

Pledge by State of Palestine

Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 2 April 2014

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 7 April 2014

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 29 December 2017



Pledges

1. Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years.
2. Draft a law on the rights of persons with disabilities that ensures non-discrimination and guarantees protection, health and social insurance for all persons with disabilities, including children.

1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

- **What?**

The State of Palestine has taken many steps on several levels that need now to be complemented and completed with full regard to the rights comprehended in the CRC Convention especially after the submission of the CRC initial report and in preparation for the discussion of the report before the committee in January 2020. In this regard, The State of Palestine has started harmonizing its applicable legislations to comply with the main principles of human rights treaties and conventions. Many legislations have been harmonized and the Palestinian government have decided in its cabinet session on 21st October 2019 to amend the Palestinian law regarding the age of marriage (marriage age will be raised to 18 years old for both sexes), with the exception of allowing girls at 16 to get married after and only after getting a judge approval.

Also, the State of Palestine is currently working on drafting a modern law on the rights of disabled people, that ensures non-discrimination and stipulates that the government shall guarantee protection, education, health and social insurance for all people with disability including children.

- **Why?**

Due to the successive forms of foreign rule imposed on the Palestinian People throughout different historical eras, Palestine inherited a set of laws and codes originating from foreign governments that ruled historical Palestine. For example, Palestine inherited laws imposed by the British Mandate prior to 1948, and the Jordanian Government in the West Bank and the Egyptian Government in the Gaza Strip from the period extending between 1948-1967. Therefore, upon the accession of the State of Palestine to numerous international treaties, including human rights instruments, a need to harmonize applicable legislations with the emerging obligations had become apparent to the Palestinian Government.

- **How?**

A national Harmonization Committee headed by the Ministry of Justice was established in 2017, the committee's main mandate is to review the draft laws prior to their adoption. In this regard, the draft laws on raising the age of marriage and the rights of disabled people, will be reviewed by the aforementioned committee.

- **When?**

The national Harmonizing Committee was established as a permanent committee, and each year the Committee will prepare an action plan that includes all the legislations to be reviewed by the committee.

- **Who?**

The Harmonization committee, which is headed by the Ministry of Justice and comprises of the line ministries in addition to the Independent Commission For Human Rights (ICHR) and in coordination with relevant civil society organizations.