

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mission Permanente du Royaume
d'Arabie Saoudite auprès
des Nations Unies
Genève



الوفد الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية
لدى المقر الأوربي للأمم المتحدة
جنيف

Ref. 11/25/448

Geneva, 26 May 2010

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and wishes to refer to the latter's note verbale (LW/UH/is) dated 18 February 2010, requesting information related to Human Rights Council resolution 12/6 on " Human Rights of Migrants: Migration and the Human Rights of the Child ".

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to enclose here attached a report on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

OHCHR REGISTRY

28 MAY 2010

Recipients : P. Q.

T. S.

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United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
52, rue des Paquis – Palais Wilson
Geneva



Report on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- There are few cases of irregular migration by children in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where such children enjoy full care from shelter institutions until arrangements for their repatriation can be mutually agreed with their countries of origin.
- The National Commission on Childhood is taking measures in coordination with the UNICEF Gulf Area Office in Riyadh and neighbouring States to curb irregular migration by children.
- There are no migrants in the Kingdom, where all non-Saudi residents hold employment contracts to work in the governmental or private sectors or for individuals.
- All residents in the Kingdom, including non-Saudi children accompanying their families, are entitled to first-aid and preventive medical services free of charge in governmental hospitals.
- All non-Saudi residents working in the various governmental sectors have access to free medical treatment in all the hospitals and health centres run by the Ministry of Health and other governmental health institutions.
- Non-Saudis working in the private sector, as well as their families, are entitled to medical treatment in private hospitals and health centres through the compulsory health insurance scheme under which employers in the private sector have an obligation to insure their personnel and the latter's families in accordance with the Cooperative Health Insurance Act promulgated in Royal Decree No. M/10 on 1/5/1420 AH [12 August 1999].
- The Social Welfare and Development Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs caters fully for the welfare of male and female orphans from the time of their admission to its shelters. In accordance with their statutes, these shelters provide full care for orphans in an environment which resembles, as closely as possible, a normal family home.

These shelters apply the following care programmes :

1. Full shelter, i.e. board and lodging, clothing, school equipment and all the requisites for a decent life, including :
 - Accommodation and care for the child.
 - Provision of meals consistent with health standards and under medical supervision.
 - Clothing consistent with the child's age and gender, in accordance with paediatric specifications



- Provision of an appropriate social environment which, as far as possible, compensates for the child's lack of a normal family life.
 - Assurance of a Muslim upbringing, with inculcation of Islamic values to the extent commensurate with the child's age and in accordance with the recommendations of educational specialists.
 - Provision of proper recreational opportunities and individual and group activities under the supervision of children's nurses.
2. Health care : The Ministry of Social Affairs supervises the establishment of basic first-aid facilities to cater for urgent needs in the shelters.
 3. Social welfare : The social welfare programmes in the shelters assist the inmates to adapt to the lifestyle therein, resolve any problems that they might encounter, and prepare them in a proper manner to lead a normal life on their discharge from the shelters.
 4. Educational welfare : The shelters facilitate the orphans' receipt of an education consistent with their academic propensities at schools, universities and institutes run by the Ministry of Education and also supply them with all the requisites needed to pursue their studies and increase their knowledge through the provision of libraries containing reading material consistent with their ages and interests.

The Ministry ensures the ongoing welfare of orphans so that they can lead self-reliant lives and continues to monitor them until they achieve full stability.

The Ministry of Social Affairs applies the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's regulations and directives concerning children with special circumstances (i.e. children of unknown paternity or parentage) who fall within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior and its regional governorates which are the bodies legally responsible for the welfare of foundlings and children born out of wedlock.

The Ministry and its branches contact the civil status authorities in order to register the children and obtain identity documents for them before accommodating them in one of the shelters or delivering them into the care of foster families capable of bringing them up and looking after them in accordance with clearly defined rules and conditions.

The regulations and directives issued by the Ministry of the Interior concerning children born outside wedlock to foreign mothers stipulate that such children and their foreign mothers must be repatriated after the mothers have served their sentences. However, if this proves to be unfeasible, the children are issued with a provisional birth certificate until they reach the age of majority, at which time they are granted Saudi Arabian nationality.