

Universal Periodic Review of Iceland

Fourth Cycle – 54th Review Session

Human rights of children in Iceland

Joint stakeholders' submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Iceland, 4th cycle

July 2026

This joint submission is made by organizations which collaborate under the umbrella of *Barnaréttindavaktin*, the Icelandic Child Rights Watch, a platform for NGOs supporting children's rights in Iceland, as well as other organizations concerned with child rights.

While this submission is broad in scope, it should not be seen as comprehensive: There may be issues in relation to the human rights of children in Iceland which are not mentioned in this report but which are nevertheless of concern.

Submitting organizations:

Amnesty International Iceland

Barnaheill – Save the Children Iceland

Bergið Headspace

Félag fósturforeldra

Geðhjálp – Icelandic Mental Health Alliance

Heimili og skóli – The National Parents Association

The Icelandic Disability Alliance (ÖBÍ)

Icelandic National Committee for UNICEF

Icelandic Red Cross

Landssamtökin Þroskahjálp – National Association of Intellectual Disabilities

Samfés – Youth Work Iceland

Ungmennafélag Íslands, UMFÍ

Umhyggja Association for Chronically Ill Children

Contact information for this report:

Icelandic National Committee for UNICEF

Strandgata 75, 220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

unicef@unicef.is

Contact person: Sölvi Karlsson (solvi@unicef.is)

Section 1: Legal and institutional frameworks

International obligations

1. **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure:** Iceland ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2013 and has also ratified the Optional Protocols to the CRC on Children in Armed Conflict and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. However, the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure has not yet been ratified in Iceland. As a result, children in Iceland do not have the ability to bring potential violations of their rights to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The ratification of this Optional Protocol was recommended to the Icelandic government during the third UPR cycle, and its ratification was part of Iceland's voluntary pledge during the government's candidature for the HRC 2025-2027. Unfortunately, this recommendation has not yet been acted upon, and thus bears repeating.
2. *Recommendation:* Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure.

National human rights framework

3. **Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Iceland ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2013. To support the full implementation of the CRC, the Parliament of Iceland adopted Parliamentary Resolution 1702/151 on a *Child-Friendly Iceland* (Barnvænt Ísland) in 2021, outlining a number of actions to be taken between 2021 and 2024. The implementation of this action plan concluded in 2024. However, a number of actions remain incomplete, and no new action plan has been adopted by the Government of Iceland. This hinders the full implementation of the CRC in Iceland.
4. *Recommendation:* The Government of Iceland should develop and adopt a new action plan for the continuing implementation of the CRC.
5. **Children's best interests in policy and decision making:** Parliamentary Resolution 1702/151 on a *Child-Friendly Iceland* (Barnvænt Ísland), adopted in 2021 as part of ensuring the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), called for the development of a mechanism by which to assess the best interests of children in the preparation of bills of law, policy decisions and decisions concerning the rights of individual children. This is in accordance with article 3 of the CRC. Building on Parliamentary Resolution 1702/151, the Ministry of Education and Children released a guide to assessing the impact of decision making on children in 2024. While this guidance is well designed, its usage remains inconsistent and insufficient.

6. *Recommendation:* The Government of Iceland should ensure that the impact of decision making on children and their best interests is consistently examined, across all government ministries and agencies, through the systematic use of the assessment tool released in 2024. This also requires the training of officials and other relevant staff in conducting such assessments.
7. **Domestic complaint mechanisms for child rights violations:** In addition to the lack of ratification of the Optional Protocol on the CRC on a Communications Procedure, mentioned above, domestic complaints mechanisms need to be improved to ensure that children or adults acting on their behalf can more easily pursue complaints toward public authorities. Furthermore, sufficient resources must be made available to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman for Children is equipped to receive, respond to and follow up on complaints received in relation to violations of the CRC.
8. *Recommendation:* The Government of Iceland should improve domestic complaint mechanisms for violations of children's rights under the CRC, so all relevant institutions or authorities are accessible to children and adults acting on their behalf, and provide sufficient funding for the Office of the Ombudsman for Children to fulfil its role in guiding children on the available measures.
9. **Icelandic Human Rights Institute:** A national human rights institution, *Mannréttindastofnun Íslands*, was established in 2025. This is a very positive step ensuring all human rights, including the rights of children, are respected. The institute is intended to operate in line with the Paris Principles, which is to be celebrated. However, there are concerns that funding remains inadequate for it to fulfil its purpose, and that it will not be able to fulfil its role as foreseen.
10. *Recommendation:* Ensure adequate funding for the Icelandic Human Rights Institute to achieve A status in its first accreditation before the Sub-committee on Accreditation of the Paris Principles.

Promotion and protection of human rights

11. **Children's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion:** Currently, the parents of children born in Iceland choose the official religious status ascribed to their children at birth. This has been criticized, including by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2022, as infringing on children's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as children are not able to choose their own official religious status. Only at 12 years of age does a child need to approve changes to their religious status.
12. *Recommendation:* Amend legislation pertaining to the registration of official religious registration so that children do not have an ascribed religious status until they are able to choose one themselves.

- 13. Children's right not to be placed in solitary confinement:** Despite repeated recommendations, including from the UN Committee Against Torture in 2022 and 2023, instances still occur where children are placed in pre-trial solitary confinement in Iceland. One child was subjected to pre-trial solitary confinement in 2024, and another in 2025, according to data provided by the Prison and Probation Administration. Placing children in solitary confinement goes against various international agreements to which Iceland is a party, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention against Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.
- 14. Recommendation:* The Government of Iceland should comply with recommendations made by the UN Committee Against Torture to ensure solitary confinement and similar measures are never used with children.
- 15. Children's right to freedom of association:** Children under the age of 18 cannot currently legally register organizations in Iceland, nor can they serve as board members. This severely limits the ability of children to organize and participate in civic society in Iceland, and is despite the fact that civic organizing of children plays an important role in Icelandic society for example in secondary schools. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its 2022 observations on the periodic reports of Iceland on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, pointed out that this limitation infringes on children's right to freedom of association.
- 16. Recommendation:* Amend legislation to enable children under the age of 18 to register their own organizations, and to act as board members.
- 17. Children's right to participation:** At the level of local authorities, many municipalities regularly consult with youth through platforms such as youth councils. However, the establishment of such mechanisms remains ad hoc. At the national level, there are very few structured ways by which children are invited to participate in decision making, and there is no mandate to consult with children during legislative processes. This holds back the meaningful participation of children, and the fulfilment of their right to participation.
- 18. Recommendation:* Mandate child participation at all levels of decision making, including locally and nationally, providing minimum standards and frameworks for this participation.
- 19. Children's right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment:** In the third UPR cycle, the Icelandic government accepted recommendations on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and actions against climate change. These rights have not yet been implemented into domestic regulation. Furthermore, projections of the Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency show that the government's current

climate action plan falls short of reaching the 2030 and 2035 goals as set out by the Paris Agreement and Iceland's cooperation with the European Union.

20. *Recommendation:* Make necessary legislative changes to ensure the rights of individuals to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Revise climate action plans and provide necessary funding to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach.

Section 2: Children seeking asylum, refugee and migrant children

Children seeking asylum

21. **Rights of children seeking asylum in changing regulatory frameworks:** The legal environment regarding applications for protection has undergone major changes recently, significantly restricting people's ability to obtain protection, residence permits and family reunification. For example, the waiting period for permission to apply for family reunification has become longer and costs have increased substantially. Some of the changes violate children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as the right of children to be with their parents.
22. *Recommendation:* A relevant independent body, such as the Icelandic Human Rights Institute, should be mandated to screen all recent and future changes to the laws and regulations regarding seeking international protection and residency with regard to the best interest of children and their rights according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and to recommend changes accordingly.
23. **Best interest of the child when seeking asylum:** It has been unclear which parameters are used by the Directorate of Immigration when assessing the best interest of children seeking asylum. A new regulation no. 726/2026 is meant to address this, although the operating procedures are yet to be made official by the Directorate of Immigration. It is worth noting that the child is not automatically offered a separate interview, there is not a clear assessment of in which country in question the interest of the child would be best safeguarded, and the strong emphasis on prioritizing the unity of family may continue the practice of not sufficiently reviewing a child's application on its individual merit.
24. *Recommendation:* Review rules and procedures around assessment of asylum applications to ensure that applications of children are assessed on their individual merit on the basis of the best interests of the child. Monitor the implementation together with children's advocacy organizations.

Services to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants

25. **Services to families with children seeking asylum:** Until 2025 services to people seeking asylum were provided by the Directorate of Labour, by four municipalities and by the Icelandic Red Cross. Families with children were mostly serviced by municipalities, i.a. securing the proximity to the local community, preschools and schools making caring for social, mental and psychosocial needs of children more comprehensive. Since 2025, all services are provided by the Directorate of Labour only. This has marked a clear regression in the services to children as no preschool, leisure or sports activities are being offered to ensure that children are given the chance to develop and thrive during this sometimes lengthy process and normal development of the child is guaranteed. Furthermore, facilities for play within the housing facilities of the Directorate of Labour are either non-existent or minimal.
26. *Recommendation:* Ensure that children seeking asylum enjoy all the same rights, services and opportunities as any other child living in Iceland and provide child-friendly facilities where they are accommodated. If this cannot be guaranteed by the Directorate of Labour, then new collaboration agreements should be made with designated municipal services.
27. **Monitoring of facilities and services:** Housing and services for people seeking asylum are currently only provided by the Directorate of Labour. It is unclear how these services are monitored, and whether a mechanism for feedback or complaints exists. During the years 2016-2021, the Icelandic Red Cross had an agreement with the relevant ministries to conduct monitoring of housing facilities for asylum seekers, although follow-up mechanisms were not reliable. Since its establishment in 2022, the Quality and Supervisory Authority of Welfare supervises the quality and supervision for a range of public services, but its mandate does not include facilities run under the Foreign Nationals Act. Since 2025, neither the Icelandic Red Cross nor other organizations enjoy access to those premises.
28. *Recommendation:* Establish a reliable and clear mechanism for the monitoring of services to people seeking asylum, led by an external neutral actor, including a process which ensures comments are considered and acted upon by the relevant authorities.
29. **Victims of trafficking:** Despite a steady rise in human trafficking in Iceland, the development of adequate responses, legal assistance, and support services has been slow. While the number of identified cases has increased, it has not been accompanied by a corresponding rise in prosecutions. Cases involving exploitation that originated abroad do not all appear to be systematically investigated in Iceland, and victims not given sufficient support or protection. This includes individuals seeking asylum based on uncontested trafficking claims, among those parents with children, who have been deported despite having reason to fear further trafficking in the country of destination. Several recommendations made by the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against

Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) also remain unimplemented, including on the principle of non-punishment of trafficking victims.

30. *Recommendation:* Implement robust measures to identify trafficking cases and ensure that they are promptly referred for investigation. Fully implement GRETA's outstanding recommendations, including incorporating the principle of non-punishment of trafficking victims into legislation, and strengthen victim support services by ensuring access to appropriate accommodation, legal assistance, and other practical forms of support.
31. **Free legal counseling and assistance for refugees and migrants:** Until 2025, the Ministry of Social Affairs tasked the Icelandic Human Rights Centre with offering free legal counseling to migrants. With the establishment of the Icelandic Human Rights Institute, the Centre ceased operations and along with it the legal counseling service stopped. This service was of vital importance to people new in the country, trying to access and learn about available systems and services, being uncertain of their rights and obligations. As such, this service was highlighted as one of the positive outcomes in GREVIO's 2022 Baseline Evaluation Report on the Istanbul Convention. Being able to access such assistance and accurate correct information is vital to reduce insecurity and the risk of abuse of newcomers, not the least of people in the most vulnerable situation, among them women and children.
32. *Recommendation:* Authorities should make sure that free legal counseling is offered to refugees and migrants. This counseling should preferably be carried out by a neutral actor, such as a trusted civil society organization, as mistrust and suspicion towards authorities and official institutions is common among newcomers with refugee background.
33. **Duty of guidance and interpretation by public institutions:** Many public institutions do not automatically offer the services of interpreters or translators. Humanitarian organizations have furthermore witnessed a severe lack of guidance by public bodies in Iceland. This may affect the services people get, their rights being ignored or even abused. This is particularly serious when it comes to welfare of children and family matters such as divorce, custody of children, domestic violence etc. Often the most vulnerable children and their mothers, including children with migrant backgrounds, are the ones that suffer due to this.
34. *Recommendation:* Require all public institutions to give neutral and necessary guidance regarding their services and ensure that rights of the ones in question are guarded, offering the service of interpreters if needed.

Deportation

35. **Detention of children awaiting deportation:** In June 2026, the Parliament of Iceland passed a bill establishing a detention center for people due to be deported. Previously, during 2024 and 2025, 18 children from nine families were placed in temporary foster

care while their parents were detained in the prison system awaiting deportation. While this practice of separating families deserves criticism, the solution should have focused on developing alternatives to detention. Rather, the bill included a provision for detaining children with their parents. The proposed detention of children based on their migration status faced major opposition from all humanitarian organizations and NGOs working on human rights and/or with refugees in Iceland, the UNHCR, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and many individuals among the general public. The newly adopted legislation has very limited provisions for alternatives to detention, making detention a more likely outcome.

36. *Recommendation:* Revise the law on deportation centres, ensuring that no child is ever detained or deprived of its freedom on the basis of its migration status.

Section 3: Protection from violence and access to justice

Hate speech

37. **Prevention of hate speech:** A number of recommendations in the third UPR cycle related to hate speech. In response, the government of Iceland ran awareness raising campaigns in 2022 and 2024. However, more targeted actions are needed. Political discourse in Iceland surrounding refugees and asylum seekers, for example, is of increasing concern and attention must be given to its potential for encouraging hate speech. A recent action plan on LGBTQ+ issues included an action on hate speech among youth, but importantly lacked actions related to hate speech in which adults are perpetrators.
38. *Recommendation:* Adopt an ambitious, holistic, and fully financed action plan against hate speech, including the participation of relevant official bodies and civil society actors and representatives of the groups most affected by hate speech.

Violence prevention

39. **Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence:** Various policies and action plans have been adopted in recent years to address SGBV in Iceland. These nevertheless remain underfunded, and during recent updates to the plans, ambition has been decreasing in a number of instances.
40. *Recommendation:* Strengthen existing policy mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, in collaboration with civil society, and ensure these are fully funded.
41. **Violence prevention education:** Significant improvements have been made based on Parliamentary Resolution no. 37/150 on the Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Harassment among Children and Young People for the years 2021-2025.

Many have focused on the education system. The creation of the role of prevention officer within the Association of Icelandic Municipalities has been a key factor in coordinating prevention work between the state and municipalities, and among primary schools. The action plan has been updated for the years 2026-2030 but unfortunately, along with decreased funding for the overall plan, the position of prevention officer has been terminated.

42. *Recommendation:* Strengthen coordination and action on violence prevention within the education system, in collaboration with civil society.

Support to victims and perpetrators of violence

43. **Support to children who are victims of violence:** Civil society organizations in Iceland providing critical support to victims of violence are frequently supported via short-term grants and contracts. They often resort to issuing calls for funding from the general public to overcome funding gaps in essential services. This leads to a lack of predictability in their work and in the services they can provide, including to children. Due to funding restrictions, the support available to victims of violence is largely concentrated in the capital region. Children experiencing violence in other parts of the country have significantly less access to support, which is demonstrated by clear signs of underreporting in several police districts.
44. *Recommendation:* Ensure long term funding for civil society organizations supporting victims of violence and making those resources available for children in all regions.
45. **Violence against women:** The first National Action Plan on Violence Against women was adopted in early 2026. The action plan highlights the position of at-risk groups of women, including immigrant women, women with disabilities and women with substance use issues. No particular focus was put on the position of young women or girls, despite the fact that in 2025 the police reports that 46% of victims of reported sexual violence were under 18 years, and a further 21% were between 18 and 25 years.
46. *Recommendation:* Ensure the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the recommendations made by GREVIO, with particular emphasis on the position of girls and young women.
47. **Support to young perpetrators and children at risk of perpetrating violence:** Resources to support victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, have gradually been built up in recent years. However, the development of resources to support perpetrators and children at risk of perpetrating violence has been slower. In particular, there is still a lack of low-threshold support services to receive children and youth who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviour.

48. *Recommendation:* Continue developing treatment targeting perpetrators of violence, with a focus on services for young perpetrators and children who exhibit harmful sexual behaviour.
49. **Psychosocial support to victims and families:** The Icelandic parliament agreed to provide psychological support to victims of violence free of charge. While the number of psychologists at district health clinics has increased, as well as access to psychologists within the school system, more must be done to ensure that families in need access support immediately. The support systems catching families after they have been through a process in Barnahús, when they are frequently facing significant trauma, is not strong enough. The waiting lists for child psychologists are often even longer than those of adult psychologists.
50. *Recommendation:* Ensure timely access to psychological support, free of charge, to children who have been victims of violence and their families.

Access to justice

51. **Children's right to be heard in the justice system:** Barnahús provides a good “one stop shop” for children who have been victims of violence. However, it is at risk of being treated as an “only stop”. At times, discrepancies between testimony provided shortly after an incident to the police and testimony provided at Barnahús have been used to diminish the credibility of young victims. Sometimes the period between an incident and an interview in Barnahús is too long, which can decrease the child's willingness to testify. At other times, children may face challenges that Barnahús lacks the expertise to handle, such as a fear of strangers, speech development disorders, or having a non-Icelandic background. Greater flexibility is required to protect the best interests of the child within the justice system.
52. *Recommendation:* Shorten the waiting times for interviews at Barnahús and strengthen other ways of gathering testimony of children who have been victims of violence so these can carry equal weight in court.

Section 4: Healthcare and social services

Access to healthcare

53. **Waiting lists for critical services:** Many children face lengthy delays – sometimes lasting several years – in accessing the social and health services to which they are legally entitled. This includes mental health services, services for neurodivergent individuals, and support from specialists such as audiologists and speech therapists. Similar delays affect children awaiting proper diagnoses. For example, in February 2026, 2453 children were waiting for services from the Child Mental Health Centre

(Geðheilsumiðstöð barna), of whom 1900 had been waiting for more than three months. For years, numerous NGO's and The Office of the Ombudsman for Children have raised serious concerns about the ongoing situation regarding the children who remain on waiting lists. It is also deeply concerning that many children do not receive adequate support and services while waiting for a diagnosis. Authorities must safeguard the human rights of children with disabilities, including the right to health under Article 25 of the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

54. *Recommendation:* Provide the necessary resources for critical health and social services to ensure the human rights of children, including children with disabilities and long-term health needs.

Intersex children

55. **Bodily autonomy of intersex children:** The Act on Gender Autonomy was an important step towards LGBTI+ rights, pushing Iceland towards the top of ILGA Europe's Rainbow Map. The bodily integrity of intersex children remains one of the issues that the legislation did not fully address. A temporary provision of the Gender Autonomy Act stipulates that a working group is to be formed to revise the exemptions from the Act's prohibition of medically unnecessary interventions of intersex children without their consent. This working group has yet to be formed, although the Act stipulates that its work should have commenced no later than December 2023.

56. *Recommendation:* Convene the working group on the bodily integrity of intersex children, and implement appropriate legislative and regulatory changes based on its findings.

Children with disabilities

57. **Deprivation of liberty:** There are cases in which children with disabilities and co-occurring conditions – such as behavioural challenges, substance abuse problems, psychosocial disabilities and/or developmental disorders – are deprived of their liberty and/or endure compulsion and coercion. Authorities must ensure adequate resources, as well as proper education and training for those working with children with disabilities, and must avoid the use of deprivation of liberty, compulsion and coercion at all cost. Otherwise, the human rights of these children are at risk, including those protected under Articles 14-16 of the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

58. *Recommendation:* Ensure people working with children with disabilities have the proper resources, education and training, and avoid deprivation of liberty, compulsion and coercion of children with disabilities at all cost.

59. **Social and civic participation of children with disabilities:** In too many areas children with disabilities do not enjoy full and effective participation in society on an

equal basis with others. One such area relates to the state issued digital ID, which was not designed with accessibility in mind and for which alternative methods of electronic identification have not been made available. This excludes groups of children with disabilities from the digital solutions that have been widely implemented in recent years. As an example, a certain group of disabled children aged 16-18 are fully excluded from using public health portals. Another concern is the difficulty children with disabilities face in getting applications for appropriate assistive devices approved. The definition of assistive devices needs to be broadened to align with the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. There appears to be a lack of understanding that such devices are intended to enable children with disabilities to participate fully in society on an equal basis with others, and to lead fulfilling lives.

60. *Recommendation:* Improve mechanisms for social and civic participation to be inclusive of children with disabilities, including digital ID and other means of electronic identification, and improve children's access to suitable assistive devices.

Poverty

61. **Children at risk of poverty:** Nearly 14% of Icelandic children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, according to the most recent Eurostat data, and more children than adults live in poverty. The link between poverty and all forms of violence, exclusion and neglect is well known. The children of disabled parents, single parents and parents with an immigrant background are at particular risk of living in poverty. The eradication of poverty should be one of the government's top priorities, not least when it relates to children.
62. *Recommendation:* Ensure equal opportunities for children without discrimination, such as by ensuring financial support for families to promote equal access for all children
63. **Poverty among families with refugee or migrant backgrounds:** Research carried out by Varða, the Icelandic labour market research institute, shows that large families with refugee or migrant backgrounds are much more likely to be struggling financially than other families, affecting physical and mental health of both parents and their children and delaying successful inclusion into society.
64. *Recommendation:* Adopt policies, laws and service delivery to better reflect the vulnerabilities of families with refugee or migrant backgrounds, and take special measures to accommodate their situations and needs.

Foster care

65. **Long term outcomes of children in foster care:** Very few follow-up studies have been conducted on the long term outcomes of children who have been placed in foster care in Iceland. The studies that do exist are limited in scope and have not been

systematically used as a basis for policy decisions or reform of the foster care system. This represents a significant gap in evidence-based child protection policy, as proper data is essential for understanding the long term well-being of one of the most vulnerable groups of children in Iceland and for developing effective responses to their needs. At the same time, cases have recently come to light in Iceland where former foster children have shared experiencing abuse and poor conditions in foster homes, prompting public debate about the adequacy of state oversight.

66. *Recommendation:* The government of Iceland should commission comprehensive and regular follow-up studies on the long-term outcomes of children in foster care and ensure that the findings of such studies are systematically used to inform policy and decision-making within the child protection system.

Section 5: Education and youth work

Inclusive and rights-based education

67. **Inclusive education:** Iceland formally recognizes inclusive education as the guiding principle of its education system, yet many children do not receive the support necessary to participate fully and effectively in mainstream schools. Families frequently report inadequate access to specialist services, shortages of trained staff and significant differences in support between municipalities. Inclusive education requires more than physical placement in mainstream schools; it also requires appropriate accommodations, specialist support, accessible learning environments and sufficient resources to ensure meaningful participation and learning outcomes.
68. *Recommendation:* Secure inclusive education by providing the education system with appropriate accommodations, specialist support, accessible learning environments and sufficient resources to ensure meaningful participation and learning outcomes.
69. **Rights-based education and youth work:** While Iceland has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and a number of Icelandic schools, after-school programs and youth centers participate in programs to promote children's rights, it is important to ensure that all teachers and youth work professionals are equipped to apply a rights-based approach in their work. This can be done by integrating child rights education into curricula for people studying to become teachers, youth workers or leisure professionals working with children.
70. *Recommendation:* Integrate child right's education into university curricula for teachers, youth workers, or leisure professionals working with children.

LGBTI+ children in education and youth work

71. **Safety and access for LGBTI+ children:** LGBTI+ children and youth are at greater risk of exclusion and dropout in education, sport and leisure settings. Access to gender neutral facilities is still limited, despite the Act on Gender Autonomy having been in force since 2019. Knowledge of LGBTI+ issues remains too sporadic among teachers, school staff, coaches, youth workers and mental health professionals.
72. *Recommendation:* Ensure that the Act on Gender Autonomy is fully implemented and that LGBTI+ children and youth are explicitly included in all policies, budgets and decisions affecting children and young people, including education, sport, leisure and mental health policy.
73. **LGBTI+ Youth centers:** Since 2016, the city of Reykjavík and Samtökin '78 – the National Queer Organisation of Iceland have collaborated on operating an LGBTI+ youth center. This work has been very successful, providing LGBTI+ youth with a safe space to be themselves, meet other LGBTI+ youth, strengthen their own identity and give them a sense of belonging to the LGBTI+ community. Increasing support for the work of the current LGBTI+ youth center would enable it to expand operations within the city of Reykjavík, as well as being a resource for youth centers that want to improve their LGBTI+ work outside the capital region.
74. *Recommendation:* Provide stable and adequate public funding for LGBTI+ youth centres and youth services across Iceland, including outside the capital region.

Annex: Information on submitting organizations

Amnesty International Iceland

Contact person: Anna Lúðvíksdóttir (anna@amnesty.is)

Address: Þingholtsstræti 27, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: amnesty@amnesty.is

Website: www.amnesty.is

Barnaheill – Save the Children Iceland

Contact person: Andrés Ingi Jónsson (andres@barnaheill.is)

Address: Sigtún 42, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: barnaheill@barnaheill.is

Website: www.barnaheill.is

Bergið Headspace

Contact person: Rut Sigurðardóttir (rut@bergid.is)

Address: Suðurgata 10, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: bergid@bergid.is

Website: www.bergid.is

Félag fósturforeldra - The Icelandic Foster Parent Association

Contact person: Anna Margrét Hrólfsdóttir (annahrolfs89@gmail.com)

Address: Sigtún 42, 105 Reykjavík

E-mail address: fostur@fostur.is

Website: www.fostur.is

Geðhjálp – Icelandic Mental Health Alliance

Contact person: Grímur Atlason (grimur@gedhjalp.is)

Address: Suðurlandsbraut 18, 108 Reykjavík

E-mail address: gedhjalp@gedhjalp.is

Website: www.gedhjalp.is

Heimili og skóli – The National Parents Association

Contact person: Sigurður Sigurðsson (sigurdur@heimiliogskoli.is)

Address: Bæjarlind 2, 201 Kópavogur, Iceland

E-mail address: heimiliogskoli@heimiliogskoli.is

Website: www.heimiliogskoli.is

The Icelandic Disability Alliance (ÖBÍ)

Contact person: Sigurður Árnason (sigurdur@obi.is)

Address: Sigtún 42, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: obi@obi.is

Website: www.obi.is

Icelandic National Committee for UNICEF

Contact person: Sölvi Karlsson (solvi@unicef.is)

Address: Strandgata 75, 220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

E-mail address: unicef@unicef.is

Website: www.unicef.is

Icelandic Red Cross

Contact person: Nína Helgadóttir (nina@redcross.is)

Address: Efstaleiti 9, 103 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: info@redcross.is

Website: www.raudikrossinn.is

Landssamtökin Þroskahjálp – National Association of Intellectual Disabilities

Contact person: Katarzyna Kubiś (kasia@throskahjalp.is)

Address: Suðurlandsbraut 18, 108 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: throskahjalp@throskahjalp.is

Website: www.throskahjalp.is

Samfés – Youth Work Iceland

Contact person: Svava Gunnarsdóttir (svava@samfes.is)

Address: Norðlingabraut 12, 110 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: samfes@samfes.is

Website: www.samfes.is

Ungmennafélag Íslands, UMFI

Contact person: Elísabet Salvarsdóttir (elisabet@umfi.is)

Address: Engjavegur 6, 104 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: umfi@umfi.is

Website: www.umfi.is

Umhyggja association for chronically ill children

Contact person: Þórdís Helgadóttir Thors (thordis@umhyggja.is)

Address: Sigtún 42, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

E-mail address: umhyggja@umhyggja.is

Website: www.umhyggja.is