

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA – ADD.3

ICELAND

The Rights of the Child

- Iceland commends South Africa for recent developments designed to safeguard the human rights of children by means of review of policy and legislation as well as restructuring of administration, including the strengthening of its National Gender Machinery and the establishment of a new Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities. Iceland encourages South Africa to ensure adequate funding and other support and resources to the National Gender Machinery, including the new Department. On the same note, as South Africa has been identified as a country of origin, transit and destination of child victims of trafficking, Iceland recommends South Africa to take all necessary measures to eradicate trafficking in children by means of, inter alia, guaranteeing the immediate adoption and full and effective implementation of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill.

Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity

- Iceland is concerned about the reported high rates of hate crimes on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in South Africa, including, but not limited to, “corrective” and “punitive” rapes of lesbians. Iceland strongly recommends South Africa to explicitly denounce the crimes and greatly increase its efforts to combat violence against LGBTI people by means of, inter alia, conducting public awareness campaigns and extensive education and training in all public institutions with special regard to police and civil servants. Furthermore, to improve access to justice, not the least with regard to violence against women, in conjunction with all other necessary measures to prevent impunity and bring perpetrators to justice.