



55th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6: UPR Outcomes – Bangladesh

22 March 2024

Speaker: Sayeda Sultana Sharmin

The FMSI and the Marist Brothers Trust Bangladesh welcome the participation of Bangladesh in the UPR and its commitment to the rights of children.

We welcome the acceptance of recommendation 144.244¹ to adopt legislation to prohibit and prevent **corporal punishment**. However, we are concerned that the Children Act 2013 does not include any explicit provision prohibiting corporal punishment in schools and the number of cases reported in families is very high. **We recommend to enhance existing legislation and its implementation to eradicate corporal punishment in all settings.**

Concerning **child labour and education**, we welcome the acceptance of recommendation 144.243². However, we regret that recommendation 144.245³ was only noted as the situation of children working in the tea gardens is dramatic: 29.8 per cent of children aged 5-17 are involved in child labour in Habiganj, 15.6 per cent in Moulvibazar and 19.3 per cent in Sylhet. **We recommend Bangladesh to ensure that child labour, even when legal, does not prevent children from going to school.**

We regret that recommendations 144.253 and 257⁴ concerning the reformulation of the **Child Marriage Restrain Act** were only noted as data show that about 59% of women in the country aged 20–24 years were married before the age of 18 years. **We recommend to ensure that birth registration is mandatory especially in the tea gardens in order to prevent deceitful manipulations of the age of children as a measure to fight against child marriages.**

Thank you.

¹ Recommendation 144.244 “Adopt legislation to explicitly prohibit and prevent corporal punishment everywhere. (Estonia)”. Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/55/13, 2 January 2024, and its Addendum, UN Document A/HRC/55/13/Add.1, 22 February 2024.

² Recommendation 144.243 “Allocate a specific budget provision for eliminating all forms of child labour by 2025 (Angola)”. *Idem*.

³ Recommendation 144.245 “Continue efforts by allocating sufficient human and financial resources to reduce the rates of forced child labour, either through legislative reforms that reduce existing inconsistencies in the definition of child labour and its criminalization, as well as through the design and implementation of a national comprehensive child protection plan. (Uruguay)”. *Idem*.

⁴ Recommendations “144.253 Reform the Child Marriage Restrain Act to eliminate exceptions and loopholes that allow for child marriages in certain circumstances (Norway); “144.257 Enhance efforts to eliminate child marriage, by reformulating the Child Marriage Restrain Act to prevent misuse of the “special circumstances” (Republic of Korea)”. *Idem*.