

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER  
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009**

**Question**

Will the Chief Minister inform members what the precise reasons are for the Island's failure to sign up to and implement the United Nations (UN) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which came into force in June 1987, and in what timescale he proposes to address these reasons for the delay?

Will he further inform members of the Island's position and intentions regarding the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child and Disabled persons?

**Answer**

1. Unfortunately the question is not correct, in that the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was extended to Jersey on 9th December 1992 at the request of the Island Authorities. Jersey prepared its fourth periodic report on implementation to the UN Committee Against Torture in October 2008.
2. In August 2000, the Jersey authorities indicated to the UK that, in principle, they would wish the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to be extended to Jersey, but there were a number of issues that first needed to be resolved. These included introduction of the new Children's Law 2002, which came into force in 2005, and child employment legislation which is the subject of a consultation paper published by the Minister for Health and Social Services in January 2009. An officer working group is also considering a number of further legislative, practical and resource implications which may need to be addressed before the Convention can be extended to Jersey.
3. On 20th January 2009, I published a progress report to the States on international conventions and agreements, R.3/2009. In that report I stated that Jersey had been asked to consider whether they wished the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be extended to the Island.

The States of Jersey has indicated that it will examine the legislative and administrative implications of the Convention and inform the UK whether or not they wish it to be extended to the Island. This remains the present position.