**Oman Human Rights Report on**

**Child , early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings pursuant to the resolution 35/16 of the Human Rights Council**

**Question (3):**

**what are specific challenges and gaps in the prevention and eliminating of the practice of child, early and forced in humanitarian settings? How could such challenges and gaps be overcome?**

It should be noted that Oman signed the Convention on Rights of the child in 1996 and it withdraw its reservations in 2014, which means that Oman recognizes its commitment to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and considered as part of the local laws in force.

Early and forced marriage of children is not a phenomenon in Omani society, since there are no statistics on early and forced marriage of the child, nor did the Oman Human Rights Commission receive or monitor any cases in this regard except one case which was monitored in the early of 2018 and was settled as per the local rules and acceded international conventions of human rights. Moreover, the latest statistics for 2010 from the National Center for Statistics and

Information indicated that the proportion of children enrolled in education aged 15-17 years was 93.8%, which means that the vast majority of children aged 17 are enrolled in the Ministry of Education and have not stopped studying because Early or forced marriage.

Lack of awareness and social norms in some remote areas may be a challenge to the elimination of few early marriages.

**Overcoming the Obstacles by the following:**

* Increasing and expanding awareness and education, especially in rural and remote areas.
* Reviewing and adopting local laws and regulations to be in line with the international conventions to which Oman is committed.

**Question (6):**

**- What measures (e.g. Legislative, regulatory, policy, and programmatic) are in place or have been adopted to address the root causes and exacerbating factors of child, early and forces marriage?**

**Legislative Measures:**

**• Personal Status Law (32/97)**

The law defines marriage as a "lawful contract between a man and a woman whose purpose is to marry and to establish

a stable family under the care of the husband, on the basis of ensuring that they bear their burdens with affection and sympathy." The law defines the legal age for marriage as 18

years as stated in Article 7 states: "The law did not allow the marriage of a person who did not complete this age, except with the permission of the judge after determining the interest of this marriage. In Addition, Section (c) of Article 10 stipulates that: "Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this article, a person who has not completed 18 years of age shall be married only with the permission of the judge and after investigating the interest of this marriage".

* **Child Law (22/2014)**

The Child Law (22/2014) establishes mechanisms to protect the child from exploitation, abuse or violence. Article 60 states: "In Accordance to a Resolution from the Minister, committees shall be formed to protect children against violence, exploitation and abuse called (the Child Protection Committees), The jurisdictions and the work mechanism of such committees shall be stated by the resolution without prejudice to the provision of such law. The members of the committees for child protection shall have the Judicial Authority in the application of the provisions of this law. These committees shall receive any complaints or reports concerning violations of the rights of the child in accordance with their competences. Article (61) states that: "Child protection committees are competent to receive complaints and communications of any violations of child rights, and the child's vulnerability to violence situations, or exploitation, or abuse, as shown by the regulations. The law has ensured that

everyone has the right to inform the Child Protection Committees for any incident represents a violation as stipulated in the Article (62): Everyone has the right to report about any incident that is considered as exploitation, abuse or violation to any of the rights set forth in this Article. Child Protection Committees must take all necessary measures to protect the person who reported about the child without disclosing about his/ her name.

* **Convention on the Rights of the Child:**

Oman signed on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1996. In Addition, Oman withdrew all its reservations in 2014. The Convention is an integral part of national legislation and is applied by local courts.

**Question (9):**

**9- what concrete actions are /have been taken to provide appropriate protection and accountability mechanism for women and girls at risk and also to victims for survivors of child, early and forced marriage, including those living in isolated and remote areas?**

**Actions taken as the following**:

1. Establishment of several bodies in the Sultanate to monitor issues related to child early marriage, including:
2. Oman Human Rights Commission
3. General Directorate of Family Protection- Ministry of Social Development.
4. Royal Oman Police
5. Ministry of Health
6. Establishment of a shelter called (Dar Al Wefaq) to protect women and children that exposed by violence and harmful practices.
7. Launching a hotline by the Ministry of Social Development to report on violations against women and children ( 1100).
8. The formation of Child Protection Committees as per to the resolution issued by the Minister of Social Development to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse. There are also representatives of the child protection committees in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman in order to follow up on any violations.

nhrc.om.intl

--

International Relations & Organizations Department

National Human Rights Commission

Sultanate of Oman