



**BROKEN  
CHALK**

Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the United  
Nations Human Rights Council 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle – 45<sup>th</sup> Session

## **Right to Education**

### **Country Review: Congo**

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**Submitting Organization: BROKEN CHALK**

**July 2023**

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**Broken Chalk** is an Amsterdam-based NGO established in 2020 that monitors and minimises worldwide human rights violations in education. We aim to promote universal and equal access to education for all.

We encourage and support achieving societal peace with our international sponsors and partners by advocating for intercultural tolerance, preventing radicalism and polarisation, and tackling educational inequalities.

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## Introduction

1. Broken Chalk has drafted the following report as a stakeholder contribution to the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review [UPR]. As Broken Chalk's primary focus as an organisation is to combat human rights violations within the educational sphere, this report and the following recommendations will be related to the Right to Education.
2. During the previous Cycle of the UPR, Monaco has supported 72 out of 113 received recommendations, noted 35, and has not expressed its position on six other recommendations. Five suggestions are directly concerned with the Right to Education, and Monaco has supported all of them. Recommendation 76.31 urges Monaco to take action to ensure equal access to education. Recommendation 76.34 advocates for strengthening access to education at all levels for girls and young women. Recommendation 76.35 refers to integrating deaf-mute and visually impaired persons and their specific needs into the Monegasque educational system. Last but not least, recommendations 76.32 and 76.33 advise Monaco to take further legal measures to strengthen the right to education for children who are not Monegasque citizens and to guarantee access to education for all children, irrespective of their nationality.
3. The Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Carole Lanteri, has expressed deep commitment and attachment to the promotion and protection of human rights and the Universal Periodic Review and has noted equal access to education and care for all children who live in Monaco, without any discrimination based on gender or age.

## State of education and recent developments

4. Broken Chalk commends Monaco for offering free public education. The quality of education is also high, as illustrated by the consistently remarkably high pass rates for the Baccalaureate examen (98,9% in 2023 with 79.9% of candidates achieving honours). While these excellent results speak highly of the Monegasque educational system, Broken Chalk notes that Monaco is not a participant country in international studies such as PISA, which aims to evaluate educational systems. Broken Chalk believes that participating in such evaluations would benefit transparency and international cooperation.
5. Broken Chalk admires the national human rights education strategy implemented in Monaco, which contributes to combating hate speech, racism, and intolerance by raising awareness of rights and values, multicultural education and tolerance. The fact that human rights education is compulsory at school is also commendable and progressive.
6. Monaco has proactively taken legal measures against bullying, harassment, and violence in educational environments, including the latest Law No 1.513 of December 3 2021, which

provides the Principality with a legal body and tools to identify, prevent, report, manage, and reprimand situations involving harassment and violence in schools.

**7.** On March 6 2023, Monaco acceded to the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon, 11 April 1997). The Convention establishes universal principles for fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory recognition of higher education qualifications and qualifications, giving access to higher education and offering avenues for further study and employment. Broken Chalk congratulates Monaco for this step towards international cooperation and for facilitating students' access to educational opportunities and mobility.

## Equality and non-discrimination

**8.** Monaco passed Law № 1.523 of May 16 2022, on promoting and protecting women's rights. Furthermore, over three years, approximately 12.000 legal texts have been reviewed and updated to remove any obsolete provisions and promote gender equality. In terms of gender equality within education, women and girls officially benefit from indiscriminate access to education and the labour market. However, there is still room to improve on this subject, as, for instance, in 2019, the median wage gender gap in the private sector was 5.9% to the detriment of women.

**9.** Art. 11 of Law № 1.334 of July 12, 2007, on Education states the requirement for children and adolescents with disabilities or incapacitating health conditions to be provided education within the ordinary school environment or, failing that, receive special education tailored to their particular needs. Furthermore, the caretakers or a minor with disabilities can benefit from a special education allowance. This being said, Monaco does not seem to have any openly available programs or policies that would make clear what measures are being taken to ensure that children with disabilities benefit equally from education in all schools and that possible special needs are being met.

**10.** A particularity of the Monegasque educational system is its internationality. According to data from 2022, 44,8% of students in public schools are French, 23,1% are Monegasque, 11,7% are Italian, and the remaining 20,4% are students of various nationalities. However, despite this positive display of diversity, it is unclear if the Monegasque educational system is adapted to aiding, supporting, and integrating students from disadvantaged groups (e.g., migrants, refugees, and families living in poverty). With the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Monegasque officials have promised Ukrainian refugees financial support, access to education for children and exceptional support for language needs. Nevertheless, this is a specific case, and more needs to be done to ensure that disadvantaged children can fully benefit from and exercise their Right to Education.

## Technology, innovation, and the future of education

**11.** With its Extended Monaco programme, the Principality aims to improve the educational system by introducing digital technology. Covid-19 has accelerated the digitalisation process and pushed Monaco closer to its aim of being the first country in the world regarding tech savviness in education. However, it must be noted that while most of the Monegasque population has a computer at home, that is not also the case for other cities in France, for instance, leading to less-than-ideal situations for some students enrolled in Monegasque education during Covid-19. As of 2022, all students have been equipped with laptops or tablets, and programming classes have been widely introduced from nursery school onwards. While Broken Chalk commends Monaco for these advancements, we stress the importance of instructing students in proper digital hygiene and maintaining a healthy relationship with technology and online spaces.

## Recommendations

**12.** Broken Chalk advises Monaco to participate in international initiatives such as PISA, be more transparent about its education system and be open to third-party reports and evaluations.

**13.** Monaco is advised to pursue its national human rights education strategy further, advocate for it and share its results so that other countries may follow this example.

**14.** Monaco must take further measures to ensure gender equality within education and equality of opportunities and chances for women and girls both before and after leaving the educational system.

**15.** Monaco is urged to monitor and report on the situation of children and adolescents with disabilities in educational institutions nationwide and to provide openly accessible policies and guidelines on how these children are included within the educational system and how their needs are being addressed.

**16.** The Monegasque educational system must be better equipped and prepared to support disadvantaged children, migrants, and refugees, guarantee them access to education, and prevent them from becoming marginalised and discriminated against.

**17.** Broken Chalk recommends that the Monegasque authorities and educational institutions take precautions towards an increasingly digitalised education and ensure that students are digitally literate and well-instructed in maintaining good digital hygiene.

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