



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
14 Governor's Parade
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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The Government last week published in the Gazette a copy of the Children Bill which will shortly be taken to Parliament. This follows work by the Family Law Working Group chaired by Ministers Netto and Feetham which included a six months consultation period on a White Paper of the Bill.

The Bill aims at:

- Providing better outcomes for children of separating or divorcing parents;
- Keeping parents who are separating or divorcing properly informed of the alternatives open to them and, indeed, helping those parents to help their children;
- Ensuring that parents are treated equally in respect of the children and that both parents accept responsibility for their children;
- Minimizing acrimony among parents;
- Giving grandparents rights (inter alia) in relation to children in care;
- Overhauling the powers to protect children from abuse or neglect and better protecting children including the introduction of list of persons unsuitable to work with children;
- Overhauling child care law both by the state and by private individuals.

Jaime Netto said "The Children Act is without doubt the most comprehensive legislative framework protecting children ever introduced in Gibraltar. It follows unprecedented levels of consultation with associations and the general public. We are very grateful to those who have expressed their views to us and helped us with this project."