

The information below refers to relevant human rights. The "conclusion" reached may vary in relation to different contexts within which the situations may occur. We recommend including relevant national legislation. In some circumstances the different situations involve criminal acts.

1. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that “No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” (art. 37).
2. The UNCRC states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State” (art. 13).
3. The UNCRC states that parents and guardians must give the child guidance and support, but also underlines that this support must be adapted to the child’s gradual development of its abilities and faculties (arts. 5, 12 and 18). The son will soon be an adult.
4. The UNCRC protects “the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion” (art. 14).
5. Many people would agree that children 15 years of age and younger should not drink alcohol. This can be good care.
6. In some countries forced marriage is still practised. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses” (art. 16). The daughter should not be subjected to such strong psychological pressure.
7. “Everyone has the right to freedom of expression” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art 19).¹ Parents and other caregivers should gradually give children more access to co-determination as they grow into adulthood (UNCRC, arts. 5, 12 and 18).
8. Freedom of religion and belief gives people, including leaders in religious communities, the freedom to believe what they want. A leader has influence. Stating that homosexuality is a great sin is discrimination and can lead to psychological problems for sexual minorities in the congregation. According to several United Nations human rights treaty bodies, “sexual orientation and gender identity are included among prohibited grounds of discrimination under international human rights law”.²
9. See explanation number 3
10. Most people will believe that it is not good care if girls are not allowed to learn how to swim. According to the UNCRC, art. 12, a child who is able to form its own views must have the right to express their opinion in all matters that concern the child. The child’s views must be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.
11. According to the UNCRC, art. 16, all children have the right to privacy. At the same time, parents have the responsibility to look after and take care of their children. If the parents have reason to believe that their daughter might be getting into harmful or dangerous situations, they may check her mobile phone. But the parents cannot check her phone only because they are curious.
12. According to art. 11 in the UNCRC, children should not be taken out of their own country illegally by their parents or other relatives, nor should they be prevented from returning home.

¹ However, freedom of expression is not without limits. Incitement to violence or hatred, for example, will be prohibited. Where the limits of freedom of expression should be drawn is a much-debated topic.

² Fact sheet - International Human Rights Law and Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity:
<https://www.unfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/International-Human-Rights-Law.pdf>

13. This could be negative social control. Parents and other caregivers should gradually give children more access to co-determination as they grow into adulthood (UNCRC, arts. 5, 12 and 18). The daughter is soon an adult.

14. According to the UNCRC, art. 18: “Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern”. This can be an example of good caregiving.

15. See explanation number 14.

16. The wife should talk to someone she trusts and ask for help. She should consider pressing charges and divorcing him. The right of any person to be protected from violence, including domestic violence, is confirmed and regulated in several human rights instruments. Key documents are the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and, not least, the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2011), the Istanbul Convention.

17. Parents and other caregivers should gradually give children more access to co-determination as they grow into adulthood (UNCRC, arts. 5, 12 and 18). Due to the severe restrictions, the daughter seems to be living a “parallel life”, which can lead to psychological problems. This could be negative social control.

18. Parents and other caregivers should gradually give children more access to co-determination as they grow into adulthood (UNCRC, arts. 5, 12 and 18). The fact that the brother always has to pick up the sister can be an example of negative social control for both.

19. Parents and other caregivers should gradually give children more access to co-determination as they grow into adulthood (UNCRC, arts. 5, 12 and 18). This can be an example of good caregiving.

20. Freedom of speech gives everyone the right to express their opinion. In many countries, LGBTIQ+, like other people, are protected by the law and human rights. Because the father and son have a close relationship, the father’s statement could be difficult for the son and may lead to psychological problems for him. According to the UNCRC, parents are not allowed to subject their children to physical or psychological abuse. This could be an example of negative social control.

21. Female genital mutilation violates a wide range of human rights. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 5) and the European Convention on Human Rights (art. 3) prohibit genital mutilation: “No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” This is formulated in an even clearer way in the UN’s Sustainability Goal no. 5, which aims to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations”. Anyone who knows about parents planning such an action must try to prevent it. If the daughter understands the situation, she should talk to someone she trusts and also call a helpline or contact a support organisation.