



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fifty-first session
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Lebanon

Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Lebanon ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.²

3. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict recommended that Lebanon ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.³

4. The United Nations country team recommended that Lebanon consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.⁴

5. It also recommended that Lebanon withdraw its reservations to articles 9 (2) and 16 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁵

6. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Lebanon to ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).⁶

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Lebanon expedite its efforts towards withdrawing its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁷



III. National human rights framework

8. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had accepted several recommendations to provide the national human rights commission and the national preventive mechanism against torture with adequate resources, including sufficient budget allocation. Although the commission, including the national preventive mechanism, remained hindered by a lack of dedicated premises, insufficient funding and unapproved internal regulations, it remained committed to its monitoring and protection mandate.⁸

9. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Lebanon take all measures necessary to provide the national human rights commission with sufficient financial and human resources to fulfil its mandate effectively and independently and make every effort to ensure that the commission was fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).⁹

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

10. The same Committee urged Lebanon to amend its legislation, particularly the Criminal Code, prohibiting racist hate speech and racially motivated crimes, to bring it fully into line with article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.¹⁰

11. The United Nations country team recommended that Lebanon amend Law No. 65 to remove the statute of limitations on torture, and ensure that the penalties reflected the severity of the crime and that cases came under the exclusive jurisdiction of civilian courts.¹¹

12. The country team recommended that Lebanon adopt the draft media law and related framework.¹²

13. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights recommended that Lebanon amend the 1925 Nationality Law to allow Lebanese women to pass their nationality to their children.¹³

14. The United Nations country team recommended that Lebanon repeal the legislative and administrative restrictions preventing Palestinian refugees from owning property and registering businesses and lift nationality-based barriers to access professions.¹⁴

15. UNESCO encouraged Lebanon to: (a) enshrine the right to education for all within its legislation and legally proscribe discrimination in education; (b) introduce legislation to make pre-primary education free and compulsory for at least one year; and (c) amend its legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years old, without exception.¹⁵

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

16. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Lebanon implement institutional, legislative and policy measures to redress long-standing inequalities between women and men and to give renewed impetus to the achievement of gender equality by placing women at the centre of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery strategies as a strategic priority for sustainable change, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁶

17. The same Committee recommended that Lebanon: (a) ensure the independence of the National Commission for Lebanese Women and provide it with a strong mandate on women's rights and the authority to coordinate policies on women's rights; and (b) institutionalize the appointment of gender focal points in all ministries and government departments.¹⁷

18. The same Committee recommended that Lebanon: (a) expedite the adoption of the new national strategy for women in Lebanon (2022–2030) by explicitly integrating the recommendations of the Committee and strengthening technical assistance from United Nations agencies; and (b) consider re-establishing a ministry of women's affairs.¹⁸

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reiterated its recommendation that Lebanon include in its legislation a provision, in conformity with article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, that defined and prohibited both direct and indirect racial discrimination.¹⁹

20. The same Committee recommended that Lebanon take measures to prevent, condemn and combat racist hate speech against migrants and refugees, including on the Internet and social media, as well as by public figures and politicians, and ensure that all reported incidents of racist hate speech were effectively investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted and punished.²⁰

21. The same Committee recommended that Lebanon step up its efforts to curb the spread of racist hate speech on the Internet and social media, in close cooperation with Internet service providers, social media platforms and the communities most affected by racist hate speech.²¹

22. The same Committee also recommended facilitating the filing of complaints of racial discrimination and ensuring that the various police services were trained to identify situations of racial discrimination and that the mechanisms for registering complaints were administered in such a way that they were easily accessible to all victims of racial discrimination.²²

23. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty urged Lebanon to amend the 1951 Personal Status Law to facilitate birth registration for all children, including children born to stateless parents, and to simplify procedures for children over 1 year of age.²³

2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

24. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had received numerous recommendations on addressing the practice of torture and ill-treatment. However, the proposed amendments to improve the anti-torture law had stalled. Nevertheless, article 47 of the Code of Criminal Procedure had been amended to strengthen due process by requiring audiovisual recording of interrogations to prevent torture and ill-treatment during preliminary investigations. While implementation remained modest, pilot projects had been developed with the support of the United Nations to strengthen safeguards.²⁴

25. The country team noted that Lebanon had also supported several recommendations to investigate cases of enforced disappearance. The national commission for the missing and forcibly disappeared was the independent body tasked with determining the fate of missing and forcibly disappeared persons in Lebanon.²⁵

26. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) ensure the full operationalization and independence of the commission by allocating it adequate financial, human and administrative resources; and (b) encourage greater engagement with affected communities, particularly women, both in the commission's membership and decision-making process.²⁶

3. International humanitarian law

27. The United Nations country team noted that the conflict between Hizbullah and Israel had escalated sharply between September and November 2024, causing heavy civilian casualties and widespread destruction in Lebanon. Marginalized groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and refugees, had been particularly affected by the conflict and were facing increased discrimination, abuse, exploitation and exclusion.²⁷

28. The country team stated that the conflict raised serious concerns under international humanitarian law, especially regarding the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. The conflict significantly affected the rights to life, health, education, food, housing, work, a safe environment, freedom of movement and freedom of religion or belief.²⁸

29. The country team recommended that Lebanon continue to uphold the cessation of hostilities while working towards sustainable peace and ensuring the participation and leadership of women across the peacebuilding and security spectrum.²⁹

30. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict noted that, since 2020, children in Lebanon had been increasingly subjected to grave violations of human rights, mainly recruitment, use in armed conflict, killing and maiming. Since 2021, the United Nations had documented an increasing number of attacks on schools and hospitals. While the perpetrators of many violations could not be identified, those that had been identified were armed groups, particularly in the case of violations relating to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.³⁰

31. The same Office noted that, since 2021, children had continued to be arrested and prosecuted under military jurisdiction on national security-related charges, including allegations of terrorism.³¹

32. The same Office recommended that Lebanon release children who had been detained for alleged association with armed groups to civilian child protection actors, treat them in line with international juvenile justice standards and provide them with access to reintegration programmes.³²

33. The same Office also recommended that Lebanon: (a) develop a handover protocol for the transfer of those children to civilian child protection actors; and (b) prioritize the decontamination of areas contaminated by unexploded ordnance.³³

4. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

34. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported several recommendations to improve conditions in places of detention. The prison system in Lebanon was critically affected by severe overcrowding, poor conditions and prolonged detention without due process, largely due to judicial delays and limited legal aid – difficulties that had been further exacerbated by the economic crisis. Data from 2024 suggested that within Rumiyah prison alone – the country's largest prison – the occupancy rate was 360 per cent, while pretrial detainees accounted for some 70 per cent of the overall prison population.³⁴

35. The country team stated that refugees and migrants remained particularly exposed to detention under the criminal system, with criminalization of undocumented status exacerbating that risk. It recommended the Lebanon develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to reform the criminal justice sector, focusing on reducing pretrial detention and prison overcrowding, including through alternatives to imprisonment, and that it improve detention conditions in line with international human rights standards.³⁵

36. The country team also recommended: (a) ensuring robust legal safeguards for all detainees, including the right to legal representation, timely judicial review and the ability to challenge detention; and (b) ensure that the national human rights commission, including the national preventive mechanism against torture, was granted full, unhindered and regular access to all places of deprivation of liberty.³⁶

37. The country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported all the recommendations on ensuring accountability for the 2020 Beirut port explosion and providing support for survivors and their families. However, the investigation into the explosion had been fraught with allegations of political interference, including efforts to threaten, undermine and discredit the investigative judge. It had resumed in early 2025 with the interrogation of senior officials.³⁷

38. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) adopt without delay the draft laws on the independence of the judiciary in line with international standards; and (b) expedite a

thorough, independent and credible investigation into the Beirut port explosion, without political interference, and hold those responsible to account.³⁸

39. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Lebanon build the capacity of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers, including by making training on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee's general recommendations a mandatory part of their professional training.³⁹

40. The same Committee urged Lebanon to: (a) establish without delay specialized courts for dealing with cases of gender-based violence and a special fund to support women victims of gender-based violence; and (b) ensure that cases of assault and rape of women committed by members of the security forces were investigated *ex officio* by an independent judicial authority.⁴⁰

41. The same Committee recommended that Lebanon build the capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement officers to identify, protect and refer women and girls victims of trafficking, and ensure that women recruited through the "artist visa scheme" and found to have engaged in prostitution were exempt from criminal and any other liability and were considered victims of trafficking.⁴¹

5. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

42. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had received several recommendations on guaranteeing the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Civic space had come under threat, both online and offline, particularly since the 2019 popular uprising. Although Lebanon had supported the recommendations to protect media freedom and investigate attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, such practices persisted. Journalists, writers and comedians had frequently been summoned for interrogation by internal security forces and some had received harsh criminal penalties, including imprisonment, for defamation, particularly for politically sensitive statements.⁴²

43. The country team noted that new measures had been introduced to restrict legal professionals' freedom of expression, while lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons continued to face threats when exercising their freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.⁴³

44. The country team noted that the Minister of Information had submitted a new media law to the parliament in 2024, supported by the United Nations. The draft law provided a critical opportunity to modernize media governance in Lebanon, safeguard journalists and foster a free, responsible and pluralistic media environment.⁴⁴

45. UNESCO encouraged the Government to continue investigating unresolved cases of killed journalists.⁴⁵

46. UNESCO also recommended that the Government decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation that was in accordance with international standards. Furthermore, UNESCO encouraged the Government to assess the system of supervision of the broadcasting sector to ensure that the process was transparent and independent.⁴⁶

47. The United Nations country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) ensure full respect for freedom of expression, including artistic and cultural expression; (b) decriminalize defamation, in line with international best practices; and (c) protect journalists, human rights defenders and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from intimidation, harassment and attack, and ensure full investigation and accountability.⁴⁷

6. Right to marriage and family life

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recalled its previous recommendation and invited Lebanon to bring its legislation into line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by amending the law

on nationality to allow Lebanese women to pass on their citizenship to their foreign spouses and to their children at birth, without discrimination, on an equal footing with men.⁴⁸

49. The same Committee emphasized that birth registration was a prerequisite for the exercise of a wide range of human rights. It recommended that Lebanon take measures to ensure that all children born in its territory were registered, regardless of their nationality or their parents' residency status, with a view to preventing statelessness.⁴⁹

7. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

50. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported numerous recommendations on combating trafficking in persons. Lebanon had been both a destination and source country for such trafficking. Migrant domestic workers – especially women – were particularly vulnerable to exploitation, often living with employers in conditions that restricted their freedom of movement. Excluded from labour protection, those fleeing abuse risked irregular status, detention or deportation. Many, particularly outside urban areas, lacked access to support. That legal limbo trapped victims in abuse. Refugees, particularly those from the Syrian Arab Republic, faced heightened risks of trafficking for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation. The focus of law enforcement on legal infractions instead of victim protection discouraged disclosure and perpetuated abuse.⁵⁰

51. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) implement the standard operating procedures for identifying, referring and protecting victims of trafficking; (b) enhance the capacity of the judiciary to manage trafficking cases and prioritize the adoption of a law embedding the non-punishment principle for victims; and (c) ensure the availability, accessibility and quality of protection services for survivors of trafficking, including legal assistance, shelter, healthcare and psychosocial support.⁵¹

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Lebanon ensure the investigation of all cases of trafficking and exploitation, as well as the prosecution and punishment of those responsible, including public officials involved in such acts, and guarantee that victims of trafficking and exploitation for the purpose of prostitution were exempt from criminal liability.⁵²

8. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

53. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had received several recommendations on labour rights. Lebanon had noted most of those referring to abolishing the *kafalah* (sponsorship) system and expanding areas of work for Palestinian refugees. Lebanon had supported recommendations on strengthening migrant workers' rights and highlighted its efforts to finalize the standard unified contract for migrant workers.⁵³

54. In an initially promising development, the country team noted that the revised standard unified contract had been adopted in August 2020 – an important step towards dismantling the *kafalah* system. However, the Council of State had subsequently suspended that contract and there had been no further progress.⁵⁴

55. The country team noted that migrants and refugees in Lebanon faced significant challenges accessing the labour market, along with heightened risks of exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Their right to work was governed by general laws for foreign nationals. Barriers to obtaining legal work permits limited their employment security and legal protection.⁵⁵

56. The country team noted that migrant workers were subject to the *kafalah* system, which tied their legal status to their employers and limited their job mobility. That power imbalance often resulted in abuse, with limited avenues for redress. Women migrant domestic workers were in especially vulnerable situations, frequently subjected to withheld wages, restrictions on freedom of movement, document confiscation, and physical and sexual abuse, all of which were indicators of forced labour and further impeded their ability to seek help or exit exploitative situations.⁵⁶

57. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty stated that the *kafalah* system should be abolished and the revised standard unified contract adopted.⁵⁷

58. The United Nations country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) remove nationality-based restrictions for Palestinian refugees and ensure their full access to social security benefits; and (b) dismantle the *kafalah* system and implement comprehensive labour law reforms to guarantee migrant workers' freedom of movement, prevent exploitation and establish effective pathways for regularization.⁵⁸

59. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty stated that the right to work for both Syrian and Palestinian refugees should be guaranteed by legally opening all professions to them and allowing them to benefit from their National Social Security Fund contributions.⁵⁹

60. The same Special Rapporteur urged Lebanon to improve women's access to employment and to address the gender wage gap.⁶⁰

9. Right to an adequate standard of living

61. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had received several recommendations on combating poverty, improving living conditions and strengthening social protection, including for asylum-seekers and refugees. Poverty in Lebanon had more than tripled between 2014 and 2024, with about 44 per cent of the population living in poverty and 1.17 million people experiencing acute food insecurity. Marginalized groups, including refugees, persons with disabilities, children, older persons, migrant workers and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, were disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic crisis, exacerbated by the conflict. Lebanon hosted the highest number of refugees per capita globally, with roughly 90 per cent living in extreme poverty and dependent on aid.⁶¹

62. The country team noted that the United Nations had supported the Government in providing assistance to those most in need, including emergency response and social safety net expansion during the conflict. In a positive step, Lebanon had launched the National Social Protection Strategy in February 2025, again with the support of the United Nations. The country team recommended that Lebanon ensure full implementation of the Strategy and adequate national budget allocations to guarantee affordable basic services in the public system.⁶²

63. The country team also recommended that Lebanon: (a) ensure secure tenure and protection of housing, land and property rights for all, paying special attention to internally displaced persons and secondarily displaced refugees; and (b) develop and implement a comprehensive national housing policy.⁶³

10. Right to health

64. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported several recommendations on improving the quality of healthcare. The right to health had been severely affected by the socioeconomic crises and significantly compounded by the conflict, which had had a detrimental effect on the healthcare system. Women and adolescent girls faced heightened risks, including pregnancy-related and reproductive health complications.⁶⁴

65. The country team noted that children's health and mental well-being had sharply declined since 2015, with increased mortality, reduced immunization and high rates of anxiety and depression. Already by 2021, one in two children in Lebanon had been at serious risk of physical, emotional or sexual violence, as families struggled amid the deepening crisis. Access to healthcare and psychosocial support for children and caregivers remained severely limited due to infrastructure damage, shortages, stigma and financial barriers.⁶⁵

66. The country team reported that, during the conflict, the United Nations had provided essential medical support, treating injuries and trauma and delivering healthcare services to internally displaced persons, including child vaccination campaigns in shelters. It had supported access to sexual, reproductive, psychosocial and mental health services.⁶⁶

67. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) make healthcare, including sexual, reproductive and mental health services, accessible and affordable for all; and (b) expand immunization programmes and strengthen outbreak prevention for vaccine-preventable diseases.⁶⁷

68. The country team also recommended scaling up efforts for mental health strategies and follow-up care for children affected by the conflict.⁶⁸

11. Right to education

69. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported numerous recommendations on strengthening the education system. That system had been severely affected by overlapping crises, disrupting the continuity and quality of services and infrastructure. During the recent conflict, over 340 schools had been totally or partially damaged, 22 completely destroyed and 60 per cent of public schools had been repurposed as shelters.⁶⁹

70. The country team reported that approximately 27 per cent of children and young people were out of school, with the highest rates among Syrian refugees. Around a third of school-age children and young people faced barriers to enrolment or regular attendance, exacerbated by the conflict, financial constraints and the lack of required documentation for non-Lebanese children and young people. Another key concern was the practice of prioritizing child labour over education, particularly among adolescents.⁷⁰

71. UNESCO encouraged Lebanon to legally proscribe corporal punishment in education settings.⁷¹

72. UNESCO also encouraged Lebanon to: (a) increase efforts to finance education, by allocating at least 4–6 per cent of gross domestic product and/or at least 15–20 per cent of public expenditure to education; and (b) continue efforts to ensure the right to inclusive education for children without discrimination based on nationality or immigration status.⁷²

73. The United Nations country team recommended that Lebanon remove legal and policy barriers preventing equal access to education for all children.⁷³

74. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty stated that education should be guaranteed as a right for all children, regardless of legal status and documentation.⁷⁴

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

75. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had received numerous recommendations on strengthening the rights of women and girls, including addressing discrimination in nationality and personal status laws, combating gender-based violence, including early and forced marriage, criminalizing marital rape and strengthening participation in political and public life.⁷⁵

76. The country team noted that the multiple crises in Lebanon had exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities, heightening risks for women and girls, especially those belonging to marginalized groups.⁷⁶

77. The country team reported that, while Lebanon had made efforts to strengthen legislation and policy, including by criminalizing sexual harassment and adopting the Strategic Plan for the Protection of Women and Children (2020–2027) and the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon (2022–2030), their implementation had been limited.⁷⁷

78. The country team recommended that Lebanon ensure sustained, survivor-centred gender-based violence services, including legal aid, shelters, healthcare and psychosocial support, without discrimination in access.⁷⁸

79. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Lebanon ensure that women who were victims of gender-based violence and

discrimination had access to effective remedies and victim support, such as medical and psychological assistance and shelters.⁷⁹

2. Children

80. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had received numerous recommendations on children's rights, including on child labour, education, child justice and harmful practices, including child marriage.⁸⁰

81. The country team reported that, despite having ratified international conventions and strengthened national legislation on child labour, enforcement remained weak due to institutional limitations, resource constraints and the scale of the refugee crisis. Child labour remained a serious concern, exacerbated by the socioeconomic crisis. Syrian refugee children were particularly exposed, with over one in four families forced to send children to work. Many were engaged in street vending, begging and factory work, facing exploitation and abuse.⁸¹

82. The country team observed that Lebanon lacked a national child justice strategy or coordination mechanism, while the Juvenile Department at the Ministry of Justice was not fully operational, which hindered oversight. The recent conflict had heightened risks for detained children, resulting in displacements, lost case files and the placement of children far from their families.⁸²

83. UNESCO recommended that Lebanon raise the minimum age of employment to at least 15 years, in accordance with international human rights law.⁸³

84. The United Nations country team noted that in May 2025, with support from the United Nations, the Government had opened a dedicated rehabilitation centre for children in conflict with the law.⁸⁴

85. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) strengthen child protection systems to provide children with timely support and access to safe environments and psychosocial services; and (b) develop a comprehensive, multisectoral national action plan to address all forms of child labour and raise the minimum working age to 15.⁸⁵

86. The country team also recommended that Lebanon raise the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years, without exception, and accelerate implementation of the national action plan on prevention and response to child marriage.⁸⁶

87. The country team also recommended that Lebanon raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years, strengthen the legal framework and expedite procedures for both children in conflict and in contact with the law to enhance the protection of their rights, and expand specialized juvenile courts staffed by trained legal professionals.⁸⁷

3. Persons with disabilities

88. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported several recommendations on strengthening respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities. In 2025, Lebanon had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.⁸⁸

89. The country team observed that persons with disabilities continued to face significant barriers to political participation. The municipal elections in May 2025 had underscored persistent accessibility challenges for persons with disabilities, some of whom had to be carried to reach voting booths and ballot boxes, compromising their right to vote independently.⁸⁹

90. The country team stated that women and girls with disabilities faced a heightened risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, plus challenges in accessing protection services. Children and young people with disabilities struggled to access inclusive education and healthcare.⁹⁰

91. The country team noted that in 2023, with the support of the United Nations, the Government had launched the National Disability Allowance, a universal social grant to help

persons with disabilities cover extra costs, access essential services and receive basic income support.⁹¹

92. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) accelerate implementation of the inclusive education policy, ensuring that all schools were inclusive by 2030; and (b) increase public spending and leverage funds to ensure that the National Disability Allowance included all age groups.⁹²

4. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

93. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had noted most of the recommendations relating to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Although Lebanon had supported a recommendation to combat their harassment and intimidation, the practice continued. They faced a heightened risk of gender-based violence, while also encountering barriers to protection services. Discourse against that community had risen in recent years, with hostile rhetoric used by former ministers, State officials, religious figures and associations.⁹³

94. The country team observed that national law continued to penalize same-sex relations, although progressive judicial interpretations had recently moved away from criminalization. Efforts to repeal criminal provisions had triggered significant opposition, harassment and threats of sanctions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals and advocates.⁹⁴

95. The country team recommended that Lebanon guarantee full protection of civil and political rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities, including the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, without discrimination.⁹⁵

5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

96. The United Nations country team noted that, during the third review cycle, Lebanon had supported several recommendations on strengthening migrant workers' rights, including protection from discrimination and abuse. The migrant population in Lebanon had grown significantly in recent years, reaching a total of 176,504 migrants in 2024.⁹⁶

97. The country team observed that approximately 70 per cent of migrants in Lebanon were women. Most were employed as domestic workers and about half lived with their employers. Migrants continued to suffer from exploitative labour practices under the *kafalah* system, poor working conditions and exclusion from labour protection.⁹⁷

98. The country team stated that, during the recent socioeconomic crisis, and compounded by the conflict, many migrant domestic workers had faced serious human rights abuses, such as being abandoned in dangerous areas, locked inside homes without documentation or money, or left outside embassies without their pay.⁹⁸

99. The country team recommended that Lebanon: (a) ensure the inclusion of migrants in social safety net programmes, in line with the National Social Protection Strategy; and (b) improve regulation of private recruitment agencies to implement fair and ethical recruitment standards.⁹⁹

100. The country team also recommended establishing robust labour complaints mechanisms for migrant workers to ensure their protection, in line with the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.¹⁰⁰

101. The country team observed that, since 2022, the Lebanese Armed Forces had increasingly conducted summary deportations of Syrian nationals, bypassing due process safeguards and raising serious concerns about the country's compliance with the principle of non-refoulement. It recommended that Lebanon: (a) ensure full respect for the principle of non-refoulement; and (b) allow civilians fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic to access Lebanese territory and guarantee their right to seek asylum.¹⁰¹

102. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Lebanon ensure that asylum-seekers and refugees were not detained arbitrarily and that all alleged cases of torture or ill-treatment were investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted and that perpetrators were punished and victims compensated.¹⁰²

103. The same Committee recommended that Lebanon ensure that foreign workers could submit complaints regarding abusive labour practices to independent and effective mechanisms, without fear of suffering negative repercussions.¹⁰³

Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/47/5](#), [A/HRC/47/5/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/47/2](#).
- 2 [CERD/C/LBN/CO/23-24](#), paras. 19 and 21.
- 3 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission for the universal periodic review of Lebanon.
- 4 United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Lebanon, p. 4.
- 5 *Ibid.*, p. 11.
- 6 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Lebanon, para. 30.
- 7 [CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/6](#), para. 12.
- 8 United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- 9 [CERD/C/LBN/CO/23-24](#), para. 11. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- 10 [CERD/C/LBN/CO/23-24](#), para. 15 (a).
- 11 United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- 12 *Ibid.*, p. 7.
- 13 [A/HRC/50/38/Add.1](#), para. 90. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- 14 United Nations country team submission, p. 15.
- 15 UNESCO submission, para. 26 (ii)–(iv).
- 16 [CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/6](#), para. 10 (a).
- 17 *Ibid.*, para. 18 (a) and (b).
- 18 *Ibid.*, para. 18 (c) and (d).
- 19 [CERD/C/LBN/CO/23-24](#), para. 7.
- 20 *Ibid.*, para. 15 (b).
- 21 *Ibid.*, para. 15 (d).
- 22 *Ibid.*, para. 29 (c).
- 23 [A/HRC/50/38/Add.1](#), para. 90.
- 24 United Nations country team submission, pp. 4 and 5.
- 25 *Ibid.*, p. 6.
- 26 *Ibid.*, p. 7.
- 27 *Ibid.*, pp. 3 and 4.
- 28 *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- 29 *Ibid.*
- 30 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission.
- 31 *Ibid.*
- 32 *Ibid.*
- 33 *Ibid.*
- 34 United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- 35 *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- 36 *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- 37 *Ibid.*, p. 6.
- 38 *Ibid.*, p. 6.
- 39 [CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/6](#), para. 16 (a).
- 40 *Ibid.*, para. 26 (b) and (e).
- 41 *Ibid.*, para. 28 (b).
- 42 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- 43 *Ibid.*
- 44 *Ibid.*
- 45 UNESCO submission, para. 27.
- 46 *Ibid.*, paras. 28 and 29.
- 47 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- 48 [CERD/C/LBN/CO/23-24](#), para. 17.
- 49 *Ibid.*, para. 19.
- 50 United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- 51 *Ibid.*
- 52 [CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/6](#), para. 28 (d).
- 53 United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
- 54 *Ibid.*
- 55 *Ibid.*

- 56 Ibid.
- 57 [A/HRC/50/38/Add.1](#), para. 93.
- 58 United Nations country team submission, pp. 9 and 10.
- 59 [A/HRC/50/38/Add.1](#), para. 92.
- 60 Ibid., para. 94.
- 61 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- 62 Ibid., p. 8.
- 63 Ibid., p. 8.
- 64 Ibid., p. 10.
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- 101 Ibid., pp. 14 and 15.
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- 103 Ibid., para. 27.
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