2005) are not interpreted as prohibiting CP in childrearing.
- **In Schools** (lawful): Article 50 of the Education Act (1999) prohibits “degrading or injurious punishment” but allows CP “where no other punishment is considered suitable or effective”.
- **In the Penal system** (unlawful as sentence for crime but lawful as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions): CP is not a permitted sentence under the Criminal Code and the Children & Young Persons Act but in the Boys Training Centre, boys may be given “not more than 2 strokes with the cane on each hand” (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 23, 1976, article 13). The Prison Rules and Orders (1964) also provide for the administration of CP (article 54). There is no provision for CP in the Correctional Services Act (2003) and the Correctional Services Code of Conduct Regulations (2005).
- **In Alternative care settings** (lawful): The right to administer “reasonable punishment” in the Children & Young Persons Act (see above) applies. The Boys Training Centre houses boys in need of care and protection, as well as those in conflict with the law and the use of the cane is permitted (see above).

RTG Youth: If you could say anything to the adults/leaders of St. Lucia about children, what would it be?

<i>No discipline</i>	<i>Give the children what they want</i>	<i>Protect your children and treat them with respect</i>
<i>Stop beating children</i>	<i>Help children a lot more, be more supportive</i>	<i>Be kind and faithful, respect others opinions</i>
<i>Don't abuse the children</i>	<i>In order to be respected, you must respect children</i>	<i>Treat them good</i>
<i>Care more for them</i>	<i>Provide them with their needs, wants and shelter</i>	<i>More respect</i>
<i>Give them enough love so they won't express anger on other children that have enough love First help the parents going through problems with their husbands, so that they don't pass the anger onto their children</i>		

The only available prevalence research is the 2005 UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Child Vulnerability study, in association with the Governments of Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, involving a survey of more than 2,300 households, interviews with key informants and discussion groups with adults and children, which found that younger children were more likely than older children to experience corporal punishment (spanked, slapped or hit with an object).⁶⁰

Several instances of severe corporal punishment in schools, resulting in injury to children, were highlighted in the media in 2010(*Helen Television Service*).

The planned scale-up of the UNICEF/UNESCO CFSI has not occurred (*Min. of Education verbal report*).

RISE (*St. Lucia*) Inc. (www.risesaintlucia.com) advocates against corporal punishment of children, including through TV and radio appearances and by delivering lectures for teachers, staff of custodial centres and parents; involves young people in its advocacy through youth-friendly spaces which run after school and at youth custody facilities (BTC & Upton Gardens). RISE has actively promoted a public debate on the negative effects of, and alternatives to CP since inception and has actively involved the media in '09, '10, '11. A peaceful protest against CP (a poster campaign – ‘*A total ban against the hitting hand*’) was RISE’s recognition of International Peace Day 2010. RISE is a member of the Global Initiative against CP⁷³.

EPSOL Inc. an educational NGO has been training primary school teachers and guidance counselors in positive discipline, in schools in St. Kitts, using the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) approach (unk18), and plans to also train local teachers in partnership with RISE

Key Recommendations:

We wish to challenge the Government’s acceptance of the ‘culture of discipline’ as a reason for the difficulty in ending the practice of CP locally. This argument denies the universality of human rights and of the common standards of the CRC and is unacceptable. We recommend:

- Escalation of a youth-led campaign against CP, with emphasis on its negative effects, especially targeting teachers, principals and the Education system.
- Simultaneous promotion of alternative positive discipline measures with teacher training (e.g using the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Prog.); and special programs for parents
- The Minister of Education should exercise his authority and responsibility under the Education Act # 44 of 1999: *Section 51. Abolition of Corporal Punishment: (1) Notwithstanding section 50 the Minister may by Order suspend or abolish corporal punishment in public schools and assisted schools. (2) An Order made under subsection (1) shall be laid before Parliament, within three months of the date of the issue of such Order and shall cease to have effect, without prejudice to the making of a further Order, on its annulment by a resolution of Parliament supported by the votes of a majority of the members present and voting. All Parliamentarians should support the Minister.*
- A constitutional motion can be filed against the use of CP as a human rights violation

Ultimately, banning of CP through amendments to all relevant legislation: Children & Young Persons Act No.11 of '72-repeal of “the right to administer reasonable punishment”; Education Act, Statutory Rules and Orders No. 23, Prison Rules and Orders - repeal of provisions authorizing CP; explicit prohibition in the home, schools, penal institutions and alternative care settings

Cluster 5. Family Environment And Alternative Care (Articles 5, 9, 10, 11, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27.4)

Parental Guidance And Responsibilities (Article 18 Paras. 1-2)

The Committee remains concerned at the lack of information regarding family counseling services, parental education programmes, other measures which ensure the respect of CRC articles 5,18; recommends that the State review social services providing family counseling/parenting education, and provide relevant information on awareness-raising campaigns on child rights within family life; discuss measures to ensure full compliance with CRC provisions; is concerned about the lack of disaggregated information regarding children's benefit, progress achieved or difficulties encountered with the measures in place recognizing parents' rights in raising children and the State's responsibility in providing facilities/services to assist those bearing child-rearing responsibilities; recommends the State amend its legislation to include the concrete recognition of both parents in the upbringing and development of the child, as well as investigate and submit to the Committee disaggregated information relating to the benefits, progress, and difficulties encountered in the measures relating to child development and upbringing.

2010 State Response: Recognizing the need to review social service agencies providing counseling and parenting education, a Parenting project for parents of children in care (to provide parenting skills with a view to reuniting them with their children) was introduced in '04/05 (Year of Child activities) and continued in '09 (European Commission funds); to be developed was a national directory of parenting programmes (including Roving Care-givers' programme), a curriculum for parenting facilitators, a framework for a National Parenting Programme and a national Parenting Policy.

RTG Findings:

No further implementation of government's plans for a national Parenting program or policy has occurred. RTG learnt of small scale parent education programs in several agencies (Early Childhood Education Unit for the home-visitation/early stimulation Roving Care-givers Program; Family Court; St. Lucia Crisis Center; Women's Support center; St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association). Meanwhile, parent education sections of the school curricula for HFLE⁹³ and C.A.R.E Life Skills modules⁹⁷, specifically target youth.

Key Recommendations:

- Implementation of the plans for the national Parenting program or policy.
- Synchronize related efforts of all agencies in this area

Separation From Parents (Article 9)

The Committee remains concerned by the father's sole right to custody of the child in cases of separation without providing for or reflecting the child's rights, perspectives, views in final decisions; and strongly recommends that the State review the 1957 Saint Lucia Civil Code and ensure adequate protection of the rights of a separated parent and/or child; and recommends that the child's views as well as best interests are taken into account in the final decisions of custody in cases of parental separation.

2010 State Response: The draft Status of Children Bill (OECS Domestic Violence & Legal Reform project) makes provisions for joint custody of the child. In 2008, 1 of 3 Civil Code amendments related to registration of children at birth. Where children are separated from their parents, a custody evaluation and/or social enquiry report are prepared by a social worker for the court. The social worker interviews the child and includes his/her views in the report. In some cases, the judge or magistrate may interview the child to obtain his/her views prior to making a judgment. Decisions are usually taken in the best interest of the child.

RTG Findings:

Our research revealed that in fact the opposite holds, the *mother* has sole right to custody of the child in cases of separation.³⁵

Key Recommendations:

Final decisions on custody in cases of parental separation should take into account both parents' situations, the child's views and best interests.

Recovery Of Maintenance For The Child

The Committee is concerned that the State does not uphold the principle of non-discrimination in recovery of maintenance for the child and recommends: review legislation on recovery of maintenance to comply with CRC principles and undertake measures to secure the recovery of maintenance from abroad.

2010 State Response: Saint Lucia has participated in regional conferences to discuss the possible introduction of laws in order to secure the recovery of maintenance from abroad

RTG Findings:

No relevant critical findings.

Key Recommendations: NONE

Children Deprived Of A Family Environment (Article 20)

The Committee expresses concern that the State lacks legislation ensuring contact/visitation between children and parents; regrets the lack of a body to monitor situation of children in alternative care; recommends that the State introduce legislation ensuring child's right to contact/visit the parent when is deprived of a family environment, and establish a system to monitor the conditions of alternative care for children deprived of a family environment; and recommends that the State enhance family-based alternate care.

2010 State Response: Children at BTC (boys for care/protection or in conflict with the law) and Holy Family Children's Home are allowed to visit their parents at home, and parents are also allowed to visit children, unless it is deemed not in their best interest. Saint Lucia has not yet introduced legislation to ensure the child's right to contact/visit parents when deprived of a family environment. However, the OECS Draft Child Care & Adoption Bill – to be adopted by the Government in the near future – makes provisions for such visitation/contact. Saint Lucia has draft policies/operations manuals to promote best practices in alternative care for children deprived of a family environment: Foster Care & Adoption Policy & Operations Manual- although not yet formally adopted by the Government- is currently being used by DHSFA and makes explicit provisions for family visitation/contact. It is a routine practice of DHSFA to arrange family visits for children in foster care.

RTG Findings:

Children's placement and monitoring in institutional care is not always satisfactory. In some instances the child is sent directly from the Court, without the parent or guardian, and without any medical records or parental consent for health care. E.g. At BTC, new admissions receive a medical assessment only during the weekly Community Child Health Service's clinic and this service seldom realizes the ideal of inspection of past medical and immunization records or written parental consent (*RTG Community Child Health Service Key Informant interview*). There have been several instances reported of abuse of children while in state care in recent years (*Government Information Service; other Media*)

Key Recommendations:

- Increased resources to support family-based as opposed to institutional alternate care for needy children
- Training in/adoption of UN Guidelines for Alternative Care for Family Case Workers and Wardens
- Stricter monitoring of the conditions of children placed by the State in alternative care settings and mandatory reporting and action on of all cases of suspected child abuse
- Mandatory adoption of the Community Child Health Service's Alternative Care Admission Medical guidelines, and parental/guardian consent to health interventions from the Court
- Implementation of draft Policy and Operations Manual for the Registration Guidance and Inspection of Children's Homes, prepared with support of UNICEF⁶⁶ (DHSFA)

Adoption (Article 20)

The Committee is concerned that unofficial arrangements recognized by the Adoption Ordinance have been known to incur problems for the "adopting family" and the child; is concerned that although the assessment of the needs of the child in the placement of an adoptive home has been established, the views of the child are not included in the selection process; recommends that the State: (a) Ensure that the practice of unofficial arrangements of alternative care fully respect CRC principles/provisions; (b) consider views of

the child within the adoption procedures; (c) Consider ratifying Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

2010 State Response: Saint Lucia has not ratified the 1993 Hague Convention, but plans are currently being made to rectify this situation. OECS draft Child Care & Adoption Bill makes provisions for best practices in adoption; outlines the process for domestic and inter-country adoption; makes provisions for establishment of an adoption committee and adoption register to assist in follow up

RTG Findings:

No significant related findings except anecdotal reports of informal un-supervised ‘adoptions’

Key Recommendations:

- Government should ratify the Hague convention and expedite the OECS draft Family Law Bills.
- Regularize the adoption procedures and processes
- Offer greater support to Foster-carers and to the Foster care & Adoption program in general

Abuse And Neglect, Including Physical And Psychological Recovery And Social Reintegration (Article 19, 39)

The Committee remains concerned that a draft Management of Child Abuse/Neglect protocol has not yet been enacted and safeguards/complaint procedures have not been structured/implemented; concerned about the lack of training programmes for professionals and inadequate personnel; recommends that the State adopt/implement as a matter of priority the draft protocol to ensure: (a) establishment of an effective reporting/referral system for child abuse & neglect with the necessary provisions for a child-sensitive investigations; (b) establishment of programmes for psychological/physical recovery and social reintegration for victims of sexual abuse and any other child victims; (c) That recruitment and training programmes are ongoing for all relevant professionals; (d) Consider seeking technical assistance from UNICEF. The Committee welcomes the existence of a child helpline (Child Link) and the efforts to develop 24-hour service for children to express their views/concerns and for those in need of care/protection; recommends that the State party provide the “Child Link” with sufficient human/financial resources to be operational 24 hrs/ day, including the follow-up to calls of children in need of care or protection.

2010 State Response: Saint Lucia is very concerned about the increasing incidents of child abuse reflected in DHSFA data (sexual abuse increased 45% , physical abuse increased 56% -‘04 to ‘08;(NB: not national figures). 139 children in foster care/102 foster carers - December ‘09. Of children in foster care, 68% reside in Castries and environs. The majority of the children in foster care are girls, and in non kinship care. Saint Lucia has not implemented the draft Protocol for the Management of Child Abuse and Neglect. However, there has been a series of workshops to sensitize stakeholders on the protocol for reporting/referral of child abuse/neglect cases (teachers, principals, judges, magistrates, lawyers, court prosecutors, religious leaders, community workers, parents , children). There is compliance by some agencies but a need for continued public education programmes to raise awareness about the mandatory reporting of all suspected/actual cases of child maltreatment. The RSLPF introduced the Vulnerable Persons Team (north & south) in ‘06 to provide child friendly services in the investigation/management of child abuse/neglect. Since then there has been a significant improvement in child abuse investigations by the police and an improved inter-agency collaboration between the police and the DHSFA in child abuse related matters. There is a draft RSLPF Child Protection Manual with clear guidelines for the police in the investigation, management, post arrest, suspect management and multi agency collaboration for child abuse cases. This manual needs to be reviewed and adopted. The OECS Child Care & Adoption Bill provides for the care/protection of children from abuse, makes provisions for mandatory reporting (emphasis on investigation, assessment, intervention, emergency removal of children, foster care placements). There is still room for improvement in investigating child abuse cases by the police and DHSFA. Saint Lucia acknowledges the need for ongoing training for police and child protection workers and this recommendation is reflected in the ‘07 Child Development & Children at Risk Project report. There have been some improvements in programmes for the psychological and physical recovery and social reintegration for sexual abuse victims and other abuses. Over 1 year, a small group of 6 adolescent girl victims of sexual abuse participated in a pilot programme entitled “*Support Group Programme for Sexually Abused Children*” A manual was developed with the intention to continue the programme in other sub offices of the DHSFA as well as in schools. A cadre of facilitators, primarily school counselors were also trained/commissioned to use the manual with sexually abused children. In September ‘08, the Ministry of Health partnered with the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, Caribbean Internship Programme to recruit and utilize the expertise of a Masters level Clinical Psychologist. In April ‘09, the Clinical Psychologist was appointed at DHSFA to provide services to child victims of abuse, and in collaboration with a Family Case Worker (September ‘08 - January ‘10) provided counseling/psychological services to 166 referred cases and families. The Women Support Centre of the Department of Gender Relations provides shelter to women and their children who are victims of severe domestic violence.

RTG Findings:

I am safe from being kidnapped from my home, school and community: Always 37.4%; Sometimes 16.7%; Rarely 7.6%; Never 14.8%; Don't Know 22.8%

I have food, clothes and a safe place to live: Always 91.9%; Sometimes 8.6%; Rarely 1.2%; Never 0.7%; Don't Know 1%

1 in 10 youth feel they are never safe from sexual abuse; 16% don't know if they are safe from sexual abuse.

- The Child Abuse Hotline (451-7777) is still not available before 8:30am or after 4:30 pm.
- The DHSFA protocol for the management of child abuse and neglect still remains in draft form without acceptance by Cabinet and therefore formal implementation, and no monitoring and evaluation exists.
- No evidence of use of the RSLPF Child Abuse Manual was found
- There is a feeling of helplessness and powerlessness of individuals and groups to prevent or do something meaningful about child abuse. The youth accept abuse as a fact of life.
- RTG found that, perhaps because of media sensationalism, a discussion of child abuse seems to almost always feature the few, very extreme cases, distorting what we found to be the true picture – the majority of children and youth experiencing some level of abuse and neglect daily. The media was heard to be important in the way sexuality is portrayed in St. Lucia, and in values and attitudes held by the general public, and youth.

Key Recommendations:

- Offer enhanced, easy accessible support to ALL children and families and especially those at identified risk:
 - Ensure social services are adequate to meet the obligations to children by establishing immediately a 7-day, 24 hour service for children in crisis
 - Operate the Child Abuse Hotline as a 24 hr service using cell phones and on-call rota
 - Increase the quota of trained Social Workers in the DHSFA
 - Enlarge the Transit-home for children
- Implement the national Child Abuse Management protocol
- Implement the RSLPF Child Abuse Manual guidelines
- Advertise and Enforce the Mandatory Reporting of child abuse clause of the new Criminal Code
- Galvanize public support/accountability for child abuse prevention: re-frame the advocacy strategy by changing the public's frame of reference. Instead of the usual, knee-jerk public horror/outcry over severe cases, encourage instead personal accountability for the little, common, everyday child rights issues (the "every parent is a potential abuser, including Me" theme); community responsibility for prevention through identification and reporting of ALL cases not just the most severe and acceptance of their positive role in support for challenged families
- Encourage collaboration with media houses to define responsible media reporting and involvement

Cluster 6. Basic Health And Welfare (Articles 18, 23, 24, 26, 27)

Children With Disabilities (Article 23)

The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national policy/legislation ensuring the rights of children with disabilities and recommends that the State: (a) Adopt a comprehensive policy for children with disabilities; (b) Take note of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96) and the Committee's recommendations adopted at its day of general discussion on the rights of children with disabilities (CRC/C/69, paras. 310-339); (c) Encourage the integration of children with disabilities into the regular educational system and inclusion into society by giving more attention to special training for teachers and making the physical environment, including schools, sports/leisure facilities, other public areas, accessible for children with disabilities; (d) Seek technical assistance from UNICEF.

2010 State Response: A National Policy for Persons with Disabilities drafted in '06 aimed at improving the quality of life for all PWD's: Accessible schools, facilities (ramps, rails, others); early assessment and intervention, remedial services, for children with Learning Disabilities; integrated education for all children with disabilities; support of Ministry of Education for production of educational materials in alternate formats (Braille; audiocassettes); Teacher training at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College with compulsory special education course work for all teachers; a National Assessment Centre; a School Entry Assessment Programme for hearing, vision, paediatric and developmental assessment before school entry; Compulsory education from 5 - 18 years at special schools; Provisions for rehabilitation of children with multiple disabilities through parental training, education and professional

support; a National Programme for children/adults with multiple disabilities and or deaf/blindness; specialized institutional care for children with multiple disabilities who have been neglected and abandoned.

The Special Education Unit, Ministry of Education coordinates the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) for developmental assessments. 201 students were assessed in '04-'10. Special Education Centres on the island cater to students with a wide range of special needs (hearing, visual, learning). 265 students were enrolled in 5 Special Education Centres in '07/08. In '09 a new Dennery Child Development Centre opened for children with multiple disabilities. NCPD provides services to children with disabilities (wheel chairs, other mobility aides; Field Officers who conduct periodic home visits and assist parents with rehabilitation of severely disabled children. Increasingly more children with disabilities are afforded opportunities to be integrated in primary and secondary schools. SLBWA provides services to children who are visually impaired. E.g. Kids Insight Project with the Castries LIONS Club and University of West Virginia. 828 children have been served since '03 with services such as surgeries and vision aides.

Saint Lucia acknowledges the need to provide more attention to teacher training for work with developmental disabilities. The Ministry of Education with Lynchburg University, USA, trained 15 persons in Educational Assessment for the MDT. Some primary schools on the island have specialized programmes for students who are academically delayed. Additionally, SLBWA continued to provide training to teachers of the primary and secondary school and itinerant teachers who assist the visually impaired who have been integrated in the main stream educational institutions.

Saint Lucia recognizes the need to make the physical environment and other public areas accessible for children with disabilities. The Building Code of '99 makes provisions to ensure accessibility guidelines for designers and builders for public building and facilities. However, there is still a great need to actually make schools, sports and leisure facilities more accessible to children with disabilities. Saint Lucia does not have a residential facility for children with severe disabilities. They are currently placed at the Senior Citizens' Home for the homeless and the elderly due to the lack of available resources.

RTG Findings:

I have the opportunity to go to school and learn regardless of my physical and mental abilities: Always 69.8 %; Sometimes 24.7%; Rarely 3.6%; Never 2.6%; Don't Know 16.6%

My school provides equal resources and activities for all youth, no matter their physical or mental abilities: Always 37.2 %; Sometimes 27.8%; Rarely 9.7%; Never 6.7%; Don't Know 7.4%

Generally positive findings for children with disabilities but:

- St. Lucia has signed but not ratified the UNCRPD
- The 2006 National Policy on Disabilities has not yet been implemented (*RTG NGO partners verbal report*)
- There are only 3 schools (all recently built) that allow partial access to persons with disabilities (Gros Islet Secondary, Dame Pearlette Louisy Primary and Marigot Secondary). There are none that are completely accessible to students with disabilities (*RTG Ministry of Education key informant interviews*)
- CDGC, the only agency in Saint Lucia able to offer comprehensive assessment/diagnosis of developmental disabilities in children, and an individualized intervention programme including monitoring in school/community, has remained primarily supported by private sector local and international fund-raising, and volunteer therapists, with only this year (its 13th in operation) receiving a small subvention from government. The Centre also trains public sector staff (nurses, doctors, and teachers) and parents, and is currently the sole provider of speech, language, and occupational therapy in Saint Lucia.
- The Dennery Child Development Center at inception in '07 had no financial support from government but depended on the services of volunteers and small grants from the National Community Foundation, RISE, the private sector and Perkins International School in Boston, USA. Since '10 the Ministry of Education has provided salaries for a teacher and a teacher's aide.
- EECHO – Extended Early Childhood Health Outreach - An early identification/intervention project targeting children at risk of disability through a universal screen from ante-natal through birth to early childhood, using home and centre-based play therapy which was supported in principle by UNICEF and Caribbean Child Support Initiative has not progressed past the planning phase

Key Recommendations:

- Ratification and awareness-raising of the UNCRPD

- Implementation of the National Policy on Disabilities
- Enforcement of St. Lucia building code for access to schools, sport/entertainment facilities, city for PWD's
- Increase the annual subventions to NGO's that support children with disabilities (SLBWA; NCPD; CDGC).
- Augment national resources for care and education of all children with disabilities
- Ensure social assistance budgeting and programs specifically address needs of children with disabilities
- Implement EECHO

Health And Health Services (Article 24)

The Committee remains concerned at: (a) increase in # children born with low birthweight; (b) state of pre- and post-natal health care; (c) increasing levels of obesity in young children and associated short/long-term diseases; (d) lack of educational programmes for basic child health and recommends that the State undertake health-care reform with a view to guaranteeing universal access and integrated health-care services according to CRC article 24; and further recommends that the State implement adolescent-friendly health clinics providing both information and services to young people.

Adolescent Health

The Committee expresses its concern at the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS/ STD's among adolescents; notes with concern the high rate of teenpregnancies and the fact that the State does not pay sufficient attention to adolescent health issues, including developmental, mental & reproductive health concerns; recommends that the State:(a) Undertake a comprehensive study to assess the nature/extent of adolescent health problems and, with the full participation of adolescents, use this as a basis to formulate adolescent health policies and programmes with particular focus on the prevention of HIV/AIDS/STD's, taking into account the GC No. 4 (2003) on adolescent health &development; (b) Strengthen developmental/mental health counselling services and reproductive counselling and make them known and accessible to adolescents; (c) Ensure the inclusion of reproductive health education in the school curriculum and fully inform adolescents of reproductive health rights, including the prevention of teen pregnancies and STD's/HIV/AIDS;(d) Continue to provide support to pregnant teenagers, including community structures and ensure continuation of their education.

2010 State Response:

A Child & Adolescent Health Programme coordinated through a service hub of specialist Community Child Health Service (CCHS) clinics in each health region, operated by the Community Pediatrician and the Community Nursing Service, is overseen by a national multi-disciplinary management team representative of all agencies working with children/families: Child & Adolescent Health Manager; hospital teams; social support services; legal/enforcement services; educational services; pre-school; day care Services; Bureau of Health Promotion; patients, family, community; NGO's; private sector; regional and international partners and also includes other networked child health activities: "Well-Baby" clinics for growth/development monitoring, nutritional counseling, immunizations; School Health Programme – school entrants and leavers growth/developmental assessment and immunizations – Community Nursing Service; Developmental Assess/Intervention/Staff training – Child Development and Guidance Centre; Community-Based Multi-disabled Care – CBR Multi-disciplinary Team; Special Education Needs Assessment – Ministry of Education Multi-disciplinary Team; HIV/AIDS Pediatric Clinical Team service; Sickle Cell disease community outreach service; Kids in Custody/Care clinic: Boys Training Center, Upton Gardens Girls Centre and Holy Family Children's Home; Specialist cardiac and neuro-muscular local and overseas support services

RTG Findings:

When I am sick, I can get medical care: Always 73.8%; Sometimes 19%; Rarely 2.6%; Never 1.9%; Don't Know 2.4 %

The Child & Adolescent Health Programme referred to in the State report still exists only on paper (*St. Lucia National Health Strategic Plan '06*)⁸¹, as actual implementation has not occurred. The CCHS still exists only as a network of clinics managed by a sole Community Pediatrician with support from the Community Nursing service. The envisioned multi-disciplinary support occurs only when personal cooperation between caring professionals and time permits, rather than as a policy of the Ministry of Health. (*RTG CCHS Key Informant interview*)

Adolescent-friendly health spaces exist in 2 communities: Babonneau & Soufriere implemented by UNFPA through the St. Lucia Red Cross, CCHS & Community Nursing service and by RISE (St. Lucia) Inc & CCHS respectively

Plans for adolescent-friendly services are part of the Ministry of Health '06-'11 National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP) awaiting implementation.

There is no written policy on “youth reproductive health.” Government has documents addressing “sexual and reproductive health.” which focus more on sexual health than on reproductive health, and in the few places where reproductive health is mentioned it focuses more on women than on youth.

Key Recommendations:

- Implement the national Child & Adolescent Health policy and program planned in the NHSP with its multi-disciplinary management team and its ADH service
- There is a strong need for Government to implement an adolescent-friendly health service and policy
- A comprehensive study needs to be carried out to assess the nature and extent of adolescent health problems with the full participation of adolescents, which can then be used as a basis to formulate a policy and programmes with particular focus on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STIs
- Extra focus needs to be given to developmental and mental health services, and making them known/ accessible
- Ensure the inclusion of reproductive health education in the school curriculum and fully inform adolescents of reproductive health rights, including the prevention of teenage pregnancies, safe abortion and STI/HIV/AIDS; there is also need for teachers who are comfortable with reproductive and sexual health material to educate the youth on these issues.
- Continue to provide support to pregnant teens, including through community structures and ensure the continuation of their education including sessions on life skills and parenting. Also a support mechanism needs to be created for pregnant teens/teen parents, where they can come together and express themselves on the issues they’re encountering as new parents, as well as for sessions on parenting skills, life skills, etc.

Social Security And Childcare Services And Facilities

The Committee is concerned that legal provisions ensuring the right of the child to benefit from childcare services and seek social security, as well as the criteria with which benefits are granted, has not been developed in Saint Lucia and recommends that the State review its legislation pertaining to the child’s right to social security, paying specific attention to the child’s right to request social security grants and benefits, as well as include measures in place to ensure that all children benefit from childcare services.

2010 State Response: 2009 Government-commissioned Social Safety Net Assessment of child and gender-sensitive social safety net programmes revealed significant challenges: inadequate protection of children, single parents (predominantly women) or the working age poor (with/without children) and promotion of human capital development and made a number of recommendations.

RTG Findings:

I have food, clothes and a safe place to live: Always 91.9 %; Sometimes 4.7%; Rarely 1.2%; Never 0.7%; Don’t Know 1.0%

The 2009 Social Safety Net Assessment⁵² describes many positive supports but also many challenges including multiple overlapping programmes causing duplication and inefficiency (on average 3 – 5 Ministries involved); low coverage, many poor don’t benefit; inefficient benefits delivery mechanism; an archaic Public Assistance Act (involvement of a Board in the selection of beneficiaries, authorized entry to beneficiary residences, potentially offensive language - reference to benefits as Relief and to beneficiaries as the Out-Door Poor) and inadequate policing

Key Recommendations:

Generally, more rapidly responsive services (emphasis on prevention rather than reaction) with augmented resources for children and needy families and improved monitoring
Specifically The Public Assistance Act should be amended.

Cluster 7. Education, Leisure, Cultural Activities(Articles 28, 29, 31)

The Committee remains concerned that the State does not provide universal access for children to secondary school; is further concerned at lack of continued education of school-aged teen mothers, and growing number of school drop-outs, particularly boys; expresses concern at fact that <20 % of eligible age cohort has access to day-care services and State provision for preschool is limited. In the light of CRC articles 28,29 and GC No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education, recommends that State allocate adequate human/financial resources to: (a) Adopt effective measures to include all children in primary education and urgently decrease the dropout rates for children, particularly boys; (b) Continue its efforts to increase the #of children entering secondary schools through

provisions of more classrooms; (c) Offer more facilities for vocational training, including for children who do not complete secondary education; (d) Ensure that teenage mothers continue their education.

2010 State Response: Universal Secondary Education was introduced in 2006 with the introduction of 4 new secondary schools.

Education, Including Vocational Training And Guidance

RTG Findings:

All students at my school receive equal information and guidance about educational and job opportunities: Always 42.8%; Sometimes 27.8%; Rarely 10.7%; Never 6%; Don't Know 12.6%

In my school, there are activities organized to help me develop my personality and abilities: Always 42.6%; Sometimes 32.6%; Rarely 9.5%; Never 5.2%; Don't Know 9.3%

- USE has not been the magic wand it may have been envisioned to be, as the additional secondary schools are populated by children of extremely low educational levels, many of whom likely have undiagnosed Learning Disabilities, but who lack the support of teachers with the required specialist training⁹²
- The Ministry of Education has intensified efforts of its Special Education Needs Assessment team for early identification of learning disorders in school children with necessary remedial support/other interventions
- C.A.R.E provides remedial education, technical-vocational and life skills training for school drop-outs with job placements.⁹⁷
- NSDC also offers technical-vocational training through several projects (e.g. OECS Skills for Inclusive Growth)⁹⁸
- Opportunities for even more vulnerable youth (on probation, in juvenile custody or jail) in technical-vocational and life skills training with job placement, have also expanded through collaboration with IYF, NSDC, CARE & RISE in the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program.⁹⁹

Key Recommendations:

Accelerated attention to students with learning difficulties in schools with provision of remedial measures and/or an alternative education pathway e.g technical-vocational training;
Greater support (financial and human resources) for C.A.R.E

Leisure, Recreation And Cultural Activities

The Committee is concerned that while the child's right to leisure, recreation, cultural activities is recognized within the principles of legislation guiding service development, this right is not ensured explicitly within such legislation; further notes that existing recreational facilities are not always accessible to all children; and recommends that the State provide access for all children to enjoy leisure, recreation, and cultural activities in all spheres of the child's life.

2010 State Response: Legislation has not been introduced to explicitly give children a right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities. Children still have limited access to recreational facilities. However, pre, primary and secondary schools have annual sporting and athletic events to provide students with opportunities for physical exercise and competitive sports.

RTG Findings:

I can participate in clubs, sports, music and drama activities: Always 64.8 %; Sometimes 25.9%; Rarely 4.1%; Never 2.6%; Don't Know 1.7%

Youth felt that sports and other recreational activities were not given priority and especially played second place to academics especially at exam time

Key Recommendations:

Encouragement of extra-curricular activities and sports through schools

Cluster 8. Special Protection Measures (Art. 22, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40)

Economic Exploitation Of Children, Including Child Labour

The Committee is concerned that the State has no provisions for the classification of hazardous and non-hazardous work, as well as regulations guiding the conditions of employment; and is also concerned about child labour in the informal economy in urban areas; recommends that the State adopt comprehensive legal framework for children engaged in the workforce in compliance with CRC ART.32 and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); and ratify the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138).

2010 State Response: The ILO Convention No. 138 concerning minimum age for employment has not been ratified. The Draft Labour Code of 2006, devotes an entire section (Division 9: 122–127) to the employment of children and young persons and addresses the minimum age of employment for children (school leaving age/16 years)

RTG Findings:

I have to work like an adult or do work that is harmful or dangerous to me: Always 5.9%; Sometimes 14.8%; Rarely 9.1%; Never 60.7%; Don't Know 8.3%

- No first-hand or personal information was volunteered from youth involved in the worst forms of child labour (forced & bonded labor, children in armed conflict or drug running, child trafficking, commercial sex work) but anecdotes were heard about children employed in sex work including child pornography, weapons trading and drug gangs; also children are known to miss school to work in banana harvesting and child care for younger siblings
- Many youth spoken to engage in holiday/weekend work (house work, family garden, assisting in family business, sidewalk vending, supermarket packer) which does not appear to interfere with school work or attendance, nor be harmful to their health, but instead assists them and their families with much needed money and encourages responsibility and discipline, provides skills and experience, and helps to prepare them to be productive adults
- The draft Labour Code 2006 did not take effect due to the change of government in the 2006 General Elections (from St. Lucia Labour party to United Workers Party). After amendments the Labour Code (Amendment) Bill was presented to Parliament in February '11. As of the present, it is yet to be implemented. When it is, it will repeal the Employment of Children (Restriction) Ordinance and the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance. It speaks to the employment of children/youth: *A person cannot employ or allow to be employed any child... under the minimum school leaving age as declared by any law in force in Saint Lucia except for employment during the school holidays in light work; and a person may not employ or allow to be employed a child or young person in employment that is inappropriate for that child or young person's well being, education, safety, physical or mental health, or spiritual, moral or social development.*
- The 8 ILO core Conventions have been ratified; but not the Minimum Age Convention No 138; there are no public awareness measures of the international roadmap for elimination of worst forms of child labour by 2016
- The CRC Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography have not been ratified.

Key Recommendations:

- Implement the 2006 Labour Code.
- Ratify the ILO Conventions 138 and the CRC Optional Protocols
- Harmonize the efforts of child protection agencies in a National policy/Action plan on child labour in the framework of NAACP-with guidelines on beneficial and hazardous work for youth
- Public Awareness campaign on the issues surrounding child labour

Drug Abuse

The Committee is encouraged that the State has taken measures to ensure the school environment remains drug-free for children, it remains concerned that measures for monitoring drug abuse among children as well as their involvement in drug trafficking outside of schools have not been fully developed in the report; and recommends that the State strengthen its measures to combat drug abuse

by children, including through public education campaigns and ensure that children who abuse drugs have proper access to effective structures and procedures for treatment, counseling, recovery and social reintegration.

2010 State Response: Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat public education campaign; drug free clubs and community action groups have been revitalized to increase its impact. Drug education is a component of the Health and Family Life Education curriculum in all primary and secondary schools. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education programme (DARE) is an initiative of the Community Relations Branch of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force to provide students with knowledge/skills to resist drug use and violence. The Turning Point Drug Rehabilitation and Detoxification Unit provides treatment also for children.

RTG Findings:

I drink alcohol: Always 8.4%; Sometimes 45%; Rarely 12.8%; Never 32.1%; Don't Know 1.2%

I have access to illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine, etc.): Always 9.5 %; Sometimes 12.6%; Rarely 4.8%; Never 67.1 %; Don't Know 5.0 %

The DARE initiative is no longer active in schools

Key Recommendations:

Enforce the law on sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors.

Establish a public awareness campaign on the ill-effects of alcohol and other illegal drugs, especially targeting youth

Sexual Exploitation And Sexual Abuse

The Committee remains concerned that the scope of the issue has not been fully/systematically uncovered; that existing legislation protecting children from sexual abuse/exploitation does not explicitly refer to the male child; recommends that the State: (a) Undertake a comprehensive study on sexual exploitation/abuse of children; use the data to design policies and programmes to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children, including through the development of a national plan of action on commercial sexual exploitation of children as at the 1st & 2nd World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; (b) Adopt legislative measures, ensure protection from sexual abuse/exploitation for both boys & girls; (c) Train law enforcement officials, social workers, prosecutors to receive, monitor, investigate, prosecute complaints in a child-sensitive manner that respects the privacy of the victim.

2010 State Response: The CDB-funded Child Development & Children at Risk Report commissioned in '06 made recommendations for special training on child sexual abuse for teachers, social workers, police officers. There is absence of data and scarce human/financial resources to address child commercial sexual exploitation. The '04 revised Criminal Code: Section 126 - an offence for anyone to have sexual intercourse with a person < 12 yrs regardless of consent. Section 127 reserves the right to indict anyone who has sex with a child 12 - 15 yrs exclusively. Section 124 makes provision for other forms of "sexual connection" e.g. oral sex. Section 119(1) addresses mandated reporters: "Every person who is in a position of trust or authority towards a young person, who in the course of his or her duty becomes aware of any act of abuse committed against that young person shall as soon as practicable made a written report of the case to any police officer or to the Government department responsible for Social Services." Section 119 (5) describes persons in authority as: guardians; teacher; medical practitioner, social worker, drivers of school buses or any person having charge of young persons to fail to report cases of abuse. Section 119 (2) states: "A person mentioned in Subsection (1) who without reasonable cause fails or refuses to make such report to the police officer commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars." It is recommended that the list of mandatory reports include care givers at day care centers, pre schools and school counselors. Additionally, Section 119 is limited to reporting child sexual abuse (defined as "unlawful sexual intercourse or connection") committed against "young persons" and therefore does not protect children < 12 years and other forms of child maltreatment. Section 142(b) also criminalizes out of court settlements or 'arrangements' which compensate a child's parents/guardians with cash/goods in exchange for dropping a case of child sexual abuse.

RTG Findings:

I am safe from sexual abuse: Always 62.1%; Sometimes 8%; Rarely 2.4%; Never 10%; Don't Know 16.2%

- The majority of youth researchers knew a child/youth who had been sexually abused and agreed that sexual abuse was a significant problem – cited male relative and young girl as the main perpetrator and victim respectively. Also cited denial of the issue by mothers as a further form of abuse, as well as 'arrangements' or acceptance of money to avoid reporting as a continuing practice; there was no knowledge of enforcement of the new Mandated Reporters' Criminal code clause

- Youth referred to the influence of a highly sexualized culture in St. Lucia, fuelled by the Media, and popular music (dance hall, reggae, soca)
- Many youth did not appreciate non-contact activities e.g. exposure to inappropriate sexual material) as a form of abuse, and were not fully aware of newer types of sexual abuse (Internet pornography, child prostitution and trafficking)
- Exchange of sex for material goods (cell phone top-up's, bus fares) were reported
- Youth were skeptical that reporting sexual abuse would result in positive outcomes without further destruction of the youth's privacy and self-esteem because of an insensitive and under-equipped justice system
- The threat of corporal punishment and further abuse were cited often as the main reasons for non-reporting by scared, disempowered children
- Confusion was noted over the legal age of consent to sex (16yrs) versus the age of majority and consent to all other activities (18yrs)
- Episodes of sexual abuse by teachers, priests, other persons in authority were cited. Anecdotes from youth suggest they feel that religious leaders are often guilty of abuse, using their position of trust and authority, and in addition keep information on child abuse secret to protect reputations, families and the Church
- Caribbean-wide research on sexual abuse done by UNICEF and other agencies in 2009 was not widely known about (*Devastated Childhoods, Perceptions of, Attitudes to, and Opinions on Child Sexual Abuse in the Eastern Caribbean 2009*)
- The recommendations of the Child Development and Children at Risk Report have not yet been implemented.

Key Recommendations:

This is the most serious challenge facing children in St. Lucia. The scourge of sexual abuse and related emotional, physical abuse and neglect continues to damage many children. See summary of recommendations in introduction and also:

- Further data is needed on the problem and prioritization of needs and interventions in the DHSFA should be the number one priority of the NAACP
- Plan a change in the advocacy strategy for prevention and greater public accountability is needed as outlined above
- Encouragement to the faith-based communities to be more involved in this fight
- Publication and circulation of the results of the Devastated Childhoods sexual abuse research project

Juvenile Justice

The Committee is concerned that the legal provisions, practice of the administration of juvenile justice do not fully comply with CRC (Art. 40, 39, 37 and other relevant international standards - UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules) (General Assembly resolution 40/33); UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines) (General Assembly resolution 45/112); and is further concerned: (a) At the lack of State provisioning for females <18 years in conflict with the law; (b) the sentence of life imprisonment is not excluded for persons <18 years as stated in the State report (para. 285); (c) rehabilitation/social reintegration for those <18 years who have been in conflict with the law is not emphasized within services meant to provide these benefits and that facilities/programmes for rehabilitation/social reintegration of female juveniles do not exist; recommends that the State continue to strengthen its efforts to improve the juvenile justice system in order to ensure the full implementation of juvenile justice standards, in particular ART 37 (b), 40 & 39 as well as the above-mentioned international standards and in the light of the Committee's day of general discussion on the administration of juvenile justice. In this regard, the Committee particularly recommends that the State: (a) Abolish the provisions which allow the imposition of a life sentence on children aged 16 or 17 at the time of the commitment of the crime and ensure that children aged 16 & 17 are not considered as adults and afforded the same protection as younger children under the justice system; (b) Abolish the criminalization of behavioural problems such as truancy and vagrancy (State offence); (c) Develop/ implement alternative sanctions (community service or restorative justice), in order to make deprivation of liberty a measure of last resort; (d) Establish a separate facility for custodial care of female juvenile offenders; (e) Improve the quality of the Boy's Training Centre (housing conditions; quality of the care; education); (f) Establish a system of well-trained advocates, legal administrators for juveniles in conflict with the law and train professionals (police officers, prosecutors, judges) dealing with persons <18yrs in conflict with law; (g) Seek technical assistance from UNICEF and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2010 State Response: In the judicial system, there continues to be a lack of legal representation for juveniles in conflict with the law. The responsibility for representation of children before the courts rests with the Department of Probation & Parole. Probation Officers prepare Pre Sentence Reports for juveniles which include the views of the child. The Evidence Act makes provisions to recognize the

views of the child in court matters (e.g. Section 15 makes provisions for a child 12 years old and over to give sworn testimony where competency is presumed. In section 29 children under 12 years cannot be sworn, but if the child states: “*I promise to tell the truth*” that child’s unsworn testimony may be taken. The Evidence Act also contains provisions defining a vulnerable witness and the exceptional manner in which such a witness may be permitted to testify. A child under the age of 12 years who is a complainant in a sexual offence case may be afforded treatment as a vulnerable witness. In such cases according to the Evidence Act the child may be allowed to testify while being screened off from the defendant; or testify from a place outside the court room either in island or elsewhere by means of video technology)

RTG Findings:

If I get in trouble with the authorities, I can find someone to talk to who can help me with the legal process: Always 32.9%; Sometimes 31.7%; Rarely 8.6%; Never 7.9%; Don’t Know 18.4%

A JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN seminar in July 2007 for Eastern Caribbean legal professionals (Judges, magistrates, social workers, probation officers, Police) together with the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, UNICEF, The Austrian Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, British High Commission, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, International Association for Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, International Institute for the Rights of the Child, made several promising resolutions and plans for action to improve Juvenile Justice including:

- **Policy development:** national family policy; multi-sectoral committee (public sector, private sector, civil society, media) to coordinate strategies to ensure children’s well-being; inter-ministerial committee within public sector to promote holistic well-being of children; code of ethics.
- **Legislation:** consolidation of all relevant laws into a single comprehensive piece of legislation to also provide for restorative justice mechanisms; to allow child witnesses to give evidence by video link, or using screens, voice distortion, other protective devices; matters involving juveniles be subjected to time lines to avoid delays; to provide for explanations of the relevant legal process to a child or young person in a manner and in language appropriate to their age and level of understanding; mandatory legal representation for all juvenile offenders; support programmes for child witnesses/victims before, during and after trial; to provide for a pre-sentence hearing (going beyond a report only and including the child’s voice) in all cases involving sentencing of children; courts undertake a periodic review of probation orders and custodial sentences; in cases where a judge imposes a custodial sentence, it be made mandatory for the judge to visit the facility where the child is detained, in order to assist with the periodic review; both pre-release and post-release programmes be established to prepare the child for release and to monitor the child after release to facilitate the child’s reintegration into society.
- **Capacity building:** parenting education be made a component of family life programmes in schools; classroom management and training in child rights/other social issues form part of the teacher-training curriculum and professional development for teachers; regular continuing education (seminars, workshops, conferences, attachments, short-term courses, professional development exercises) for all juvenile justice personnel; media owners, journalists and the advertising industry be mandated to observe all the ethical guidelines and codes of conduct when dealing with, and reporting on, children;
- **Service delivery:** youth organizations be developed, and where they already exist, strengthened, within schools and communities to respond to special needs, interests and concerns of youth; safe spaces for children be established and managed by the community as a preventive measure.
- **Awareness raising:** comprehensive community education programmes be conducted to sensitize the public to the benefits of restorative justice.
- **Research, data collection and management:** research be conducted to highlight economic benefits of prevention activities in order to advocate with relevant ministries for funds allocation; standardized data collection/analysis unit be created to support policy development, programme planning/implementation.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** M&E tool kit for social service delivery be developed as a collaborative effort by the partners in juvenile justice delivery.

Voices of Boys' Training Centre youth on their experiences with law enforcement, the judiciary and residential care to the JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN seminar participants. Written by Hazel Thompson-Ahye from her interviews with a BTC focus group in June 2007:

<p>Justice for children! <i>JUSTICE for children!</i> <i>Justice for CHILDREN!</i> <i>The juvenile justice system</i> <i>Promotes the well-being of children.</i> <i>We are the juvenile justice children,</i> <i>you see</i> <i>Victims and offenders, we all live at</i> <i>BTC.</i> <i>Boys Training Centre for</i> <i>rehabilitation</i> <i>Reintegration, care and protection.</i></p>	<p>Best interests of the child, is what I hear <i>For my well- being, you claim you care.</i> <i>Yet padlocks with keys</i> <i>For many gates of steel.</i> <i>Locked behind bars for my protection</i> <i>Safeguarded from danger and</i> <i>destruction.</i> <i>I smell smoke. Go get the key!</i> <i>I am suffocating, please, help me.</i> <i>This key? Which key? Panicky!</i> <i>I died, while you hunted the correct key.</i> <i>What fatal irony! You find it yet?</i> <i>I'll die again, I'll bet</i> <i>Before you find the key</i> <i>To open the heart to me.</i></p>	<p>Bullets for me, property protection <i>No proportionality in the situation</i> <i>No chance for restorative justice</i> <i>But for misguided youth plenty</i> <i>prejudice</i> <i>So in my cell I lie and plot</i> <i>Reflecting on my unhappy lot</i> <i>Laughing at my secret yet untold</i> <i>I died years ago when they killed my</i> <i>soul</i></p>
<p>Who cares to protect me? <i>The juvenile justice system? Let's</i> <i>see.</i> <i>Police with government boots that</i> <i>kicks</i> <i>And batons used to share out licks.</i> <i>For weeks I was in police cell</i> <i>Before taken to court my story to tell</i> <i>The magistrate spoke in kindly tone</i></p>	<p>Right to life, survival and development <i>Smoking was my means to betterment.</i> <i>Weed soothed the pain of deprivation</i> <i>Selling drugs, an easy occupation.</i> <i>No prevention programmes in</i> <i>community</i> <i>My mistake was to follow bad company.</i> <i>Tired of singing poverty's song</i> <i>Need money to entertain, keep girl</i> <i>around.</i> <i>Now all I have to ease my pain</i> <i>Is music pounding through my brain.</i></p>	<p>A child has a right to be heard, <i>Listen, I'll explain what occurred.</i> <i>"Brethren, we have visitors at church</i> <i>today.</i> <i>Let's welcome boys from BTC,"</i> <i>pastors say.</i> <i>Why should they publicly identify us</i> <i>When we'd rather be in church</i> <i>anonymous?</i> <i>Have we not the right to privacy?</i> <i>As part of our CRC legacy?</i> <i>If we must go to church for prayer</i> <i>Allow us to choose the clothes we wear</i> <i>BTC uniform among congregation</i> <i>Causes us humiliation</i> <i>Your intent I know is without blame</i> <i>We bow our heads, not in prayer, but</i> <i>shame.</i></p>
<p>Who cares and protects me? <i>What kind of life at BTC?</i> <i>You get food, clean drinking water,</i> <i>Bed with sheet, pillow, your own</i> <i>locker</i> <i>Medical attention and dental care,</i> <i>Even glasses for you to wear.</i> <i>Since Mr. Faulkner come on the</i> <i>scene</i> <i>The place more orderly and clean</i> <i>We, the children of BTC.</i></p>	<p>Right to life, survival and development <i>Includes education, a way to self-</i> <i>improvement</i> <i>Fighting, cursing, thrown out from</i> <i>school</i> <i>I have plenty potential. I am no fool.</i> <i>With no secondary education at BTC</i> <i>What does the future hold for me?</i> <i>I want to be a big star.</i> <i>Once I was caught on camera.</i> <i>Security camera, that is true,</i> <i>But for me, any camera would do.</i></p>	<p>We have a right to be heard, <i>to get early date</i> <i>For our case to be tried, to know our</i> <i>fate.</i> <i>We have the right to be treated fairly,</i> <i>Presumed innocent, not identified</i> <i>early</i> <i>As likely suspect because of history</i> <i>When something goes missing from</i> <i>BTC</i> <i>Past misdeeds thrown up in our face</i> <i>Does not help rehabilitate.</i> <i>This place too small for you, staff</i> <i>member say</i> <i>You should go five-star hotel at</i> <i>Boredelais.</i></p>

<p>Non –discrimination is priority. <i>Yet for status offence I am in custody. You turn back my friends and family Say wrong day, wrong time to visit me. My family had to travel far Take bus, jitney, or pay a car For some, another tune is what you sing Anytime is visiting time, do your thing. When you important and have money Things for you happen, really funny.</i></p>	<p>I have a bullet in my head. <i>A policeman say he want me dead. A thief I am, so steel for steal. Who cannot hear, well, they must feel At nights, I feel the coldness of the bullet St. Lucia has no equipment to remove it We'll take him to Martinique, they said Heart without hope, head still with lead. Lock him up, he is likely to abscond And police waiting with their gun.</i></p>	<p>Corporal punishment you should abolish <i>Find some other way to punish But do not place in a lonely cell Mentally and physically, that is hell. Consider more alternatives to detention But if you must place youths in institution Consider more recreational facility Greater contact with wider society Provide more staff with training and skill Counselling really helps to change our will We admit that some of us have done wrong And want to turn our lives around. But while preparing us to re-enter society Please recognize our worth and human dignity</i></p>
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(ref: UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Children in Focus newsletter Vol 1 2007 at http://www.unicef.org/barbados/cao_resources_cif2007%282%29.pdf)

The resolutions and plans from the seminar were to be presented to the November 2007 OECS Authority Meeting of Prime Ministers by then Acting Prime Minister of Saint Lucia – the Honourable Stephenson King, for their urgent consideration and approval for implementation. There is no mention that this was ever done in the published communiqué of the next (January '08) or subsequent OECS Authority meetings (at <http://www.oecs.org/doc-lib/communiques>)

In February '11, to address a rising tide of juvenile delinquency and minimize crime and reduce recidivism, the Ministry of Home Affairs & National Security (Probation & Parole Services) began a Court Diversion Programme for young offenders, and those at risk of offending, between the ages of 12–19 years. Using remedial education, computer literacy, theatre arts, sports, life skills, Junior Achievement’s entrepreneurship and financial management training, it aims to empower youth to become responsible for their own renewal, to strengthen their self-esteem, to develop the ability to identify alternative methods of managing adverse situations, to foster positive attitudes towards others and work related situations. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joeZ4yeAhVM>)

Key Recommendations:

- Review, refresh, adopt the resolutions and Plans of action of the 2007 Justice for Children seminar and:
- Establishment of a home for girls in trouble with the Law
- Amendment of the laws governing handling 16 & 17 yr olds to afford them the same rights as their younger peers
- Further development of the Court Diversion program
- All the other Committee recommendations

Cluster 9. CRC Optional Protocols And Article 43 (2) Amendment

The Committee notes that the State has not ratified the CRC Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict; and recommends that the State ratify these Optional Protocols

2010 State Response: Saint Lucia has not ratified the Optional Protocols and has not followed up on the Declaration & Programme of Action adopted at the '01 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Saint Lucia will seek to establish/adhere to future-focused international standards against which decisions about children’s care will be made

RTG Findings: No information was available on the status of these Optional Protocols during the RTG research.

Key Recommendations:

- Circulation of the Optional Protocols alongside the CRC information and reports for national discussion
- Ratification of the Optional Protocols

10. Follow-Up And Dissemination

The Committee recommends that the State take all appropriate measures to ensure full implementation of the recommendations, by transmitting them to Cabinet and Parliament for consideration/further action; further recommends that 2nd periodic report/written replies and related recommendations it adopted be made widely available, including through the Internet to the public, civil society organizations, youth groups, children in order to generate debate/ awareness of the CR, its implementation and monitoring.

RTG Findings:

No national circulation of the 2005 report or its follow up actions has occurred. Although the report itself and the Committee's Concluding Observations are available on the Web, the State's follow-up actions were circulated only to the Coordinating Committee of this year's report.

Conclusion

This alternative, though hopefully complementary, look at St. Lucia's CRC implementation record shows that the government is trying to live up to its obligations but is seriously challenged in many ways. The pace of implementing legislation is slow and even when achieved, translation into forward-looking policies takes too long. For example, the Mandatory reporting of child abuse amendment in the Criminal code of 2007 is yet to yield positive results. Many useful initiatives have stalled following the planning stage and the financial and human resources spent on these projects could be better spent in actual implementation. The allocation of resources for children is suboptimal in all areas. Child Rights remains an abstract concept to the average St. Lucian despite the fact that the 1989 UN CRC is now 22 years old. Most young people have never heard of this landmark document protecting their rights and none are aware of a means to track the success of government's pledged implementation of its recommendations, because none exists. The multi-disciplinary, often difficult to navigate, children's services, unpublished changes in legislation and policies, growth of the Internet, child pornography, child prostitution and trafficking, all combine as additional challenges for children and youth.

The RTG group of NGOs - **RISE (St. Lucia)Inc; Aids Action Foundation (AAF) ; National Youth Council (NYC); St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association (SLPPA); National Council of/for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD); St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association** - all concerned with some aspect of care and protection of children, and recognizing youth participation as their right under the CRC, have combined resources and expertise to engage children and youth in this critical process to discover from their peers just how well, or not, children and young people's human rights are being realized in St. Lucia. We hope that this youth involvement will be sustained into the future, and as recommended by the UN CRC, we hope that this NGO-Youth coalition can be formalized into the long-overdue mechanism for monitoring and recording of St. Lucia's UN CRC implementation efforts. While the coalition strives for independent process and procedure, our ultimate achievement will be measured by the synergy we succeed in creating with the various institutions concerned with children's welfare; promoting the long term improvement of child rights protection in St. Lucia.

Abbreviations

AAF - Aids Action Foundation	NHSP – National Health Strategic Plan
ADH – Adolescent Health	NSDC – National Skills Development Centre
BTC - Boys Training Centre	NYC – National Youth Council
C.A.R.E - Center For Adolescent Renewal & Education	OECS - Organization Of Eastern Caribbean States
CCHS - Community Child Health Service	PWD's – Persons With Disabilities
CBD - Caribbean Development Bank	RISE – Rise (<i>St. Lucia</i>) Inc.
CDGC – Child Development & Guidance Centre	RSLPF - Royal Saint Lucia Police Force
CRC – Convention On The Rights Of The Child	RTG – Road To Geneva Research Project
DHSFA - Division Of Human Services & Family Affairs	SLBWA – St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association
EECHO – Extended Early Childhood Health Outreach	SLPPA – St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association
HFLE - Health & Family Life Education	UN – United Nations
IYF – International Youth Foundation	UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
NACPC - National Action Child Protection Council	UGGC – Upton Gardens' Girls Centre
NCPD – National Council Of/For Persons With Disabilities	USE – Universal Secondary Education

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Appendix I: NGO Coalition Members

- 1. RISE (St. Lucia) Inc.** – a Non-Profit organization dedicated since 2007 to the healthy development of youth, demonstrates its mission of networking for youth by the sharing of this project’s vision with similar partners. Incorporated July ‘07 under the Companies Act Cap 13.01.
- 2. Aids Action Foundation (AAF)** – a Non-Governmental organization, launched in 2000, dedicated to offer care & support to PLWHA’s; to help reduce the spread & impact of HIV/AIDS in St. Lucia; to share culturally relevant information to bridge the knowledge gap fuelling the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- 3. National Youth Council (NYC)** – a Non Governmental organization established in 1985 to promote the active participation of Youth in the economic, social, cultural & political life of St. Lucia; through Leadership & Skills Training, Cultural Development, Environmental Awareness, Women & Development, Economic Projects.
- 4. St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association (SLPPA)** - Founded in 1967, the lead agency for family planning services; promoting family welfare and reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies, particularly among youth, through a strengthened family life education program, quality reproductive health care services, a youth outreach and Peer Educator training programs
- 5. National Council Of/For Persons With Disabilities (NCPD)** - established in 1981 to commemorate the United Nations International Year of the Disabled with a mission to promote policies, programs, practices and procedures for persons with disabilities and to empower the disabled community to achieve equality, independence and economic self-sufficiency.
- 6. St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association (SLBWA)** - Started in 1972, mandated by Parliament("St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association Act number 9 of 1972"; offers integrated education for blind and visually impaired children; computer & employment skills training, rehabilitation services for blind children and adults, Braille and large print production, special therapy for multi-handicapped blind children and a comprehensive Eye Health Programme.

Appendix II: Road To Geneva Sample Focus Group Interviews

Lady Gordon Special Education School-June 18, '10 (11 Participants: 6 males / 5 females; Ages 13-16)

Which Right is the most important to you?

The right to go to school (3)	Shelter	To have a business
Food (2)	To be loved	To have a family
Freedom (2)	To have a job	To be respected

What are some of the biggest problems facing youth in St. Lucia?

Crime (3)	Violence	Killings, rapes
Police- some	Expenses	Littering
Gangs	People are too greedy	

Tell us some of the activities you are involved in at school and your community.

Cricket (2)	All games	Running, netball
Football (4)	Sports	Netball
Cricket and football	Track and Field	

Think of a person you know that is differently-abled (or has a disability)—is in a wheelchair, is blind, is deaf, or has a learning disability.

Does that person have all the same rights as you? All 11 participants say yes.

Think of that same young person. Are they treated the same? All 11 participants say sometimes.

How is that person treated in St. Lucia?

Some of the time they're treated the same; some persons treat them badly. They don't respect them, ignore them, try to rob them, keep them out of activities,	Try to rob them	Persons don't want to sit next to them
Some of them call us "gor-gors"	Called bad names	

Do you feel safe at school? Why or why not?

Yes: 5 (all the girls). **Why?** Teachers, God, friends (2), myself, the principal

No: 0

Sometimes: 6 (all the boys). **Why?**

Anything can happen, a shooter could come to the school	"Someone could decide to shoot up the whole school." 15yr male
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Do you feel safe at home? Why or why not?

Yes: 0

Sometimes: 10. **Why?** You never know what can happen, gunshots, persons in the community- you never know what that person can do.

No: 1 **Why?** Gunshots, mistreatment or abuse by family, mistaken identity and then you are shot.

Do you feel safe in your community? Why or why not?

Yes: 0

Sometimes: 9 **Why?**

"You never know what can happen." 13yr female	Sometimes they can take you for the wrong person and shoot you. 15yr male
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"No: 2 **Why?**

Some persons in the communities are dangerous, persons walk outside with their guns	"The communities are dangerous." 13yr male
"I don't feel safe in my community. People walk outside with their guns in the street." 15yr male	

If you were the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, what is the first thing you would do for the youth of the nation?

Licenses for firearms for protection	License for everything	More jobs available for young people
Give them motorbikes	Provide shelter	Build more schools, and give students books
Give them money for school	Give them the license	Give the homeless shelter
Everything would be cheaper- healthcare plan, every week \$200 for every child		

If you could say anything to the adults and leaders of St. Lucia about children, what would you say?

No discipline	Give the children what they want	Help children a lot more, be more supportive
Stop beating children	Don't abuse the children	

Ciceron Secondary School—June 18, 2010 (15 Participants; 5 Males / 10 Females; Ages 12-14)

What Child Rights do you have in St. Lucia?

The right to have an education	The right to have fun	The right to have a family
The right to shelter	The right to live	The right to have freedom
The right to be loved	The right to be independent	The right to learn

What are some of the biggest problems facing youth in St. Lucia?

Crime: Shooting, murder, war, gang war,	Violence	Child Abuse
Drugs, Drug Trafficking	Vandalising	Sexual interaction
Littering	Suicide	Robbery

Follow up: What are some ways we can solve these problems?

More youth programmes	Put in place a recycling programme	More counsellors
Life sentencing, hanging (2)	Police patrol in hotspots	Taking care of one's self
No walking in strange areas	Posters with faces of criminals in communities	Proper medication to mentally ill people
More police patrol	Cameras around	Stronger condoms
Alarms	More prisons	Let suicidal persons see a Dr.
Putting more bins, put one on every street	Secure the prisons	Testing at schools monthly
Disposal of garbage properly	Burglar bars; that shock (2)	Broadview Security
Fees for littering (2)	Place suicidal persons in a mental hospital	Dog protection
Detectors to check if persons are drug trafficking		

Tell us some of the activities you are involved in at your school and in your community?

Prayer Group	Dance	Cricket
Dance	Prayer youth group	Cricket and Basketball
Volleyball	Summer Camp	Choir and Basketball
Netball	Netball, Dance	
Choir	Cricket and football	

Are the young people in your community encouraged or able to participate in decision about matters affecting them?

Yes: 2	No: 3	Sometimes/I don't know: 10
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Discrimination is when you unfairly judge a person based on their beliefs, activities or characteristics such as skin color or style of dress. Do you know a young person that has been discriminated against here in St. Lucia?

Albinos are made fun of	Because of the way they talk	Because of the way they dress
For their characteristics—a girl was wild	Because of the way they look	

Think of a person you know that is differently-abled (or has a disability)—is in a wheelchair, is blind, is deaf, or has a learning disability. Does that person have the same rights as you?

Yes: 10	No: 4	Sometimes/I don't know: 1
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Think of that same young person. How is that person treated in St. Lucia?

Very badly by young persons	Made fun of	Taken for granted
Discouraged	Treated like animals	Some of them have poor parents
Treated as if they're not important	Want to rob them	Treated as if their life has no meaning
Like a slave	Treated as if they don't exist	"They don't get certain things that others will get." 13yr female
Are treated in between	Don't get same resources; when shopping,	
Very badly treated and made fun of	Treated as if they don't belong	

Do you feel safe at school?

No: 10 **Why?**

There are always fights, bullies	they hit you	Make fun of other students, Steal from other students
"They have students that will rob you, take your money." 13yr female	Students rob each other and beat them up, some students attack others, students bring weapons to school If you say something that they don't like	

Yes: 3 **Why?** family members, the principal, the teachers, you can stand up for yourself

Do you feel safe at home?

No: 4 **Why?** Robbery, shooting, gunshots, kidnapping, criminals in the community, rape,

Yes: 11 **Why?**

Persons can stand up for you/ protection	Nothing ever happened to me	My neighbours, siblings, dogs
Parents	I live in safe community	

Do you feel safe in your community?

Yes: 14

No: 1 **Why?** "I don't feel safe in my community because there are a lot of drive bys." 14yr male

If you were the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, what is the first thing you would do for the youth of the nation? (all direct quotes)

Build homes for vagrants	Help the homeless	Create more sporting grounds
Secure persons in the country	More courts- football courts	Arranging summer camps with fun sporting activities; bun eating

Try to help the people, and have more youth groups and social groups	More activities for the school, community, camps at the school	Hire someone to provide food for the young persons in need
Have more summer schools	Put more sports activities all around the island	More poverty reduction funds, and more activities for the youth to get involved in something positive
Build more schools	Help the homeless children	

If you could say anything to the adults and leaders of St. Lucia about children, what would you say? (direct quotes)

Trust	Food, shelter and clothing	Treat them good
Proper manners	Be kind and faithful, respect others opinions	More respect
Protect you children and treat them with respect	Care more for themselves	In order to be respected, you must respect children
Provide them with their needs, wants and shelter	Give them enough love so they won't express anger on the other children that have enough love	First help the parents going through problems with their husbands, so that they don't pass the anger onto their children
Give them more love		

What is the best thing about living in St. Lucia?

Climate	Environment	Beaches
Hotels	Everything except for the crime	Views
Pitons	Sky rides	Historical sites
Sulphur Springs, coconut trees and the different fruits	Beach and the way the sun shines on the beach	Girls and games, beaches, views, fresh air
Cool Breeze and beautiful girls	Cool breeze and the nice hotels	The people and the beaches

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Poor need more help- should not have to pay bus, and the vagrants	Students should be able to get money from the school	More crisis centres for battered women
Placing the elderly in homes	Help students by giving them food	Exercising centres for fat persons.

Vieux Fort Special Ed School—June 28, 2010

Group 1 (10 participants: 4 males, 6 females; ages 6-20)

What are some rights that you, as children, have in St. Lucia?

To play with toys	To mop the house	To play with cats
To sleep in the house	To play outside	Cut the trees

What are some of the biggest problems facing youth in St. Lucia?

Child abuse	Curse them	Fight with them
Taking advantage of children	Beat them up	Kidnap them
If they knock you, tell the teacher	Put something over your mouth and eyes	

Tell us some of the activities you are involved in at school and in your community.

Football	Welcome group at church	Watch TV
Cricket	Basketball	

Think of a young person you know that is differently-abled (or has a disability)—is in a wheelchair, is blind, is deaf, or has a learning disability. How is that person treated in St. Lucia?

People are nice to them	Kick you	Give a punch
They curse you	They steal your name	They take their shoes and they burn it
A girl was coming to school, but doesn't come anymore. Children were not nice to her at school and teased her because she was dribbling.		If you go buy groceries for your mother in the shop, they steal your groceries

Do you feel safe at school?

Yes: 7

No: 3

"They were pulling their pants down."	"They throw lizards at you."
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If you were the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, what is the first thing you would do for the youth of the nation?

Treat them good	Show them their future	Help them
Give them money	Play with her	An office
Have own desk	Give them money	Stop the crime, abuse, killing and kidnapping

Group 2 (7 participants: 6 males, 1 female; ages 10-16)

What are some rights that you, as children, have in St. Lucia?

To go to school	Ride a horse	Survive
Play cricket, football and basketball		

What are some of the biggest problems facing youth in St. Lucia?

People kill, die	Stabbed	Rape
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Shoot	Kidnap	
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Tell us some of the activities you are involved in at school and in your community.

Ride bike	Choir	Dancing
Ride horse	Cricket	Boat ride
Football	Praying	Jump rope
Running		

Think of a young person you know that is differently-abled (or has a disability)—is in a wheelchair, is blind, is deaf, or has a learning disability. How is that person treated in St. Lucia?

Treated good	People are nice	They run and chase
Curse, do bad things to you	Fighting, quarrelling	

Do you feel safe at school?

Yes: 5

No: 1

If you were the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, what is the first thing you would do for the youth of the nation?

Have a little party for them	Build houses, stores for them	Ride a horse
Give them money ever month	Buy clothes, toys and shoes for them	Buy them chicken backs
Help them	Give them money	Give their mother money to feed them or give them a job
If old ladies are not working and they don't have a son or daughter to build a house for them		Give children money so they can have a better life. Give them home-work, shoes, water, clothes.

Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (IIT Scholarship Candidates)—August 4, 2010

3 Participants: 2 male, 3 female; ages 18-25

What is the right to an education and what does it mean to you?

I think education is very important and without it one cannot secure a successful life where they can achieve their goals and help the youth. (F 18)

Education is a very important ingredient for a successful future. Education when applied in the right manner it can move life and standard of living to a higher level. (M 25)

Education is essential to one having a successful and better future. Education is like brining new life to an individual, without education it's like we're left in the dark, helping you move forward, broadening your intellectual capability in having an ignorant free future. (M 21)

Everyone should be allowed to gain an education no matter what. (F age unknown)

There should be no discrimination when it comes to education (F age unknown)

Going through this (IIT Scholarship Application) process, has your opinion changed in any way?

No (F 18)	Not really (M 25)	Sort of, I realised that there's a lot more to it. (F age unknown)
Well before I just saw it as going back to school, but it's far more than that; it's opening a pipe line for more St. Lucians, doing something new for the country, education the nation with the skills we acquire when we complete our studies. (M 21)		I have gained more knowledge about my rights. (F age unknown)

Do you feel supported in pursuing education in St. Lucia?

Yes (F 18)	Now, Yes (M 25)	Yes (M 21)
Not really, the financial situation is hard. (F age unknown)	I feel supported by the people but not so much by the government. They need to step up to assist and represent us as students. (F age unknown)	

What does this scholarship opportunity mean to you?

It means a great deal to me. (F 18)	I can realise my dream of being a biomedical engineer thanks to this. (F age unknown)	This has paved the road for those to come. (F age unknown)
It's a chance to help those who are not financially able and the country will be of great benefit when these students come back to give what they have learnt. (M 21)		It means a lot because there are smart and determined individuals out there who do not have the finance needed to further their education. (M 25)

How did you find out about this opportunity and other educational opportunities in general?

I found out about it when it was announced on television. (F 18)	By friends and talk show "TALK." (M 21)	By email and working in government (F age unknown)
By friends and also newspaper. (M 25)	Newspaper and friend (F age unknown)	



Appendix III: Road To Geneva Survey And Results

Youth Survey on Rights of the Child

The Road to Geneva is a project led by St. Lucian youth with the help of several NGOs interested in Child Rights. This information is being gathered to prepare a report on the status of Child Rights in St. Lucia in relation to the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child. **Your answers will remain confidential!** Please do not put your name on this paper. Thank you for participating!

St. Lucia's NGO Coalition on Child Rights

Demographics (Please mark or write in your answer.)

Age: under 11 years 11-15 years 16-17 years 18-35

Gender: Male Female Community you live in: _____

Do you have a learning, physical, or mental disability? Yes No

Highest level of education you have completed so far: Primary Secondary Tertiary

Have you ever been in trouble with the law? Yes No Are you a parent? Yes No Religious affiliation: _____

Your home at this time is: With Parents With other Family Foster Care Children's Home Hospital Homeless Other _____

Survey Questions (Please circle your answer.)

1. Adults take young people's opinions into consideration when it comes to youth issues in St. Lucia.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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2. The media (television, radio, newspaper) in St. Lucia makes an effort to provide information to young people.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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3. The government of St. Lucia does things to ensure everyone knows the rights of children.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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4. If I get in trouble with the authorities, I can find someone to talk to who can help me with the legal process.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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5. If I am in trouble and my family can't help me, I know the government of St. Lucia and other organizations will help me.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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6. I feel safe expressing my beliefs and ideas (political, religious, cultural, etc.) through art, speaking, and writing without fear of discrimination.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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7. I can participate in clubs, sports, music and drama activities.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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8. I respect the rights and values of others.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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9. Youth in St. Lucia are discriminated against because of life-style choices like style of dress, religious practices, or other activities or interests.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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10. Physical punishment is used on students at my school.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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11. All students at my school receive equal information and guidance about educational and job opportunities.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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12. I have the opportunity to go to school and learn regardless of my physical and mental abilities.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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13. My school provides equal resources and activities for all youth, no matter their physical or mental abilities.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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14. In my school, there are activities organized to help me develop my personality and abilities.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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15. When there are conflicts in my school, home, or community, we solve them without violence.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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16. I have to work like an adult or do work that is harmful or dangerous to me.

Responses of Youth Ages 11-17 (580 Responses)

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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17. I am safe from being kidnapped from my home, school and community.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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18. When I am sick, I can get medical care.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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19. I drink alcohol.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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20. I have access to illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine, etc.).

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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21. I am safe from sexual abuse.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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22. I have food, clothes and a safe place to live.

Never	Rarely	I Don't Know	Sometimes	Always
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Open Ended Questions (Please write in your answers.)

1. What does St. Lucia do well for young people?
2. What is something St. Lucia *does not* do well for young people?
3. What would make your life better?
4. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Survey Results

Demographics Age 11-17 (580 respondents)

Age:	11-15	69% (400)	16-17	31% (180)				
Gender:	Male	37.8% (219)	Female	55.3% (321)	No Response	6.9% (40)		
Community you live in (environs):	Gros Islet	12.6% (73)	Babonneau	7.6% (44)	Castries North	5.3% (31)	Castries East	10.5% (61)
	Castries Central	7.1% (41)	Castries South	6.2% (36)	Castries Southeast	16.7% (97)	Anse La Raye/Canaries	4.8% (28)
	Soufriere	9.8% (57)	Choiseul	3.4% (20)	Laborie	1.2% (7)	Vieux Fort	2.2% (13)
	Micoud	2.9% (17)	Dennery	6.4% (37)	No Response	3.1% (18)		
Do you have a learning, physical or mental disability?	Yes	7.8% (66)	No	58.9% (501)	No Response	1.5% (13)		
Highest level of education completed so far:	Primary	49.3% (286)	Secondary	45.5% (264)	Tertiary	1.6% (9)	No Response	3.6% (21)
Have you ever been in trouble with the law?	Yes	9.7% (56)	No	89.8% (521)	No Response	0.5% (3)		
Are you a parent?	Yes	2.4% (14)	No	96.2% (558)	No Response	1.4% (8)		
Religious Affiliation:	Catholic	45% (261)	Adventist	12.9% (75)	Pentecostal	7.6% (44)	Christian	5.3% (31)
	Baptist	4.8% (28)	Evangelical	1.2% (7)	Jehovah's Witness	1.0% (6)	Anglican	0.5% (3)
	Rastafarian	0.3% (2)	None	1.7% (10)	Other	3.6% (21)		
Your home at this time is:	With Parents	85.7% (497)	With Other Family	8.8% (51)	Foster Care	0.9% (5)	Children's Home	2.6% (15)
	Hospital	0.2% (1)	Homeless	0.0% (0)	Other	0.9% (5)	No Response	1.9% (11)

	CRC Article	Question	Never	Rarely	Don't Know	Sometimes	Always	No Response
1	12	Adults take young people's opinions into consideration when it comes to youth issues in St. Lucia.	12.8% (74)	17.8% (103)	13.1% (76)	51.4% (298)	4.8% (28)	0.2% (1)
2	17	The media (television, radio, newspaper) in St. Lucia makes an effort to provide information to young people.	2.9% (17)	12.9% (75)	5.0% (29)	46.7% (271)	32.1% (186)	0.3% (2)
3	4, 41, 42	The government of St. Lucia does things to ensure everyone knows the rights of children.	15.9% (92)	22.2% (129)	15.2% (88)	26.0% (151)	20.2% (117)	0.5% (3)
4	40	If I get in trouble with the authorities, I can find someone to talk to who can help me with the legal process	7.9% (46)	8.6% (50)	18.4% (107)	31.7% (184)	32.9% (191)	0.3% (2)
5	20, 21, 22, 26, 39, 40	If I am in trouble and my family can't help me, I know the government of St. Lucia and other organizations will help me.	26.2% (152)	13.8% (80)	31.0% (180)	19.3% (112)	9.3% (54)	0.3% (2)
6	13, 14, 30	I feel safe expressing my beliefs and ideas (political, religious, cultural, etc.) through art, speaking, and writing without fear of discrimination.	9.1% (53)	10.2% (59)	11.4% (66)	42.1% (244)	26.7% (155)	0.5% (3)
7	7, 31	I can participate in clubs, sports, music and drama activities.	2.6% (15)	4.1% (24)	1.7% (10)	25.9% (150)	64.8% (376)	0.9% (5)
8	13, 15, 29	I respect the rights and values of others.	1.2% (7)	2.8% (16)	2.2% (13)	44.0% (255)	49.1% (285)	0.7% (4)
9	2, 16	Youth in St. Lucia are discriminated against because of life-style choices like style of dress, religious practices, or other activities or interests.	5.2% (30)	5.7% (33)	18.8% (109)	37.6% (218)	31.7% (184)	1.0% (6)
10	19, 37	Physical punishment is used on students at my school.	7.9% (46)	6.9% (40)	5.2% (30)	40.2% (233)	39.1% (227)	0.7% (4)
11	2	All students at my school receive equal information and guidance about educational and job opportunities.	6.0% (35)	10.7% (62)	12.6% (73)	27.8% (161)	42.8% (248)	0.2% (1)
12	23, 28, 29	I have the opportunity to go to school and learn regardless of my physical and mental abilities.	2.6% (15)	3.6% (21)	7.4% (43)	14.7% (85)	69.8% (405)	1.9% (11)
13	2, 29	My school provides equal resources and activities for all youth, no matter their physical or mental abilities.	6.7% (39)	9.7% (56)	16.6% (96)	27.8% (161)	37.2% (216)	2.1% (12)
14	29	In my school, there are activities organized to help me develop my personality and abilities.	5.2% (30)	9.5% (55)	9.3% (54)	32.6% (189)	42.6% (247)	0.9% (5)
15	3, 6, 37, 38	When there are conflicts in my school, home or community, we solve them without violence.	21.7% (126)	16.7% (97)	4.1% (24)	45.2% (262)	11.4% (66)	0.9% (5)
16	32,36	I have to work like an adult or do work that is harmful or dangerous to me.	60.7% (352)	9.1% (53)	8.3% (48)	14.8% (86)	5.9% (34)	1.2% (7)
17	11, 35	I am safe from being kidnapped from my home, school and community.	14.8% (86)	7.6% (44)	22.8% (132)	16.7% (97)	37.4% (217)	0.7% (4)
18	24	When I am sick, I can get medical care.	1.9% (11)	2.6% (15)	2.4% (14)	19.0% (110)	73.8% (428)	0.3% (2)
19	33	I drink alcohol.	32.1% (186)	12.8% (74)	1.2% (7)	45.0% (261)	8.4% (49)	0.5% (3)
20	33	I have access to illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine, etc.).	67.1% (389)	4.8% (28)	5.0% (29)	12.6% (73)	9.5% (55)	1.0% (6)
21	34	I am safe from sexual abuse.	10.0% (58)	2.4% (14)	16.2% (94)	8.6% (50)	62.1% (360)	0.7% (4)
22	27	I have food, clothes and a safe place to live.	0.7% (4)	1.2% (7)	1.0% (6)	4.7% (27)	91.9% (533)	0.5% (3)

Appendix IV: Open Ended Questions

ROAD TO GENEVA CHILD RIGHTS SURVEY

OPEN ENDED QUESTION HIGHLIGHTS

Survey Respondents Age 11-17

1. What does St. Lucia do well for young people?

About 400 responses for this question; 150 gave negative responses (i.e., nothing, pick on us, send us to jail) or said they couldn't think of anything, the rest were generally positive. Many of the respondents commented on universal education and sports activities as things that St. Lucia does well for young people. Highlights of the responses include the following (*please note responses here are given exactly as recorded on the original surveys):

"Send them jail"

"Nothing"

"Giving each student the opportunity to go to a secondary school"

"They make sure that young people get a good education and a very positive future."

"They provide school for young persons who did not achieve their goals at secondary school."

"They talk about the young people especially when the young people engage in negative activities."

"They organize activities for young people and give scholarships to the less fortunate young people so they don't go astray and get a proper education."

"St. Lucia provides educational clubs and activities for the youth so they will stay out of trouble and because they are attending that club or activity"

"Nothing at all...always say doing something but it never happens."

"St. Lucia provides youth activities for young people although it's not been mentioned enough through the media."

"St. Lucia provides educational facilities for youth at all times because the government recognizes that this is a must for all youths. If it is not done then the unemployment status of the country will increase because of lack of educational facilities."

"Engage them in sporting activities so that they will not be idle and engage in crime."

"St. Lucia gives information to youth about HIV and AIDS"

"St. Lucia provides learning institutions for young people regardless of their abilities."

"I strongly believe St. Lucia does absolutely nothing for the wellbeing of the youth"

"They don't do anything for the young people."

"They provide education, clothes and a safe place to live. Also they tell us about the dangerous things that can happen"

"If our mother do not have money to by books for us we can go to them and they will give us"

"St Lucia helps young people in many ways; providing them with shelter, clothes, jobs and every thing they need"

"they have activities such as youth rallies and they have sporting facilities."

"The government has provided the youth of St. Lucia with great health care services. Also they have gone to great lengths to ensure that all young people get a chance to go to school"

"Honestly I don't really know because they always promise to do or improve something and it is never done"

"I don't think they do anything well for young people"

"St. Lucia is rich in sporting activities and provides opportunities and the necessary facilities to engage in those, namely: cricket, football, basketball, netball and athleticism. St. Lucia also provides funds for the financially disabled young people to acquire easily primary and secondary education, e.g. Poverty Reduction Fund. Encouraging young people in their Christian life by means of special organizations youth-friendly and conducive to biblical learning, e.g. ISCCF"

"Pick on them"

"St. Lucia offers all sorts of entertainment to develop the youth as a wholesome individual that can enter into society"

"St. Lucia provides academic and sporting opportunities for the young people"

2. What is something St. Lucia does *not* do well for young people?

The majority of the respondents commented that St. Lucia does not even keep the country safe. Many feel the violence has gotten out of hand and would like St. Lucia to try to do more to keep young people out of crime. Many others commented on a lack of extra-curricular activities for youth to participate in after school, as well as the lack of suitable jobs. Finally, many noted that education is far too expensive. Highlights of the responses include the following (*please note responses here are given exactly as recorded on the original surveys):

"Take them seriously"

"Community centres with people who talk to on advice the youth."

"They do not have enough clubs such as music, swimming, etc. to keep young people from domestic violence"

"provide them with more educational equipments and opportunities"

"They can't stop crime easily."

"More opportunities for disabled children"
 "St. Lucia doesn't provide enough jobs for young people"
 "There is a high rate of unemployment. So I think there should be more job opportunities for young people"
 "They do not provide us young people with enough leisure activities and child rights seminars for parents."
 "Government and members don't take time off their hands to speak directly to the youth about problems affecting us."
 "They sometimes give up us and everything is the "young people". This lets us down."
 "Protect them from violence. Really, I think the government should get young people and youth off the streets and involve them in different activities including after school activities"
 "They do not broadcast the success of young people enough"
 "Provide after school programmes"
 "They do not provide summer jobs"
 "Physical punishment"
 "Providing open clubs to youth without discrimination"
 "Educate them about sexually activities fully and provide them with facilities so they can be taken off the street and can do something wisely with their time. They don't listen to what the young people have to say."
 "They do not provide them with enough ways to express themselves."
 "St Lucia needs to stop the young boys from committing crimes and killing other young people in the country"
 "They don't have many jobs for young people to work when they get out of school"
 "St. Lucia sometimes does not respect the younger people because they think that the children are younger than them."
 "They do not sponsor them."
 "St. Lucia does not have enough afterschool enrichment programs on the island. Only some schools receive these activities and as a result young people loiter in town and are influenced by peer pressure in negative ways."
 "St. Lucia's school system is close to alright, and the level of education is at a good standard, but the schools have insufficient resources."
 "Our system does not adhere to the rights of confidentiality when it comes to the reports of witnesses. When a crime is committed and one sees, that person would not report it because they are not assured confidentiality from the officers in charge and therefore crimes go unsolved and dismissed on that account."
 "They do not provide children with the proper punishment they deserve. If someone has done a crime they deserve to be punished whatever the outcome brings. They let them off too easily, so they come back with the same negative behaviour."
 "St. Lucia does not provide enough "further education" facilities for young people. I am unable to go to university because it is too expensive."
 "St. Lucia does not ensure that all children are in a safe household free from drugs, alcohol or abuse and does not have sufficient facilities to harbour them if a situation like this does occur."
 "They don't give youth enough attention, that's my opinion."

3. What would make your life better?

Many youth responded that if they worked hard, got a good education and stayed away from violence, their life would be better. And a few said that they are happy with their lives just as they are. Highlights of the responses include the following (*please note responses here are given exactly as recorded on the original surveys):

"Stop crime"
 "that in st.Lucia they would have less violence and more educational opportunities."
 "My life would be better if I was getting better grades in school."
 "If there was no crime, no preference and more love in this country."
 "I think that if my life would be better if St. Lucia was free from violence"
 "If there were more clubs in my area"
 "Financial aid to further my education"
 "More job opportunities"
 "More extra curricular activities in my community"
 "To be treated with respect and equality by other people."
 "Well just entertaining us by having talk shows, activities to enlighten the youth cause being a youth is nice but also frustrating. Thank you."
 "Finish secondary school with 1's and distinctions and attend "A" level"
 "The things that would make my life better is that if my parents were not so financially stressed and it may be easier for me and would have probably done so much better."
 "What would make my life better is knowing that I can walk on the street and know I am safe."
 "I think the life I have now is good, so I am not thinking of a better one more than this."
 "The thing that would make my life better is for me to get a good education and a good job."
 "My learning would be better life if there are more learning activities to keep me from trouble."
 "Nothing"
 "To make my life better I would read more books to become more knowledgeable"
 "The thing that will make my life better is to take a good health in my work and take my work seriously."

"Build places where we might be occupied like a court, field, tennis court so we could be safe and stay from violence."

"Less violence and quarreling"

"Knowing that I live in a safe environment and that when I walk on the streets a stray bullet won't knock me down. Or if the flogging of students is banned because some teachers are abusive and harm the youth."

"A decrease in discrimination when it comes to skin colours."

"My life is already good as is; there is not anything to make my life better."

"Staying away from crime and quarreling will make my life better"

"Education would make my life a lot better"

"Peace in St. Lucia would make my life better."

"A change in young people approach to life from negative to positive. They make choices and try to run from the consequences"

"My life would be better with a safer St. Lucia, with a St. Lucia where one could feel safe at their house, where one could walk the streets at any time and not have to keep turning back to make sure nobody is following you, when you could trust people to stay at your house and not worry about them stealing your valuables. I wan the old St. Lucia back. The Saint Lucia filled with peace, love, cooperation and prayer."

"My life would be better if St. Lucia was providing jobs"

"The consideration (if not activation) of my suggestions as a child (below the age of 18) to better the economic, social, political, and religious statues of my country St. Lucia. (A desire for legal recognition)"

4. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Many respondents took the opportunity to thank the coalition for its work. It seems they appreciated that someone was asking about their thoughts and opinions. Many others gave their opinions and recommendations on what they think should be done to improve the lives of young people in St. Lucia. Many youth responded that if they worked hard, got a good education and stayed away from violence, their life would be better. And a few said that they are happy with their lives just as they are. Highlights of the responses include the following (*please note responses here are given exactly as recorded on the original surveys):

"It is a good thing that you people are concerned about the rights of children."

"Give the youth a chance to enjoy life and to live it how they want."

"St. Lucia's government should provide more scholarship programs for the youth so they can stay away from the streets and attend a school or university to get a good career."

"I think that they should ban corporal punishment because it makes absolutely no sense. Also, there should be more places to have fun and to play games. There should be a multi-purpose centre to provide many things like clubs and computers. It should be a place where you should to and be encouraged to do the right things."

"I would like to bring up the topic on sports, after school activities, even activities in the school. The government and schools should not wait for every year to have sport, etc. I think they should give the children a chance to express their selves show what they can do."

"I would like to ay thank you to the people who helped us"

"I like to come to school to learn."

"Persons with disabilities should be given special attention and their needs should be cared for."

"That the youth of young people should be taken in to serious consideration, because a persons youth reflects on the future."

"Corporal punishment is in violation of section 3 on the Declaration of Human Rights. So therefore it should be illegalized in St. Lucia."

"I think you'll should visit the different schools and talk to the student that have problems with they other students given them jokes on how they look and who they like and who they don't like and turn it into something who they like"

"Question 13: With regards to the provision of resources and activities for persons with physical disability in school, my school does not in any way provide for the disabled. There are no ramps for wheelchairs or any other resources for the disabled. Question 20: Marijuana is widely available to many young people now, and whether or not one chooses to abstain from the use of these drugs, peer pressure is also a huge factor in the promotion of the use of such substances"

"People should show more love to their peers, friends, family, teachers and students. Also, the rich should share with the poor."

"The Royal St. Lucia Police Force needs better training. The government needs to care more."

"Although St. Lucia provides facilities to develop our youth, majority is through physical (sports), not much focus on the emotional and mental development of our youth, e.g. providing free counselling program."

"Remember the youth of today are the people of tomorrow."

"I would like to tell you that it's very wonderful that you have taken in consideration the young people and is trying to do something good for them. Keep faith in God that he may help you do the right thing and it may be successful."

Appendix V: Draft Quality Assurance Data Collection Framework for Social Care agencies, St Lucia

Overview:

The respective government agencies and NGOs' would be required to collect a balanced range of personal/demographic, statistical and performance information. The data should be accurate, have a clear defined purpose, and accessible through a centralised computer/data base system.

Collection of data does not in itself improve services. This framework aims to set out an approach to quality that enables the respective organizations and governing bodies to utilise the information gathered to learn, change and improve.

It should be agreed and understood by all professionals in the frontline, as being of benefit to enhance and improve practice, and as a positive tool to obtain the maximum support from the government/funding agencies to ensure successful service delivery in the future. It should also be noted that *“case recording,” is not “data collection”* and should be separate from the data collection process. Case recording is at the heart of all social care practice. It provides continuity of information between professionals, departments and agencies, and supports accountability in decision making.

Quality Assurance Framework:

The purpose of the quality assurance framework is to:

- Provide a consistent system of evaluating fiscal and performance effectiveness of a service.
- Prioritize improvements within the service.
- Inform organizational learning and practice.
- Facilitate continuous improvement in service delivery.

Quality from a user's prospective can be the degree of service provided, or the degree of worth derived from a service. Different aspects of the service may impact on the users overall quality experience- for example accessibility, consistency, staff competence and timeliness.

The starting point of any QA policy is to set clear standards. These may relate to inputs, processes or outputs. Quality can be assessed through a variety of mediums, including user questionnaires, focus groups, reviews, performance indicators, and inspection. Data from all sources must be brought together by a designated QA team. Their objective is to monitor, analyses and assesses the data to establish whether the standards have been attained, preparing interim/annual reports, identifying areas of concerns and making recommendations, to the respective reporting bodies.

Principles:

A quality assurance framework is underpinned by a series of principles:

- Service users are best placed to determine what constitutes a quality outcome.
- Quality can always be improved.
- Everyone has a role to play in improving quality.
- Staff must be flexible in meeting clients changing needs and choices.
- Quality outcomes and improvements are most likely when there are skilled, enthusiastic and resourceful staffs.
- Quality assurance is planned into all new services, (to ensure they get it right the first time.)
- Comprehensive policies and procedures will be in place to ensure staff is aware and informed of the expectations needed in order to meet the standards.
- Quality assurance will draw together information and data, from a wide evidence base to provide an overview of, performance, service delivery, trends, and messages from practice, in order for the agencies to act upon them.

Data Collection: Key Areas

Planning /Performance:

- Aims to support the commissioning and fiscal planning of services.
- To monitor quality, ensure services are accountable, and to measure the effectiveness of the service.
- Not cumbersome and bureaucratic, allows for ease of use by professionals.
- Enables easy of assimilation of information, for reporting, and auditing purposes.
- Measures *“outcomes”* and is not just an *“input and output”* exercise.

Outcomes:

- The data captured needs to record and reflect the experience of the service user.
- Requires a direct approach, in terms of consultation questionnaires, focus groups etc.
- Protects its users; children, families, and young people.

It is recognised that this framework offers only a brief summary, and is not exhaustive in terms of its' content. It is further acknowledged that the content has its' foundations in the UK social care system, but can be adapted to the systems within the Caribbean.

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