**Call for Inputs**

**Deadline: 30 September 2019**

2 August 2019

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material**

***Looking back, looking forward***

In accordance with my mandate as a [Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx), and pursuant to the Human Rights Council Resolution 7/13, I have initiated the preparation of my final thematic report to the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council, which will be dedicated to stocktaking of what we as a multi-stakeholder child rights global constituency of Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international and regional human rights mechanisms and private entities, have achieved in preventing and eliminating the scourge of sale and sexual exploitation of children, what challenges lay ahead of us and what are the good practices and lessons learned in addressing this complex phenomenon. Not only will it provide an opportunity to reflect on the current state of play of this problem, its root causes and new manifestations, but it will rise to an important occasion in the run up to the 30th anniversary of the CRC, to reflect on the relevance, complementarity, coherence and the impact of our intervention on our global audience of children. Last but not least, it will provide an opportunity for me to take stock of the six years of my rapporteurship to reflect on the ways and means to enhance the impact of the mandate on the prevention and elimination of the sale, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, identify good practices and inform future efforts of my successor.

Since the establishment of the mandate in 1990, significant changes have occurred in the world leading to a far-reaching impact on the extent and nature of the sale and sexual exploitation of children, such as the expansion of Internet, migration flows, the natural disasters, conflicts and climate-related changes and the ever evolving and increasing recourse to assisted reproductive technologies that have wide implications for children. Although numerous efforts have been undertaken to address the scourge of the sale and sexual exploitation of children through a better understanding of these phenomena and innovative practices and enhanced cooperation among actors, numerous gaps remain.

The years 2019 and 2020 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 20th anniversary of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC). The adoption on 30 May 2019, by the Committee on the CRC of the Guidelines on the implementation of the OPSC are another welcome contribution to better understanding of its scope and implications. In July 2019, the High-level Political Forum on the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and quality”, will have also reviewed six Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 16 and 8, of direct relevance to the mandate. Furthermore, at its 43rd session in March 2020, the HRC will traditionally reconsider the extension of the mandate for a further period of three years and appoint a new Mandate Holder. These developments offer a good opportunity to raise awareness, place the issue of sale and sexual exploitation of children high on the international agenda and call for better compliance with ensuing commitments.

**Thematic focus and the planned consultations**

The call for inputs and the subsequent consultations will inform my final report to the HRC in 2020 reflecting on a six-year tenure of the mandate. The final output will provide an overview of the main issues and trends relating to the mandate; the root causes and the new patterns of the sale and sexual exploitation of children; the risk factors, drivers and circumstantial evidence, including the gender-driven demand of child abuse and child sexual exploitation; with a view to develop recommendations to assist States to effectively mitigate, prevent and protect children from sale and sexual exploitation, and provide full care and rehabilitation for child victims of sale and sexual exploitation. The outcome of my outreach consultations will also inform the development of new ideas for taking the mandate forward, including addressing any knowledge gaps and advocating for the prevention of the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

To this end and to inform my report, I am seeking inputs from relevant stakeholders (Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organizations, UN agencies, regional institutions, corporate entities, etc.) on the following questions:

1. *Context, awareness and attitudes underpinning the sale and sexual exploitation of children:* What are the current challenges, trends and emerging threats defining the scope and extent of the sale and sexual exploitation of children? What progress has been made in shifting the language and the narrative around these issues by the wider community of experts and practitioners? What are some of the good practices of raising public awareness and sensitisation on issues of sale and sexual exploitation of children at the local, national regional and global level?
2. *Risk factors, root causes and* [*demand for the sexual exploitation of children*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/TacklingTheDemand.aspx): What are the root causes and origins of demand for the sale and sexual exploitation of children? What tools are available to States and non-State actors to effectively address the underlying causes of sale and sexual exploitation of children, beyond training and awareness raising? What are the remaining challenges and obstacles in overcoming this scourge?
3. *Children’s vulnerability to sale and sexual exploitation, including in the context of cross-border challenges, technology and innovation:* What is the available evidence about children’s vulnerability to sexual exploitation, including about existing and emerging drivers of risk (e.g. precarious socioeconomic situations, migration, conflicts and violence, climate change and natural disasters, digital space)? What groups of children (including on the grounds of gender, age, disability, social group) are especially vulnerable to exploitation in general and/or specific forms thereof?
4. *The overarching legal-normative framework, commitment and institutional capacity*: What progress has been made in global, regional and national legislative frameworks to address children’s vulnerability to sale and sexual exploitation, and to address impunity? To what extent do these frameworks adequately address or take due account of the challenges posed by transnational internet and financial flows, and their implications for accountability and challenging impunity?
5. *New and innovative strategies to effectively prevent and protect children from sale and sexual exploitation*: How adequate is our global multi-stakeholder response to this complex phenomenon (States, NHRIs, domestic and international policy-makers, international and regional human rights mechanisms, CSOs, private sector)? How adequate are current systems and strategies to protect children effectively? What are the current global and domestic human rights and protection challenges in the context of evolving global developments? Are there sufficiently accessible complaints mechanisms available to victims and their representatives?
6. *Data and monitoring:* How effective are current tools and monitoring systems, including collection, analysis and publication of routine data, in supporting the prevention of and response to the sale and exploitation of children?
7. *Institutional accountability*: How far are responsibility and accountability of each and all pertinent actors being enforced and upheld (including corporations in the tech, travel and tourism and other sectors)?
8. *The way forward:* How can the impact of the mandate be further enhanced in the future? Where are the major gaps in advocacy and awareness?

Responses may be addressed to the Special Rapporteur at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by email to**srsaleofchildren@ohchr.org** before **30 September 2019**. Reports, academic studies and other types of background materials can be attached as an annex to the submission. If not stated otherwise in your submission, the responses received will be published on the [website](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx) of the Special Rapporteur.

As a follow-up to the call for input, I will be holding a one day consultation in Geneva with States and relevant stakeholders on the margin of the 42nd session of the HRC on 23rd September, followed by a two-day expert group consultation in Florence on 24 and 25 September, organised in partnership with the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. *Additional information on both consultations will be sent in due course.*

For further question on the call for inputs and participation in the above consultations, please do not hesitate to contact me through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by phone: + 41 22 917 99 84 and email at: srsaleofchildren@ohchr.org.

With regards,

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Maud De Boer-Buquicchio

Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material