

MIO's Contribution to the List of Issues Regarding Greenland for Denmark's 6th-7th report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Introduction

This report constitutes MIO's contribution to the List of Issues relating specifically to Greenland, as part of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's review of Denmark's 6th and 7th combined periodic report under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

MIO is Greenland's national children's rights institution. Since its establishment in 2012, MIO has been mandated to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRC in Greenland. MIO works to assess national compliance with the CRC, raise awareness of children's rights, and advocate for stronger legal and institutional frameworks to ensure the fulfilment of those rights in all areas of children's lives.

It has now been several years since Greenland's last dedicated review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which took place during the examination of Denmark's fifth periodic report in 2017. While there have been developments in the area of children's rights in Greenland since that session, MIO is deeply concerned that progress has been far too limited.

Many of the issues highlighted in this submission represent follow-up concerns from MIO's 2016 parallel report, which itself responded to long-standing recommendations from the Committee. The fact that several of these core concerns remain unresolved underscores the persistent gaps in the realization of children's rights in Greenland. This continued lack of substantial implementation is highly troubling.

MIO urges the Committee to revisit and reinforce its previous recommendations and to raise critical questions to the Government of Greenland (Naalakkersuisut) that reflect both the unchanged challenges and the new and emerging issues affecting children and young people in Greenland today.

1. General measures of implementation (art. 4, 42, 44 (6))

1.1 Status of the convention and the legislative framework for children's rights in Greenland

While the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was ratified in Greenland over thirty years ago, it has not yet been explicitly incorporated into Greenlandic law. There remains legal uncertainty as to how the CRC's provisions should be implemented in national legislation. A significant gap persists between the rights enshrined in the CRC, national legislation, and actual practice, resulting in a lack of legal clarity, especially in administrative and judicial decision-making concerning children.

Furthermore, not all relevant policy areas have been repatriated to Greenland. While the child welfare sector has been repatriated, key areas such as family law remain under Danish jurisdiction. This fragmented legal framework hinders the development of a cohesive approach to the implementation of children's rights. For example, the Greenland Parliament Act no. 20 of June 26, 2017, on Child Support remains to undergo an evaluation to assess its practical effectiveness and alignment with the principles and obligations set out in the CRC.

As a result, there is still a lack of overarching legal and political direction on how to ensure the most effective implementation and protection of children's rights in Greenlandic law.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What measures are being taken to fully incorporate the CRC into Greenlandic legislation?
- How does the Government ensure that the CRC is consistently applied in administrative and judicial practice in the absence of full legal incorporation?
- What plans exist to review or revise the Greenland Parliament Act no. 20 of June 26, 2017, on Child Support to address gaps between law and practice?

1.2 Optional Protocol to the CRC on Communications Procedure (OPIC)

Greenland has not yet acceded to the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure, which allows for individual complaints regarding violations of children's rights. This limits the ability of children in Greenland to seek international complaint mechanisms. The absence of a clear commitment to OPIC represents a missed opportunity to strengthen the accountability and protection mechanisms for children in Greenland.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- Does the Greenlandic Government intend to accede to the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure (OPIC)?
- What are the reasons for the current lack of accession, and what steps are being taken to address these concerns?

1.3 Complaint Mechanism for Children

Greenland lacks a dedicated and accessible complaint mechanism specifically designed for children. MIO does not have the legal mandate to process individual complaints, and the Ombudsman for Inatsisartut may only act after administrative remedies are exhausted, which limits early and effective intervention. As a result, many children are left without meaningful access to justice when their rights are violated.

In 2025, MIO published a report and a policy brief recommending the establishment of an independent, child-sensitive complaint body, citing the absence of such a mechanism as a major gap in the implementation of the CRC. The policy brief highlighted barriers children face — including limited awareness, legal complexity, and lack of direct access — and emphasized the importance of aligning any new mechanism with CRC principles. Drawing on best practices from Nunavut and Iceland, MIO proposed a series of legislative, structural, and procedural reforms, including expanding its own mandate to handle individual complaints and involving children in the design and oversight of the mechanism (MIO, 2025a and 2025b).

Importantly, the new government coalition agreement from 2025 commits to reforming MIO's structure in order to establish a special complaints mechanism for children. The agreement states that the aim is to provide children with a stronger legal safeguard by enabling them to submit complaints and have their cases reviewed.

While this political commitment is very positive, concrete implementation measures, legislative amendments, and resource allocation remain pending.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What legislative steps and timelines are planned to establish a child-friendly and independent complaints mechanism?
- How will the Government ensure that the new mechanism aligns with CRC standards and incorporates the recommendations made by MIO?
- What financial and institutional resources will be allocated to support the establishment and long-term operation of the mechanism?

1.4 Data Collection

Although the Government has emphasized the importance of data collection in its periodic report in 2016, there are still significant shortcomings in the availability, coordination, and use of data. Existing systems are fragmented, and comprehensive data on children's living conditions, poverty, abuse, placement, disability, education, and labor are lacking. Local systems within municipalities are not always fully developed or used effectively due to a lack of staff training and resources.

There is no coherent strategy for data collection on children with disabilities, nor any sustainable financing model to support it. Without reliable data, authorities are unable to assess needs, monitor inequalities, or plan services.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What measures are being taken to ensure systematic, disaggregated data collection on all aspects of children's rights?
- What plans exist to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, and how will such efforts be funded and institutionalized?
- How does the national data collection system ensure that the voices and lived experiences of all children — particularly those with disabilities and special needs — are accurately captured and represented in national statistics?

1.5 Action Plan for CRC Implementation

In 2020, the Government of Greenland committed to developing an action plan for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Following a change in government in 2021, this work was continued. In 2023, the Parliament of Greenland (Inatsisartut) decided that the action plan should be revised with particular attention to involving municipalities and MIO. The revised action plan is currently under public consultation, with a deadline for submissions set for 21 August 2025.

The action plan targets all children in Greenland and the professionals and caregivers surrounding them. It is intended to complement ongoing efforts by ministries and agencies, while also recognizing the vital role played by municipalities, NGOs, and national institutions like MIO. The updated plan outlines 16 new or upcoming initiatives aimed at enhancing CRC implementation, some developed specifically for the plan, and others linked to related strategies (Naalakkersuisut, 2025a – draft).

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How will the Government ensure that initiatives outlined in the CRC action plan are fully funded and equitably implemented across all regions?

- How will municipalities, civil society, and children themselves be actively involved in the monitoring and adjustment of initiatives?
- How does the Government plan to report transparently on the outcomes of the action plan, and how will this information be used to improve policy and practice?

2. General principles (art. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

2.1 Non-discrimination

In 2024, the Greenlandic Parliament adopted a new Act on Equality and Anti-Discrimination, aimed at combating discrimination and ensuring equal rights and opportunities regardless of gender, pregnancy, adoption, parental leave, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, race, skin color, national, social or ethnic origin, disability, age, political opinion, religion, or belief. The Act applies broadly across all areas of society and prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, and instructions to discriminate.

This legislation represents significant progress compared to previous laws, which only covered gender equality. Notably, it establishes an independent Equality Board that can handle complaints of discrimination, including cases involving children.

However, MIO notes that the implementation and practical accessibility of the law for children – especially vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities and LGBTQI+ children – should be closely monitored.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How will the Government ensure that children, including vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities and LGBTQI+ children, as well as their parents, guardians, or other care providers, are adequately informed about their rights and obligations under the new Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act?
- How will the Government monitor and report on discrimination against children on all protected grounds, and what resources will be allocated for prevention and enforcement?

2.3 Right to life, survival and development: Suicide prevention

Suicide continues to be one of the most serious threats to children's right to life and development in Greenland. Suicide rates, particularly among adolescents and young adults, remain among the highest in the world. Despite efforts over the years, the progress in addressing this issue has been insufficient.

In 2023, the Government of Greenland launched a national suicide prevention strategy titled *Qamani – Strategi for forebyggelse af selvmord 2023–2028*. The strategy takes a holistic approach to promoting mental wellbeing and preventing suicide and emphasizes the rights of all children and young people to grow up in secure environments.

Although MIO welcomes the launch of the *Qamani* strategy and its ambitious goals as a step in the right direction, MIO remains concerned that the strategy risks becoming aspirational rather than transformative if, for example, the implementation is not considered less vague, if not enough resources are allocated for implementation, or if children and young people are not sufficiently involved to meet their needs.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How will sufficient and sustainable funding be secured, especially for child-focused suicide prevention initiatives?
- How does the government intend to monitor the effectiveness of suicide prevention initiatives under *Qamani*? Will child-specific indicators be used, and how will data be disaggregated?
- How will children and young people be meaningfully involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of *Qamani*?

2.4 Respect for the views of the child

Although the right of the child to be heard is recognized in law in Greenland, its practical implementation remains limited. Children's participation is often ad hoc and lacks the institutional and professional support necessary to ensure their voices are taken seriously in decisions affecting their lives. MIO has previously raised concerns that children's views are frequently overlooked in administrative procedures, including child protection and custody cases.

The new draft for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the CRC acknowledges that this area needs to be strengthened and introduces three new initiatives intended to move beyond symbolic consultation and toward meaningful, structured child participation. In this draft, the Government of Greenland proposes to develop a national child perspective to guide strategic efforts across sectors, ensuring meaningful child participation in all matters affecting them. A dedicated coordinator will be appointed to support implementation, including collaboration with municipalities and civil society. The role of *Meeqqat Isummersorfii* (Children's Councils) under NAKUUSA will also be strengthened, allowing them to make recommendations not only to local councils but also to the Government and the Parliament. Additionally, the draft proposes a legislative framework to secure children's right to be heard in both administrative and policy decisions (Naalakkersuisut, 2025a).

While these initiatives signal a promising shift toward more robust child participation, questions remain about how they will be operationalized and monitored. There is a risk that without concrete structures, clear accountability, and sufficient resources, children's involvement may remain symbolic. To be meaningful, participation must be accessible, inclusive, and result in visible influence over decisions. It is also essential that adults across sectors are trained and supported to engage with children respectfully and effectively.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How will the Government ensure that the national child perspective is applied consistently across all sectors and municipalities?
- What specific measures will be taken to ensure that children's participation is inclusive, particularly for children from vulnerable or marginalized groups such as children with disabilities and children in out-of-home care?
- How will the Government ensure that children are listened to and involved in a respectful and meaningful way in their own cases – for example, in placement decisions?
- Will the Government allocate dedicated funding and training to support meaningful child participation in practice?
- How will the proposed legislation on child participation be enforced, and what oversight mechanisms will ensure its effectiveness?

3. Civil rights and freedoms (art. 7, 8, 13-17 and 37)

3.1 Access to Information and Protection from Harmful Content

Children in Greenland face growing risks to their privacy and safety online, including exposure to surveillance apps, digital bullying, and sexual grooming. Despite this, there is currently very limited data and research on children's digital lives in Greenland, making it difficult to design effective protection.

In response to concerns raised by children at Nakuusa's 2024 Children's Summit in Ilulissat, the Government has in the new draft for an Action for CRC Implementation proposed an initiative to develop new national recommendations on screen use and online safety. These will expand existing guidelines to include school-aged children and aim to prevent negative impacts on well-being, such as overuse of digital devices and exposure to harmful content. The recommendations are to be tailored to children's developmental stages and directed at parents, professionals, and others working with children.

MIO welcomes the initiative but stresses the need for strong implementation and follow-up mechanisms to ensure the recommendations protect children in practice. Without reliable data and systematic evaluation, the risks to children's rights in the digital environment remain unaddressed.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What legal and policy measures are in place to safeguard children's privacy and protect them from online abuse and exploitation?
- How will the Government ensure that the new national recommendations are implemented effectively and monitored over time?
- What steps are being taken to improve data and research on children's digital experiences in Greenland?

3.2 Freedom of Expression, Privacy and Protection

While children in Greenland formally enjoy the right to freedom of expression and protection of privacy, the digital environment presents new challenges that remain largely unaddressed by current legislation. There are no specific safeguards against digital surveillance, commercial exploitation, or breaches of privacy targeting children, and no national strategy exists to create a safer digital environment tailored to children's needs.

This legal and policy vacuum places children at risk of exposure to unsafe platforms, targeted advertising, and potential misuse of their personal data. MIO stresses the urgent need for a coherent digital rights framework for children, ensuring both freedom of expression and protection from harm.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What actions are being taken to strengthen digital consumer protection for children and safeguard their privacy online?
- How does the Government ensure that children's freedom of expression is supported while also protecting them from harmful digital environments?
- Will the Government develop a national strategy for children's digital safety and rights?

4. Violence Against Children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39)

4.1 Violence

In 2023, the Government of Greenland launched a national action plan to combat violence in close relationships. The plan outlines four key approaches: knowledge and data collection, education and prevention, implementation and governance, and monitoring and evaluation. It aims to prevent violence through cross-sectoral cooperation, awareness-raising, and evidence-based efforts, with a stated focus on children as both direct and indirect victims (Naalakkersuisut, 2023c).

Despite these efforts, violence against children – including abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation – remains one of the most serious and persistent threats to children's rights in Greenland. MIO welcomes the national action plan but remains concerned about weak and inconsistent implementation, particularly at the local level.

Worrying indicators persist: Although the 2018 population survey indicated a decrease in childhood exposure to violence over generations, 28% of respondents born in 1995 or later reported having experienced violence in the home – a figure still alarmingly high and likely underreported due to stigma and taboo (Larsen et al., 2019). Police statistics from 2024 report 948 registered cases of violence and 1,970 domestic disturbance callouts, 401 of which directly involved children (Grønlands Politi, 2025). Also, demand for services such as mobile crisis response teams for abused children and adult survivors continues to exceed capacity.

MIO is especially concerned about the limited availability of trauma-informed support for child victims, particularly in smaller settlements. Children often do not receive follow-up care if they do not access crisis centers, and psychological and reintegration services are generally concentrated in larger towns.

As part of the draft for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the CRC, three new initiatives have been proposed to improve child protection and mental health services in Greenland. A National Therapy and Counselling Centre is to be developed to provide coordinated, accessible mental health support nationwide, but it remains unclear whether and how children will be able to access its services. A separate mapping initiative will assess whether municipalities sufficiently identify and meet the needs of children and youth requiring trauma treatment – a gap MIO considers critical to address. Lastly, a Joint Municipal Social Unit will be established to support municipalities in complex child welfare cases and promote consistent, high-quality casework.

MIO also notes longstanding challenges in municipal social services, including staff shortages, high caseloads, and a lack of trained social workers. These issues contribute to

delays and inadequate responses in child protection cases and must be addressed for the national violence action plan to be effective.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What steps are being taken to ensure that all children, regardless of location, have access to trauma-informed psychological and social support following abuse or neglect?
- How will the Government ensure that the proposed new initiatives – the National Therapy and Counselling Centre, the trauma treatment mapping, and the Joint Municipal Social Unit – effectively address the mental health and protection needs of children across all regions of Greenland?
- How will the Government ensure widespread awareness and consistent implementation of the national action plan to combat violence in close relationships among professionals across Greenland?

4.2 Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Sexual abuse of children remains a serious and pervasive problem in Greenland. While initiatives such as a national strategy and mobile response teams have been introduced, support remains inadequate and inaccessible, especially in remote areas. Follow-up and long-term treatment are often unavailable, and access to support typically depends on official recognition of the abuse, excluding many children from help.

The government's official strategy against sexual abuse, *Killiliisa – Let Us Set Boundaries 2018-2022*, aimed to reduce the prevalence of abuse and ensure better support for survivors. It included six key areas: information-sharing, prevention, interdisciplinary cooperation, support for victims and families, community involvement, and work with perpetrators. It led to the development of materials such as books, documentaries, podcasts, and training programs (Naalakkersuisut, 2018). However, despite some elements continuing (e.g. Klinik Killiliisa for adult offenders or adults at risk of offending), there is no renewed or long-term strategy in place, which MIO finds deeply concerning.

Moreover, the vulnerability of children with disabilities remains largely unaddressed. Tilioq's 2024 report highlights the increased risk faced by this group. Studies suggest that children with disabilities are 2–10 times more likely to be sexually abused than their peers. In Greenland, social isolation, dependency on caregivers, communication barriers, and institutional understaffing exacerbate their vulnerability and make it nearly impossible to report abuse. There is also a significant lack of data and tailored services for this group, despite the known risks and long-term harm (Tilioq, 2024a).

MIO stresses the urgent need for renewed political commitment, inclusive strategies, better training for professionals, stronger prevention measures, and safe, accessible reporting mechanisms – especially for children with disabilities.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How does the Government ensure that all child victims of sexual abuse – including children in remote areas and children with disabilities – have access to long-term, trauma-informed and appropriate treatment and support?
- Will the Government adopt a new comprehensive national strategy to replace the expired *Killiliisa* strategy, including a clear and sustainable implementation plan?
- How will the Government strengthen training for professionals in handling disclosures and identifying signs of abuse, particularly concerning children with disabilities?

4.3 Physical and Psychological Violence

Despite the legal prohibition of corporal punishment in Greenland, violence against children remains widespread. MIO is deeply concerned that many children continue to experience physical and psychological violence in their everyday lives. MIO reiterates the Committee's earlier concerns about insufficient awareness campaigns and weak enforcement. Although psychological violence was criminalized in 2023, it remains underreported and is often not recognized or addressed effectively. MIO is in the process of collecting data on experiences of physical and psychological violence in close relationships among senior school students at representative schools in Greenland. This study will contribute knowledge to a very under-researched area, as we know very little about how children themselves experience violence.

MIO urges the Government to take stronger action to prevent all forms of violence against children, including through public information campaigns that raise awareness of children's right to protection and explain how both children and adults can seek help.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What steps will be taken to ensure that the criminalization of psychological violence in 2023 leads to real improvements in child protection?
- How does the Government plan to raise public awareness – including among children – of children's right to protection from all forms of violence and the available avenues for reporting abuse or seeking help?

4.4 Use of Force and Lack of Data

Under the Law on the Use of Force, all instances of force used against children in institutional care must be reported to the Government of Greenland. However, it is very difficult to access reliable or comprehensive data on such cases, which raises serious concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and compliance with legal safeguards. According to inspection reports, several institutions fail to report or properly document incidents involving the use of force. Furthermore, oversight authorities have observed that many staff members are unfamiliar with the legal framework, due to a lack of clear internal guidelines, procedures for prevention, and mechanisms for post-incident evaluation and learning. It has also been noted that the use of force is sometimes applied without adequate justification or documentation, and without informing the child's parents, thereby limiting their right to appeal. The absence of systematic data collection and public reporting obstructs efforts to evaluate institutional practices, safeguard children's rights, and implement necessary reforms.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What steps are being taken to improve transparency and monitoring of use-of-force incidents involving children?
- How does the Government plan to strengthen the monitoring and regulation of restraint practices and ensure staff training?
- What measures are in place to ensure that children and their families are informed about incidents of use of force and have access to complaint mechanisms?

4.5 Bullying and Online Harassment

While bullying is addressed through national education policies, cyberbullying and psychological harassment remain underregulated and underreported in Greenland. Children need accessible tools to understand, report and defend themselves against such harm. Schools and professionals often lack structured training or resources to support victims effectively, and parents are not systematically involved in awareness or prevention efforts.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How does the Government plan to address cyberbullying and online harassment among children?
- Will mandatory school curricula include elements on digital safety, emotional well-being and conflict resolution?
- What initiatives are in place to engage parents in anti-bullying efforts?

5. Family environment and alternative care (art. 5, 9-11, 18 (1,2),19-21, 25 and 27 (4))

5.1 Family Support and Parental Guidance

MIO acknowledges recent initiatives aimed at strengthening family support, including preventive services and parenting guidance. However, the overall support system remains inadequate, fragmented, and difficult to access – particularly in settlements, where no family centers exist and trauma treatment options are scarce and mostly limited to larger towns. Long waiting times and geographic disparities continue to prevent families from receiving timely and effective help.

MIO's ongoing engagement with families has revealed a significant need for culturally sensitive and sustained parental support. Many parents lack access to tools and information about their responsibilities and rights in their parenting role.

MIO welcomes two new proposals included in the Government's draft for an Action Plan on Implementation of the CRC. The Government proposes to create at least two mobile teams to help municipalities implement family group conferencing as a preventive and inclusive method. In addition, the government proposes the development of a National Parent Perspective that will provide a national parenting framework to clarify parental responsibilities and provide guidance for all parents, based on broad consultation with stakeholders.

MIO stresses the urgency of implementing these proposals with strong coordination and community outreach to ensure that all families, especially in remote areas, benefit from them.

Suggested question for the Greenlandic Government:

- What concrete steps will be taken to ensure that all families have access to preventive, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate support, including through the proposed mobile family group conferencing teams and national parenting framework?
- What steps are taken to assess and improve the quality and reach of preventive services for families?

5.2 Children Separated from Parents

Greenland continues to experience an alarmingly high rate of out-of-home placements. The latest data shows that 6% of children are in care – one of the highest rates in the Nordic region (Sermitsiaq, 2024). This marks a significant increase from 4.46% in 2014 (Jensen, 2021).

Despite the gravity of this trend, there is still no publicly available, up-to-date national data on the number, background, or well-being of children in care, nor on the outcomes of such placements. According to Article 20 of the CRC, children in out-of-home care are entitled to special protection and assistance. However, MIO's recent investigations suggest that many children in out-of-home care experience a "double failure" – first by their families, and then by the very systems meant to protect and support them.

MIO's latest monitoring efforts:

- *Children with complex and serious needs* (e.g. disability, trauma, mental illness, addiction, violent or sexually harmful behavior) are often placed in institutions that are not equipped to meet their needs. Many children in care have been exposed to domestic violence, neglect, substance abuse, and sexual abuse – and a significant number have lost close relatives to suicide or struggle with suicidal thoughts themselves.
- *Children often experience multiple placement breakdowns*, being moved between institutions or foster families – frequently across different towns and regions – without stable, long-term care plans. This lack of continuity undermines their sense of stability, disrupts their education, and negatively impacts their mental health.
- *Institutions frequently lack qualified staff and adequate frameworks*, including treatment plans, educational support, and psychological care. The annual reports from residential institutions show persistent problems: absence of treatment plans, lack of resident involvement, poor documentation of restraint use, missing background checks for staff, and inconsistent onboarding procedures.
- *Children with disabilities*, who are still disproportionately institutionalized and insufficiently heard in placement decisions.
- *Restraint practices* remain insufficiently regulated and monitored, and MIO has been unable to access comprehensive data on the use of force or coercion in institutions.
- *Casework quality is consistently problematic*. Many files lack updated assessments, care plans, action plans, or legally justified decisions. Errors and omissions in case handling are common and often severe.
- *Children are rarely adequately heard in their own cases*, including in decisions on placement changes or returns home. This lack of participation violates the core principles of the CRC and increases the risk of repeated failures in the child's development.
- *Children are often placed far from their families*, making it difficult to maintain relationships and cultural identity, contrary to CRC Article 9.

- *Young people aging out of care often receive little to no support* despite legal entitlements to aftercare services. Many do not know their rights or where to seek help, and there is a lack of dedicated aftercare facilities.
- *Children placed in student dormitories* (children from settlements must relocate to larger towns to complete the final years of compulsory schooling) often live far from their families and communities, with limited adult presence and oversight. While these dormitories are meant to provide a stable living environment for education, they frequently lack adequate psychological, pedagogical, and emotional support. Many of these children experience loneliness, insecurity, and a loss of cultural connection.

MIO is particularly concerned that these systemic issues are longstanding and unresolved, despite public attention and political commitments.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What steps are taken to reduce the high rate of out-of-home placements and address their underlying causes?
- What measures are in place to ensure that children with disabilities or complex needs are placed in appropriate settings, heard in decision-making processes, and provided with adequate therapeutic, educational, and emotional support?
- What measures will the Government take to ensure more stable and consistent placements for children in care, so they do not have to move repeatedly?
- How will the Government ensure children's right to maintain family and community ties, particularly for children placed in other municipalities?
- What steps will the Government take to address the shortage of qualified staff and to ensure the retention and upskilling of personnel working in residential care institutions?
- What efforts are being made to collect and publish regular, disaggregated data on child placements and well-being?

5.3 Foster Care

According to VIVE's 2021 analysis, there are significant regional differences in foster care usage. The proportion of children placed outside their homes and those placed in family foster care differs between municipalities (VIVE, 2021). These variations may stem from differing social challenges, the availability of alternatives like residential institutions and preventive family support, as well as local practices and cultural approaches to foster care.

Despite a relatively high number of families willing to act as foster families, municipalities still face shortages, especially for children and youth with complex challenges. Recruitment efforts, including social media campaigns and local advertisements, have had limited success. Both foster families and municipalities identify inadequate compensation as a barrier to recruitment. Collaboration challenges between foster families and municipalities are also frequently cited. While most professional and municipal foster families have received some form of training, the timing and availability of courses can be inconsistent, impacting preparedness. Communication gaps often occur during child placements, with foster families reporting insufficient handover information and outdated care plans. Support services such as supervision and respite care are limited, particularly in smaller communities, due to geographical challenges and staffing instability. Furthermore, payment structures vary, with many foster families feeling undercompensated, which contributes to recruitment and retention difficulties (VIVE, 2021).

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What measures will be taken to improve the recruitment and retention of foster families, particularly for children with complex needs?
- Will there be an initiative to standardize foster family compensation to better reflect on the challenges and responsibilities involved?
- Are there plans to expand training opportunities and support services like supervision and respite care for foster families?

5.4 Aftercare

MIO's work emphasizes an urgent need to improve aftercare services for youth in Greenland transitioning from foster care or institutional placements to independent adulthood. Although the Greenland Parliament Act no. 20 of June 26, 2017, on Child Support outlines the rights to aftercare, many young people and their care providers are unaware of these rights and the support available to them. MIO advocates for the establishment of a dedicated aftercare unit in Greenland to provide continuous, tailored support to young people post-18 years of age. This aftercare unit would offer a safe and accepting environment where youth can feel a sense of belonging and receive encouragement to pursue education or employment.

Without adequate aftercare, young people leaving care face greater risks during their transition to adulthood. A structured aftercare system would facilitate a gentler transition into independent living, helping to bridge the gap between institutional care and adult responsibilities. Such support is crucial to enable these young people to thrive socially, emotionally, and economically, ensuring their well-being and successful integration into society.

Proposed questions to the government:

- How does the Government plan to strengthen aftercare services for young people aging out of care, including access to housing, education, psychosocial support, and information about their rights?
- How will the government ensure that young people leaving care are informed about their aftercare rights and the available support?
- How does the government plan to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of aftercare programs?

5.4 Daycare

Access to high-quality daycare remains uneven and insufficient across Greenland, particularly in settlements and smaller towns. Despite legal guarantees and national strategic goals, significant barriers persist. Daycare institutions often lack adequately trained staff, and recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood professionals is especially challenging. Frequent staff turnover and the reliance on underqualified or untrained personnel undermine both the quality of care and the safety and developmental support children receive. These challenges are acknowledged in the Government's strategy "The Valuable Childhood 2023-2030" (*Den værdifulde barndom 2023–2030*), which identifies the need for improved staff training, leadership support, and better working conditions.

According to the strategy, the purpose of early childhood services is not only to prepare children for school, but to support children's well-being, identity, and sense of belonging from the very beginning of life (Naalakkersuisut, 2023b). However, limited access to stimulating, inclusive and culturally responsive daycare environments contradict these aims. While the national strategy outlines several promising initiatives — including mandatory training, a legal review, and investment in leadership — implementation remains unclear and local disparities persist, leaving many young children without access to their right to developmentally supportive, safe, and nurturing early childhood environments.

Suggested questions for the Government of Greenland:

- What concrete steps will be taken to ensure equal access to high-quality daycare across all regions, including in rural and settlement areas?
- How will the Government address the shortage of trained staff and ensure the retention and upskilling of early childhood professionals?
- What progress has been made in implementing the strategy *Den værdifulde barndom*, and how will its goals be operationalized in local municipalities?

6. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23-24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)

6.1 Overview

Greenland continues to face structural and systemic challenges in ensuring equitable and adequate healthcare for all children. Access to timely, appropriate, and specialized care varies significantly across regions, particularly disadvantaging children living outside of urban areas.

MIO's investigation into the health treatment of children in Greenland in 2023 identified serious shortcomings related to delays in basic health check-ups, lack of pediatric expertise, inadequate clinical documentation, and insufficient legal safeguards for patients. Based on insights from case reviews, outreach visits across Greenland, and direct inquiries from families and professionals, MIO issued a set of concrete recommendations to strengthen the healthcare system's responsiveness to children's needs. These include: ensuring that the child's perspective is systematically documented in medical records; guaranteeing timely child health check-ups; securing pediatric expertise nationwide; investigating the health services available in rural and remote communities; modernizing laws related to compensation for malpractice; and ensuring easy, accessible, and child-friendly complaint mechanisms. MIO also stresses the importance of publicly available clinical guidelines and better compliance with legal documentation duties to ensure transparent and accountable care pathways (MIO, 2023).

These systemic issues raise concerns about the Government's ability to guarantee children's right to the highest attainable standard of health (art. 24), to equal access to services (art. 2), and to procedural safeguards that uphold their best interests and right to be heard (arts. 3 and 12). The quality and consistency of care vary across regions, and vulnerable children – including those with disabilities or mental health needs – face disproportionately high obstacles. Preventive healthcare, early intervention, and continuity of care remain weak spots in the system. Furthermore, many children and families are not informed about their healthcare rights or their status as a person with disabilities and the rights pertaining, and legal safeguards are not systematically implemented in practice.

6.2 Access to Psychiatric Assessment and Treatment

Children face serious barriers in accessing timely and appropriate psychiatric care. The 2023 report from the Greenlandic Health Commission (*Sundhedskommissionen*) highlights long diagnostic wait times, especially outside Nuuk, and a critical shortage of child psychiatrists and other specialized staff. As a result, many municipalities offer only minimal mental health support to children. The Health Commission also noted the lack of separate psychiatric beds for minors, who are often placed alongside adult patients – raising significant concerns for their safety and well-being. Furthermore, the Health Commission found that current funding levels do not reflect the growing demand for mental health services and urged the Government to establish a separate child and adolescent psychiatric unit with increased bed capacity and a workforce tailored to children's developmental needs (Sundhedskommissionen, 2023).

These findings are echoed in VIVE's 2024 report, which stresses the need for improved access, outreach to remote areas, and better coordination of youth mental health services (VIVE, 2024).

Although a new psychiatric facility is planned near Queen Ingrid's Hospital in Nuuk, no clear timeline or staffing plan has been announced. Without concrete reforms, current gaps in care risk violating children's rights.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- When will the planned child and adolescent psychiatric facility be operational?
- What funding and staffing plans exist to address the acute shortage of child psychiatric specialists and ensure continuity of care across the country?
- What steps will be taken to improve outreach and access to mental health care for children in all parts of the country?

6.3 Children with disabilities

Children with disabilities in Greenland face serious and systemic challenges in accessing their rights to the highest attainable standard of health. These challenges are multifaceted and compounded by a lack of coordination between health, education, municipal and social sectors, which hinders effective, timely, and inclusive support for children and families.

There are strong indications of a high prevalence of neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD and autism among children in Greenland, yet the health system lacks sufficient capacity for early diagnosis and psychiatric assessment (Tilioq, 2024b). Access to psychiatric care and other relevant support services is limited, especially for children living outside of

major towns. Children often wait a long time to be diagnosed, and they receive little or no information about their rights as persons with disabilities once a diagnosis is made.

Further, many children with disabilities and their families are unaware of the child's legal status as a person with a disability, which prevents them from accessing the help and accommodations to which they are entitled. This reflects a broader lack of disability awareness and widespread stigma, both in society at large and among professionals. This is especially problematic given the lack of awareness and education materials about disabilities in the Greenlandic language (Tilioq, 2024b).

Families and guardians of children with disabilities are often overlooked in health and social policy, despite being central to the child's development and well-being. Also, as addressed in section 4.2 on sexual abuse and exploitation, children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse, as illustrated by the 2022 case where a woman with profound disabilities gave birth after repeated sexual abuse by a care facility staff member. While this case prompted national attention and some policy reform, most safeguarding initiatives still focus only on institutional settings, and exclude children with disabilities from broader protections. Notably, Greenland's mobile child support unit — the primary service for children affected by abuse — reportedly excludes children with disabilities from its mandate, which is discriminatory and violates the principles of non-discrimination under the CRC and CRPD (Tilioq, 2024a).

Suggested questions for the Government of Greenland:

- What steps will be taken to ensure timely and inclusive access to psychiatric assessment and treatment for children with disabilities, including before diagnosis?
- How will the Government strengthen cooperation between health, education, municipal and social services to ensure coordinated and rights-based support for children with disabilities?
- What support mechanisms will be introduced for families and guardians of children with disabilities, including travel assistance, respite care, and safe housing?
- What measures will be taken to ensure that all children with disabilities are protected from violence and abuse — in both institutional and non-institutional settings?
- What steps will be taken to ensure that children and young people are made aware of their status as people with disabilities and of the rights and support they are entitled to?

6.4 Alcohol and substance use

Alcohol and drug misuse remain a serious and widespread threat to children's safety and well-being in Greenland. As outlined by MIO and UNICEF Greenland, many children grow up in homes marked by alcohol dependency, leading to neglect, domestic violence, and increased risk of sexual abuse. Article 33 of the Convention obliges States to protect children from illicit drug use and prevent the use of children in the drug trade – obligations that are undermined by the current situation.

Children themselves report high levels of distress and insecurity caused by adult substance misuse in their homes, and many also highlight an urgent need for more accessible and age-appropriate prevention and treatment services (MIO, 2026a; MIO, 2017; UNICEF i Grønland, 2024). While MIO acknowledges the positive role of initiatives such as *Allorfik* (treatment centers for people with alcohol, drug, and gambling addictions), the structural gaps remain significant. In 2024, the Government released draft recommendations for an evidence-based alcohol policy, but the political process stalled due to early elections, and no follow-up has yet been announced. MIO is concerned by the lack of sustained political commitment to addressing alcohol-related harm, particularly its impact on children.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How will the Government reduce alcohol and substance misuse in Greenland?
- What concrete measures will be taken to prevent and treat substance use among children and youth?
- What steps will be taken to address parental substance misuse and mitigate its impact on children?

6.4 Tobacco Use

Despite a general decline in smoking rates over the past decades, the prevalence of tobacco use among Greenlandic youth remains alarmingly high. According to the 2018 national health survey, 58% of boys/young men and 52% of girls/young women aged 15–24 smoke daily (Larsen et al., 2019).

In recent years, the use of *snus* – smokeless tobacco – has surged among children, with some starting as early as age 12–13. Health professionals, including dental care staff, have reported visible oral damage and raised concerns about potential links between snus use and cancer. The Greenlandic Health Commission emphasizes the urgent need for structural interventions. Yet, chemically manufactured snus is not currently regulated under existing laws, making it legal to sell to minors (Sundhedskommissionen, 2023). This regulatory gap undermines public health goals and leaves children unprotected from harmful nicotine products.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What steps will be taken to prevent and treat youth tobacco and snus consumption?
- Will the Government ban the sale of chemically produced snus to minors?

6.5 Access to healthy nutrition, obesity and lifestyle

Many families in Greenland face food insecurity, particularly in settlements and coastal towns. Healthy food is often more expensive than processed, sugary, or imported products, especially in regions without access to affordable local fish or game. Childhood overweight and obesity are rising, with 15–16% of children overweight and up to 7% obese at school entry age (Naalakkersuisut, 2020). Children report low levels of physical activity, and recreational facilities are limited, especially in rural areas. The removal of the sugar tax in 2024 may further reduce access to healthy food and widen inequalities. While some initiatives exist to promote healthy lifestyles, there are no coordinated national initiatives for nutrition and physical activity targeting children and families. School meals, if available, are not always nutritious or culturally appropriate.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What concrete measures will the Government undertake to counter rising food insecurity and improve affordability and access to healthy foods across all regions?
- How will government policies promote healthy dietary habits and active lifestyles among families with children?
- Are there plans to reinstate or replace the sugar tax with policies that incentivize consumption of nutritious local foods?

6.6 Housing Conditions and the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living

Access to adequate housing remains a major child rights concern in Greenland and disproportionately affects children from vulnerable families — including children with disabilities. Overcrowded, unsafe, and inaccessible housing environments undermine children's right to an adequate standard of living and expose them to heightened risks of violence, neglect, and abuse.

For children with disabilities, housing is often wrongly treated solely as an issue affecting adults, despite its direct impact on the child's development, autonomy, and health. A child with a disability may require mobility-friendly or adapted living environments, private space for care and rest, and safe infrastructure. However, the Government has in recent years

permitted housing arrangements that do not comply with safety regulations, creating unhealthy environments that may be dangerous, particularly for children with additional support needs.

Beyond the disability context, many children in Greenland live in overcrowded conditions, particularly in settlements or low-income households. These conditions often lack privacy, hygiene, and basic infrastructure, and are associated with increased exposure to physical and sexual abuse. Housing insecurity and overcrowding also impact children's mental health, sleep, ability to study, and social development, thereby interfering with multiple aspects of their rights under the CRC.

MIO, Tilioq and other stakeholders call for housing policy to be reformed from a child rights perspective, ensuring that housing standards account for children's needs for safety, privacy, accessibility, and dignity.

Suggested questions for the Government of Greenland:

- What steps will the Government take to ensure that housing policies and regulations are aligned with the rights of the child, particularly for children with disabilities?
- How will the Government address overcrowding in family homes and its documented link to increased risk of abuse, neglect, and negative health outcomes for children?
- What actions will be taken to ensure that new housing developments and renovations meet safety and accessibility standards, including for children with mobility or sensory impairments?

6.7 Child Poverty

Despite repeated attention to the issue of child poverty in Greenland, the problem remains largely unaddressed. MIO is concerned that no clear government response is presented regarding the significant number of children growing up in poverty and social inequality.

Studies and testimonies indicate that children living in poverty in Greenland often lack basic necessities such as nutritious food, appropriate clothing, and stable housing. Some children report taking on part-time jobs to support their families, which negatively affects their education. Poverty is also closely linked to other serious social issues such as alcohol abuse in the home, domestic violence, youth suicide, and health problems. MIO is especially concerned about children of homeless parents, who in some cases are forced to stay with acquaintances or in temporary shelters, which can result in a lack of privacy and, in some cases, abuse (MIO, 2016b).

A 2013 report from MIO found that 11.7% of children lived in relative poverty (MIO, 2013), but no recent data on child-specific poverty is available.

Suggested questions for the Government of Greenland:

- What concrete steps will the Government take to ensure that no child in Greenland goes to bed or school hungry?
- Has the Government conducted recent research to assess the extent of child poverty and hunger in Greenland?
- What plans are in place to introduce an official poverty line and address the structural causes of child poverty?
- How does the Government intend to support children of homeless or unstably housed parents and ensure their right to a safe and private home environment?

7. Education, leisure and cultural activities (art. 28, 29, 31)

7.1 Overview

Education is central to children's hopes for the future in Greenland. According to MIO's work children associate schooling with opportunities for a better life, and express a strong need for guidance, inclusive learning environments, and support to remain in school. However, significant disparities in educational quality persist—particularly in settlements and for children with special needs. The shortage of qualified teachers and special educators, combined with high staff turnover in some areas, undermines equitable access to quality education.

The 2022 School Health Survey (Niclasen et al., 2024) reveals declining levels of emotional and social support reported by students, with 11% feeling unsupported by peers and 6% feeling unsupported by teachers.

Beyond academics, children value free time, friendships, and access to leisure activities as essential to their self-esteem and overall development. However, opportunities for recreation vary greatly depending on geographic location. While initiatives like the National Sports Federation's goal to make Greenland the world's most physically active country by 2030 are promising, access remains uneven.

The Government has outlined ambitions to improve the role and structure of the public school system, including better early education and stronger career guidance. However, MIO notes that these strategies often lack clarity, concrete timelines, and alignment with the rights set out in the CRC. Greater transparency is needed to ensure all children benefit equally from these reforms.

7.2 Right to Education and Equal Access

Children and young people in Greenland do not have equal opportunities in accessing education. MIO remains concerned that significant disparities persist based on geographical location, linguistic background, disability, and socioeconomic status. Children in settlements often face additional barriers due to limited access to qualified teachers, under-resourced schools, and insufficient support for students with special educational needs.

A large proportion of students finish primary school without acquiring the skills necessary to continue into upper secondary education. There is a growing group of young people between 16 and 18 years of age who are not in education, training, or employment (Naalakkersuisut, 2023a). Despite political awareness, this group has not been adequately mapped or targeted with tailored interventions. MIO also highlights the lack of national strategies and plans that are responsive to the social and cultural realities of children across the country.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How will the Government of Greenland ensure that all children, regardless of residence, language, or special needs receive equal access to quality education?
- What targeted strategies will the Government implement to support young people aged 16–18 who are not in education or training?
- How will the Government involve children and youth in the development of educational plans and reforms?

7.3 Inclusive Education and Support for Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities face structural and persistent barriers in accessing quality education on an equal basis with other children. There is currently no clear legal framework ensuring their right to participate in exams or complete school, resulting in many being exempted from final assessments without alternative solutions. This prevents them from obtaining school-leaving certificates and limits their access to further education and employment opportunities (Tilioq, 2024b).

The education system lacks qualified special education teachers, inclusive curricula, assistive technologies, and accessibility such as universal design for learning. Segregated classes are often established without the necessary pedagogical support or individual adaptation, leading to exclusion rather than inclusion. Many children with disabilities experience bullying, isolation, and absenteeism, particularly in mainstream schools that are not prepared to accommodate their needs. Furthermore, children with disabilities have

limited access to internships and vocational training, due to inadequate staffing and support, despite having the same rights to such experiences as their peers.

Although there are some encouraging developments, comprehensive, rights-based reforms remain necessary to ensure that all children with disabilities are included and supported throughout their education.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- What steps will be taken to ensure that children with disabilities can complete school and participate in exams on an equal basis with their peers?
- How will the Government combat bullying and social exclusion of children with disabilities in schools?
- What actions will be taken to guarantee access to inclusive internships and vocational training opportunities for children with disabilities?
- How will the Government ensure that educators receive ongoing training in inclusive pedagogy, universal design for learning, and disability awareness and accessibility?

7.4 Bullying and school climate

In 2022, the Government of Greenland adopted a National Strategy Against Bullying across educational and leisure settings. The strategy acknowledges bullying as a group-related and systemic issue and promotes inclusive, culturally sensitive approaches based on Nordic and Greenlandic research (Naalakkersuisut, 2022b). MIO welcomes this framework but raises concerns about the lack of follow-up, limited implementation across municipalities, and insufficient inclusion of children's perspectives.

Digital bullying remains a growing issue, while practical tools and accountability mechanisms are underdeveloped. Proposed legal obligations – such as mandatory anti-bullying policies, action plans, and improved teacher training – have not yet been translated into binding legislation. MIO is particularly concerned about children in boarding homes, who are especially vulnerable to exclusion and bullying, and the lack of monitoring or safeguards in these environments. Youth participation in awareness efforts also remains minimal.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How is the National Strategy Against Bullying being implemented and monitored across all relevant settings, including digital environments?
- What steps are being taken to ensure a binding legal and institutional framework for anti-bullying efforts?

- How are children and young people meaningfully involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of anti-bullying initiatives and awareness campaigns?

7.5 Right to Leisure, Play and Cultural Life

Children's right to rest, leisure, play, and cultural participation is unevenly fulfilled across Greenland. Children living in rural settlements, children with disabilities, and children from low-income families often lack access to structured, age-appropriate recreational or cultural activities.

Children with disabilities face particularly severe exclusion from leisure and cultural life. Most local sports clubs are not equipped or trained to include them, and there is currently only one known sports team specifically for children with disabilities in Greenland. There are no established Para Sport or elite sport pathways, and many activities in nature and cultural life are not adapted for accessibility, despite evidence that children with disabilities often engage with outdoor spaces. This exclusion contributes to loneliness, stigma, and reduced mental well-being (Tilioq, 2024b).

Furthermore, during school holidays, many children – especially those in vulnerable situations – lack access to safe, stimulating, and supportive recreational opportunities. This leaves them without daily supervision or meaningful engagement, putting them at higher risk of social isolation or neglect.

Suggested questions for the Government of Greenland:

- What concrete steps will the Government take to expand children's access to leisure, sports, and cultural activities regardless of geographic location, disability status, or household income?
- What initiatives will be implemented to ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to inclusive sports and recreational activities, including the development of Para Sport opportunities?

8. Special protection measures (art. 22, 30, 32-40)

8.1 Indigenous and Minority Children

Approximately 90% of children in Greenland are of Inuit heritage, and grow up deeply rooted in Indigenous identity, languages, and cultural traditions. This includes strong connections to nature, hunting practices, and community-based values. However, these rights and traditions are not equally protected across all settings in children's lives.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (Calí Tzay, 2024), Indigenous children in Greenland experience disproportionate exposure to violence, lack of mental health support, and limited access to education in their mother tongue. These challenges jeopardize not only their well-being, but also the intergenerational transmission of Inuit knowledge, culture and identity.

In alternative care settings — including residential institutions and foster placements — children are sometimes moved far from their linguistic, cultural, and social roots. This undermines their right to preserve their cultural identity as guaranteed under the CRC (Art. 8 and 30).

The Special Rapporteur has stressed the importance of strengthening education in Inuit languages, including Kalaallisut and other local dialects, as a foundation for cultural continuity and community belonging. Despite this, Danish remains dominant in some formal systems, further contributing to cultural marginalization (Calí Tzay, 2024).

Suggested questions for the Government of Greenland:

- How will the Government safeguard the cultural identity of children in alternative care, especially those from remote settlements and Indigenous communities?
- What measures are in place to prevent the cultural and linguistic erosion of Indigenous children placed outside their communities?

8.2 Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography

Despite Greenland's 2012 request to Denmark to lift the territorial reservation to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, no action has been taken to implement this. Greenland has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol. Furthermore, there is no systematic and ongoing data collection on the prevalence, types, and circumstances of sexual abuse against children. MIO remains deeply concerned about the high number of children subjected to abuse, and the lack of psychological assistance for affected children and youth.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- Will Greenland formally ratify the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography?
- How will the Government ensure regular and disaggregated data collection on child sexual abuse, including the categories and circumstances of abuse?

8.3 Children in Conflict with the Law and Child Victims

Children in conflict with the law in Greenland continue to face significant challenges in accessing adequate protection, legal safeguards, and child-sensitive procedures throughout the justice system. Despite earlier CRC recommendations, including those related to deprivation of liberty, gaps persist.

Legal safeguards and specialized support services remain limited, particularly in smaller settlements. Young people in conflict with the law do not consistently receive legal or psychosocial assistance, and there is a pressing need for child-sensitive, rights-based approaches at all stages of the justice process.

Furthermore, child victims of crime face significant legal inequality compared to children in Denmark. The Council of the Danish Bar and Law Society (Advokatrådet) has highlighted the lack of a legal aid system for victims in Greenland, noting that children do not have access to a legal representative during video interviews, nor guidance on compensation claims. Instead, they may only receive non-legal support from a support person (Advokatrådet, 2024). MIO shares the concern that this undermines children's right to protection and fair treatment in the justice system.

Suggested questions for the Greenlandic Government:

- How does the Government ensure that all children in conflict with the law receive immediate access to legal counsel and psychosocial support from arrest to resocialization?
- What measures will the Government take to ensure that the justice system in Greenland applies appropriate child-friendly procedures at all stages – from investigation to trial and follow-up – that take into account the child's age, maturity, disability, and need for support?
- Will the Government establish a legal aid system for child victims of crime, and ensure legal safeguards – such as the presence of trained professionals during video interviews – align with best practices and international standards?
- What preventive measures are in place to reduce the number of children entering the justice system – especially children in alternative care?