

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE CONVENTION**

Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture
(Extracts for follow-up)

MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

(...)

C. Main issues of concerns and recommendations

(...)

Training

7. The Committee welcomes information about the training given to police officers, prison wardens and other law-enforcement officials regarding human rights and the prohibition of torture, but is concerned that there appears to be no special training programs for health professionals aiming at identifying and documenting cases of torture and provide rehabilitation for the victims.

The Macao SAR should ensure that health care professionals are equipped with the necessary training to recognize and detect features and signs that may suggest the occurrence of torture. To this end, the Macao SAR should, *inter alia*, further promote, disseminate and use the “Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment” (Istanbul Protocol).

Solitary confinement

8. The Committee is concerned that children as young as 12 can be potentially subjected to solitary confinement to up to 1 month.

The Macao SAR should ensure that persons under the age of 18 should not be subjected to solitary confinement; if applied, it should be limited to very exceptional cases and closely monitored. The Macao SAR should also ensure that solitary confinement remains in all cases a measure of limited duration and of last resort, in accordance with international standards.

Trafficking in persons

9. While noting the measures taken in order to reduce trafficking, including new legislation, as well as the intensification in investigation and prosecution of this

crime, the Committee is still concerned at the incidence of trafficking in Macao SAR, notably in women and children, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Macao SAR should continue to take measures to combat trafficking in persons, notably women and children. To this end, it should:

- a) investigate all cases of trafficking and strengthen its efforts to prosecute and punish the perpetrators;**
- b) increase protection, including recovery and reintegration, to trafficked persons, especially women and children, who should be treated as victims and not criminalized; and**
- c) strengthen cooperation with the authorities of countries from or to which individuals are trafficked in order to combat this practice; such cooperation should include multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible of trafficking as well a strategies for supporting the victims.**

(...)

12. The Committee requests that the Macao SAR provide, within one year, information on its response to the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 above.

(...)
