

**Universal Periodic Review – UPR (4th cycle – 42nd session)
State under Review – Switzerland**

UNICEF issues of concern

Topic	Status of previous UPR recommendations	Issues of concern	Recommendations
Right to health	<p>Previous recommendation: 146.75 in A/HRC/37/12 - Para. 146</p> <p>Status: not implemented</p>	<p>A study commissioned by UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein in 2021 revealed the state of mental health among 15-19-year-olds. The results are alarming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1/3 is affected by mental health problems - 1 in 11 has already tried to commit suicide - 71,6% report difficulty falling asleep or sleeping through the night or sleeping too much - 37% have signs of anxiety disorder and/or depression - 1/3 remains alone with their problems - Less than half get professional help - 3% turn to health or education professionals <p>Yet, there is a shortage of psychiatric and psychotherapeutic services for children in the country.</p> <p>The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made related recommendations in CRC/C/CHE/CO/5-6, para. 36.</p>	<p>Ensure that every child has access to quality mental health care by establishing sufficient, adapted services.</p>
Refugees & asylum seekers	<p>Previous recommendation: 146.104 in A/HRC/37/12 - Para. 146</p> <p>Status: partially implemented</p>	<p>In its new expert report "Neglected best interests of the child - minors in asylum and foreigners law procedures", the Swiss Asylum and Foreigners Law Observatory (SBAA) states that the rights of refugee and migrant minors are repeatedly violated in Switzerland. On the basis of legally processed cases, the SBAA shows that the authorities do not systematically consider the best interests of the child in asylum and foreigners law procedures.</p> <p>Children under the age of 12 are usually not heard in the asylum procedure on the grounds that they are not yet able to form their own opinion. It is known among experts that especially accompanied children do not get the opportunity at all to express their opinion during the asylum procedure. Therefore, their view is not or not fully respected.</p>	<p>Ensure that all unaccompanied and accompanied children from the age of 6¹ are systematically heard in an age-appropriate manner in the federal asylum centres.</p>

¹ In order to align to civil proceedings.

		The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made related recommendations in CRC/C/CHE/CO/5-6, para. 20.	
Human rights & poverty	<p>Previous recommendation: 146.69 in A/HRC/37/12 - Para. 146</p> <p>Status: partially implemented</p>	<p>In Switzerland, more than 700,000 people live below the poverty line. 133 000 children in Switzerland are affected by poverty and 317 000 are at risk of poverty (source: BFS 2022). High child costs, low parental incomes, a lack of opportunities to reconcile work and family life, and poor protection in the event of divorce are partly to blame. Furthermore, the state invests less in children and families than the average of European countries. Children also represent the largest group of social assistance recipients of all age groups in Switzerland. It is therefore concerning that the Swiss Conference for Social Welfare (SKOS) guidelines on the minimum subsistence level are not binding.</p> <p>The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made related recommendations in CRC/C/CHE/CO/5-6, para 38.</p>	Increase investments to support children and families, particularly in early childhood education and care.
Business & Human Rights	<p>147.42 in A/HRC/37/12/Add.1 Status: partially implemented</p> <p>147.38 in A/HRC/37/12/Add.1 Status: partially implemented</p> <p>147.40 in A/HRC/37/12/Add.1 Status: Not / partially implemented</p> <p>148.48 in A/HRC/37/12 - Para. 148 Status: partially implemented</p>	<p>A new ordinance which came into force 2022 in Switzerland requires the business sector to carry out due diligence and reporting related to conflict minerals and child labour. The law however does not include a broad due diligence requirement for all human and children's rights.</p> <p>The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made related recommendations in CRC/C/CHE/CO/5-6, para. 16.</p>	Adopt regulations to ensure the compliance of the business sector with international human rights and children's rights beyond child labour.
Climate change	No previous recommendations.	Climate change and its effects have a direct impact on children and youth in Switzerland. However, this age group has limited opportunities to express their opinions, fears and concerns to policymakers and participate in the formal decision-making processes. According to recent polls among young people in Switzerland, climate change is one of the top issues of concern to Swiss youth. At the same time, decision makers do not view climate change as	Step up climate action, both nationally and abroad, and place children at the center, including by providing them with meaningful opportunities to be heard.

		<p>a child rights issue. In the national debates around climate issues, children and youth are often not considered and they don't appear in national strategies as a group of special concern. As a result, climate change programmes and policies are not equipped to respond to children's unique vulnerabilities or engage them in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.</p> <p>The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made related recommendations in CRC/C/CHE/CO/5-6, para. 37.</p>	
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