

## **Bahamas**

### **Question**

In 2009, The Bahamas agreed to undertake a comprehensive study on child abuse in order to understand its scope and to suggest ways to prevent it. Could the delegation of The Bahamas inform us on any progress that has been made with respect to this study?

### **Recommendations**

Canada recommends that The Bahamas:

1. Establish a fully independent oversight body to receive and investigate complaints of police misconduct and reports of human rights violations. Such a body would ensure that all complaints of excessive use of force by the security forces are subject to immediate, thorough and independent investigation and, if state agents are charged with misconduct, that their cases are brought to trial in an expeditious manner and in line with international standards.
2. Adopt measures to address the commission of any criminal acts or violence directed towards people based on their actual or perceived race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor.

### **Observations**

We welcome the steps taken by The Bahamas in its attempts to counter all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities. The government, through its Disability Affairs Division, engaged in several outreach efforts, and collaborated with disability-related NGOs and the community of persons with disabilities in the formulation of national antidiscrimination legislation.

Canada recognizes that The Bahamas is one of the few countries in the Caribbean that does not criminalize homosexuality. The Bahamas is to be commended for this and Canada encourages the Bahamas to continue in its efforts to ensure equal treatment of its citizens before the law.