

**Committee: UNICEF**

**Topic: Providing violence response and access to justice for children and youth**

**Country: Poland**

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Child Abuse is one of the most crucial and sensitive matters to look into. When it comes to the violation of a Child's rights, there are approximately 40 million child abuse cases that take place every year, globally. Moreover, there is a lack of easement in accessing that justice, as it is very subtle for the children to talk about the abuse they faced. Therefore, when it comes to the access to justice for the children and youth, it is essential to safeguard the rights of the children and provide them easy access to attain justice. Poland is one of the democracies known for its multi-party democratic laws. The parliament of Poland is divided into two distinctive categories, namely, Senate and Sejm. Poland is one of those nations who had been very active in the cases of laws related to children, whether it be laws regarding adoption, foster parenting, etc. In 1991, Poland came up with the **law of CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child)**, and even in recent years, Poland took an active part in the surveys related to Child's rights and took the mandatory steps that were possible.

When it comes to safeguarding human rights, one of the most basic rights that needs reconsideration is children's rights. Children and the minorities are that entity that requires special care and easy access to the court for justice and violent response. Regarding the present condition after the pandemic, there have been several responses regarding children's rights worldwide. According to the report of UNICEF, which presents that the nations all over the globe together raised awareness against the injustice of the children in which, a total of 143 countries reported the problem. A total of 157 countries took the survey looking into this matter. The bright side was that the response rate was as high as 91%. However, many countries still became quite inactive in taking steps forward in terms of this situation, even after taking action in the survey. Moreover, coming to West and Central Africa, a large portion didn't even conduct the survey. Approximately 1/3 of the countries globally reported no change in the services that were already present for the protection of Child's rights.

Apart from these numbers, reports, and surveys, a majority of countries took an effective part in this survey and conducted the necessary change. Poland is one such country; it came up with the **law of ombudsperson**, which acts as an entity or guardian who looks into the matter of children's rights. The basic work of an ombudsperson is to look after the right of the Child, its education system, family upbringing, signs of any abuse, forced marriage, etc., and report to the government as soon as there have been any mistreatment or violation. Moreover, when it comes to child abuse, they have been **24 hours free Hotline available for the children** to report the case to an ombudsperson's office. The main motive behind implementing these laws is to prevent and protect children from violence, exploitation, cruelty, ill-treatment, etc.

The Polish Government also supports NGOs, which is one of the leading NGOs in the country associated with the responsibility of looking into the matters concerned with human rights related to children as well as the trafficking of children, which is one of the most unrecognized problems among the nations. Moreover, Poland has been a part of '**The Hague Convention of the Year 1980,**' which look after the matter related to the international child abductions. However, according to the previous cases, more emphasis was put on institutionalized children. Most recently, on September 2nd of the Covid-year, there was media coverage over the physical and psychological violence of boys in education facilities aged 12 and 18. As per the reports, the Polish government decided to close that facility, and strict charges were imposed on the individuals who abused those children.

The discussion over human rights is one of the most sensitive topics, and it becomes more crucial when children are involved. Therefore, there must be an awareness spread among the nations to conduct surveys relating to child abuse, abduction, trafficking, etc., involving all of the cases regarding the violation of the Child's rights, and steps must be taken to improve such situation. Moreover, the active participation of the nation must be ensured for providing help and support for the children to access justice as per the steps taken by the Polish Government, including the law related to the ombudsperson, a 24-hour hotline for children, immediate strict actions taken against violations, etc. Apart from these necessary steps, the Polish Government also emphasized maintaining the most general locations, like education institutes, schools, etc., as safe places for the children. Moreover, steps are taken towards reducing poverty and discrimination faced by the children. Other nations must also adopt these methods to enhance the law related to providing violence response and access to justice for children and youth because it is very much essential to safeguard the sensitivity of our nation's children.