



# General Assembly

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**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
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**Summary prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner  
for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the  
annex to Human rights Council resolution 5/1**

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines\***

The present report is a summary of 3 stakeholders' submissions<sup>1</sup> to the universal periodic review. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. Lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to the absence of submissions by stakeholders regarding these particular issues. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review.

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

## **I. Background and framework**

N/A

## **II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground**

### **Implementation of international human rights obligations**

#### **1. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

1. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACPC) reported that corporal punishment was lawful in the home. Article 8 of the Juveniles Act punishes ill-treatment of children but allowed for the parent, teacher or other person having control of the child to administer “reasonable” punishment. Provisions against violence and abuse in the Criminal Code (1988), the Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act (1995) and the Constitution (1979) were not interpreted as prohibiting corporal punishment in childrearing.<sup>2</sup> GIEACPC noted that corporal punishment was lawful in schools under article 8 of the Juveniles Act and article 53 of the Education Act 2005, which allowed for it to be administered by the principal, deputy principal or a specially designated teacher, in a private room, using an instrument prescribed by regulations. Only females may inflict corporal punishment on girls.<sup>3</sup>

2. GIEACPC indicated that corporal punishment was lawful as a sentence for crime. The Corporal Punishment of Juveniles Act permitted a male juvenile (under 16) convicted of a crime to be caned up to 12 strokes on the buttocks using a light rod.<sup>4</sup> According to GIEACPC, corporal punishment was lawful as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions. Corporal punishment is also lawful in alternative care settings under article 8 of the Juveniles Act. The Juveniles Act and the Juveniles (Approved Schools) Rules allowed it to be administered on boys within approved schools.<sup>5</sup> GIEACPC hoped that the Universal Periodical Review will highlight the importance of prohibiting all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home, and urged the Government to enact legislation to achieve this as a matter of priority.<sup>6</sup>

#### **2. Right to privacy, marriage and family life (adjust the title, if relevant)**

3. Joint Submission 1 recommended that the Human Rights Council, in its upcoming UPR review, urge Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to bring its legislation into conformity with its commitment to equality and non-discrimination, and its international human rights obligations, by repealing all provisions which may be applied to criminalise sexual activity between consenting adults.<sup>7</sup>

#### **3. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

4. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) reported the high vulnerability of the citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the effects of climate change, especially accelerated sea-level rise, as 85 percent of the population is situated on a narrow coastal strip less than five meters above sea level and less than five km from the high-water mark. It said climate change threatens the right to food, health, means of subsistence, and the ability to maintain an adequate standard of living. It also noted that it endangers the right to life, property, housing, self-determination, security of person, access to water, sanitation, and a healthy environment due to increased tropical storms and hurricanes, droughts, flooding, and spread of disease vectors with warmer air and water temperatures.<sup>8</sup> JS2 recommended that the

Human Rights Council: (i) recognize the responsibility of major greenhouse gas-emitting states for the human rights threats suffered by the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and (ii) encourage the international community to take immediate action to decrease global greenhouse gas emissions and to assist Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in its efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.<sup>9</sup>

### III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

N/A

### IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

N/A

### V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

N/A

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org). (One asterisk denotes a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.)

*Civil society*

- JS1 Joint Submission 1 – submitted by ARC International, ILGA (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association) and ILGA-Europe\*;  
 JS2 Joint Submission 2 – submitted by Earthjustice\*, Oakland (USA); Greenpeace International\*, Amsterdam (The Netherlands); Human Rights Advocates\* (USA); 350.org;  
 GIEACPC Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (United Kingdom).

<sup>2</sup> GIEACPC, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> GIEACPC, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> GIEACPC, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> GIEACPC, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> GIEACPC, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> JS1, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> JS2, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> JS2, p. 5.